

## MESSIAH IN THE OT

Week 1 – The Battle Rages

September 10, 2019

To access audio recordings and handouts:

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In our study of the Bible do we seek to understand the big picture of Scripture?

In our study of the Bible do we seek to understand God's heart?

As we engage in the study of Scripture together, may we marvel at God as we seek to understand His heart which is at the core of His promise-plan for the world through the Messiah!

*Heb. 11:8-16 - By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; <sup>10</sup> for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. <sup>11</sup> By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup> Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore. <sup>13</sup> These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. <sup>14</sup> For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. <sup>15</sup> And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.*

What is Hebrews 11:8-16 loudly declaring? Hope in the Messiah!

Hebrews 11 has been entitled “the hall of FAITH.” MANY in the OT are noted within this passage. Heb. 11:13 – MANY from Abraham's line died in faith...never having received the promises – but having embraced them...were assured of them.

The promise of the Messiah was made to Abraham and Sarah. Gen. 22 - the message of a father taking his only son whom he LOVED to be sacrificed; the Lamb was promised; a substitutionary sacrifice was provided in place of Isaac. Gal. 3:8 – through

the Abrahamic Covenant, God *preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, 'In you all the nations shall be blessed.'*

They were assured that the promises were valid because GOD made the promises!

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They embraced God's promises with the understanding that this world was not their home. They knew God had a better home for them – an eternal home. Many placed their trust in God and in God's promises of a Messianic HOPE!

God's PROMISE-PLAN, His plan of redemption, unfolds throughout the Bible. God was not only foretelling events that would occur, He was working out His PROMISE-PLAN in the everyday course of events in the arena of history.

God created man in His image. Man was created with intellect, emotion, and a will. God gave man dominion over the creation – man was to rule, nurture, and serve the creation as God's representative on earth (Gen. 1:26-28). GOD gave man the responsibility to reign over the earth on behalf of...GOD! We must know that GOD ALWAYS REMAINS KING OF THE UNIVERSE.

The promise-plan of God begins IMMEDIATELY after the fall – when SIN entered the world. Satan tempted Eve to doubt God. Eve and Adam ate of the forbidden fruit (Gen. 3:6). The paradise into which Adam and Eve had been placed by God became PARADISE LOST! What was lost in the fall? EVERYTHING! The earth was cursed. Man was separated from God! Adam and Eve rebelled against God...they SINNED against God. And, IMMEDIATELY man knew shame, guilt, and fear. Yet, IMMEDIATELY GOD PURSUED them. AND, IMMEDIATELY GOD announced the first PROMISE...in the midst of the curse...in the midst of judgment!

If we do not believe and accept by faith the first three chapters in Genesis, the remainder of the Bible becomes a puzzle that cannot be pieced together!

Gen. 3:15 – God put ENMITY/a BLOOD FEUD between Satan and mankind (“between you and the woman”). And thus we have SPIRITUAL WARFARE! This battle unfolds and looks forward to a specific “Seed of the woman” Whom we are introduced to in Gen. 3:15 as “He” – the One – the Promised One – the One Who would be born supernaturally of the seed of woman (w/o aid from man; a woman doesn't have a seed) – Who is God - Who would come sometime in the future to resolve the problem of sin! Within the judgment of God on the earth and on man, we have a glorious promise and the plan of the

outworking of that promise begins. From Gen. 3:15 we have the UNFOLDING of the PROMISE-PLAN and from Gen. 3:15 the battle rages!

Adam and Eve listened to the voice of Satan and disobeyed God. God had given man the responsibility of ruling the earth on God's behalf. Man failed in his God-given responsibility. Satan usurped that dominion! How does that look?

II Cor. 4:4 – the “god of this world” is Satan.

Col. 1:13 – God delivers those who believe from the power of darkness/the kingdom of Satan and places us into the kingdom of the Son of love! We are born into Satan's kingdom!

Matt. 4:8-9 - *Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. <sup>9</sup> And he said to Him, ‘All these things*

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*I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.’ Satan offered Jesus the kingdoms of the world. The god of this world offered Jesus the kingdoms of this world. Jesus did not dispute what Satan said. Jesus answered Satan...*

Matt. 4:10 - *Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’* Jesus proclaimed that God alone should be worshipped!

Daniel 7:13-14, 27- *I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. <sup>14</sup> Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed. Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.*

The setting is seen in Dan. 7:11 which is in the future when the antichrist will be slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame (Rev. 19:20).

What is this passage telling us? Man does NOT have dominion over the kingdom of God now. After Jesus returns at His Second Coming, He will receive the kingdom and will establish the Millennial kingdom on earth in Jerusalem. And the dominion of that physical, earthly kingdom will be given to the saints of the Most High God!

