

Sunday March 12th 2017
For Jews Request a Sign.....
Part Twenty Five

1). Joh 11:38 *Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. 39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days." 40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?"*

We had seen last time how Lazarus in the tomb 4 days pictures Israel in the place of death with respect of her calling for 4000 years and we had seen how the time immediately prior to Lazarus being raised from the dead took us to the final days of the Great Tribulation when Israel is reaping the harvest sown by making a covenant with Death and being in agreement with Sheol – Isa 28:15 *Because you have said, "We have made a covenant with death, And with Sheol we are in agreement. When the overflowing scourge passes through, It will not come to us, For we have made lies our refuge, And under falsehood we have hidden ourselves."*

a). And we had seen how the progressive actions of the Antichrist, the one with whom many in Israel will make a covenant, seen through the 4 horses and their rider in Revelation Chapter 6, brings the Jewish people and by extension, the world at large, to the point of annihilation – 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 sake those days will be shortened.*

b). And we can only speculate as to the conditions that will exist on the earth that will make the signing of a peace treaty with this man an apparent necessity for the Jewish people. But this necessity will have to be seen by the many in Israel through the natural eye, not the spiritual.

c). Jesus had told the nation at His first advent that this is something they would do, as we have previously seen in - Joh 5:43 *"I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.*

The 'other' who comes in his own name is the Antichrist and he is the one Israel will receive having rejected, 2000 years beforehand, their King who came in the Father's name embracing instead a Gentile king - Caesar.

d). This action on Israel's part, of looking to this particular man to help them was also prophetically pictured in - Ho 5:13 *"When Ephraim saw his sickness, And Judah saw his wound, Then Ephraim went to Assyria And sent to King Jareb; Yet he cannot cure you, Nor heal you of your wound.*

King Jareb here, the king of Assyria, is a picture of the Antichrist who will himself come out of the geographical area which was once the old Assyrian empire. But, as we see clearly stated at the end of the verse, he is not capable of curing Israel's sickness or healing her wound.

e). The scriptures themselves of course provide the solution to Israel's condition, but this will be ignored by them - Ps 121:1 ¶ <<A Song of Ascents.>> *I will lift up my eyes to the hills-From whence comes my help? 2 My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.*

Until the day they look on the One whom they pierced - it is the Lord alone who has and who will bring Israel to the desperate conditions seen in the Tribulation and the Lord alone who can affect the nation's healing and deliverance from death following Israel's repentance.

Power Point – Slide 1

f). And as we have seen many times before the Lord will bring His chosen people to this desperate condition in complete faithfulness to that which He has said in His Word in order to bring them to repentance.

g). God has chosen Israel to be the nation through whom He will bless the nations of the earth, and no nation will ever receive God's blessing apart from Israel. Nor will He change His mind about how He will do this, and so He will do whatever is necessary to bring about the fulfillment of His purpose

with respect to Israel, just as He had told them at the nation's beginning, remember - Ro 11:29 *For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.*

2). We will remember that before Israel was to enter the land covenanted to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, having been brought out of Egypt, God spoke of the potential blessings and curses that awaited them; spoken to the first and repeated to the second generation – the blessings they would receive for faithfulness and the curses they would receive for unfaithfulness.

a). And of course unfaithfulness has marked the nation's history from the beginning - Le 26:23 *'And if by these things you are not reformed by Me, but walk contrary to Me, 24 then I also will walk contrary to you, and I will punish you yet seven times for your sins.*

The Lord had promised them that if the nation would continue to progressively walk contrary to Him He would punish them 'yet seven times', He would punish them completely, to the fullest extent of that which He could bring against them, short of the nation's destruction.

b). And it is this punishment 'yet seven times' promised in Leviticus that we can see pictured through the ride of the rider on the pale horse in Revelation Chapter 6 – Re 6:7 *When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." 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.*

And as we looked at these verses last time we had noted the attempted eradication of the Jewish people, - 'to kill with the sword', the famine they will experience leading to cannibalism and the pestilence and disease that go along with it - 'with hunger, with death', and the predatory attacks of wild animals - 'the beasts of the earth'.

