

Sunday February 19th 2017
For Jews Request a Sign.....
Part Twenty Two

1). 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.*

The man blind from birth is a picture of blind Israel and in the healing of the man by giving him sight, according to the Lord; the 'works of God' are revealed.

a). The spiritual blindness that has been the nation's condition since it was created in Jacob can only be removed supernaturally by Divine intervention just as we see with this man being given his sight by the Lord - Joh 9:6 *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.*

This is the same thing we saw with the 2 disciples on the road to Emmaus, who present another facet of Israel's blindness, blindness to do with not knowing that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God - Lu 24:31 *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?"*

b). And it will be in that future day, at the conclusion of the Tribulation, when Israel will look on the One whom they pierced that the works of God, revealed in the sign, will be fulfilled – the nation's spiritual eyes will be opened through Divine intervention so that they will see, and understand, through their own scriptures, beginning with Moses, that Jesus is the One spoken of by Samuel the prophet - 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.

They will know that He is the Christ the Son of God and the nation's eyes will be open to see and understand their calling to be God's witnesses among the nations as they see and understand that presented through the sign of the Prophet Jonah - Jon 3:1 ¶ *Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, 2 "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you."*

c). The works of God then that are revealed in the man blind from birth are the works God will do in that future day that must of necessity be inextricably connected to the sign itself - Joh 9:4 *"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."*

Joh 10:37 *"If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; 38 "but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him."*

As we know these signs were given to Israel for a specifically stated purpose - Joh 20:30 *And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.*

And the signs themselves attest to the identity of the One performing them - Joh 10:24 *Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, "How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." 25 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me.*

And it is the One who performed the signs who will bring to fulfillment those things seen in the signs in that day when Israel's spiritual eyes are opened that they should see and believe - Isa 35:5 ¶ *Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.*

2). And in fulfillment of the promise given to Abraham in Genesis –
Ge 12:2 *I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*"

Israel will rule at the head of the nations as God's firstborn son and all the families of the earth will be blessed through Israel as they take the message of the One true and living God to the Gentiles.

a). And just as the man blind from birth, once he had been given his sight, delivered a true report concerning Jesus and the healing he had received –
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."*

So Israel will go forth with a true message of the healing the nation has received, telling of the Lord's glory and all they have seen - Isa 53:1 ¶ *Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? 2 For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. 3 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. 4 ¶ Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth. 8 He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken. 9 And they made His grave with the wicked-But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth. 10 ¶ Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed,*

He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. 11 He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.

Power Point – Slides 1- 4

b). Joh 9:14 *Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes.*

As we have seen with the previous 5 signs, it is the Sabbath, the 7th day when Jesus opened the eyes of the man blind from birth – the only day on which this sign could have been performed, because of the future time to which it points.

c). And just as we have also seen before it is this very fact of performing the sign on the Sabbath that is used by Israel's religious leaders to condemn the One who is Lord of the Sabbath - Joh 9:15 *Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." 16 Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them.*

d). And interestingly it is the man who never before had sight who sees things now so clearly - Joh 9:28 *Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. 29 "We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from." 30 The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! 31 "Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. 32 "Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. 33 "If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing."*

And those who had always had their sight see nothing at all –

Joh 9:34 *They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out.*

e). With this man we now see something we had not seen with the nobleman's son or the man at the pool of Bethesda – he is punished for receiving his sight and the account he gives of it by being cast out of the synagogue, literally excommunicated from Judaism, cast out from the religious life of the nation.

f). Despite this however, and possibly because of it, he is accepted by the Lord; an acceptance far more valuable than the approbation of the religious community - Joh 9:35 ¶ *Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" 36 He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" 37 And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you." 38 Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.*

g). And then in the final 3 verses of Chapter 9 Jesus gives His own condemnation of the Jewish religious leaders - Joh 9:39 ¶ *And Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind." 40 Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, "Are we blind also?" 41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore your sin remains.*

h). And in the Lord's words to the Pharisees we can find an echo of His words spoken to Christians within the present Laodicean condition of the Church in - Re 3:17 *"Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' --and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—*

And the blindness within the Laodicean Church can only be with regard to one thing – the Word of the Kingdom, the Word concerning the Christ and the 7th Day and as such it is not a million miles away from the situation we have been studying concerning the Jews and the Lord's first advent.

i). It would behove us to keep in mind that our spiritual eyes, the eyes of our understanding, are continually enlightened as we are brought forth from above, by the Holy Spirit through the written Word as we submit ourselves to

the Living Word, as we are continually filled with the Spirit, and what takes place in this process for us is no less amazing than the man whose eyes were opened for the first time in his life.

j). This is exactly what we have seen in a previous part of this study as we looked at matters regarding Nicodemus and seeing and entering the Kingdom - Joh 3:3 *Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, [brought forth from above] he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

And with this in mind let's remember what we had learned from –
Pr 7:2 *Keep my commands and live, And my law as the apple [lit. pupil] of your eye.*

And - Mt 6:22 *"The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. 23 "But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!"*

There are too many uncomfortable similarities between circumstances in Israel at the Lord's first advent and circumstances within the Church prior to His second for us not to take this seriously.