The cosmic battle between God and Satan is seen in the book of Job. AND, within the book of Job we clearly have a Messianic theme early in the world's history. Job lived most likely at the same time as Abraham. Abraham lived circa 2000 BC. (Creation was circa 4000 BC). This time period for JOB has been determined based on:

- Job's age – nearly 200 years (Job 42:16) which fits the patriarchal period (Abraham lived 175 years [Gen. 25:7]).
- The Chaldeans who murdered Job's servants (Job. 1:17) were nomads and had not yet become city dwellers.
- Job's wealth was measured in livestock rather than gold and silver (Job 1:3; Job 42:12).
- Job held a priestly function within his family which is considered to be more patriarchal. The social organization in Job's day was led by the father (Job 1:4-5).
- There is no mention of the covenant with Abraham...no mention of Israel...no mention of the Exodus and the law of Moses. Job seemed to know about Adam (Job 31:33) and the Noahic flood (Job 12:15).

So what of Satan in the book of Job? In Job 1-2 – we see Satan appearing before God in heaven. The angelic host appeared before God's throne to give an account of their ministry throughout the earth and heaven. *Sons of God* are identified almost exclusively as angels in Scripture (Job 1:6; Job 2:1; Job 38:7). Satan appeared with the host of heaven. The enemy wanted to prove that saving faith can be broken (Job 1:9-11). God allowed Satan to test Job's faith by attacking "all that Job had."

NOTE: key texts are Job 9:33; Job 16:19-21; Job 19:23-27; Job 33:23-28.

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We know why Job suffered. We know of Satan's interaction with God. Job never knew why he suffered! And throughout, Job never lost his faith!

Throughout the book we read of Job crying out in his suffering - for someone to act as a go-between, a mediator – between God and humans.

In the book of Job, the arbitrator, the One Who bridges the gap between God and man, is named as a mediator, a witness in heaven, a kinsman-redeemer, and an interpreter. Job 9:2, 4, 32-33 - *...how can a man be righteous before God?... God is wise in heart and mighty in strength. ...He is not a man, as I am, that I may answer Him, and that we should go to court together.* (Job acknowledged that, as a mere man, he had no right to call on God to declare his innocence or to content with God over his innocence. Job was stating that he needed a divine arbitrator) <sup>33</sup> *Nor is there any mediator between us, Who may lay his hand on us both* (who may bridge the gap between man and God)

Job desired reconciliation. Job seems to perceive that the mediator must be divine as a mere mortal is not righteous before God and cannot bring about such reconciliation. Job 16:19, 21 - *Surely even now my witness is in heaven, and my evidence is on high* (a divine mediator)...<sup>21</sup> *Oh, that one might plead for a man with God as a man pleads for his neighbor.* Job is confident that he has someone in heaven who will act as his

advocate. And this divine witness would be like one who pleads for his neighbor...for one like himself. Jesus is our High Priest Who identifies with our weaknesses.

Job 19:25-27 - ...*I know that **my Redeemer** lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth;*  
*<sup>26</sup> And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in **my flesh** I shall see God, <sup>27</sup> Whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.*

*How my heart yearns within me!* Job knows his arbitrator, his mediator, his witness in heaven as “my Redeemer.” This Redeemer – “My Redeemer” – will be a living person whom God will raise up “in the end” – Who will stand at last on the earth! Job’s personal Redeemer will stand on earth as the final vindicator of those who are beaten down, as Job has been. Job believes there is life after death! And in this afterlife, Job will be in his flesh. There will be a resurrection of body and soul!

The Hebrew word, *goel*, refers to the closest relative (the kinsman) who was responsible for redeeming those in his family who were in great need...who were destitute. The closest relative is the kinsman-redeemer who took it upon himself to cancel debts, and to buy back that which family members lost (property, their freedom, a name in the congregation/assembly of Israel). The kinsman redeemer PAID FOR freedom for those who were bound! Who is Job’s Redeemer? THE MESSIAH JESUS!

Job 33:23-24, 28 - *If there is a messenger for him, a mediator, one among a thousand, to show man His uprightness, <sup>24</sup> Then He is gracious to him, and says, ‘Deliver him from going down to the Pit; I have found a ransom’ ...<sup>28</sup> He will redeem his soul from going down to the Pit, and his life shall see the light.* This divine Mediator is upright, having righteousness. This Mediator extends grace re: the afterlife. Only God can do so. God has found a ransom price for mankind in this Mediator (v. 24). The Mediator pays the debt.

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In this truth of such a One Whom we know is JESUS, Job has HOPE!

Regarding the ongoing BATTLE and Satan’s involvement.

