

'This is My Beloved Son'

Sunday December 17th, 2006

1). We had seen this in a scripture from Isaiah last week –

Isa 46:9 Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,'

a). And we find in Hebrews - Heb 4:3 *For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said: "So I swore in My wrath, "They shall not enter My rest," although **the works were finished from the foundation of the world.***

b). And that which was declared from the beginning, the works finished from the foundation of the world, concerned a Rest, a seventh day, which we know to be the Millennial Kingdom of Christ.

c). And we should note – just as we have seen from our scriptures – that God had set in place, from the foundation of the world, the Kingdom of His Son in that 7th Day.

d). Mt 25:34 *"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:*

e). Col 1:16 *For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.*

f). Again this is exactly what we see at the beginning of John's Gospel Joh 1:1 ¶ *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*

2). What we need to understand is that from the beginning of God's revelation to Man – Genesis 1:1 – God had already determined 6000 years of human history culminating in the 1000 year reign of Christ. A reign that would involve both realms of this provincial kingdom within God's universe – the heavens connected to the earth and the earth itself.

a). And remembering from Daniel - Da 4:26b.....*that the heavens do rule.*

b). It is interesting to note that in the creation it is the heavens, the place of rulership that is created before that which is to be ruled over.

c). Rulership – over the earth – is the primary focus from the beginning.

3). What may remain beyond our understanding, until we see the Lord face to face, is the necessity of Satan in this process and why God chose to create a being in His own image and likeness to participate in rulership with His Son.

a). Clearly God being God He does not need us in this respect and yet through His revelation to us He makes abundantly clear that this is the outworking of His Divine will.

b). Trying to fathom His reasoning would probably lead us to madness. It would be best just receive and accept what He has to say about it – remembering that He is the creator and we are His creation.

c). He will do all His pleasure and we have nothing to say about it.

4). And from the very beginning the declaration of Christ's rulership is made through the promise of the seed of the woman. The One who will take the crown from Satan's head.

a). *Ge 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

5). And the One who is promised must come through the seed of the woman.

a). And there are a couple of things we should note here.

b). Firstly, it is the seed of the woman and not the seed of the man, because according to God's economy the sin nature is passed through the male line.

c). All men and women are born with a sin nature as all are procreated through the union of a man and a woman, but sin is imparted through the man

d). *Ge 5:3 And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.*

e). Secondly, there is the astonishing realization that the seed, who is the Lord Jesus Christ, the second person of the Godhead, the One by whom all things were made, would literally be born - from the womb of a woman. *Ro 8:3 sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh,*

The Creator would come into the world through His creation.

f). And this would of course necessitate Divine intervention – but not as we saw in the miraculous birth of Isaac as no man would be involved in this process – this would be the Spirit of God, the very breath of God, the

only means by which life is given, breathing life into the barren womb of a virgin.

g). Isa 7:14 *"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.*

h). Do we realize that this is the word of God Himself who through His own actions, in conjunction with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit who takes on human form within the fragility of the womb of a virgin.

i). Joh 1:14 *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,*

6). Now the one through whom Christ would be born was not a random choice, but in fulfillment of that which He had already set in place.

7). As God continues to establish great spiritual truth through the opening chapters of Genesis we find in Chapter five Adam's lineage traced through Seth - Ge 4:25 ¶ *And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, "For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed."*

a). Seth is the seed who replaces the murdered Abel and is a type of the seed of the woman fulfilled in Christ. And it is seven generations from Seth that brings us to Enoch, the one who typifies the rapture of the church, and ten generations from Seth that brings us to Noah, the one typifying Israel passing through the time of Jacob's trouble.

8). So through Seth God brings us to Noah, the man through whom the world will be re-populated following the world wide flood. And it is through just one of Noah's sons, Shem that God chooses to work - Ge 9:26 *And he said: "Blessed be the LORD, The God of Shem, And may Canaan be his servant.*

9). And it is through the lineage of Shem that we come to the man to whom God gave the promises concerning the heavenly and earthly portions of the Kingdom - Ge 11:10 ¶ *This is the genealogy of Shem: Shem was one hundred years old, and begot Arphaxad two years after the flood. 11 After he begot Arphaxad, Shem lived five hundred years, and begot sons and daughters. 12 Arphaxad lived thirty-five years, and begot Salah. 13 After he begot Salah, Arphaxad lived four hundred and three years, and begot sons and daughters. 14 Salah lived thirty years, and begot Eber. 15 After he begot Eber, Salah lived four hundred and three years, and begot sons and daughters. 16 Eber lived thirty-four years, and begot Peleg. 17 After he*

begot Peleg, Eber lived four hundred and thirty years, and begot sons and daughters. 18 Peleg lived thirty years, and begot Reu.

