

Well ladies, we have finally come to the final lesson in this awesome study. This one is long for one lesson but short for two. So, we will make it one long final lesson.

THE PROPHECY AND HISTORY OF ISRAEL CONT.

4/26/20

A COMPOSITE OF THE MESSIAH AS SUFFERER

- Zechariah, speaking for God, gives us the keynote concerning the coming King. *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey. (Zec. 9:9)*
- Three things stand out here. The King comes. He comes in humility. He brings salvation. Advent, humility, salvation. It is around these three distinct considerations that God draws His purposes in the Messiah's ministry of suffering. This king would be betrayed into the hands of His oppressors. *Even my own familiar friend whom, I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me (Ps. 41:9)*
- Psalm 22 is the first in a great trilogy that portrays the ministry of the Messiah as suffering, ministering shepherd, and reigning monarch. Note the startling detail:
- *My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are you so far from helping Me, and from the words of My groaning? (Ps. 22:1)*
- *But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised by the people. All those who see me; they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, He trusted in the LORD, let Him rescue Him; let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him! (Ps. 22:6-8)*
- *I am poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; it has melted within Me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death. For dogs have surrounded Me; the congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet. (Ps. 22:14-16)*
- *They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots. (Ps. 22:18)*
- The Psalm goes from suffering and death to resurrection and victory for the sufferer and the sons of Jacob. *I will declare Your name to My brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will praise you. You who fear the LORD, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, and fear Him, all of you offspring of Israel! For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; nor has He hidden His face from Him; but when He cried to Him, He heard. (Ps. 22: 22-24)*
- Isaiah adds to this, *He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, and we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, everyone, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not his mouth; He was led as a lamb*

to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgement, and who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgressions of My people He was stricken. (Is. 53:3-8)

- *Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin. He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. He shall see the labor of his soul. And be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities. (Is. 53:10-11)*
- Then Isaiah moves on the Messiah's triumph: **Therefore** *I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out his soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. (Is. 53:12)*
- "Therefore", there's that a little word *therefore* which means because of something that has already happened, something will happen. So based on verse 12, because of what He (Messiah) did, Israel is instructed to: *Break forth into singing, and cry aloud...Enlarge the place of your tent...your descendants will inherit the nations...do not fear...For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is His name; and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth. (Is 54:1-5)*
- The Messiah's sovereign reign follows suffering. This progression is divine and there is an excellent reason for it.

A quick footnote here, I want you to remember a phrase we just read. Referring to Messiah, we read in Is. 53:8 that He was *cut off*. This statement refers to the Crucifixion. This will help the verse make more sense and it will come up again later.

FIT SUBJECTS FOR THE KING

- We know that the Kingdom of God will have a fit King, for Messiah will be the king. But there can be no true kingdom until the hearts of God's people are in one accord with Jehovah. This can only come about through reconciliation and we are unable to accomplish that. It is beyond our human ability. It always has been. If we are ever to be saved – cleansed from sin – capable of standing in the presence of Holy God, God Himself would have to cleanse us. God is Holy, Just, and Righteous and we are sinners. There is a gap between us mortals and God the size of eternity itself. Our sin keeps us on one side of the gap and Holy God is on the other. The only bridge across that gap of sin is the cross on which Jesus paid the sin debt.
- God designed the Law for the sole purpose of showing the people that they cannot keep the whole law all the time. The Levitical system showed over and over that the blood of bulls and goat cannot cleanse sin. Old Testament animal sacrifices only covered a sin for that particular incident. If you committed the same sin again, it required another sacrifice. Animal blood simply was not pure enough to do the complete job. The people were obeying God's Word, but they recognized that for all their efforts they still fell short. We all do.

