

***“The Day of the Lord —
The Lord Jesus, Israel’s Long-Awaited Prophet — He Has Come”***

Review: The Lord Jesus, Israel’s Long-Awaited Prophet — He Shall Come

- ***The Lord Jesus, Israel’s Long-Awaited Prophet — His Coming Revealed***
- ***The Lord Jesus, Israel’s Long-Awaited Prophet — His Presence Rejected***
- ***The Lord Jesus, Israel’s Long-Awaited Prophet — His Authority Manifested***

- ***The Lord Jesus, Israel’s Long-Awaited Prophet — His Coming Revealed***
 - As a matter of prophecy, the Lord Jesus, Israel's long-awaited Prophet, would, in God's good and perfect timing, come into this world of sin and death, bringing deliverance for God's chosen people, the Jews, and then the Gentiles after that elect nation had been created by the Lord.

First references are always important in God’s book, the Bible. Though the word “prophet” is used in earlier books than Deuteronomy, never before chapter 18 is it used in such a detailed way. Therefore, it is to this chapter thatnnnn we went in our last study to understand the place in biblical prophecy that the prophet had for the hope of the Lord’s chosen people, the nation of Israel.

Deuteronomy 18:15-19

15 The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;

16 According to all that thou desiredst of the LORD thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not.

17 And the LORD said unto me, They have well [spoken that] which they have spoken.

18 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.

19 And it shall come to pass, [that] whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require [it] of him.

- What is a prophet, biblically speaking? That is the question we should be able to answer as we begin our study on Christ as Prophet. And the text here gives us a pretty detailed answer to that question, doesn’t it?
 - God sovereignly calls them from among common humanity.

- They are given authority, and the word of the prophet must be heard. The consequences of refusing the Word of the Prophet is severe.
 - God compels his prophets to speak all the words he provides.
 - There is a death penalty for those speaking falsely as if they were prophets but are not.
 - Prophets often speak of future events “in the name of the Lord”. The “litmus” test for false prophets is whether all their prophecies come to pass.
- There were in Israel’s history many false prophets (and as was foretold through Moses when the Law was given). Since through the prophets God gave his instructions to his people, and since those instructions were for Israel’s obedience, the people needed to know which prophets were sent by God and which ones were instruments of evil. Therefore, the teaching here is very important. And the issue was always whether the word of the true prophet would be heard and obeyed.
 - This evil already exists in our day, as Paul wrote in 2 Thessalonians 2. These signs and miracles do not confirm the work of God Almighty today as many may think, but rather the work of satan.

● ***The Lord Jesus, Israel’s Long-Awaited Prophet — His Presence Rejected***

- The Lord Jesus was the fulfillment of prophecy as Israel’s Prophet above all Prophets. And yet their long history revealed perhaps what their response would be. The Lord revealed it himself in these words:

Luke 13:34-35

34 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen [doth gather] her brood under [her] wings, and ye would not!

35 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto you, Ye shall not see me, until [the time] come when ye shall say, Blessed [is] he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

- Today we shall see how this would go, from the Day of Pentecost onwards. But it will not go well, as verses 34 & 35 here hint strongly.

● ***The Lord Jesus, Israel’s Long-Awaited Prophet — His Authority Manifested***

- But his glory was manifest in signs and wonders: Would it be enough? Let’s see. How about for John the baptizer? Would the signs and miracles be enough to convince him? And if not even him, who?

Matthew 11:2-5, 9

2 Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples,

3 And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?

4 Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see:

5 The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

...

9 But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. *[In other words, he was more than "a" prophet for he was the long-awaited prophet promised to Israel in the Pentateuch.]*

- Even John was confused because they had not expected their Messiah to come in weakness but only in power. For they had not known that in his first coming he would necessarily, through his weakness, redeem them, submitting to their sin and sins and even bearing them in his own body with all of their shame. They did not know that the prophecies regarding his glorious power were reserved for his second coming (apart from the miracles, of course, authenticating him as Israel's Messiah — and long-awaited prophet!). The prophet Isaiah had revealed that so clearly:

Isaiah 35:4-6

4 Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you.

