

Sunday July 3rd 2016
‘The Eyes Have It’
Part Two

1). Pr 7:1 ¶ *My son, keep my words, And treasure my commands within you.
2 Keep my commands and live, And my law as the apple [pupil] of your eye.*

a). We had seen last week the importance of keeping the correct perspective within our lives and on the world in which we live so that we would not find ourselves a part of the Laodicean church in need of eye salve.

b). And in order to make sure we have the right perspective we are commanded in the verses here from Proverbs 7, to keep God’s law, in other words the scriptures, as the pupil of our eye.

c). We are then to view everything through the lens of the scriptures so that we may see a matter as God sees it and then organize our lives accordingly. And of course as we think about this we will realize that the scriptures have as their focus Christ and His coming Kingdom and so as we view all things through the scriptures we are viewing all things through the lens of that which God has said concerning His Son and the 7th Day – that which the Lord called ‘the word of the Kingdom’, beginning with Moses.

d). We might see how this is to work through some verses from –
Eph 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

The first thing I would draw our attention to is v30 where we see that we have been sealed by the Holy Spirit ‘for the day of redemption’ – the day of redemption would speak to 2 inseparable events. The first is the day we stand before the Lord in Judgment, the day when the faithful will receive the redemption, the salvation, of their soul and the redemption of their body in

preparation for the day of the redemption of the inheritance which will usher in Christ's Millennial Kingdom.

e). It is then the salvation of the soul, the redemption of the body and Christ's Millennial Kingdom that are at the heart of these verses as indeed they are at the heart of the entire Book of Ephesians and all of scripture for that matter; and according to the beginning of v30 we can 'grieve' the Holy Spirit with respect to this and He would be grieved, within the context here, by our turning away from our heavenly calling through continually allowing corrupt words to proceed out of our mouth, to live in bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, evil speaking and all malice. But if we choose to view our circumstances through the lens of the scripture, seeing our circumstances through the filter of the Word of the Kingdom, then we will have a strong motivation to organize our lives after a different fashion, in faithful obedience to the Word of God.

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f). Not only must we view each other, our relationship with the world and the way we live day by day through the lens of scripture, but also, as a part of this, our prayer, our study of the scriptures, our assembling together, our praise and thanksgiving and the function of the local body. Man's wisdom with respect to any of these is of no consequence, only that seen through the scriptures is valid – Pr 19:8 ¶ *He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; He who keeps understanding will find good.*

g). And it is imperative that the scriptures are the pupil of our eye because God sees us through His Word now in our present and will judge us by His Word, the Word made flesh, in our future - Re 2:18 ¶ *"And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, 'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: 19 'I know your works....."*

2). We had finished last week by reading a verses from Zechariah – Zec 2:8 *For thus says the LORD of hosts: "He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the apple [pupil] of His eye.*

And to this verse concerning Israel we can add - De 32:10 *"He found him in a desert land And in the wasteland, a howling wilderness; He encircled him, He instructed him, He kept him as the apple [pupil] of His eye.*

a). As we look at these verses we can see that in the same way that we are to view the world through the lens of the scriptures, so God views the world through His people Israel, the repository of the scriptures – Israel is the lens through which God sees and judges the nations. To touch Israel is to touch the pupil of God's eye; a serious business.

b). This can be exemplified through that which Christ says at the 'sheep and goat' judgment - Mt 25:40 *"And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'*

c). In order to understand how and why God views the nations in this way we will go back to a pivotal point in God's purpose for Man.

3). Ge 9:1 ¶ *So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.....20 And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard. 21 Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent. 22 And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. 23 But Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness. 24 ¶ So Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done to him. 25 Then he said: "Cursed be Canaan; A servant of servants He shall be to his brethren." 26 And he said: "Blessed be the LORD, The God of Shem, And may Canaan be his servant. 27 May God enlarge Japheth, And may he dwell in the tents of Shem; And may Canaan be his servant."*

We will remember that because of the actions of the fallen angels cohabiting with the daughters of men bringing corruption to the human race as seen in – Ge 6:4 ¶ *There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.*

a). That because of this God destroyed all human life except for Noah and his wife and his 3 sons and their wives, 8 in all. And as we see from Genesis 9:1 it is through Noah's 3 sons that the earth is to be re-populated, it is through these 3 sons that all the nations of the earth would come and each of us is a descendant of one of these 3 – Shem, Japheth, Ham – and probably it is not an insignificant detail that God's purpose for Man would be worked out through 3 sons.