- Just imagine how frustrating and unsatisfying it must be to go time and again to the temple carrying a small animal to die for your actions, only to know it was temporary, it covered sin but it did not remove it.
- Only one qualifies as the perfect sacrifice. The pure blood of God Himself. And so, the Messiah's sufferings met the demands of divine justice. The final and only sacrifice capable of paying sins debt in full, rather than merely covering it (think of a bushel basket full of rotten apples in the corner of your kitchen. You can place a cover over it so it is no longer visible, but it's still over there in that corner stinking away.)
- God, who loved us so much, provided the only way by which we can be saved, cleansed of our sin, guiltless in the eyes of God. Why? Because, He paid a debt He didn't owe, because I owed a debt I couldn't pay. Jehovah has always demanded a perfect sacrifice. That is why it had to be more than a mere human being. We human beings are all sinners. He had to be pure-holy-perfect. Micah said, *His goings forth are from of old, from everlasting. (Micah 5:2)* Jesus was not a mere mortal. He is everlasting.
- In Messiah's suffering, everything the priests were doing to help the children of Israel atone for their sin; all their ritual cleanings and burnt offerings all came to fruition when Messiah paid the debt in full on the cross. The Law was fulfilled. Sins debt was paid. *He was bruised for our transgressions... (Is 53:5) And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all (Is 53:6)*
- If we accept that truth by faith, God ascribes to us the Messiah's righteousness, and removes our sin. *And be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own from the law, but one that is through faith in Christ-the righteousness from God based on faith. (Phil. 3:9)*
- Only one man in all of history meets the requirements to be the suffering Messiah. The author points out these details: He was a Jew: His great longing for the redemption of Israel is unmatched by anyone in all of history.
- He was a Jew: His words and deeds were beyond what anyone before Him had ever said or done.
- He was a Jew: who still stands like a giant above all religious teachers, philosophers, educators, politicians and military men.
- He was a Jew: who not only predicted His own death, but went willingly.
- Can you notice the key in each of these statements? He was a Jew; He was from Israel; of the tribe of Judah and...
- He said He would triumph over death and did!
- He offered Himself as Savior to all who will trust; both Jew and Gentile.
- He has shown us in His written Word the things which will come to pass in the future and just as the prophecies of the Old Testament have come to pass, so will those yet to come. We can trust God's word for the future because His Word has been proven true in the past. We have and are witnessing the truth of His words every day of our existence. These statements make it evident that the only One who has the credential to qualify as Messiah is Jesus. And...
- He has promised to return to His chosen people to reign as Messiah and in God's time, He will.

- Jesus Christ declared His kingdom will one day cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. All Israel longs for that.

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WHY DIDN'T ISRAEL'S LEADERSHIP ACCEPT HIM?

- There is a question that requires a very long and detailed answer. Don't worry, I'll summarize.
- I think the simplest answer is that the leaders of Israel rejected Jesus for the same reason people reject Him today, pride, power and preference.
- The religious power mongers of Jesus' day could not abide the concept that they needed a savior as much as the common people around them. I don't think they thought of themselves in the same light as the common people, they were just a cut above. They were pious and self-righteous and the idea was simply more than their religious pride could take. Try telling a self-righteous person today that they are a sinner and just see the reaction!
- Jesus taught that God's power comes to those who serve and minister not to those who lord it over the masses. He spoke of bearing one another's burdens, becoming servants and treating others as equals. The religious leaders not only reacted negatively but vehemently!
- Theirs was a heart problem. Had Jesus showed up on the scene offering a program that elevated their status and level of power, they would have acknowledged Him immediately. History has demonstrated that religious power, untempered by the humility that comes only from Christ in us, can become an instrument of oppression. Of all the peoples on the earth, Jewish people can attest to this.
- And lastly, the Children of Israel had heard the stories, read the Old Testament prophecies of the triumphant Messiah who will reign as King and that's what these poor, tired, oppressed, down-trodden people were waiting for. Someone who would put down their oppressors. They'd had enough suffering and humiliation. So, they were looking for a warrior to free them.
- Instead came Jesus, teaching "love thy neighbor", and "Do unto others..." He spoke of His death and suffering at the hands of their enemies. Even the disciples were stunned at His words and really didn't understand their meaning. Jesus rebuked the religious leaders and called them vipers. He pointed out their sins, to their own astonishment, which had a lot to do with why they wanted Him silenced. They thought, the real Messiah surely wouldn't rebuke the religious leaders, for their righteousness was above all others! It was unthinkable; therefore, He was a fake and eventually voted to kill Him.
- There were people who did believe His message and became beloved followers but for the most part the Jewish people, especially the religious leaders did not. The fact that Christ took no sides either religious or political, in the end, caused them all to want to destroy Him.

RECONCILIATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF ISRAEL

- A strain that runs all through scripture is the revelation of the full establishment of Messiah's Kingdom on earth. Zechariah said of the time: *and I (God) will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. (Zech. 12:10)*
- Zechariah goes on...*And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west, making a very large valley;...thus the Lord My God will come, and all the saints with you (Zech.14:4-5)*
- Then Joel said of the place where the nations will gather for judgement: *I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat; and I will enter into judgement with them there on account of My people, My heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations; they have also divided up My land. They have cast lots for My people, have given a boy as payment for a harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they may drink. (Joel 3:2-3)*
- Standing on the Mount of Olives today, looking across the Kidron Valley towards the Old City, you can observe cemeteries for Muslims, Christians and Jews established in anticipation of a future judgement. A silent witness of the faith each of these have in the validity of God's prophetic Word.

THE LEAST OF THESE MY BRETHREN

- Jesus said, *When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. (Matt. 25:31-32)*
- *Then the King will say to those on His right hand. Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me. (Matt. 25:34-36)*
- The story in the Bible goes on to say that the righteous will ask, "when did we see you hungry-and feed you, or thirsty, a stranger or sick?" And the Bible says, the king will reply, *Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren you did it to Me. (Matt. 25:40)*
- Who are the least of these my brethren? This is one of those verses that can be pertinent to both Old Testament and New Testament readers. However, in this case we are talking about a verse of scripture that pertains to Israel. Remember, we are talking about Israel's history and the quote we are referring to is from the Book of Matthew. Matthew was written by a Jew to Jews. Each of the gospels was written to a different group of people. Matthew to the Jew, Mark to the Gentiles, Luke to the Greek or the scientific mind, and John to the believer. So, we are talking about the Children of Israel

being the “least of these my brethren”. There is no doubt this refers to the seed of Abraham-Israel.

- Jesus echoes Joel’s words that the basis for judging the Gentile nations before the kingdom begins will be *on account of My people, My heritage, My Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations; they have also divided up My land (Joel 3:2)*
- In Genesis God said, *I will bless those who bless you, I will curse those who treat you with contempt, and all the peoples on the earth will be blessed through you. (Gen. 12:3)*
- He was speaking to Abram. The scriptures make it very clear that whoever raises a hand against the Jewish people, even through the long night of their Dispersion, raises a hand against God and can expect to be fully dealt with for their arrogance.
- The anguished cry over the long centuries is answered at last, justice will be served, our God has assured us of it.

RECONCILIATION

- Jeremiah said, *But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more. (Jer. 31:33-34)*
- This is what Paul had in mind when he said, “All Israel will be saved” (Rom. 11:26)
- Paul was saying that all of the Jewish people *at that time* will know the LORD.
- The nation will become a theocracy in the truest sense of the term. Redeemed Jews and Gentiles will unite under the banner of the reigning Messiah-Savior. All the old animosities will be gone forever, and a glorious union will finally exist.
- I do not want to leave you with an incorrect picture of *All Israel will be saved*. Many take this verse to mean that all Jews will be saved. That simply is not the case. Anyone, Jew or Gentile, who dies without having accepted Christ as Savior will not spend eternity with Him. Their rejection of Christ will see them in the lake of fire along with Satan and his angels. It is only those Jews who manage to live through the Great Tribulation that will *all be saved*. At the moment that Israel realizes that Antichrist is not Messiah, they will not bow down to him. God has provided a place in the wilderness for them to hide; Petra. As you read and study the book of Revelation you will see that many, many Jews will die before this and sadly many will not have accepted Christ as Savior. But cheer up, God will leave 144,000 Jewish witnesses during that awful time and people will be able to be saved. In fact, in Rev. chapter 7 John saw a vision: *After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were robed in white with palm branches in their hands. (Rev. 7:9)*
Then one of the elders asked me, who are these people robed in white, and where did they come from? I said to him, Sir, you know. Then he told me: these are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. (Rev. 7:13-14)

God's Word, as usual, bears itself out.

