

Wednesday, OCTOBER 8th, 2008

The FOUNDATION of our FAITH

(PART XX)

DIVISION #2

THE PERSONAL WORD OF GOD

ISRAEL'S RESPONSE TO JESUS CHRIST And HIS OFFER OF THE KINGDOM

OPENING TEXT: ISAIAH 53:1-6, 8, 10-12

I. Jesus Christ offered the KINGDOM through 1) The preaching of the gospel of the Kingdom and, 2) performance of miracles.

II. ISRAEL'S RESPONSE FORETOLD:

A. Old Testament Prophecies -

1. God revealed that the nation would reject the Messiah and His message.
2. 700 years before Christ came, God moved the prophet ISAIAH to write, "Who hath believed our report? And to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?" - a clear reference to Israel's rejection of the Messiah to come and His proclamation that the Kingdom of God was "cut hand".

- NOTES: "the arm of the Lord" refers to God's mighty power (see Psalm 89:10; Is 62:8; Jeremiah 32:17) - In Isaiah 53:1, it specifically refers to Israel's rejection of His mighty power through the messiah's 1) preaching & 2) miracles
3. John reinforces this prophetic truth in 12:37-38
 4. The prophecy also tied together Israel's rejection with the death of Christ.
 5. Another important OT prophecy occurred 500 years before Christ's first coming in the book of DANIEL where in chapter 9, God revealed the exact time the Messiah would officially present Himself to Israel as its prince. (vv 24, 25)
 6. Jesus fulfilled this prophecy through His triumphal entry into Jerusalem on the foal of a donkey (Ass). (see also Zechariah 9:9)
 7. This prophecy ALSO revealed that after this official identification - and consequent rejection - Messiah would be "cut off" with a violent death (verse 26) (see fulfillment in Matthew 27:33-50)

8. Another consequence of the rejection would be that both Jerusalem and the Second Temple would be destroyed by a particular group of people (the Romans) - a fact restated by Christ Himself after the rejection (Matthew 24:1,2; Luke 19: 41-44)

B. Jesus Christ's Prophecies -

1. Jesus began to reveal the plan of salvation through His death, burial and Resurrection only AFTER His disciples had preached the 'gospel' of the Kingdom to Israel for a significant period of time.
*See Matthew 16:21; 17:22-23; 20:18-20; and Luke 18:31

2. In Matthew 21:33-40, Jesus taught a parable which spoke about a vineyard and understanding this parable is crucial to understanding Christ's core teaching related to the Kingdom.

NOTES: vineyard husbandmen = the Jews, ^{the} OWNER - God the Father; ^{+ religious leaders}
the owners son - God the Son, Jesus.
 * Meaning: The religious leaders would reject the 'son' and His offer of the Theocratic Kingdom - and would have him killed. It also foretold the tragic consequence of that rejection: The Theocratic Kingdom would not be given to Israel at that time - But would be given to a future Israel!

III. SATAN'S ROLE IN ISRAEL'S RESPONSE:

A. Satan's key role in the rejection by Israel is clearly revealed in the parable of the sower found in Matthew 13:3-4.

B. Satan would come behind the sowers and SNATCH up the newly sown seed so that Israel would not Believe or repent.

C. The REASON behind this act by Satan is because he understood that Christ WOULD crush him and his Kingdom, remove them totally from the earth, and would establish God's theocratic Kingdom WHEN ISRAEL Believes the gospel of the Kingdom and believes. ^{"hears"/receives}

* See; Acts 3:19-21 and Rev. 19:11-20:6

D. Therefore, Christ's preaching posed a serious threat to Satan's kingdom thereby motivating Satan to work vigorously and tirelessly to prevent the people of Israel from Believing the gospel and repenting.