

MSB230

# MORE Seed and Bread

*BRIEF BIBLICAL MESSAGES FROM*

## THE WORD OF TRUTH MINISTRY

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

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## THE DAY OF JESUS CHRIST

by John C. Ribbens

Jesus taught about the kingdom of God, a time which will be His special Day when He will rule the earth. However, the Pharisees, incensed by His claim to deity, (the fact that He made Himself equal with God) paraded Jesus Christ before the Roman procurator Pontius Pilate in order to humiliate Him and seek the death penalty for His claim. They called it blasphemy. It was these Jews who sought the more to kill Him because He had not only broken the sabbath, but said also that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God (John 5:18). Because He said that He was "the light of the world," these same Pharisees accused Jesus of being a liar. They said, "Thou bearest record of Thyself; Thy record is not true" (John 8:13). Rejecting Jesus' miracle of restoring the eyesight of the man blind from birth, some of the Pharisees said, This man is not of God, because He keepeth not the Sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? (John 9:16).

These Pharisees had no legal authority to put Him to death, but He had so angered them that they convened the council, and Caiaphas, the High Priest that year said, **Ye know nothing at all, nor consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not** (John 11:49-50). Thus they brought Him before Pilate on trumped up charges, claiming that Jesus called Himself the "**King of the Jews.**" Pilate questioned Him, and Jesus answered in a very direct manner, leading Pilate to say, "I find no fault in Him at all" (John 18:38). But the mob which had been stirred up by the Pharisees became angry and so, to placate the mob, Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him.

**And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe, and said, Hail, king of the Jews! And they smote Him with their hands (John 19:1-3).**

These Pharisees were not content with just inflicting this cruel pain and punishment upon Him, but they demanded His crucifixion, They cried out.

**Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your king? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar (John 19:15).**

Thus these false leaders of the Jews were adding insult to injury. Although He was innocent of any crime, They took Jesus and led Him away. And He, bearing His cross, went forth into a place called the place of the skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: Where they crucified Him, and two other with Him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst (John 19:16-18).

Peter says, of this, **For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened (made alive) by the Spirit (1 Peter 3:18).**

In this act of willing submission He conquered death for every man. Having suffered the humiliation and cruel treatment of the cross, He rose from the dead, triumphant over death to become "the Christ, the Savior of the world" (John 4:42).

In His death He became despised and rejected of men: a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted (Isa. 53:3-4).

He made His grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death; because He had done no violence, neither was any deceit in His mouth. Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He hath put Him to grief: when Thou shalt make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand (Isa. 53:9-10).

These majestic words, spoken by the prophet Isaiah seven-hundred years before the birth of Christ, signaled to the world a future time when Jesus Christ will have His Day.

Thirty-three years after His birth, the long awaited promise of the Kingdom of God (Isaiah 9:6-7) became a reality, when, on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended upon the heads of about 120 (Acts 1: 15) disciples, And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost (Spirit), and began to speak with other tongues (languages), as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:1-4). For the next 33 years, the Roman world became the stage upon which God displayed the most miraculous works among men that the world had ever seen. Acting as mediators of Christ, Spirit filled apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers proclaimed the crucified and risen Christ (Eph. 4: 11-13).

This presentation of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God met with enormous success. The Apostle Paul declared For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed, through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God: so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ (Rom. 15:18-19).

In the plan and purpose of God, this Kingdom-infusing program was brought to an abrupt end when the Apostle Paul declared, **Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation** (soterion-salvation bringing message) **of God is sent unto the Gentiles** (nations), **and that they will hear it** (it will get through to them) (Acts 28:28). By means of this awesome declaration, God revealed to mankind His change to the present dispensation of the Grace of God, the final part of the Day of Man. Suddenly, absent were the physical manifest blessings (gifts) of the Holy Spirit (healing, miracles, foreign languages), and the Spirit-filled apostles of the Acts Period.

Mankind was given the fabulous Gospel of John, which was written that, Ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing ye might have life through His name (John 20:31).

