

Sunday February 5th 2017
For Jews Request a Sign.....
Part Twenty

1). Joh 6:14 *Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world." 15 ¶ Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone. 16 Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, 17 got into the boat, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was already dark, and Jesus had not come to them. 18 Then the sea arose because a great wind was blowing. 19 So when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near the boat; and they were afraid. 20 But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." 21 Then they willingly received Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land where they were going.*

We had seen last time how this, the fifth sign recorded in John's Gospel, is pointing to the future experience of Israel during and immediately following that period of time that we know as the Tribulation.

a). And we had seen that this was accomplished through the use of metaphor and symbolism – John's audience, then as now, would be aware of the Lord's death, resurrection and ascension as something that has already taken place, seen through Jesus departing again 'to the mountain by Himself alone' and would therefore be able to understand that the next events that pertain to the Jewish people must involve the Gentile nations and a state of utter turmoil seen through the disciples in the boat on the sea with a great wind blowing.

b). And so, just to remind ourselves, let's go back and look again at the types we find in this portion of John Chapter 6.

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c). So, this sign is dealing with a time close to the end of Man's Day, close to the conclusion of Daniel's 70th week; a time seen to be at the mid-point in

the Tribulation and beyond when the Jews will once again be cast out among the Gentile nations for the purpose of being brought to repentance – this is what is seen by the disciples being in the boat, out on the sea with a great wind blowing.

d). All the details concerning these events are not presented in the sign itself but can be readily found elsewhere in the scriptures enabling us to put the whole thing together.

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2). Jon 1:4 ¶ *But the LORD sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up.*

We had also seen last time that a great wind, a mighty tempest on the sea, is found in the Book of Jonah, also picturing utter turmoil among the nations.

a). In Jonah however the way seen to calm the tempest is for Jonah to be thrown overboard from the ship - Jon 1:15 *So they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging.*

b). In John though it is not the disciples cast into the sea that stops the sea from raging, but Christ getting into the boat - 21 *Then they willingly received Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land where they were going.*

Something also seen in the parallel accounts in Matthew and Mark – Mt 14:32 *And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."*

Mr 6:51 *Then He went up into the boat to them, and the wind ceased.*

c). The Gospel accounts are all picturing utter turmoil among the Gentile nations as the great wind blows upon the sea, but this is utter turmoil for a completely different reason than that seen through Israel being in the land but unrepentant as we find in Jonah.

d) Quite simply the turmoil among the nations caused by an unrepentant Israel in their land stops as soon as Israel is once again scattered among the nations just as we see in Jonah once he was thrown into the sea.

e). But following this, following the events of the mid-point in the Tribulation, a turmoil erupts of a nature that has never been seen in human history before for an altogether different reason.

f). This will be a time of unprecedented antisemitism as Antichrist begins his attempted genocide of the Jewish people worldwide – this is the time of Jacob's trouble - Jer 30:7 *Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble, But he shall be saved out of it.*

Although the Lord will use Antichrist and the Gentile nations to bring His people to repentance through horrific persecution He will also punish the Gentile nations for doing so - Zec 1:15 *I am exceedingly angry with the nations at ease; For I was a little angry [with Israel], And they [the nations] helped-but with evil intent."*

Also that stated in Genesis 12:3 must hold true – Ge 12:3 *I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you;*

Re 6:8 *So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.*

Re 14:19 *So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. 20 And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.*

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So intense and far reaching is this anti-Semitic persecution and its consequences that the entire human race hovers on the edge of extinction – Mt 24:21 *"For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 "And unless those*

days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's [Israel] sake those days will be shortened.

g). And it is one facet of what we see in v22 as it pertains to the Jews that is found in Matthew's account of the sign given in John - Mt 14:26 *And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." 28 And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." 29 So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. 30 But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" 31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.*

Did Peter really begin to walk on the water? Well clearly he did as this is what the scripture records, but we need to move beyond the literal to see the spiritual truth that is taught through this incident.

h). Remaining within the symbolism we have already established from the sign in John, Peter is representative of the Jewish nation as a whole and that nation in the sea amidst the turmoil begins 'to sink' as does Peter.

i). And it is only through Divine intervention in response to Peter's cry, 'Lord save me!' that Peter is raised up out of the sea and it will only be by Divine intervention in response to Israel's cry - Joe 2:32 *And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the LORD has said, Among the remnant whom the LORD calls.*

That Israel will be raised up out of the sea, out of the place of death, just as we see with Jonah and just as we have seen pictured in another foundational type in Exodus - Ex 3:9 *"Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. 10 "Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."*

j). And in the antitype of that seen in Exodus it will be God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, whom God the Father will send to deliver His people through Divine intervention pictured through the Lord pulling Peter from the sea.

