

MSB222

MORE Seed and Bread

BRIEF BIBLICAL MESSAGES FROM

THE WORD OF TRUTH MINISTRY

Otis Q. Sellers, Founder - David R. Hettema, Director

CHRIST'S COMMISSIONS

by Howard W. White

The Greek word **apostello** (Heb. shah-lagh) means to commission or send forth a messenger or agent with a message just as apostolos is an apostle with such a commission. We are familiar with the acts and messages of the twelve apostles who went forth bearing their commissions from the Lord Jesus Christ. But we know, too, that it was said of Christ, "**Consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus**" (Heb. 3: 1). He was sent or commissioned by the Father. There are a number of interesting passages that confirm this fact as follows.

"Whosoever shall receive one of such children in My name, receiveth Me: and whosoever shall receive Me, receiveth not Me, but Him that sent (apostello) Me" (Mk. 9:37; & Lk. 9:48).

Christ was commissioned with full authority from the Father. **"He that hath received His testimony hath set to his seal that God is true. For He Whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto Him"** (Jn. 3:33, 34). He was commissioned to speak the words of God.

"But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given Me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of Me, that the Father hath sent Me. And the Father Himself, Which hath sent (Gr. pempo, dispatched) Me, hath born witness of Me. Ye have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His shape. And ye have not His word abiding in you: for Whom He hath sent, Him ye believe not"

(Jn. 5:36-38). Read also Jn. 6:29, 57; 7:29; 8:42; 11:42 and Jn. 17:3,8, 18,21,23; & 20:21. **"As My Father hath sent (apostello) Me, even so send (pempo) I you."**

Christ had several commissions, each designed to achieve a different purpose. He was sent to reveal the Father and to proclaim His acceptance among men. He came to bear witness to the truth. **"To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth"** (Jn. 18: 37). **"For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved"** (Jn. 3; 17). He came to speak the words of God and do the works of God: to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead and cast out demons. On the one hand He was not commissioned **"but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel"** (Mat. 15:24). And on the other hand He was commissioned to be the Savior of the world. **"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent (apostello) the Son to be the Savior of the world"** (1 Jn. 4:14).

Apart from an understanding of dispensational truth this would seem to be a contradiction. During His ministry on earth Christ was commissioned only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. During the history of Acts the message was still to the Jew first (Acts 13:26) and then to the nations beginning with Cornelius. At Acts 28:28 the salvation-bringing message was freely commissioned or authorized (apostello) to the Nations, including Israel. Nor could the promise of the Abrahamic covenant that "in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" be fulfilled if Christ's commissions had been restricted only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. He was commissioned to save the world.

One of the outstanding commissions of Christ was that of proclaiming the kingdom of God. **"I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent (apostello)"** (Lk. 4:43). John the Baptist had identified Jesus with His offices as Prophet, Priest, and King. When Jesus stood up in the synagogue at Nazareth and read from Isaiah He inferred that Isaiah had spoken of His anointing. **"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent (apostello) Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the LORD"** (Lk. 4:18, 19; cpr. Is. 61:1, 2).

He sat down without reading on in Isaiah what followed: "**And the day of vengeance of our God**" (Is. 61:2). This establishes the order in which these great commissions of Christ would be fulfilled. "**Unto you first God, having raised up His Son Jesus, sent (apostello) Him to bless you, in turning away everyone of you from his iniquities**" (Acts 3:26). The days of vengeance are clearly set forth in our Lord's prophecies recorded in Mat. 24, Mk. 13 and Lk. 21 where they are described as such. "**For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled**" (Lk. 21:22). They follow after the blessings.

Therefore it is clear that a wonderful period of blessing for Israel and all mankind must take place in what is called in the Word 'the manifest kingdom of God' before the 'day of vengeance of our God' is to be fulfilled. This is clearly revealed in Acts 2 & 3 where we read: "**The LORD said unto my Lord, 'Sit Thou on My right hand, Until I make Thy foes Thy footstool'**" (Acts 2:34,35). His foes include antichrist. "**Repent ye (change your minds) therefore, and be converted (turn), that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the LORD; And He shall send (apostello) Jesus Christ, Which before was preached unto you: 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 3:19-21).

All God's holy prophets since the outflow of prophesy began have foretold those times when there would be re-establishment of Israel and the rest of mankind, even earth itself, from a state of ruin to a state of great blessing. "And in thy Seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed" (v. 25). All of this shall come to pass in the last days, "before that great and notable day of the LORD come" (Acts 2:17-21). This is that great day of Christ's coming to be present upon the earth, 'the day of vengeance of our God,' which He is also commissioned to proclaim. "**And it shall come to pass, that every soul which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the People**" (Acts 3:23). God will purge out the rebels from among them and sew the 'sons of the kingdom' in the earth.

The believer is called upon to visualize a time in the future, perhaps not too far hence, when God will raise many from among the dead, restore Israel, living and dead, to her own land, pour out of His Spirit upon all flesh and commission Christ to bless all the families of the earth. The believer is asked to realize that there will ensue a long period of time when there will be no

wars, rumors of wars, famines, pestilences and earthquakes. When **'the LORD's house shall be established in the top of the mountains' and 'exalted above the hills' and 'all nations shall flow unto it.'**

"And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isa. 2:4). This will be the condition of things for a long time before the signs of the end when 'the abomination of desolation' stands in the holy place. The great tribulation will occur just before the second coming of Christ at His personal presence.

Imagine, if you will, a day when God's rod and staff comfort the submissive but restrain the wicked as a rod of iron; when men's tongues will fall upon themselves in confusion; when the wicked shall proceed no farther; when the depraved cabinets, courts and legislatures of the world are brought to nothing; when a great revolution will take place in how men live, work, sleep, eat, drink, think and play; when God will control all worship, schools, reading, philosophy, schemes, enterprises, judgments, pursuits, literature, art, science and architecture in a righteous administration. All this and much more will be introduced into the earth by the great resurrection. This glorious prospect fills the pages of God's Word and will alter the habitability of the earth.

"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent (apostello) His only Son into the world, that we might live through Him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent (apostello) His Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (1 Jn. 4:9,10). Amen!

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