

I Have Found the Book of the Law IX

2 Kgs. 22:1-20; 2 Chronicles 28:1—34:33

VI. The New Testament: Gospels

- A. Gospels: Glad news
 - 1. Rom. 5:17 – “by the trespass of the one, death reigned through the one.”
 - 2. Rom. 5:19 – “through obedience of the one shall the many be made righteous.”
- B. Synoptic Gospels:
 - 1. Synoptic: "something that provides a general view of the whole or a summary of the principal parts of a subject" (Webster's).
 - 2. Luke:
 - a. Col. 4:11, 14 - Physician
 - b. Lk. 1:1-4 - Traced the course accurately
 - c. Lk. 3:23-36 - Required a human genealogy upward to Adam
 - d. The Lord presented as Jehovah's ideal MAN:
 - e. Zech. 6:12 – “Behold the Man whose name is Branch”
 - f. Glad news: God fulfilled the O.T. prophecies of a savior:
- C. John:
 - a. The Lord presented as Jehovah Himself
 - b. Isa. 40:9 - Behold YOUR GOD.
 - c. Isa. 4:2 - In that day shall Jehovah's BRANCH (Messiah) be beautiful and glorious.
 - d. No genealogy required: HE is DIVINE

Times Change, People Do Not

Part Two

Although the command was not “some great thing” in the eyes of man, it was huge in the eyes of God! “Seek ye Jehovah while he may be found; call ye upon him while he is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto Jehovah, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith Jehovah.” (Isa. 55:6-8). The command issued to Naaman was not “a way” it was the “only way” (2 Kgs. 5:11-14). Man forgets that it is not God that needs to be reconciled to man, but man to God. Therefore, God gets to set the plan of reconciliation: “But all things are of God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and gave unto us the ministry of reconciliation; to wit, that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself, not reckoning unto them their trespasses, and having committed unto us the word of reconciliation” (2 Cor. 5:18-19).

When Naaman humbled himself before God, and accepted God’s terms of cleansing, “Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.”

The cleansing did not occur the moment of Naaman’s repentance. The cleansing did not occur as Naaman entered the water. The cleansing occurred after Naaman “dipped himself seven times in the Jordan.”

Were there magical properties in the Jordan river? No. Was the purpose to cleanse Naaman’s soiled flesh? No. Naaman, himself, recognized that “the rivers of Damascus,

and be clean?” When Naaman heard the word of God, as spoken through Elisha, and obeyed the command, God was faithful in cleansing Naaman from his death sentence, i.e., leprosy.

Let’s turn our attention to God’s instructions concerning reconciliation. The message was clear to the first hearers of the gospel, on the day of Pentecost: “Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly, that God hath made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom ye crucified.” Therefore, an action must ensue: “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles, Brethren, what shall we do?” (Acts 2:36-37). To which, Peter said, “And Peter said unto them, Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38).

So, what is the import of “repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of sins”? The answer is given when Ananis (speaking the words of God, as Elisha had done when instructing Naaman), said, “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on his name.”

Whether or not a man can rationalize, attempt to redefine, predetermine (as Naaman had done) how God will save, or that God’s definition does not apply, it just might behoove a man to consider: “For the word of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us who are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And the discernment of the discerning will I bring to nought. Where is the wise?

where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For seeing that in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom knew not God, it was God's good pleasure through the foolishness of the preaching to save them that believe” (1 Cor. 1:18-21). ret



Weighed in the Balances

Daniel 5

How many times have you heard someone say, “If I had known the consequences of my actions, I would have abstained from the evil and pursued good?” When viewing an event from a fleshly mind, mankind fails to weigh the consequences of their actions.

When Belshazzar the king of Babylon had failed to humble himself before God, his kingdom would be given to the Medes and Persians.

Belshazzar was told that he was “weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.”

This message came to Belshazzar when he saw “the fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaster of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote.”

The event was so daunting that “the king's countenance was changed in him, and his thoughts troubled him; and the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another.”

How would the event affect you? Try this on for size: “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (Heb. 10:31). ret

I Have Found This Book IX

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| FEET | SYNOPTIC | TRESPASS |
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| RIGHTEOUS | PHYSICIAN | LUKE |
| JOHN | TRACE | COURSE |
| HUMAN | GENEALOGY | ADAM |
| IDEAL | BRANCH | MAN |
| FULFILLED | SAVIOR | SALVATION |
| MESSIAH | GLORIOUS | WEIGHED |
| BALANCES | DIVINE | THRONE |
| TEMPLE | RULE | ETERNAL |
| LIFE | LIVE | FAITH |

I Found This Book IX

With Him is

Plenteous Redemption

Psalms 130:7

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Weekly Reading

Habakkuk 1:1-17; Genesis 49:1-33
Matthew 5:1-48; 6:1-34; 7:1—8:1



Luke 16:19-31

Your Choice
Choose Wisely



Revelation 4:4

Put to Death then Put On

Regardless of an individuals view of, or relationship to the scriptures, and/or Christ, there is a time when a mature individual makes an estimation of their actions as to whether they are good or evil, but especially if “ye were raised together with Christ” (Col. 3:1).

When an individual decides to make changes in their lives, and obey the gospel, Paul said “Set your mind on the things that are above, not on the things that are upon the earth” (Col. 3:2).

Making changes requires, not only abstaining from that which is evil, but also replacing that which is evil with that which is good. (Co. 3:5-17). ret