c). And all of these details seen here in Revelation had already been foretold to the first generation to come out of Egypt and then repeated to the second generation. Just look at some of these verses - Le 26:16 *I also will do this to you: I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. 17 I will set My face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you shall reign over you, and you*

shall flee when no one pursues you..... 22 I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children, destroy your livestock, and make you few in number; and your highways shall be desolate..... 25 And I will bring a sword against you that will execute the vengeance of the covenant; when you are gathered together within your cities I will send pestilence among you; and you shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy. 26 When I have cut off your supply of bread, ten women shall bake your bread in one oven, and they shall bring back your bread by weight, and you shall eat and not be satisfied.... 29 You shall eat the flesh of your sons, and you shall eat the flesh of your daughters... 33 I will scatter you among the nations and draw out a sword after you; your land shall be desolate and your cities waste.

De 32:15 ¶ "But Jeshurun [a name for Israel] grew fat and kicked; You grew fat, you grew thick, You are obese! Then he forsook God who made him, And scornfully esteemed the Rock of his salvation. 16 They provoked Him to jealousy with foreign gods; With abominations they provoked Him to anger. 17 They sacrificed to demons, not to God, To gods they did not know, To new gods, new arrivals That your fathers did not fear.....23 'I will heap disasters on them; I will spend My arrows on them. 24 They shall be wasted with hunger, Devoured by pestilence and bitter destruction; I will also send against them the teeth of beasts, With the poison of serpents of the dust. 25 The sword shall destroy outside; There shall be terror within For the young man and virgin, The nursing child with the man of gray hairs.

And then this from Jeremiah - Jer 5:3 O LORD, are not Your eyes on the truth? You have stricken them, But they have not grieved; You have consumed them, But they have refused to receive correction. They have made their faces harder than rock; They have refused to return. 4 Therefore I said, "Surely these are poor. They are foolish; For they do not know the way of the LORD, The judgment of their God. 5 I will go to the great men and speak to them, For they have known the way of the LORD, The judgment of their God." But these have altogether broken the yoke And burst the bonds. 6 Therefore a lion from the forest shall slay them, A wolf of the deserts shall destroy them; A leopard will watch over their cities. Everyone who goes out from there shall be torn in pieces, Because their transgressions are many; Their backslidings have increased.

Nothing then of the horror we see described during the days of the Great Tribulation, which we had looked at in detail last time, had not already been promised by the Lord should His people continue in disobedience, a disobedience that finds its final, ultimate, expression with the making of a covenant with the one who personifies Death, the very antithesis of Life.

Power Point – Slide 2

d). God then, as we see, is always faithful to His Word – and in that we can greatly rejoice because if He will be faithful to His Word regarding Israel's disobedience He must also be faithful to His Word regarding the nation's repentance - Le 26:40 ¶ *'But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers, with their unfaithfulness in which they were unfaithful to Me, and that they also have walked contrary to Me, 41 and that I also have walked contrary to them and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if their uncircumcised hearts are humbled, and they accept their guilt- 42 then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and My covenant with Isaac and My covenant with Abraham I will remember; I will remember the land.*

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.*

e). All that God will yet do among His people is to one end, that they will accept their guilt, humble themselves and pray and seek His face – and should they do so He has promised to hear from heaven, forgive their sin and heal their land and this He must do as He has said so in His Word.

f). And what certainty can we have that this will happen? It's in every sign we have looked at in John's Gospel so far and brought to an apex in the 7th sign – Joh 11:43 *Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" 44 And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."*

The raising of Lazarus declares the certainty of the resurrection of Israel, both individual and national, and because of what we have read in Leviticus 26:40-42 and 2 Chronicles 7:13-14 we can know that in the sign of the raising of Lazarus the repentance of Israel is assured, because the nation could not experience that seen in the sign without repentance having taken place first.

