

Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 16th, 2008

The FOUNDATION of our FAITH

(PART XVIII)

DIVISION #2

THE PERSONAL WORD OF GOD

3 Things That GOD Must Do Before The END of the WORLD Can Come

PART 3. - JESUS CHRIST'S REMOVAL OF THE CURSE (pt 2)

OPENING TEXT: Acts 3:19-21

I. In our opening text, Acts 3:21, the Apostle Peter indicated that, through the Old Testament prophets, God gave revelation concerning the future "Messianic-Age" restoration of NATURE to it's original prefall condition.

II. 8 COMPARISONS of CHRIST'S MIRACLES with OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES:

Note: This comparison will reveal how that Jesus – through His MIRACLES - demonstrated to the people of Israel that He was indeed the MESSIAH - the ONE who had the powers necessary to fulfill the Old Testament prophecies.

COMPARISON #1. The prophets foretold that the future theocratic Kingdom will exhibit beneficial changes to the earth's climate and natural elements.

OT references: IS. 30:23-26; Ezekiel 47:1-12; Joel 2:21-26, 3:18, Zechariah 14:8

JESUS' MIRACULOUS FULFILLMENT:

1. Jesus walked on the water of the Sea of Galilee

2. Jesus calmed two storms.

Mat 14:22-33; Mk 4:35-41

COMPARISON #2. The prophets predicted that the future theocratic Kingdom would be characterized by unprecedented growth and fruitage of trees.

OT references: Isaiah 41:19, 20; Ezekiel 36: 8, 30, 47:6-7, 12

Joel 2:21-22

JESUS' MIRACULOUS FULFILLMENT:

(Matthew 21 : 18-20) Jesus demonstrated His power ^{to control} (over) the growth and fruitage of trees by cursing a fig tree and causing it to wither immediately! (Mt. 21:18-20)

COMPARISON #3. The prophets declared that there would be a great productivity of Animals - including a huge multitude of fish - during the future theocratic Kingdom.

OT references: (Ezekiel 36:11; 47:8-10)

JESUS' MIRACULOUS FULFILLMENT:

(Luke 5:1-11; John 21 : 1-12) TWICE Jesus miraculously produced a huge draught of fish for His disciples after they had fished all night without catching anything!

COMPARISON #4. The prophets proclaimed that the future theocratic Kingdom would be blessed with a superabundant supply of food. Famine will be unknown!

OT references: (Psalm 72:16; ISA. 30:23, 24; Ezek. 34:25-30; Joel 2:21-26; Zech 8:11-12)

JESUS' MIRACULOUS FULFILLMENT:

1. (John 6 : 5-14) - The feeding of 5,000 men with 5 loaves and 2 fish with 12 baskets of leftovers collected.

2. (Mark 8 : 1-9) - The feeding of 4,000 people with 7 loaves and several fish with 7 baskets of leftovers collected.

COMPARISON #5. According to the prophets, Wine (unfermented grape juice; the fruit of the vine) will be in abundance during the future theocratic Kingdom.

OT references (Joel 2:21-26; Amos 9:13)

JESUS' MIRACULOUS FULFILLMENT:

* (John 2:1-11) The turning of WATER into Wine during a marriage celebration in Cana of Galilee.

COMPARISON #6. The prophets predicted a fundamental change in the nature of ANIMALS in the future theocratic Kingdom.

OT references: They will all be completely tamed and vegetarians! (Is. 11:6-9) (Hosea 2:18) - And little children will lead these animals as pets.

JESUS' MIRACULOUS FULFILLMENT:

1. (Mark 11: 1-11) - Jesus changed the nature of a COLT.
2. (Matthew 17:24-27) - Jesus caused a COIN to be caught in the MOUTH of a fish AND to SWIM to a specific place at a specific time in order to be caught by Peter! (a specific person)

COMPARISON #7. The prophets taught that the future theocratic Kingdom would be characterized by healing of physical diseases and deformities

OT references: (Is 29:18; 33:24; 35:5-6) no one will ever again say; "I am sick."

JESUS' MIRACULOUS FULFILLMENT:

(Matthew 4:23-24; 8:16; 9:35) NOTES: overwhelming evidence, including the healing of the LAME, the BLIND, the DEAF, and the DUMB. He also healed those those at the point of DEATH; possessed by demons; the lepers, and those with FEVERS, withered hands, issues of blood, infirmity & dropsy - He also replanted an ear!

COMPARISON #8. The prophets foretold that the future theocratic Kingdom would be marked by great longevity of life.

OT references: (Is. 65:20,22) - 100 year old = a child = infancy will be measured in years not days as now!

JESUS' MIRACULOUS FULFILLMENT:

* Jesus raised Lazarus, Jairus' daughter, and the widow's son from the dead thereby lengthening their lives beyond their normal span. (John 11: 1-45; Matthew 9:18-26; Luke 7: 11-17)

III. "tasted ...the powers of the age to come" - (Hebrews 6:5)
2 IMPORTANT TRUTHS THAT NEED TO BE NOTED
RELATED TO THIS STATEMENT:

1. Jesus used this very same form of the word "powers" to describe His own miracles. (Matthew 11:20-23)
Others used the same word for His miracles (ie) used specifically for healing them & casting out of demons
2. Since this book was written in this present, pre-Messianic Age, the expression "...the age to come" refers to the future Messianic Age, when Christ (the Messiah) will establish and rule over His theocratic Kingdom.

THREE CONCLUSIONS:

- #1. Christ's miracles were a foretaste of the powers He will exercise when He will transform Nature, in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies, in conjunction with His establishment of the future theocratic Kingdom.
- #2. Those powers are to be uniquely associated with that future Messianic Age, not the present pre-Messianic Age.
- #3. This foretaste of Christ's powers in the past guarantees that the future theocratic Kingdom, with its transformation of Nature, will take place in conjunction with the Second Coming of Christ.

IV. Primary Purpose of Christ's Miracles: They demonstrate conclusively that He is the Messiah who will fulfill Old Testament prophecies concerning the future theocratic Kingdom and its transformation of Nature.

1. Jesus' Testimony - (John 10:24,25; 15:24)
2. Apostle John's Testimony - (John 1:41; 12:37,38; 20:30,31)
3. Testimony of Jesus' Response to John the Baptist's Question: (Luke 7:19-23)
4. Apostle Peter's Testimony - (Acts 2:22, 36)

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

By removing the curse, Jesus will have accomplished the 3rd thing that He must accomplish before His purpose for history can be fulfilled!