3). The great wind then seen in John, Matthew and Mark in relation to the disciples being in the boat out on the sea would be an allusion to the 4 winds of heaven seen in Daniel Chapter 7 - Da 7:1 ¶ *In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head while on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts. 2 Daniel spoke, saying, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. 3 "And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.*

The 4 great beasts that 'came up from the sea' picture the 4 phases of the Babylonian kingdom which began with Nebuchadnezzar, the final form of which under the last king of Babylon, the Antichrist, will be responsible for the utter turmoil brought about through the genocidal persecution of the Jews as we have previously seen – this is the 4 winds stirring up the sea – something that can only be stopped by Divine intervention - Da 7:25 *He [Antichrist] shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints [the Jews] shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time [3 ½ years]. 26 'But the court shall be seated, And they shall take away his dominion, To consume and destroy it forever. 27 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.'*

a). This same wind can also be found in - Re 7:1 ¶ *After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. 2 Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, 3 saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." 4 And I*

heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed:

That which we see here takes us to a time immediately prior to the mid-point in the Tribulation, immediately prior to Antichrist's attempted genocide, just before that pictured through the disciples getting into the boat in John 6 and we see here that there are 4 angels at the 4 corners of the earth holding back the 4 winds so that they should not harm the earth [land] = Israel, the sea = Gentiles nations, or on any tree = nations.

a). And the reason for restraining these angels from loosing the 4 winds is so that the 144000 of all the tribes of the children of Israel can be sealed.

b). Once this sealing has happened, at the mid-point in the Tribulation, there will be no need to restrain the 4 winds any longer and Revelation Chapter 8 then describes the opening of the 7th seal on the 7 sealed scroll, announcing the fulfillment God's complete judgment on Israel and the nations when the 4 winds, metaphorically speaking will be at hurricane force.

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c). Now, as we have seen on many occasions God's purpose for the time of Jacob's trouble is to bring the nation to repentance so that Israel can fulfill her God given purpose and the nations be blessed, something that has not yet ever been seen.

d). And just as God has been faithful to His Word given in Leviticus Chapter 26 and Deuteronomy Chapter 28 concerning the consequences for disobedience He will be equally faithful to His Word concerning Israel's repentance - 2Ch 7:13 *"When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, 14 "if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

Jer 30:8 'For it shall come to pass in that day,' Says the LORD of hosts, 'That I will break his yoke from your neck, And will burst your bonds; Foreigners shall no more enslave them. 9 But they shall serve the LORD their God, And David their king, Whom I will raise up for them. 10 ¶ 'Therefore do not fear, O My servant Jacob,' says the LORD, 'Nor be dismayed, O Israel; For behold, I will save

you from afar, And your seed from the land of their captivity. Jacob shall return, have rest and be quiet, And no one shall make him afraid. 11 For I am with you,' says the LORD, 'to save you; Though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you, Yet I will not make a complete end of you. But I will correct you in justice, And will not let you go altogether unpunished.'

4). Joh 6:19 *So when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near the boat; and they were afraid. 20 But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." 21 Then they willingly received Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land where they were going.*

a). As we have previously seen the Jews scattered and persecuted among the Gentile nations will come to a place of such utter desolation that they will have no choice but to cry out to the God of their fathers. And having done this, following the type we have seen in Exodus God the Father will send the Lord Jesus Christ to deliver His people and this is what we see in John 6:19.

b). And if we stay within the symbolism we have already established we can understand why the Jews will be 'afraid' when they see Jesus drawing near – Zec 12:10 *"And I 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.*

Re 1:7 *Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.*

To see Jesus and to recognize Him is also to realize what they have done to Him, fearing the consequences. This whole event though has already been set out in another foundational type through Joseph and his brothers. We will remember that the brothers had sold Joseph into slavery with a view to his death and so we can imagine the distress they were in when they discovered not only that Joseph was alive but second only to Pharaoh - Ge 45:3 *Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; does my father still live?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence. 4 And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then*

he said: "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. 5 "But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. 6 "For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. 7 "And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. 8 "So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

And what these verses make abundantly clear is that although Israel crucified their King, their unintentional killing of the Passover Lamb has made possible that which we see in v7-8 - *7 "And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. 8 "So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.*

c). Now in the sign in John this same event is seen pictured through the disciples willingly receiving Jesus into the boat and instantly as they do so, 'the boat was at the land where they were going' – which takes us to the conclusion of the matter – Israel repentant, restored and healed, back in the land covenanted to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob at the head of the nations within a Theocracy that is the Millennial Kingdom - Jer 23:7 *"Therefore, behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "that they shall no longer say, 'As the LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,' 8 "but, 'As the LORD lives who brought up and led the descendants of the house of Israel from the north country and from all the countries where I had driven them.' And they shall dwell in their own land."*

d). And finally, Jesus walking on the sea in the sign will point us to 2 interrelated things – firstly to that seen in - Ps 110:1 ¶ <<A Psalm of David.>> *The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."*

And secondly, the complete overthrow of Gentile world power for all time – Re 19:11 ¶ *Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many*

crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. 17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, 18 "that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great." 19 And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. 20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. 21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

Da 2:34 "You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. 35 "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

We will pick this up again next time – if the Lord is willing.