Power Point – Slide 3

g). And as a result of Israel's repentance and the embrace of her calling the nations of the earth will be blessed as never seen before in fulfillment of God's promise to father Abraham - *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."*

Zec 8:20 "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Peoples shall yet come, Inhabitants of many cities; 21 The inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, "Let us continue to go and pray before the LORD, And seek the LORD of hosts. I myself will go also." 22 Yes, many peoples and strong nations Shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, And to pray before the LORD.' 23 "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you."'"

h). Every sign in John's Gospel has reflected back on the first sign, the wedding in Cana of Galilee where the water was turned to wine and every sign has brought us to the same place, Israel healed, restored and forgiven, taking their rightful place at the head of the nations in the Millennial Kingdom with the One who is the way, the truth and the life, their covenant with death having been annulled – *Pr 12:7 ¶ The wicked are overthrown and are no more, But the house of the righteous will stand.*

Jer 31:34 "No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

i). As Jesus goes to Lazarus's tomb and commands the stone to be removed we will remember that Martha makes this observation –
Joh 11:39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days."

But as Lazarus comes forth from the tomb there can be no stench but rather a sweet smelling aroma that accompanies the sin offering, as repentance is implicit in this action, something which has already been prophetically pictured through Abraham marrying Keturah - Ge 25:1 ¶ *Abraham again took a wife, and her name was Keturah.*

j). The result of which has also been prophetically pictured in the Book of Esther - Es 2:17 *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.*

k). Finally, let's remember what Paul writes about Israel with regards to this in – Ro 11:15 *For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?*

This is a remarkably profound statement and puts all of Israel's suffering into a proper perspective.

l). The casting away of the nation – the Kingdom of the heavens taken from them and that which leads them into the Great Tribulation - will result in 'the world', the Gentile nations and the earth itself being reconciled to God, which is no small thing of itself - Ro 8:19 *For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.*

But then we are told that Israel's acceptance, following their repentance, which can only be brought about through the horrors of Daniel's 70th week, is 'life from the dead' – and what we see here is so much more than talking of resurrection of itself.

m). Let's remember that according to John - 1Jo 5:19b.....*the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.*

Everything in the present world system is associated with darkness and death and our day to day living finds itself within this same realm. We have access to 'light' in only one way, through the Word - Ps 36:9 *For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light.*

Joh 8:12 ¶ *Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."*

n). And in the same way we only have access to 'life' through the One who is the Word made flesh - Col 3:3 *For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.*

Our experience of 'living' today is within a 'body of death' engaged in a continual struggle with a sin nature whose default setting is darkness and death and at present this is the extent of our experience, we can know nothing else. But let us not suppose that the 'life' we will have in the Millennial Kingdom is what we have now but a bit better - Joh 10:10 *"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

o). The words translated 'more abundantly' here speak of a super-abundance, an overflowing, both in terms of quantity and quality in the sense of beyond measure. And we have no way of comprehending the 'life' that awaits us because it is so far removed from our present experience.

p). Not only will we be completely free from a sin nature, but that which gives us 'life', which animates us, in the age to come, is the Holy Spirit Himself. It is true to say that we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit even now, but in that day He will course through our veins in the place of our blood energizing every part of our being – this we cannot imagine.

q). And according to Paul this will be made possible because of Israel's acceptance. Quite simply, not only must Christ have a Bride in order to rule, but God must also have 3 firstborn sons and God the Father must again have a Wife. The Lord Jesus Christ is the only begotten firstborn Son, Christians found faithful at the Judgment Seat will be a part of the Bride and will also be adopted as a firstborn son, and Israel, although a firstborn son by adoption at present is dead to that purpose – only when this firstborn son is raised from

the dead, as seen in Jonah and Lazarus, will the 3 firstborn sons be in place and only when Israel is raised from the dead will Jehovah again have a Wife and Christ's rule in the Millennial Kingdom take place and only then that our 'life' at present hidden in Christ will be our experience.

Power Point – Slides 4-5

r). And keeping this in mind if we then fast forward so to speak to the conclusion of the Millennial Kingdom we will remember - Re 20:14 *Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

Isa 65:17 ¶ *"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.*

2Pe 3:10 *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 ¶ Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*

s). As we move into the endless ages beyond the Millennium there will be a new heavens and a new earth where sin can no longer exist with God Himself dwelling on the new earth – here will be a place and a time when death and darkness will no longer be remembered and the Fountain of Life will flow and in His light we will see light - Re 21:23 *The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.*

t). And so to close for today let's read once more Paul's words from Romans Chapter 11 - Ro 11:15 *For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?*

With all this in mind can we now begin to grasp the significance of Israel being brought to repentance?

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