

Sunday February 12th 2017
For Jews Request a Sign.....
Part Twenty One

1). Joh 6:15 ¶ *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.*

a). We have seen over the past weeks how this, the fifth sign in John's Gospel, presents matters with regards to Israel from the mid-point in the Tribulation when Israel will again be scattered among the nations amidst a degree of anti-Semitic persecution such as the world has never seen before, nor will ever see again.

b). And all this will happen while the Christ remains on the mountain 'by Himself alone'; waiting for the moment when that seen in 2 Chronicles Chapter 7 is fulfilled - 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.*

Waiting for the fulfillment of - 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."*

c). The disciples in the boat, out on the sea amidst 'a great wind' pictures Israel's experience at this time from 2 interrelated viewpoints. The first is with a view to those Jews who will heed the Lord's warning given in –

Mt 24:15 *"Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), 16 "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. [the surrounding Gentile nations] 17 "Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. 18 "And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes.*

And the second is with a view to those who don't or are unable to heed this warning - Lu 21:24 *"And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.*

Whether we are looking at those Jews who escape Israel's borders to try to find refuge in the surrounding nations or whether we are looking at those led away captive into all nations, all are pictured within the symbolism of the disciples in the boat, out on the sea in the midst of a great wind. Although approximately 9 million Jews will perish during this time, the nation itself cannot be destroyed.

d). And that which triggers these cataclysmic events is seen in Matthew to be the 'abomination that makes desolate', spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place. This is the man of sin, the son of perdition, the Antichrist as he breaks his covenant that had been made with Israel 3 ½ years earlier - 2Th 2:4 *who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*

The Antichrist is the rider on the red horse from Revelation Chapter 6 who begins his ride as the Lord opens the second seal on the 7 sealed scroll - Re 6:3 ¶ *When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see." 4 Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.*

And the full implication of what Antichrist is attempting to do in these final 3 ½ years of the Great Tribulation should not be overlooked, remembering that this is specifically referred to as the time of Jacob's trouble.

e). And to give his actions some historical context look at these words spoken by General Shlomo Goren as he stood at the Wailing Wall in June 1967 following the capture of the old city of Jerusalem at the end of the 6 day war – ‘We have taken the city of God. We are entering the Messianic Era for the Jewish people.....’

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f). Why would this man make a statement like this at this particular juncture? Simply because the remains of Solomon’s Temple and Herod’s Temple, the Wailing Wall, that which was in place at the Lord’s first advent, was now accessible for the first time since 70AD and to stand in the presence of these Temple stones gives echo back to the OT Theocracy that previously existed and portends the building of a third Temple and a future Theocracy. Such is the power of the Temple within the Jewish economy.

g). Since the day the glory of God filled the Tabernacle of meeting in the wilderness and later when the glory filled Solomon’s Temple there has been an inextricable connection between the Jews’ place of worship and the Theocracy and it is not possible to talk of the Theocracy and the Temple apart from looking to Israel as God’s adopted firstborn son.

h). During the first 7-8 months following the signing of the peace treaty between Antichrist and ‘many’ in Israel a third Jewish Temple will be built on Temple Mount in Jerusalem and the sacrificial system of the Mosaic economy re-introduced, just as we find in Daniel. And although the glory of God will be absent from the Holy Place the echo of a Theocracy and a firstborn son will permeate the atmosphere as the Temple Mount is the place God has chosen for His name.

i). And so with this brief background in place it should be easy to see that the rider on the red horse, through his actions, will strike at the very heart of any idea of a Theocracy and the position that Israel still occupies as God’s firstborn son. He will attempt to eradicate the only rule that could challenge his own by destroying the central place where this rule would reside, the Jewish Temple on Temple Mount; by destroying the city, Jerusalem, from which this rule would go forth; by destroying the Jewish people who would administer this rule at the head of the nations and by destroying the land of Israel itself by dividing up the land, setting new geographical

boundaries and trampling the land underfoot. In effect then to wipe out all trace of God in the earth. And he will seek to accomplish this within 3 ½ years.

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j). God of course will not countenance such an action - Ge 4:15 *And the LORD said to him, "Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold."*

And as an unforeseen consequence of Antichrist's genocidal, self-exalting, satanic lust for power, Israel will cry out to the God of their fathers and then.....

2). Lu 21:27 *"Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory."*

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.*

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). Antichrist and Gentile world power will be completely destroyed for all time as pictured through the destruction of the great image in Nebuchadnezzar's dream in - 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.*

Isa 2:2 *Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the LORD'S house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it. 3 Many people shall come*

and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

And Israel, following that pictured through the healing of the nobleman's son and the healing of the man at the pool of Bethesda, under the leadership of Messiah will return to the land - Joh 6:21 *Then they willingly received Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land where they were going.*

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."

b). And having returned to the land that pictured through the wedding in Cana of Galilee will be fulfilled. The Lord Himself will build the 4th Temple on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, the Theocracy will be established and that seen through the feeding of the 5000 and 12 baskets of leftovers will become a reality, just as we see at the end of Isaiah 2:3 and through Jonah going to Nineveh.

c). And it is Israel's calling to be God's witness in the earth that is the subject of the 6th sign recorded in John's Gospel.