19 After he begot Reu, Peleg lived two hundred and nine years, and begot sons and daughters. 20 Reu lived thirty-two years, and begot Serug. 21 After he begot Serug, Reu lived two hundred and seven years, and begot sons and daughters. 22 Serug lived thirty years, and begot Nahor. 23 After he begot Nahor, Serug lived two hundred years, and begot sons and daughters. 24 Nahor lived twenty-nine years, and begot Terah. 25 After he begot Terah, Nahor lived one hundred and nineteen years, and begot sons and daughters. 26 Now Terah lived seventy years, and begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran.

a). This is of course Abraham – And it is through Abraham’s son, Isaac that the promises are to be fulfilled - Ge 21:12 *But God said to Abraham, "Do not let it be displeasing in your sight because of the lad or because of your bondwoman. Whatever Sarah has said to you, listen to her voice; for **in Isaac your seed shall be called.***

b). Ge 22:16 *and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son - 17 "blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.*

18 "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

c). Ro 4:13 *For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.*

10). And so thus far we can see the seed of the woman delineated through Seth, to Enoch, to Noah, to Shem, to Abraham and Isaac and then of course Jacob and through Jacob’s twelve sons the nation of Israel - Ex 6:8 *'And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give it to you as a heritage: I am the LORD.'*

11). And within the nations history it is to Israel’s second King, David – who is chosen to replace Saul - Ac 13:22 *"And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.'*

a). It is to David that God makes specific promises concerning the One who will fulfill the promise given in ‘the seed of the woman’ –

2Sa 7:12 *"When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 "I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. 15 "But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 "And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.""*

i/ Ps 89:3 *"I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David: 4 'Your seed I will establish forever, And build up your throne to all generations.'*

ii/ Ps 132:11 ¶ *The LORD has sworn in truth to David; He will not turn from it: "I will set upon your throne the fruit of your body.*

b). The promise to David is that it is through his seed and his seed alone that the establishment of an everlasting kingdom will come. David's house and David's Kingdom and David's throne will be established forever, in, by and through the descendant who will be faithfully obedient.

c). The establishment of this Kingdom would of itself necessitate the replacement of Satan and his fallen angels, thereby fulfilling the promise of the seed of the woman.

d). None of David's descendants with earthly fathers, from Solomon onwards, were ever consistent in their faithful obedience resulting in the overthrow of the historical Kingdom and the end of the Theocracy.

e). But what God had promised He would do.

f). And the promised descendant who would be faithfully obedient would be God's very own Son - Isa 11:1 ¶ *There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. 2 The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. 3 His delight is in the fear of the LORD, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; 4 But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. 5 Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist.*

12). Now as we said earlier the woman through whom Christ would be born was not a random choice, but a woman who would have a direct link, through David to the original type of the seed of the woman – Seth.

a). And in respect of Mary this is exactly what we find.

b). In the genealogy presented in Luke Chapter 3 we see Mary's lineage through her father, Joseph's father-in-law.

c). The phrase 'as was supposed' in the Greek language refers to something that is perceived to be so according to the law.

d). Jesus, according to law was the Son of Joseph, and Joseph, according to law was the son, son-in-law of Heli, Mary's father.

e). *Lu 3:3 Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, the son of Heli, 24 the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Janna, the son of Joseph, 25 the son of Mattathiah, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai, 26 the son of Maath, the son of Mattathiah, the son of Semei, the son of Joseph, the son of Judah, 27 the son of Joannas, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri, 28 the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmodam, the son of Er, 29 the son of Jose, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, 30 the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonan, the son of Eliakim, 31 the son of Melea, the son of Menan, the son of Mattathah, the son of Nathan, the son of David, 32 the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon, 33 the son of Amminadab, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, 34 the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, 35 the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah, 36 the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, 37 the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel, the son of Cainan, 38 the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.*

f). Jesus' blood line then can be traced all the way back to Adam through David, Abraham, Shem, and Seth. He being the fulfillment of the type of the seed of the woman pictured in Seth.

g). We see Mary's ancestry coming through David's son Nathan making Jesus a literal descendant of David, of David's own bloodline.

13). Not only that, but Christ's right to David's throne comes to Him legally through David's son Solomon – not just because He is God.

a). Remember, that according to law Jesus was considered the legal Son of Joseph.

b). So note Joseph's lineage as presented in Matthew - Mt 1:1 ¶ *The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: 2 Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. 3 Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. 4 Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. 5 Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, 6 and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. 7 Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. 8 Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. 9 Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. 10 Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. 11 Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. 12 And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. 13 Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. 14 Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. 15 Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. 16 And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.*

c). So Jesus, at His birth was a literal descendant of David through His mother, with a legal right to David's throne through Solomon via his father by law – Joseph.

d). And because His biological Father, so to speak, is God the Father He was born without sin in the image of God - Heb 1:2 *has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person,*

e). And although our genealogy in Matthew does not take us that far back we would realize that from Abraham, Joseph's lineage will also go back to Adam through Shem and Seth.