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

6 Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

- But so many were in unbelief and rebellion, even his own family (see Matthew 13:54-58).
- The Jews expected their Messiah to come in power and not in weakness, and even, they thought, initially in anonymity. For otherwise, how could he deliver them from the heavy yoke of Roman bondage by which they had been oppressed for so long? For this reason, as well as others far more personal and spiritual, except for a small minority, the Jews failed to recognize their own Messiah.

Our Outline Today: The Lord Jesus, Israel's Long-Awaited Prophet — He Has Come

- ***The Lord Jesus, Israel's Long-Awaited Prophet — His Presence in Shadow***

- ***The Lord Jesus, Israel's Long-Awaited Prophet — His Presence Fulfilled***

- I. The Lord Jesus, Israel's Long-Awaited Prophet — His Presence in Shadow:***

- Our Lord Jesus, Israel's long-awaited prophet, in God's perfect timing, came to this earth in his incarnation. As we have seen, his earthly ministry demonstrated his identity in his preaching and in his works, which were often in signs.

The rebellion and unbelief of his own people led to his crucifixion, death, and glorious resurrection, and finally his ascension. His sending forth of the Holy Spirit led to Pentecost and what I call here the beginning of a period of his Presence in Shadow. This is actually a special Dispensational plan with many distinctives that could require much of our time here to consider properly. But our focus in this study is more on Christ's presence now in shadow as Prophet, then as Priest, and finally as King at his Second Coming.

- The Spirit of God, called the "Comforter", is promised in John's gospel, chapters 14 & 15. His disciples were told that he had to leave them, but that he would send the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, the Comforter, or, the one who would come close and intimately be with them. He would be the Christ himself but present only in shadow, as it were:

John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

John 14:26 But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even* the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

- The Comforter, or Greek παράκλητος, or paraklete, would provide what otherwise the Lord would have — if he were still with them. But the timing was not right for that. That time would come later, at the Second Coming. He, in the Lord's absence, would provide the works, the knowledge, the authority. This would be a true preview or a limited foreshadowing of the Kingdom when the Lord would be in their midst doing his great works. But this period was not to end well, for this Pentecostal Dispensation would

end in the embryonic elect nation rejecting our Lord in the martyrdom of Stephen. Then, of course, our Lord God raises up the “chief of sinners”, Saul, as apostle of the Gentiles, beginning the setting aside of Israel, in Rome in Acts 28:28. But until then there would be a witness to the Jews concerning their Messiah, Lord, and long-awaited Prophet.

- Peter, some time after Pentecost, presents Israel’s opportunity to receive their Prophet in this way, the key verses of course being the Deuteronomy promises. This was in effect an authentic offer of the Kingdom — but most refused their risen Lord except for a few thousand. This is usually presented as one of the greatest revivals of faith in history. While in fact it began well at Pentecost, that was not to continue for long. In fact, they would be repeating their own rebellious history. For this was the opportunity for the entire nation and not for just a few:

[READ] Acts 3:17-21

17 And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it [*that is, turned their Messiah and Lord over to be crucified*], as *did* also your rulers.

18 But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.

19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

Acts 3:22-26 [*A direct reference to Deuteronomy 18:15 ff*]

22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

23 And it shall come to pass, [that] every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

24 Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days.

25 Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.

26 Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

- When the nation had reached its final point of rebellion some time later, again Moses is quoted, this time by Stephen, just before his stoning. This signifies the end of the Pentecostal Dispensation. For the critical issue before them was whether the nation would receive by faith their long-awaited Prophet, even their Messiah and Lord:

[READ] Acts 7:37-39, 52 [Referring back to Deuteronomy 18:15 again]

37 This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear.

38 This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and [with] our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:

39 To whom our fathers would not obey, but thrust [him] from them, and in their hearts turned back again into Egypt,

. . .

52 Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:

- Stephen's message was not received, and he was martyred by stoning at Saul's direction, and who, as we know, just after that point of sacred history, the Lord, was raised up as our apostle. Paul was sent forth with a unique ministry to the Jew first but then also to the Greek, heralding a correspondingly unique and different gospel of grace.
- That his own people had rejected him, sending him to the cross of Calvary, what remained for the Prophet but his glorious resurrection, his second coming, and the fulfillment of the prophecies of the Old Testament regarding this Long-Awaited Prophet was in itself astounding. For this was indeed the long-awaited one who would always speak truth and who was to be obeyed without question in all things. But that they would also reject him after his resurrection is far, far beyond our understanding. But they did, even the Paraclete was rejected en masse, as it were.