3). Joh 9:1 ¶ *Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. 2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. 4 "I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. 5 "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 6 When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. 7 And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.*

The man here who was 'blind from birth', as with the nobleman's son and the man at the pool of Bethesda is a representation of the nation of Israel as a

whole – a nation that has been blind from its inception with respect to its calling - Isa 43:1 ¶ *But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine. 2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you. 3 For I am the LORD your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I gave Egypt for your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in your place. 4 Since you were precious in My sight, You have been honored, And I have loved you; Therefore I will give men for you, And people for your life. 5 Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, And gather you from the west; 6 I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' And to the south, 'Do not keep them back!' Bring My sons from afar, And My daughters from the ends of the earth- 7 Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him." 8 ¶ Bring out the blind people who have eyes, And the deaf who have ears. 9 Let all the nations be gathered together, And let the people be assembled. Who among them can declare this, And show us former things? Let them bring out their witnesses, that they may be justified; Or let them hear and say, "It is truth." 10 "You are My witnesses," says the LORD, "And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me.*

From the time of the nation's inception to the present Israel has not fulfilled that seen in Isaiah 43:10 to be God's witness, although this is clearly a primary reason for the nation's creation in Jacob and has then for 4 days, 4000 years been blind to this purpose. As with Jonah fleeing to Tarshish to escape the Lord's command to go to Nineveh, so Israel has been going in a complete contrary direction to that seen in Isaiah 43:10 from the beginning.

a). And within the 6th sign the Lord uses physical blindness as a metaphor for this spiritual condition.

b). And interestingly in the exchange between the Lord and His disciples concerning the man blind from birth we are told that the man's blindness is not because of his own sin or the sin of his parents *but that the works of God should be revealed in him*. This man then had been specifically chosen for this moment that through him and the healing he received incredible spiritual truth would be revealed concerning the Jewish people yet future.

c). As we follow the events in John Chapter 9 we see that the Lord makes clay with which He anoints the blind man's eyes and instructs him to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. This is of course no random selection of a place to wash, and so that no one should miss it, the translation of the name Siloam is given to us – Sent.

d). The Greek word translated 'Sent' is the word 'apostello' from which we would immediately see the Anglicized word 'apostle', literally meaning one who is sent with a view to a particular mission.

e). And so, we might get the picture – the blind man's eyes are washed with water, water associated with a place that means to be sent on a mission and he comes back seeing and again what he now sees is associated with being sent on a mission. And having received his sight the man then goes forth with a true report of Jesus the Christ - Joh 9:10 *Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" 11 He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight."*

f). Water, as we saw in the first sign at the wedding in Cana where the 6 water pots were filed with water before becoming wine, is used as a metaphor for the written Word, that which is God breathed. We will remember what we have seen in Ephesians Chapter 5 with respect to this - Eph 5:25 *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,*

g). Let's follow the picture then as we would see it in fulfillment in the antitype – Blind Israel will have her eyes opened to the written word given through the Living Word and will then see with respect to her calling so as to be sent on a mission as God's witness to the nations of the earth during the Millennial Kingdom - Isa 29:18 *In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book, And the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness.*

h). As we think about this process, the Living Word removing spiritual blindness through the opening of spiritual eyes to understand the written Word we might be reminded of a parallel event recorded in Luke's Gospel.

4). Lu 24:16 *But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him.....25 Then He said to them, "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. 28 Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. 29 But they constrained Him, saying, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them. 30 Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. 32 And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"

This of course is the day of the Lord's resurrection when 2 of His disciples are travelling on the road to Emmaus.

a). Both of those seen here needed to have their eyes opened so that they would know Him. Now this has nothing to do with recognizing that this was Jesus but rather everything to do with not seeing that He is the Christ and therefore not understanding the events they have just witnessed, being blind to the scriptures that speak of Him. In this sense they parallel exactly the man blind from birth, because in relation to the scriptures they were not able to see that He was Jesus the Christ.

b). And the way that the Lord opens the 'eyes' of these 2 disciples so that they should see is through opening their understanding of the scriptures, 'He expounded to them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself', with the end result of, 'Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the scriptures to us'.

c). And notice the stated time when their eyes were opened, 'it is toward evening, and the day is far spent'; taking us again to the close of Man's Day, the end of Daniel's 70th week and the Lord's return. And in these 2 disciples knowing Him in the breaking of bread we have echoes of the nation looking upon the One whom they pierced, the Bread of Life, broken for them.

d). Key to the events on the road to Emmaus and the 2 disciples, as with the man blind from birth, is the Living Word removing the blindness through the written Word.

e). And then following the 2 disciples having their eyes opened to the reality of Jesus being the Christ, the Son of God, note what they do next –

Lu 24:33 So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, 34 saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" 35 And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.

They go forth with a true report of the risen Christ – just as Israel will do in the future day that these events point to. A true report that has been succinctly set out in the foundational type of Joseph and his brothers, seen once Joseph has revealed his true identity to them – Ge 45:13 *"So you shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that you have seen;.....26 And they told him, saying, "Joseph is still alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt."*

With this in mind it is an easy thing to see the heart of the message Israel will take to the nations – They will tell of His glory and all they have seen and will proclaim, 'Jesus the Christ is alive and He is governor over all the earth.'

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f). And with respect to the content of this message, paralleling the report of his healing given by the man blind from his birth, we can find yet more detail in Isaiah Chapter 53 - Isa 53:1 ¶ *Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?*

But this will have to wait until next time – if the Lord is willing.