

Simply Christ
Gospel Newsletter
Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

November 10, 2023

The Sure Word of Prophecy

One day Jesus entered a synagogue and, the scripture records, “...*there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? **art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.***” Mark 1:23-24. This demon was afraid because it recognized Jesus as “*the Holy One of God.*” The demon’s words, “*Are you come to destroy us?*” were a reference to the promises God made of Satan’s destruction. When God spoke of the “seed of the woman,” He said to the Serpent, “...***it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.***” Genesis 3:15. This was a prophecy of the destruction of Satan and his works by Jesus Christ upon the cross. God also spoke through Ezekiel concerning Satan’s destruction, saying, “...***I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.***” Ezekiel 28:16. The demons knew these prophecies of the scriptures and trembled when they realized the “*Holy One*” was standing in their midst.

The revelation of Jesus Christ is always based on prophecies of the scriptures. When a blind beggar named Bartimaeus heard that Jesus of Nazareth

was passing by, “...he began to cry out, and say, **Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me.**” Mark 10:47. This cry of Bartimaeus was a twofold recognition. First, in calling Jesus “*the Son of David,*” he was no doubt referring to the prophecy which identified Christ as the offspring of David, saying, “**And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him...**” Isaiah 11:1-2. Secondly, Bartimaeus, like all the Jews, knew the prophecy of Christ which said, “... *fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you. 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....*” Isaiah 35:4-6. Because Bartimaeus believed that Jesus was the promised “*Son of David,*” he then also knew because of this prophecy that Christ would open the eyes of the blind. He simply called upon Jesus and was made whole!

As they journeyed to the place where God instructed Abraham to offer his son Issac as a burnt offering, Isaac asked Abraham, “*Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?*” Genesis 22:7. Abraham answered, “*My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering...*” Genesis 22:8. Then after God stayed Abraham’s hand from offering Isaac as a sacrifice, “*Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.*” Genesis 22:14. This was a declaration that all Israel would see God provide

His own *“lamb”* for a sacrifice! The Prophet Isaiah described the Messiah as a sacrificial lamb offered for the whole world, saying, *“... his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men: **So shall he sprinkle many nations...**”* Isaiah 52:13-15. When John the Baptist heard God identify Jesus of Nazareth as His *“Beloved Son,”* he knew by the prophecies that he was seeing God’s *“lamb.”* This is why he began to tell others to *“**Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world!**”* John 1:29.

When Martha, the sister of Lazarus, told Jesus *“I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world”* John 11:27, she was acknowledging two undeniable truths of the gospel. One is established in the 2nd Psalm. God spoke through David, saying, *“Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, **Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.**”* Psalms 2:6-7. The promised Messiah whom God would set as *“king upon the holy hill of Zion”* would also be the *“only begotten Son of God.”* God continues, saying, *“**Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.**”* Psalms 2:12. When it was revealed in Martha that Jesus is the Christ whom God promised, she then knew by the prophecies of the scriptures that he was not just a natural man but was in fact the Son of God! He only needed to speak the word, and her brother Lazarus would be raised from the dead!

Peter expressed the revelation of Jesus Christ in similar words as Martha. He said to Jesus, *“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”* Matthew 16:16. The most definitive prophecy of Christ in the Bible was delivered to the prophet Daniel by the angel Gabriel. He spoke of *“the Messiah the Prince”* who would come *“to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness...”* Daniel 9:24-25. Although they did not understand how, the Jews knew that when Messiah came he would *“make an end of sins.”* The Apostle John confirms this, saying, *“And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.”* 1 John 3:5. In saying to Jesus, *“Thou art the Christ,”* Peter was saying, **“You are the one who will make an end of sins! You are the one who will make reconciliation for iniquity! You are the one who will bring in everlasting righteousness!”** Peter would later understand that Jesus accomplished this work through his death on the cross, in and for everyone who believes the truth and trusts in Him!

The revelation of Jesus Christ is not based on the word of Pope’s, theologians, seminaries or denominations. This revelation always comes by the Spirit of God and is based on the prophecies of the scriptures. When reminding us that the apostles *“were eyewitnesses of his majesty,”* Peter asserts, *“We have **also a more sure word of prophecy; ...Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old***

time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” II Peter 1:19-21. The simple prophecies found in the scriptures which tell of what Christ would do when he came are **“more sure”** than even the supernatural things the apostles experienced as they walked with Jesus Christ.

The last nineteen centuries are littered with the fallacies of men who forsook the testimony God gave in His word concerning Jesus Christ for something they claimed was a new revelation or supernatural experience. If their revelation or “supernatural experience” was of God, it would have pointed to the simple prophecies of Christ which have been in God’s word all along. None of our experiences, whether “supernatural” or not, establish what is God’s truth. As Paul wrote, *“...let God be true, but every man a liar...”* Romans 3:4. *“The record that God gave of his Son”* I John 5:10 is clearly recorded in the prophecies of the scriptures for those who will simply believe it.