b). Now also remember that Noah, and his 3 sons, are direct descendants of Adam through Seth, the son who replaced Abel and we can find their genealogy in Genesis Chapter 5.

c). As we look at Genesis Chapter 9 v26-27 we see that God, through Noah, speaks prophetically to his sons and that which he prophesied has a direct bearing on the nations of the earth that exists even to the present day and will continue to the end of Man's Day.

d) We see that Shem is the only son who has a God and because of this the forfeited headship of the human race can only be restored through Seth, to Enoch, to Noah and then through Shem.

e). The lineage through which the forfeited headship will be restored is further refined through Abraham, a direct descendant of Shem. And although Abraham's father, Terah, had 2 other sons, Nahor and Haran, it is through the one man, Abraham that God chooses to work to fulfill His purpose for creating Man.

f). There is then a further refinement of this through Abraham's son Isaac, Isaac's son, Jacob, and then to Jacob's 12 sons – Israel – and it is from Israel out of Judah that we come to the last Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ and Jesus the Christ to whom headship has been given has a direct lineage back through David, to Abraham, to Shem, to Seth, to Adam and this restored headship will be exercised during the Millennial Kingdom.

g). And as we look at this we will realize that with regards to the outworking of His purpose God has always chosen to work through one man, culminating in the nation of Israel - Ex 4:22 *"Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD: 'Israel is My son, My firstborn.*

This is a work that is completed through a Jewish Savior who will bring God's purpose to fulfillment having eradicated the problem of sin for all time restoring that which was lost by the first Adam in the Garden.

h). If we go back to Genesis 9:26-27 we see that for the descendants of Japheth and Ham spiritual blessings can only be realized in 'the tents of Shem', in other words, only through the descendants of Shem, the nation of Israel; and this of course is exactly what God had prophetically told Abraham, a promise reiterated to Isaac in - Ge 26:4 *"And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed;*

4). It is of course in the years following the flood that Ham's grandson, Nimrod, begins to take center stage - Ge 10:8 *Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. 9 He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD." 10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.*

Let's remember that at this time there was just one language and all people dwelt on one land mass as continents as we would see them today did not exist.

a). Because of the events at Babel God divided the people first by language and then by location - Ge 11:9 *Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.*

Ge 10:32 *These were the families of the sons of Noah, according to their generations, in their nations; and from these the nations were divided on the earth after the flood.*

And so having separated the people by language and having separated them by location throughout the land mass thereby establishing the nations God then divided the land mass to produce the continents and the islands that we would know today - Ge 10:25 *To Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided; and his brother's name was Joktan.*

b). And we find commentary on this event in - De 32:8 *When the Most High divided their inheritance to the nations, When He separated the sons of Adam, He set the boundaries of the peoples According to the number of the*

children of Israel. 9 For the LORD'S portion is His people; Jacob is the place of His inheritance.

As we read about this event that took place before the birth of Abraham, centuries before Israel was brought into existence notice where God's focus was as He separated the nations – 'according to the number of the children of Israel', the number of those who went to sojourn in Egypt. Even at this point God viewed all things through His adopted firstborn son, who in one sense had always been present in the loins of Shem and is Abraham's seed.

c). And God's separation of the nations as He divided the earth was with purpose – Ac 17:26 *"And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, 27 "so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;*

The nations were separated by language and geography to seek the Lord in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him and the place that He was to be found was in the tents of Shem – The Jews always were and still are the only nation on the earth with a God and only God can deal with sin.

d). God can only be found through the Jewish people and in the days of this dispensation this has not changed – God can still only be found through the Jewish Messiah revealed through a Jewish Book - Jon 2:9.....*Salvation is of the LORD."*

Joh 4:22.....*for salvation is of the Jews.*

e). Israel of course has been and remains at present unfaithful and disobedient, and has failed to be God's witness in the earth, as yet leaving the promise to Abraham and Isaac unfulfilled; so where has this left the Gentile nations? – in the same place we all were in before we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ - Eph 2:12 *that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.*