The Lord Jesus, Israel's Long-Awaited Prophet — His Presence in Shadow

II. The Lord Jesus — Israel's Long-Awaited Prophet — His Presence Fulfilled:

- Today we are enjoying the many benefits of the Dispensation of the Grace of God. But when these days have ended, we have been caught up into heaven's glory, the Lord God will return in his wisdom to the prophetic plan that was interrupted at Stephen's martyrdom and Saul's calling by our resurrected Lord Jesus Christ.

But the day will come again, in God's perfect timing and not before, his presence in prophetic fulfillment with full manifestation and presence at the Second Coming and his Kingdom:

Luke 24:18-20, 25-27

18 And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?

19 And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:

20 And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him...

...

25 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:

26 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

- So the glorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ was needed so that the fulfillment of these promises regarding "that prophet" could be accomplished: "Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?"

These are some of Stephen's last words concerning Christ. At this point, the Lord turns the tables on his people, turning to the Gentiles via a new apostle (Paul instead of the Twelve), a new gospel (the gospel of the grace of God instead of the gospel of the kingdom), and a new calling (heavenly rather than earthly). Amen.

For this we will look at Revelation chapter 19, Zechariah chapters 12 & 13, and finally, Isaiah chapter 66:

Revelation 19:10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See [thou do it] not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. *[Because he was and is "the prophet" above and beyond all prophets]*

[READ] Zechariah 12:10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn.

[READ] Zechariah 13:1, 6, 9

1 In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.

...

6 And *one* shall say unto him, What *are* these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, *Those* with which I was wounded *in* the house of my friends.

...

9 And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, *It is* my people: and they shall say, The LORD *is* my God.

- And so the Lord will return ..., shall create in one day his elect nation, gathering from the four corners of the earth his dispersed elect, ...

[READ] Isaiah 66:8 Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.

- And so we see the divine logic displayed here in both our Lord's and in Peter's and Stephen's preaching in early Acts. Once offered up as the Lamb of God for the sins of the nation (and Israel!), there remains only the resurrection if God would keep his promises and his covenants.
- So indeed we are now on resurrection ground, prophetically. The Lord God must, through resurrection and the resurrection of Christ himself, as Israel's Messiah, bring to pass what the prophets have revealed. Christ as their long-awaited Prophet will be revealed in due time, and they will hear him!

Romans 11:26-27

26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

- To conclude, Christ, in his Second Coming, fulfills many prophecies regarding Israel's long-awaited Messiah. This coming was to bring into reality that which had only been hoped for those many, many centuries, that Israel would finally have that Prophet that was above all prophets, even the Lord himself become flesh, and now through death, burial, and

resurrection he had become their Prophet, as Moses had prophesied so many centuries before.

- He was in his first coming delivered unto death for the sins of the people; but in his resurrection he would return to redeem his people and fulfill these mighty offices as prophecy had revealed: Prophet. Priest. King. Amen and amen.

The Lord Jesus — Israel's Long-Awaited Prophet — His Presence Fulfilled

Conclusions / Application:

- These teachings of sacred scripture should give us much hope. The Kingdom shall be established in due time. Israel (as an elect remnant) shall be redeemed. Israel's Messiah shall rule and reign and bring great blessing to his nation and people. They will finally have their promised and long-awaited Prophet, and to him will their hearts be conformed by his spirit, never to go astray again, as a nation.

If it were not so, we could never be sure regarding our promises under grace. But it shall be.

Praise his name.

- Beloved, we have the riches of his grace abounding. We are in a kingdom but not in that Kingdom. Ours is heavenly. Ours is of grace and not kingdom law. Our obedience is fruit unto him and not required by the terms of the covenant. Praise his name for this abundance and this newness of life. Praise his name. His grace is sufficient!

Next Time: "The Day of the Lord: — Christ, the Priest"