14). And I guess we may not have considered this before, but it was absolutely necessary for Joseph to take legal responsibility for Mary and Jesus so that the legal right to David's throne would be established.

a). This is considerably more than an interesting detail, within the framework that God had established this was critical.

b). And what is so neat is the way Joseph's decision to take Mary as his wife is recorded in Matthew's gospel - Mt 1:20 *But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." 22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." 24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife,*

c). The echo of Adam and the Woman is too loud to ignore.

d). Just as Adam cleaving to his wife results in the seed of the woman typified in Seth with the promise of redemption, so Joseph cleaving to Mary makes possible the fulfillment of the type in the Lord Jesus Christ, the One who would be the promised Redeemer.

15). Now with all this background in mind listen to the words the angel speaks to Mary - Lu 1:30 *Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. 32 "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 "And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." 34 Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" 35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.....38 Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.*

a). Do you see where the angel takes Mary? – to the scriptures to that which God had already said through His servants the prophets. And we may suppose I think that Mary was not in ignorance of her ancestry, nor indeed that of Joseph. She knew that what the angel said was possible, because she knew who her bloodline led back to.

b). And having accepted, by faith, that which the angel had said, listen to the words Mary speaks concerning this when she arrives at her cousin Elizabeth's house in the hill country of Judea - Lu 1:41 *And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 Then she spoke out*

with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 "But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 "For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. 45 "Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord." 46 And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. 48 For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. 49 For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name. 50 And His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to generation. 51 He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. 52 He has put down the mighty from their thrones, And exalted the lowly. 53 He has filled the hungry with good things, And the rich He has sent away empty. 54 He has helped His servant Israel, In remembrance of His mercy, 55 As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and to his seed forever."
(Teach this).

c). And of course notice where she ends – the promises made to Abraham and his seed – forever - Ge 22:17 *"blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18 "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."*

d). And again – notice the words of Zacharias after the birth of John the Baptist - Lu 1:67 ¶ *Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: 68 "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited and redeemed His people, 69 And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of His servant David, 70 As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, Who have been since the world began, 71 That we should be saved from our enemies And from the hand of all who hate us, 72 To perform the mercy promised to our fathers And to remember His holy covenant, 73 The oath which He swore to our father Abraham: 74 To grant us that we, Being delivered from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear, 75 In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life.*

e). There is no doubt as to who Jesus is. And it is interesting to note, especially with regard to what is recorded here of Mary and Zacharias, that their absolute certainty is based on that which is said in the scriptures.

f). We will note I hope that they knew the scriptures well enough to understand exactly what was going on and what the outcome of these events would be.

16). We may also be encouraged that in the midst of Israel's seeming indifference to the times, there was a remnant of those who waited for and looked for the fulfillment of scripture - Lu 2:25 ¶ *And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, 28 he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: 29 "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; 30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation 31 Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, 32 A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel."*

a). Lu 2:36 *Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; 37 and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. 38 And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.*

17). So we can see here with the birth of Jesus the precise outworking of the prophetic thread that is woven throughout scripture. His birth is exact in terms of timing - Ga 4:4 *But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman,*

a). In terms of location - Mt 2:6 *'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'*

b). And as we have seen through Mary and Joseph, precise in terms of genealogy.

c). All according to the scriptures.

d). This was a day and an hour set before the foundation of the world and declared by the prophets when God would take on the fragile frame of a man, stepping out of eternity into time to bring about redemption. According to the scriptures.

18). And as we know the scriptures have recorded so many things concerning this greater Son of David that are not yet done – the fullness of the promise in the seed of the woman has not yet been realized in a manifested form either in Christ or in the descendants of Abraham, but God has declared from the beginning what the end will be.

a). So as we look at the events surrounding Christ's birth will we like the protagonists at His first coming have an unshakable faith in that which scripture says is soon to happen?

b). We are in another time and another place, but we are not ignorant of what scripture teaches.

c). The fullness of the times is almost upon us, and the signs and seasons are plain to see for anyone with eyes to see them. And in the midst of an overwhelming indifference to this within the church universal I want you to be encouraged that there is a remnant even now, eagerly awaiting Christ's second advent, just as there was at His first - Heb 9:28 *so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.*

d). And to close let the scriptures encourage us once more – Heb 10:37 *"For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.*

e). And when He has come all that which God had finished from the foundation of the world will become manifest in time and space.

f). Encourage one another with these words.