The cessation of the important "blade and ear" stages of the Kingdom of God brought to an end the initial phase of the work of the Holy Spirit. Men who had enjoyed great privileges and responsibility as mediators for Jesus Christ, now had to face the unpleasant fact, that He which hath begun a good

work in you will perform it (**epiteleo**-bring it to a full end, or suspend this program of divine government) until the day of Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:6).

Everything pertaining to the manifestation of God's Kingdom program, bringing salvation to the world, will be accomplished in the "Day of Christ," a future stage of God's government, called "the full corn in the ear" (Mark 4:26-29). Paul displayed great compassion for these first century believers and was led to say further, For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ, and this I say, that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; that ye may approve the things that are excellent (that you may distinguish the things that carry through), that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:8-10).

It has now been almost 1960 years since these words were first spoken (written), but they remain as viable and significant as when first uttered. What did Paul mean by His references to the "Day of Jesus Christ"? How will this day impact mankind and the nations upon the earth when it comes? How is this message relevant to our Lord Jesus Christ? It is my belief that this long display of the grace of God, and the Day of Man is nearing its termination. God has successfully been displaying the limitless grace inherent in His character. Mankind has not been judged; men have not been punished. God has permitted men to walk in their own evil ways. The proliferation of violent and Christ-rejecting men has proceeded unabated. Jesus Christ has been held in great contempt by millions of men. In response, our God has provided men everywhere the opportunity to become recipients of His undeserved love and favor. Grace has triumphed over sin. The record of this grace is yet being written into the annals of history, and continues to this present hour.

We are reminded of the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, **For when Thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the earth will learn righteousness. Let favor be shewed to the wicked, yet will he not learn righteousness, . . . in the land of uprightness will he deal unjustly, and will not behold the majesty of the Lord** (Isa. 26:9-10). How will God accomplish this enormous task? How will it impact mankind? Will it succeed?

My conviction is that the unmitigated success of this important work of God will be the direct result of the open manifestation of Jesus Christ to all

mankind. This is the Day of Jesus Christ, and all mankind will be enlightened to know Him. Those who continue to transgress against God will be stopped. Their foolishness will be exposed for all men to see. God shall shoot at them with an arrow: suddenly shall they be wounded. So they shall make their own tongue to fall upon themselves: all that see them shall flee away. And all men shall fear (stand in awe, or reverence), and shall declare the work of God; for they shall wisely consider His doing (Psalm 64:7-9). This is nothing less than the act of divine intervention. In the words of the psalm of David, Be still and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen (nations), I will be exalted in the earth (Psalm 46:10). These are the irrefutable words of God. This work of God will be heralded in all the earth.

The Day of Christ concerns the transcendent glories which singularly belong to the Lord Jesus Christ. The fundamental facts that reveal the glory of the Lord fill the pages of the living Word of God. In the beautiful words of Isaiah, Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: and the glory (recognition/esteem) of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh (humanity) shall see it together (simultaneously): for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it (Isaiah 40:4-5). In that day every man will be required to submit to the authority of God in recognition that Jesus Christ is Lord: the one in heaven having control of everything and everyone in all the earth. The Apostle Paul declared, Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name (reputation) which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow (render submission), of things in heaven, and things in the earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Phil 2:9-11). This acclamation will be heard around the world to signal the arrival of the Day of Christ.

This extraordinary Day of Christ will bring honor and glory to the Lord Jesus Christ. It marks the Day of the Messiah, a time when all the glories associated with His great name; victory over sin and death, will be universally acknowledged. It has never yet happened, but it will. This event is our blessed hope. It is the epiphaneia or blazing forth of the glory of the great God, even our Savior Jesus Christ (Titus 2: 13). May God speed the coming of that day!

Note: Suggested reading from **Seed And Bread** by Otis Q. Sellers:

Issue No. **SB054**: "The Four Great Days,"

Issue No. **SB129**: "The Order Of Events."

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