REGATHERING

- Moses, Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Jeremiah all spoke confidently of the regathering and complete restoration of the scattered nation of Israel. Here's what each one said:
- MOSES—*the LORD your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nation where the LORD your God has scattered you. (Duet. 30:3)*
- ISAIAH—*Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, and gather you from the west; I will say to the north, give them up! And to the south, do not keep them back! Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth. (Isaiah 43:5-6)*
- JEREMIAH—*Behold, I will send for many fishermen, says the LORD, and they shall fish them; and afterward I will send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain and every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks. (Jer. 16:16)*
- EZEKIEL—*Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Now I will bring back the captives of Jacob, and have mercy on the whole house of Israel; and I will be Jealous for My holy name. (Ezec. 39:25)*
- In our day, many Bible believing Christians and Jews believe in Israel's right to a national homeland in the Middle East. That's what Zionism is, a belief that Israel belongs in the land. God gave it to them forever. His Word bears this out time and again. In the future we will see the full realization of the scriptures we've just looked at.

REESTABLISHMENT

- The Israel we see today is much different than the Israel where Messiah will set up His throne. For one, it will occupy all the geographical area that God promised Abraham. There will be no more arguments over territorial rights once the King sets the borders.
- Jerusalem will be the capital of the world. Zechariah said, *yes, many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD. In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you. (Jer. 8:22-23)*
- The magnificent temple described in Ezekiel 38-40 will be where everyone joins in homage to God. This is where memorial worship of the Messiah's sacrificial ministry will be observed. This splendor of this age will be marked by peace, equity, productivity, and righteousness. Isaiah summed it up: *They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:9)*
- In the center of everything will be the King Himself. All activity will flow around His supreme presence. God in the person of Messiah, will dwell in the midst of His people. Zechariah said, *And the LORD shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be—the LORD is one, and His name one. And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all*

the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. (Zec. 14:9-16)

- All this is just the beginning. Everything we have considered that will take place during the Millennial age of the Messiah's reign is but a prelude to the glories prepared for His people.
- One last reminder, the phrase *cut off* from Isaiah 53:8. The line reads *for He was cut off from the land of the living*. Keeping in mind that this is Israel's history, her prophetic history runs from Abraham to the cross. Where Messiah was *cut off from the land of the living*. In other words, His crucifixion. At that point, Israel's prophetic history came to a halt as the age of the church began. The Church age or the age of Grace as its often referred to, is the time of the Gentiles. At the Rapture of the Church, the church age will end; the times of the Gentiles will be over and Israel's prophetic history will pick up again and play out the rest of God's plan.

This brings us to the close of our study. I know there is so much more about prophecy, the law, judges, priests and festivals that we did not cover; subjects that you remember from Bible stories but we did not answer all your questions. That is where the Bible comes in. Now, as you study the Old Testament as well as the New Testament, you will be able to fill in blanks that before left you confused. You can know where that incident took place on the time line. Was it before the kingdoms or after; before the judges or after, etc.? That has been my desire through this study; to cover the basics of Israel's history in order to make to Bible easier to follow.

My main concern however, has been to encourage of love of God's people. In a day when so many Christians are joining the ranks of Anti-Semitism, it's time for the truth to stand out. If you have enjoyed this study, credit our Lord and Savior who gave the book to Elwood McQuaid who has shared it with us.

Ladies, next week we will begin a study of the Minor Prophets. I believe the study we have just completed will help us understand what was going on in Israel at the time. We will start next week with an intro to Hosea and as much of chapter one as we can.

Thank you and God Bless you All!