Alienated from the true and living God by Israel's disobedience the Gentile nations are left with only one god, the god of this age and are ruled over

demonically from the heavens - Ps 96:4 *For the LORD is great and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. 5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols, [Lit. 'good for nothing'] But the LORD made the heavens.*

Eph 6:12 *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

f). Because the Gentile nations remain estranged from God and aligned with the god of this age, because only Shem had a God and this carries down to Israel, God can only view the nations and deal with the nations one way – through Israel the only nation that has relationship with Him. For the reasons we have seen it cannot be any other way.

g). And so as we watch the events in the world unfolding on the news channels we can now, through the lens of the scripture, understand that God sees world events through Israel, in relation to Israel – Israel is the pupil of His eye.

h). This is why He can say in Zechariah Chapter 2 that whoever touches Israel touches the pupil of His eye.

i). If Israel ceased to exist then no Gentile nation could ever have access to God, they would have no hope, nor could they ever be saved, facing only an eternity separated from God – through Israel's continued existence though they have hope.

5). With this in mind we now need to add one last facet to this picture – Ex 3:2 *And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.*

Mal 3:6 *"For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.*

Contextually, in the verse from Exodus, the burning bush pictures the nation of Israel persecuted by the Assyrian Pharaoh in Egypt and where do we find God in this picture? In the midst of the bush – in the midst of His people Israel viewing the actions of the Egyptians through the pupil of His eye –

Ex 3:7 ¶ *And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows.*

And although we see the bush burning through Gentile persecution the bush is not consumed, and it cannot be consumed because God is in the nation's midst, just as we would see from Malachi.

a). And because He is the Lord and He does not change, He always has been and always will be in the midst of His people Israel seeing all things through them and in relation to them.

b). And it is the unchanging God in the midst of His people that we see pictured again in - Da 3:15 *"Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?"* 16 *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 "If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. 18 "But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up." 19 ¶ Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated. 20 And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, and cast them into the burning fiery furnace. 21 Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. 22 Therefore, because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. 23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. 24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king." 25 "Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."*

c). Although these verses from Daniel and from Exodus prophetically look to the time of the Great Tribulation we should not miss the fact that God does not come and go but remains at all times in the midst of His people.

d). God is of course not dealing with Israel at present as His household servants, but this does not alter where He is to be found – During the crusades of the middle ages God was in the midst of His people, during the pogroms in eastern Europe of the 18th and 19th centuries; even as 6 million Jews were killed during the holocaust God was in their midst and the nation was not consumed and he has viewed it all through Israel, the pupil of His eye.

e). And today it remains the same, He is in the midst of the Jewish community here in Jacksonville, He is in Jerusalem and will be found wherever in the world His people reside, viewing all in relation to them.

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f). And in that day yet future when 2/3rd of all Jews will be killed by the hand of Antichrist the God of the Universe will still be amongst His people, the nation will not and cannot be consumed, and He will see all in relation to Israel and will judge the Gentile nations accordingly, overthrowing Gentile world power and establishing His adopted firstborn son at the head of the nations - Isa 54:17 *No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their righteousness is from Me," Says the LORD.*

De 28:13 *"And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them.*

And in that Day when Israel is the head of the nations the descendants of Japheth and Ham will come to the tents of the descendants of Shem to find God and the blessings He has promised - Zec 8:23 *"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."'"*

g). And as we see once again the importance and significance and incredible reality which is God and Israel we will realize that we need to add another part to our 7 areas of prayer that we had looked at last month, now giving us 8, the number of new beginning; we need to pray for Israel with respect to their future deliverance and restoration and the blessing of the nations during the Millennial Kingdom - Ps 122:1 ¶ <<A Song of Ascents. Of David.>> *I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the LORD." 2 Our feet have been standing Within your gates, O Jerusalem! 3 Jerusalem is built As a city that is compact together, 4 Where the tribes go up, The tribes of the LORD, To the Testimony of Israel, To give thanks to the name of the LORD. 5 For thrones are set there for judgment, The thrones of the house of David. 6 ¶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you. 7 Peace be within your walls, Prosperity within your palaces." 8 For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will now say, "Peace be within you." 9 Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek your good.*