

THE EXPLOSIVE REVELATION OF OUR SALVATION

Text: Matthew 5:17-48

Hebrews 1:1, 2: "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds." Compare Mark 4:10-13; Isaiah 64:4; 1Cor. 2:9, 10

Jesus is the long awaited Messiah of Israel and the Savior of all mankind. Many of the rulers of the Jews were ready for Messiah to come, but they were not ready to have their lives changed and to include the whole world as the recipients of God's love. Our Lord (as always) sees through the fronts and the fakery. He sees past the façade into the reality of who we are and what we are thinking. The Apostle John confirmed this when he said in John 2:24, 25, "But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man." Ezekiel gave us insight when he said in Ezekiel 8:12, "Then said he unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery? for they say, The LORD seeth us not; the LORD hath forsaken the earth."

In salvation, Christ is everything and becomes everything to the believer. To many of the rulers of the Jews and their disciples on earth at the time of Christ, the law was everything. Before we go any further, let us point out as Paul said in Romans 7:12, "Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good." And we must be reminded that Galatians 2:16 says, "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified." We see God's great purpose in the law is spoken of in Galatians 3:24, "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith."

There are three aspects of the law of God. It is moral, judicial and ceremonial. The Bible tells us in Leviticus 26:46, "These are the statutes and judgments and laws, which the LORD made between him and the children of Israel in mount Sinai by the hand of Moses." Psalm 147:19 reads, "He sheweth his word unto Jacob, his statutes and his judgments unto Israel." Moses told Israel in Deuteronomy 4:13 and 14, "And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, even ten commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone. And the LORD commanded me at that time to teach you

statutes and judgments, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go over to possess it.”

At this point in Christ’s sermon on the mount He makes the explosive revelation of the salvation He will provide for the world. I John 2:2 says, “And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”

I. Christ, the Fulfiller

Matthew 5:17-19

Let’s examine five passages of Scripture that disclose what the Old Testament reveals:

A. A Testimony

John 5:39: “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.” In this verse our Lord is challenging us to search through the Bible and discover the testimony of Christ in the Scriptures.

B. A Testament

Hebrews 10:7: “Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.” This is the fulfillment of the promise of Psalm 40:6-8. The promise is clarified in the context of Hebrews 10:7-9.

C. A Teaching

Luke 24:27: “And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.” Can you imagine what it must have been like to have been one of those privileged ones on the road to Emmaus to have been taught from Jesus how He fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament?

D. A Translation

Luke 24:44: “And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.” Although Jesus is reminding the disciples of what He taught. He is now translating to them in bold, clear terms who He is and why He came.

E. A Transfixion

II Corinthians 1:20: “For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.” We are lost in the wonder of Christ who fulfills the Scriptures as the Divine “Yes!”

In Genesis He's the Seed of the Woman. In Exodus He's our Passover Lamb.

In Leviticus He's Our High Priest. In Numbers He's our Cloud by Day, and Our Pillar of Fire by night. In Deuteronomy He's the Prophet like unto Moses. In Joshua He's the Captain of our Salvation. In Judges He's our Judge and Lawgiver. In Ruth He's our Kinsman Redeemer. In Samuel He's the Trusted Prophet. In Kings & Chronicles He's our Reigning King. In Ezra He's our Faithful Scribe. In Nehemiah He is the Re-builder of the broken down walls of our lives. In Esther He's our Mordecai. In Job He's our Dayspring from on High. In Psalms He's Our Shepherd. In Proverbs & Ecclesiastes He's Our Wisdom. In the Song of Solomon He's the Lover of our soul and Bridegroom. In Isaiah He is our Prince of Peace. In Jeremiah He's the Righteous Branch. In Lamentations He's the Weeping Prophet. In Ezekiel He is that Wonderful Four-faced Man. In Daniel He's the Fourth Man in the fiery furnace. In Hosea He's the Faithful Husband married to the backsliding bride. In Joel He's the Baptizer of the Holy Ghost. In Amos He's our Burden Bearer. In Obadiah He Comes Mighty to Save. In Jonah He's our Resurrection Hope. In Micah He's the Babe born in Bethlehem. In Nahum He's the Avenger of the Lord's Elect. In Habakkuk He's God's Evangelist, pleading for revival. In Zephaniah He's Our Savior. In Haggai He's the Restorer of God's Lost Heritage. In Zechariah He's the Fountain Opened for Uncleanness. In Malachi He's the Son of Righteousness rising with healing in His wings!

He's Abel's Sacrifice. He's Noah's Rainbow. He's Abraham's Ram. He's Isaac's Well. He's Jacob's Ladder. He's Moses' Rod. He's David's Sling and Stone.

II. Mankind, the Failure

Matthew 5:20-47

A. Revealed by relationships

1. With our fellow man

Matthew 5:21-26

2. By our moral conduct

Matthew 5:27-30

3. Through the Promises we make

Matthew 5:31-37

B. Revealed by our reactions

Matthew 5:38-47

III. Salvation, the Faith

Matthew 5:48: "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." The word we translate "perfect" in Greek is "téleios" derived from the word "télos" which means "consummated goal" This root (tel-) means "reaching the end (aim). Christ's goal is to bring us to an understanding of who we are and the need we have.

Jesus explains in John 12:23-46 how His death opens the door of our faith to believe.

Conclusion:

Galatians 3:13: "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree".

Hebrews 9:16: "For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator."

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johnny Pope". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal flourish at the end.