3). Our study of the 8 signs in John's Gospel began with the wedding in Cana of Galilee which took place on the 3rd day at the end of a sequence of 7 days and this beginning of signs seen within this 7 day structure provided for us the skeleton for events surrounding Israel in the latter days as presented in John; a skeleton that is being fleshed out and animated by the signs that have followed. And this of course is exactly what we have seen at the beginning of Genesis where a skeleton is given through a 7 day structure with a man and a woman to rule together and a day of rest at the end of them, with the remainder of scripture then providing the flesh to place upon that skeleton. And as both Moses and John began their writing in exactly the same place this parallel between the 2 is not surprising.

Power Point – Slides – 5-8

a). The signs in John's Gospel have given us marriage celebrations as Israel becomes the wife of Jehovah again, pictured through Abraham marrying Keturah, from one perspective – Ge 25:1 ¶ *Abraham again took a wife, and her name was Keturah. 2 And she bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah.*

And Esther becoming queen instead of Vashti from another - Es 2:16 *So Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus, into his royal palace, in the tenth month, which is the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign. 17 The king loved Esther more than all the other women, and she obtained grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins; so he set the royal crown upon her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.*

b). The signs following in John's Gospel then point to spiritual healing, supernatural provision, supernatural protection and deliverance and the opening of spiritual eyes with a view to the fulfillment of prophecy and the receiving of blessing providing us with a more complete understanding of what we see in the first sign.

c). And as we come to the final 2 signs in John's Gospel they bring us to the very pinnacle of all that has been in view giving the breath of life so to speak to the flesh clad skeleton we have seen built before our eyes.

d). It is no coincidence that we read in - Isa 43:1 ¶ *But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel:*

Jacob, the man of the flesh, was created and Israel the man of the spirit is being formed – 'formed' being the same word used to describe the making of Adam in Genesis, a word that means the squeezing and molding of clay – the process of forming spiritual Israel alluded to in the application of clay to the blind man's eyes in the 6th sign - Jer 18:3 *Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something at the wheel. 4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make. 5 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: 6 "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?" says the LORD. "Look, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel!*

This itself possibly being an echo back to the creation of Man on the 6th day in the Genesis account – Man created to rule with God in Satan’s stead – part of the skeleton upon which all else is built.

4). The 6th sign then, as we have seen has to do with sight being given to a man blind from birth on the Sabbath – a man who, until this time, had seen nothing at all; a man who, once his eyes were opened, went forth with a true report of Jesus the Christ, the Son of God.

a). The 7th sign, the resurrection of Lazarus, presents the same picture as the 6th sign but from a slightly different perspective and really provides the capstone so to speak of all that has gone before. And it is no coincidence that the raising of Lazarus has been placed as the 7th sign – 7 of course being a number of completion and within the context of all the preceding signs the number 7 must also take us to the 7th day and show us the end of the matter as far as Israel is concerned.

b). So, let’s begin to take a look at this sign - Joh 11:1 ¶ *Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. 3 Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick." 4 When Jesus heard that, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." 5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was.*

The sign is introduced after a fashion we have seen before, ‘a certain man’ was sick. This is not a random man, but a certain man, a particular man. A man who is sick, ‘not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it’ – and this will no doubt remind us of the man blind from birth ‘that the works of God should be revealed in him’.

a). And the name Lazarus means, ‘God is help’ – the Lazarus we see here in John is not the same Lazarus seen in the parable of Lazarus and the rich man in Luke and we should not confuse the two.

b). And once more, as with the nobleman’s son, the 5000, the man at the pool of Bethesda and the man blind from birth Lazarus provides a picture of the nation of Israel – a nation that is sick as seen through the nobleman’s son and the man at the pool of Bethesda, a sickness we have seen described at the

beginning of Isaiah's prophecy – a nation that is not sick unto death, but desperately in need of God's help – a nation whom the Lord loves.

c). As the sign begins we see that Jesus receives the news of Lazarus's sickness and makes clear the purpose for this sickness and having heard that he was sick the Lord then 'stayed two more days in the place where He was'.

d). Staying 2 more days in the place where He was brings us again to the present 2 days of this dispensation – it is the same as we have seen pictured through the Lord spending 2 days in Samaria before returning to Judea and returning to the mountain by Himself alone.

e). And an interesting thing to keep in mind with this is at the time these signs were performed the 2 days of this dispensation remained yet future and were therefore within the realm of prophecy at that time – the fact that we are here and living in the final hours of those very same 2 days demonstrates the fulfillment of this prophecy and should be another confirmation for us of the certainty of the fulfillment of that which still yet remains prophetic for us; our appearance at Christ's Judgment Seat, the time of Jacob's trouble and Christ's Millennial Kingdom.

f). We will continue with this next time though – if the Lord is willing.