

MESSIAH IN THE OT JROC

Week 6 – The Messianic Hope... Where Do We Begin? Pt. 1

February 17, 2019

Read Luke 24:1-27, 36-47.

O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" ²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Jesus appearing to His disciples after the resurrection told them, *These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me* (Luke 24:44). Jesus shared with His disciples that the entire OT speaks of Him!

To the Pharisees, the Jewish religious leadership, Jesus said, *You search the Scriptures (the OT), for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me... For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. ⁴⁷ But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?* (John 5:39, 46-47)

JESUS IS THROUGHOUT THE OT!!! There is definitely a Messianic theme, a Messianic hope in the OT. Jesus declares it! We are going to understand Messianic prophecy in light of the PROMISE-PLAN of God in Scripture. This comes under the 4-word design: CREATION FALL REDEMPTION RESTORATION

God was not only predicting, foretelling, prognosticating what would happen regarding the Messiah, God was just as MIGHTILY working out His PROMISE-PLAN in the everyday course of events in the arena of history. That promise-plan is what we read throughout Scripture. God made promises and we read of the outworking of those promises in Scripture – in the history of Israel.

The OT presents God's plan for the nations through the nation of Israel (Deut. 32:8). And, within God's plan for the world, following sin entering the world, we read the unfolding of God's plan of redemption for both Jew and Gentile.

The OT is divided into two distinct parts.

God Deals with Mankind:

Genesis 1 – 11 covers approximately 2,000 years and encompasses God's dealings with mankind. There were no Jews or Gentiles. There are four significant events recorded: creation; the fall of man; the universal flood; the division of mankind at the Tower of Babel. And we are told of 70 nations from Noah's three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Gen. 3:15 – sin enters and redemption is promised. Redemption: paying a price for release from bondage.

God Deals with Israel:

Genesis 12 – Malachi 4 - covers approximately 2,000 years. God selects a man, Abram, from one of the nations...from Ur of the Chaldees/Babylon (modern day Iraq)...and

2

enters into an eternal, unconditional covenant with him and his descendants. Promises include personal blessings to Abram, promises to Abram and his descendants (a nation, land, and the Messiah), and blessings that include the rest of mankind. God promised to use Israel as an instrument of blessing for the world (Gen. 18:18).

Genesis 12 – 50 records the growth/lack of growth of Israel. In the space of approx. 200 years, Israel grew to 70 people!? Gen. 46:26-27 - *All the persons who went with Jacob to Egypt, who came from his body, besides Jacob's sons' wives, were sixty-six persons in all. ²⁷ And the sons of Joseph who were born to him in Egypt were two persons. All the persons of the house of Jacob who went to Egypt were seventy.* Sixty six persons plus Jacob, Joseph, Ephraim, Manasseh. Abraham had stated in Gen. 24 that his son, Isaac, should not marry a woman from the land of Canaan. And that held true for Jacob as well (Gen. 28:2). Disobedience led to intermarriage! BUT why specifically 70 noted? Deut. 32:8 – God ordained a plan where the # of the nations (70 – Gen. 10) corresponded to the # of the children of Israel (Gen. 46:27)

Exodus

Following 430 years in Egypt (Ex. 12:40-41), at the time of the first Passover in Egypt, 2+ million were delivered by God through Moses. Num. 1:45 - *So all who were numbered of the children of Israel, by their fathers' houses, from twenty years old and above, all who were able to go to war in Israel— ⁴⁶ all who were numbered were six hundred and three thousand five hundred and fifty.* Add to 603,550 those who were not able to go to war (those too old and those too young) and wives. God had blessed Israel (created by God – Jacob – father of the 12 tribes of Israel – Isa. 43:1) with people.

In order to function as a legitimate nation, Israel needed laws by which to live. At Mt. Sinai God gave Israel the law comprised of 613 commandments. And, the tabernacle was constructed.

The children of Israel remained at Sinai approx. eleven months (Num. 10:11)

The Promised Land

From Mt. Sinai it would've taken the children of Israel 11 days to travel to Kadesh Barnea, the border of the Promised Land (Deut. 1:2). God had told the children of Israel to go in and possess the land (Deut. 1:8). Instead, twelve spies went into the land to search it out (Deut. 1:20-25). Ten spies brought back a negative report and did not wish to enter the land. Joshua and Caleb encouraged the people to possess the land. Penalty for disobedience: 40 years wandering in the wilderness during which time the first generation, aside from Joshua and Caleb, would die (Num. 14:26-35).

Moses was not permitted to go into the Promised Land due to disobedience (Num. 20:7-12). Moses died in the wilderness. Joshua led the nation into the Promised Land.

Joshua directed the armies of Israel in the destruction of the Canaanites (read Dt. 9:1-6). Joshua then divided the land, giving each of the 11 tribes a delineated area. The tribe of Levi was given 48 cities scattered throughout the land (Josh. 21:1-3). (6 cities of Refuge – Joshua 20) Each individual tribe was instructed to complete the conquest of the land by eliminating each Canaanite. Israel chose to disobey. Judges 1:27-36 – records the incomplete conquest of the land.

Judges

When Joshua died, God did not replace Joshua with a new leader for Israel. God's plan was a theocracy: God would rule Israel. God would govern through the law given at Sinai. Israel did not obey the law. Judges records a repeated cycle: Israel's departure from God; God's chastisement (military defeat); Israel's prayer pleading for deliverance; God raising up Judges to deliver Israel; not heeding the Judges.