Daniel 10:11-14 - *Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands. <sup>11</sup> And he said to me, “O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you.” While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling.* (This is most likely the hand of Gabriel who interpreted other revelations to Daniel [check out Dan. 8:16]. And Gabriel spoke of Daniel’s being beloved in Dan. 9:20-23). *<sup>12</sup> Then he (Gabriel) said to me, “Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. <sup>13</sup> But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. <sup>14</sup> Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come.”*

This is cosmic warfare and its implications. And we see so clearly how it impacts nations in the book of Daniel.

Gabriel was sent by God to tell Daniel what would happen to the Jewish people in the latter days/end times. And, the prince of the kingdom of Persia fought against Gabriel for 21 days! Since this prince of Persia was opposing the message from God to Daniel, we know this prince was more than a man. The prince was seemingly an angelic being opposing the word of God and opposing Gabriel, an angel of God!

Jesus referred to Satan as *the prince of this world* (John 12:31, 14:30, and 16:11). I'm suggesting that this fallen angel was connected with Persia

Take note of the fact that in Ezekiel 28:1-19 some of the language about the King of Tyre is connected to Satan. And, in Isaiah 14:3-23 some of the language about the King of Babylon is connected to Satan. We can understand that these human kings are being used by Satan. The power behind the King of Tyre and the King of Babylon is Satan!

The prince of Persia in Daniel 10 is the fallen angel impacting Persia – perhaps overseeing Persia? It appears that this fallen angel has been appointed to supervise, keep watch over Persia...

Daniel 12:1 tells us that Michael is *the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people* (“your” – Daniel)

Jude v. 9 – *Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses,*

Rev. 12:7 - *And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,*

Daniel 10:20 – In speaking further to Daniel, Gabriel states, *And now I (Gabriel) must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come.* It appears obvious that this prince of Greece was going to oppose Gabriel's mission to let the Jews know of their release from captivity. (Timeframe in Daniel 9: close to the end of the 70 year exile. The Jews would be released soon to return

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to Israel. BUT they would be scattered in 70 AD and then again in 135 AD. And they would once again to return to their land!)

Gabriel goes on to tell Daniel of the Syrian General Antiochus Epiphanes who attempts to annihilate the Jewish people (circa 171 BC to 165 BC). Antiochus is a type of the antichrist in the latter days.

Eph. 6:12 - *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.* Just as Michael the archangel looks after the nation Isarel, there are other angels that oversee various nations. These orders of angels are perhaps the rulers that Paul referred to when he said that our struggle is with spiritual forces.

While Daniel was praying, Gabriel was hindered in coming to him for 21 days (Dan. 10:12-14). What might that say to us in our prayer life? Does this passage in Daniel 10 teach us that we need to keep praying...that we need to persevere? Daniel 10:14 - Gabriel tells Daniel, *Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come.* God allowed the 21 day conflict! Might God's plan have included developing Daniel into a man of persistent prayer? Persistence in prayer is not because there is reluctance on the part of God in answering us. Persistence in prayer is necessary to train us!

We need to KNOW that GOD is ALMIGHTY! Satan is a defeated foe (Heb. 2:14). Satan is a servant of God's!

Why is it crucial for us to comprehend this battle from the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter of Genesis? Then we can understand Satan's attempts throughout the OT to do away with the line of the Messiah. Then we can understand after Jesus' incarnation why Satan has attempted to annihilate the nation of Israel. The Kingdom of God was promised to Israel. If there are no Jewish people, if there is no nation of Israel, no kingdom would be given. That would make God a liar...that would make God unfaithful. BUT, the enemy has been DEFEATED!

Understanding the battle causes us to fit accounts from Scripture into the BIG PICTURE of the Bible.

It is crucial that we comprehend this battle. In understanding we can come alongside others and proclaim the hope of the Messiah throughout Scripture!

#### QUESTIONS:

Why are you here?

Why does the battle rage?

How do you understand Hebrews 11:8-16? Any V8 moments?

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What is the first prophecy regarding the Messiah?

Why is the promise of God valid?

How do you understand Satan as the god of this world from Scripture? How does this impact you?

Any V8 moments regarding Job?

What are your thoughts concerning the cosmic warfare about which Daniel 10 speaks?

How does it impact your view of the world? How does it impact you individually?

SUGGESTED HOMEWORK:

Reread the Week 1 handout.

Jot down any questions you have.

Begin to find answers to those questions from Scripture.

Select one teaching from the lesson into which you desire to dig deeper:

Find the cross references to that teaching in Scripture.

Begin to jot down observations about what you're reading in the cross references.

Ask questions and begin to find answers in Scripture.

Share with at least one person what you learned/what impacted you from this lesson.

Read the Week 2 handout when you receive it via Email.