

MSB233

MORE Seed and Bread

BRIEF BIBLICAL MESSAGES FROM

THE WORD OF TRUTH MINISTRY

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GOD'S PRACTICAL SALVATION

by David R. Hetteema

Every day there are reports of wars regarding disputed territory and authority. Innocent people are dying under the justification of ethnic cleansing (a recently coined phrase describing the act of ridding your territory of all those whose religious creed is different from yours). Those who report on this terror and death being inflicted by one group upon another increasingly lament the inability of well-intentioned men and nations to intervene and bring a stop to these tragedies. It is now apparent that even the most powerful nations of our world find themselves incapable of delivering practical solutions to the needs of a suffering mankind. Some of the reporters allude to the need for divine intervention, recognizing that man cannot solve his own problems.

Man's need for God's rescuing intervention goes all the way back to man's fall in the garden of Eden when that one act of disobedience brought death and sin into the world.

Those who have a familiarity with the Bible will know that divine intervention for this earth is in the plan of God. The theme of the Bible is the Kingdom of God. When God in Christ governs this earth, He will cause righteous judgment to flow down to this redeemed earth bringing a practical, awe-inspiring solution to every problem that men have experienced, including man's unremitting enemy, death. Wars will cease and the wrong doers will be stopped in their tracks. Every detail of what man needs or has lost out on is known to God and will be abundantly restored under His righteous, benevolent government when man and his world are rescued, delivered and made safe.

Many times in the scriptures God has inspired His prophets to describe what He will do for man and this earth when He assumes sovereignty. None is more important or amazing than the gospel of John, a book God caused to be written that men might believe. Within this book the inspired writer presents only eight selected signs (miracles) that Jesus performed during His earthly ministry. A sign always points to what is significant.

Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name. John 20:30-31.

This statement gives importance to the eight selected signs and the reader can look at each one for the evidence that Jesus was the Christ (Messiah). All the credentials of the promised Messiah are displayed in the record that John sets forth. This study will look at each of these signs for the evidence that Jesus is the Messiah, and each attribute will be extrapolated to search out of the scriptures some of the related promised blessings that His government will bring to a redeemed earth and people.

- Sign number 1. Changing the water to wine, John 2: 1-11.

Christ can override the laws of time and nature, creating instantly that which naturally would take months or years. When He rules the earth, Christ the creator will bring about a beautiful, bountiful earth free of its present curses fit for man's every need.

I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the acacia tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree together: That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the LORD hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it. Isa. 41: 18-20.

Give the nations cause to praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us. God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him. Ps. 67: 5-7.

- Sign number 2. The Nobleman's Son healed. John 4: 46-54.

God can heal at a distance. In this instance it was about twenty miles. God can speak in Heaven and His will would be done on earth. The gift of perfect health and life will instantly come to all living upon the earth.

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped 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 Isa. 35:5,6

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Ps 103:2-3.

- Sign number 3. Healing the man with an infirmity of thirty- eight years, John 5: 1-8.

No matter how long a sickness has plagued anyone, all existing health conditions among men will be overwhelmed by the great flow of health and life from Jesus Christ. No one was ever excluded as being beyond help.

Great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all; Matt. 12:15.

God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations. Ps 67:1- 4.

- Sign number 4. Five thousand people fed. John 6: 5-14.

This miracle has a historical precedent in the Old Testament (2 Kings 4:42-44), when during a famine, God's prophet Elisha fed 100 men with 20 loaves and some ears of corn in the husk. There was food left over. Christ's miracle exceeded Elisha's by 500 times; all were fed to the full, with twelve baskets of food left over.

There will be no hunger or famine in the earth, when God governs. All good governments are morally responsible to meet the needs of its people. God's righteous government will exceed all expectations.

The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. Ps 145:15-16 And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase, and they shall be safe in their land, and shall know that I am the LORD, Ezek. 34:27.

They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that has mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them. Isa. 49:10-13.

- Sign number 5. Walking on the sea, calming the storm, John 6: 15-21.

Jesus the Messiah is the creator; he can walk on His water and control the storm (weather) with his voice. When God assumes sovereignty all of nature will obey Him. The earth will be established, so that it shall not be moved.

He makes the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he brings them unto their desired haven. Ps 107:29-30.

And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still and the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. Mark 4:39.

I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your corn, and your wine, and your oil. And I will send grass in thy fields for thy cattle, that you may eat and be full. Deut. 11:14-15.

- Sign number 6. Healing the man born blind, John 9: 1-7.

This man's situation was a genetic aberration, an inherited handicap through no fault of his own, or his parents. The death that works in us takes many forms, but Christ has paid the price to remove death. Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. When John the Baptist sent his disciples to ask, "**Are you the Christ or do we look for another?**"

Jesus answered them:

Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached. Luke 7:22.

Under God's government the reference to the blind, the deaf or the lame, will only be used in the past tense. The day when God pours out His Spirit on all flesh brings the greatest possible changes to everything and everybody upon the earth.

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Isa. 35: 5.

- Sign number 7, The resurrection of Lazarus, John 11: 1- 44.

This important sign of restoring the dead to life is a powerful demonstration of what men can expect when Christ rules all nations. Jesus Christ, to whom all power on earth and heaven was given, declared to those who witnessed Lazarus' resurrection:

I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live; and whosoever is living and believes in me shall never die (not be dying in respect to the eon). John 11: 25.

Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. John 5: 25.

In His death and resurrection, Jesus Christ has purchased the gift of life for all who have lived since Adam brought sin and death into this world (see Rom. 5: 12, Heb. 9:27). Except for this gracious gift, this first death would be man's final end.

For as in Adam all die, (are dying) even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order. I Cor. 15:22-23.

Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice, and come forth-- those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. John 5:28-29

- Sign number 8, The death and resurrection of Jesus, John 20:1-14.

Jesus gave this sign to the Jews as he taught in Jerusalem and those who heard Him would see it fulfilled within a few weeks, He said:

"I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again." (NAS) John 10:17-18

In these eight signs God has identified the Messiah and revealed what His reign will bring to this earth and those privileged to have a place in it. We can only have a portion in that redeemed world because "Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures."

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; Eph 1:7

The Salvation of God fits the needs of man. When God rules the earth, the believers will be there to tell others about what the Christ has done.

All you have made will praise you, O LORD; your saints will extol you. They will tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might, so that all men may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made. Ps 145:10-14

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