The United Kingdom

At the end of three centuries of repeated failure, Israel demanded a human king!? King Saul reigned (from the tribe of Benjamin – what's wrong with that picture?). King David was then anointed as Israel's greatest King. It was with King David that God cut the Davidic Covenant which promised a kingdom and a throne forever through King David's line, through the tribe of Judah. King David's son, Solomon, reigned following the death of David. King Solomon was the third and last king to rule over all of Israel's 12 tribes.

The Divided Kingdom

Due to Solomon's sins (I Kings 11), the United Kingdom was divided into 10 tribes in the north under the Kingdom of Israel and two tribes in the south under the Kingdom of Judah. For two centuries the two kingdoms coexisted sometimes as friends and at other times as enemies. In 722 BC Assyria carried the Kingdom of Israel into captivity (II Kings 17:5-18). Beginning in 605 BC, God used Babylon to chastise the Kingdom of Judah. The temple in Jerusalem was destroyed by Babylon in 586 BC. Judah lived in captivity for 70 years as foretold (II Chron. 36:15-21; Jer. 25:1-11).

Return from Exile

In fulfillment of His promise, God restored many of the people to their own land. The final period in the OT history of Israel is recorded in Ezra and Nehemiah. The second temple is constructed. The glory did not dwell in the second temple. The last prophet recorded in the Hebrew Scriptures is Malachi through whom God warned Israel that if they didn't repent God would strike the earth with a curse (Mal. 4:5-6). Following Malachi, 430 years of "silence" ensued, with no prophetic message from God.

How do we understand the promise-plan in this overview?

We've clearly seen the connection between the OT and the NT. I do think we're beginning to appreciate the OT as teaching a Messianic theme, a Messianic hope! God's plan of redemption decreed in eternity past unfolds in the OT.

ETERNITY PAST....

Psa. 90:2 - *Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.*

Micah 5:2b - *...The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting."*

Isa. 53:10 - *But the LORD was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief; if He would render Himself as a guilt offering/an offering for sin*

Rev. 13:8 – Jesus is ...*the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

What does the Bible tell us about CREATION?

John 1:1 – *In the beginning* (we need to understand this as the beginning of the time-space-material universe) *was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God* (the eternal pre-existence of God the Son).

Gen. 1:1 - *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

Psa. 19:1 - *The heavens declare the glory of God;*

Rom. 1:20 - *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.*

Gen. 1:1 - *In the beginning God created....* The Hebrew reads *Bereshit bara Elohim*. *Elohim* in Hebrew is “God.” The *im* ending of *Elohim* tells us that this word is a plural word. We comprehend at the outset that God is a plurality. *Bara* in Hebrew is “create.” *Bara* is in the singular. God, a plural noun, created, a singular verb. NOT grammatically correct.

What are we being told from Scripture – from the outset?

God is a plurality but the verb for creating tells us that there is UNITY within that plurality!

We’re introduced to God’s Spirit in Gen. 1:2 - ... *And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters*

In Gen. 1:3 – we hear God’s Word as He created. God speaks forth creation.

Who is the Word? Jesus! John 1:1 – *In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God!*

And God “saw” that it was *tov* – good. (Gen. 1:31 – very good – at the sixth day). We read of each day of creation – the evening and morning – and what God created...and it was *tov* – good. What God created was perfect – it was from GOD!! Psa. 18:30 - As for God, His way is perfect. The goodness of creation is understood in relation to three aspects of goodness: completeness, purpose, and morality. The creation was complete, lacking in nothing - with respect to what God intended to create for His purpose (note Gen. 2:1-3). And, we understand that the creation in Gen. 1 and 2 is morally good (upright, principled, according to GOD’S standard), without sinful corruption.

Genesis 1 describes the creation of our world as it relates to God’s purpose for man. Man is the capstone of God’s creation. In construction terminology, the capstone is the high point of a building. Man is the crowning point of God’s creation. Man is made in the image of God: will, intellect, emotions. Man was created in an unfallen state, in innocence, and given dominion. What is dominion? God charged man to rule over His creation as His, God’s, representative:

Gen. 1:26-28 - *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."* ²⁷ *So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created*

5

him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ *Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth. Does man have dominion now? No. It was taken from him by the adversary. Will dominion be restored to man? YES (Dan. 7:13-14, 27). God's original plan REMAINS His plan. God's will can never be thwarted. What we see in creation IS God's plan and will take place when Jesus physically returns to establish His Kingdom.*

God dwelled with man. God walked with Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:8). Adam and Eve lived in the presence of God. There was no need of a temple or sacrifice. Man was innocent and God dwelled with them. Genesis 2 presents more detail. God had placed man and woman in "paradise" – Eden...the Garden of God which is BEYOND our imagination. There was only one restriction – don't eat the fruit of one tree – the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. REMEMBER: I John 1:5 – God is light and in Him dwells NO DARKNESS AT ALL. AND, take note of Gen. 3:22 – following man's sin - *Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil.* This verse informs us that God knows of evil. He is NOT the source of evil.

In the Garden God communed with Adam and Eve; He spoke with them. What did He share? What did God talk about with Adam and Eve? Did God share any part of His plan? Did Adam and Eve know the character of God before the fall? That's a HUGE question! Did Adam and Eve know God as the CREATOR?

Rom. 1:20 - *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen... We know that Adam and Eve saw God's "invisible attributes" – Who He is...they saw His love, grace, mercy, holiness, justice, faithfulness. Immutability (God doesn't change) ...being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,*

In Genesis 1 & 2 we read of a perfect creation with unfallen man as God's representative on earth, ruling over and nurturing God's creation. And then in chapter 4 of Genesis we find jealousy and murder; in the following chapters in the book of Genesis mankind goes from bad to worse.

WHAT HAPPENED? Genesis 3 answers this question....