



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

Presenting *every man* perfect in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:28

Volume 28
Issue 688

Messiah

In Both Testaments

Part 4 of 7

by — Dr. Fred John Meldau (1899-1969)

To *Him* give all the prophets witness (Acts 10:43).

In the volume of the *Book* it is written of *Me* (Psalm 40:7; Hebrews 10:7).

II. PROPHECIES CONCERNING THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF MESSIAH

Messiah's Character and Characteristics are clearly delineated: He will be Righteous.



He shall not judge after the sight of His eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of His ears: but with righteousness shall He judge the poor. ... And righteousness shall be the girdle of His loins, and faithfulness the girdle of His reins (Isaiah 11:2-5).

(1) Messiah will be the “*righteous Branch ... Who shall be called the Lord our Righteousness*” (Jeremiah 23:5-6).

Messiah must be God's chosen One in Whom He will “*delight*” (Isaiah 42:1). In Matthew 3:17 we read that the Father said of Jesus, “*This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased.*” Messiah, on His part, was to be the obedient “*Servant of the Lord*” who would ever “*delight to do God's will*” (Psalm 40:8). The Lord Jesus could testify, “*My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work*” (John 4:34; 6:38).

Messiah was to be anointed by the Holy Spirit in a manner and degree far beyond any man or men (“*above*” His fellows, Psalm 45:7; cf. Hebrews 1:9).

The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; and shall make Him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and

In the New Testament we read of Jesus' anointing with the Holy Spirit at the time of His baptism, when the Holy Spirit like a dove descended and lit upon Him (Matthew 3:16).

He bore witness that the “*Spirit of the Lord*” was upon Him (Luke 4:18), which was in fulfillment of a prediction about Messiah's character and ministry in Isaiah 61:1-3. The people “*bare Him [Jesus] witness, and wondered at the gracious words that proceeded out of His mouth*” (Luke 4:22).

Messiah will have perseverance in the course of doing right, His Father's will; He will have courage and success in that goal, as well as steadfastness of purpose: “*He shall neither fail nor be discouraged*” (Isaiah 42:4). Matthew, in describing the ministry of Jesus, says that Jesus fulfilled what Isaiah had said about Him.

Messiah's compassion and tenderness are revealed in an exquisite figure of touching tenderness: “*He shall gather the lambs with His arms, and carry them in* ►

His bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young” (Isaiah 40:11).

In the New Testament we read of the compassion of Jesus in Matthew 9:36; 14:14; 15:32, and many other places. In the tenth chapter of John, Christ is presented as the “Good Shepherd” Who loves His sheep and cares for them, even giving His life for them (John 10:10-18).

Messiah will be “just and lowly” (Zechariah 9:9), “fairer than the children of men” with “grace poured into His lips” and blessed by God (Psalm 45:2). He will be “without violence,” “and without deceit” (Isaiah 53:9; cf. I Peter 2:22). He will suffer great personal wrong done to Him without complaining either to God or man (Isaiah 53:7; Isaiah 50:4-7).

Coming to the New Testament, we learn that Jesus “is meek and lowly in heart” (Matthew 11:29); and it is testified of Him, “Thou hast loved righteousness and hated iniquity; therefore God ... hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness above Thy fellows” (Hebrews 1:9).

When the Lord Jesus was crucified He meekly suffered all of the indignities, the insults, the blasphemies, the mental torture, the physical violence heaped upon Him, and did not complain; in fact, He prayed for His persecutors (Luke 23:34; Matthew 27:12-14).

As a teacher, Messiah “shall not fail ... till He have set

judgment¹ in the earth” and the nations “shall wait on His teaching” (Isaiah 42:4). When finally the Kingdom of God, with Christ as king, is set up on Earth, He will indeed have “set judgment in the earth.”

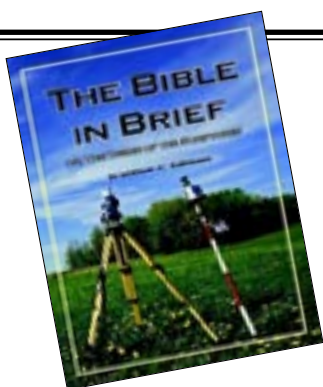
It was prewritten of Messiah that He would “open His mouth with parables” ... He will “utter things hidden from the foundation of the world” (Psalm 78:2). Therefore, Christ’s characteristic method of teaching was by the use of parables – “for without a parable spake He nothing unto them: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken through the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables” (Matthew 13:34-35).

When Jesus the Great Teacher came, He taught “as one having authority, and not as the scribes” (Matthew 7:29). The scribes taught by quoting what such-and-such a Rabbi had said; but when Jesus taught, He gave God’s Words and spoke with finality and assurance: “Verily, verily, I say unto you ...” (cf. John 5:24; 6:47, etc.).

(2) Messiah’s Supernatural “Miracle” Works are clearly foretold: He must show as His Hallmarks Supernatural Works that show Him to be the God-appointed, God-sent Redeemer. As His “Special” Work, Messiah will offer Himself as a Sacrifice to redeem the Race.

Messiah, in the midst of the people, must be the mir-

1. The word translated “judgment” is a very rich word, translated by 31 different words in the AV. It means to bring justice, law, order, salvation, truth, and righteousness to mankind. Messiah’s ministry was to bring Salvation and Truth (“judgment”) to Gentiles as well as to Jews (Isaiah 42:6).



120 pp., PB

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The Bible in Brief, or The Theme of the Scriptures

by — William C. Rebmann (1911-1973)

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– Unsearchable Riches Magazine, 1960

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“It is seldom that so helpful a book is issued on the theme of the Scriptures. Indeed, it could not be written except by one who views the whole in the light of God’s grand consummation.” – A.E. Knoch

acle worker par excellence:

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be un-stopped. Then shall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing (Isaiah 35:5-6).

Messiah's special work will be to offer Himself, His soul and body, as a ransom, an offering, a sacrifice, for sin and sinners (Isaiah 53:4-6, 10, 12). By this supreme sacrifice of Himself He will "bruise Satan's head" (Genesis 3:15; Hebrews 2:14; I John 3:8); and by that great work of redemption He will establish a Kingdom that will last for the ages (Daniel 7:14; Isaiah 9:7; Luke 1:32-33; Hebrews 2:9-14).

The miracles that Jesus wrought – His works – were well known by His generation. Peter, in his sermon on the Day of Pentecost, uses the fact of Christ's miracle-working ministry as *proof* of His Messiahship:

*Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by **miracles and wonders and signs**, which God did by Him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know ... Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, Whom ye have crucified, both **Lord and Christ** (Acts 2:22, 36).*

In the Gospels we read that Jesus healed the sick, cleansed the lepers, opened the eyes of the blind, raised the dead, fed the hungry, walked on the Sea of Galilee and performed many other miracles (See Mark 1:32, 34, 41-42; John 9:7; John 11:3-44; John 6:11-13; John 6:19-21; etc.).

John the Baptist, after his imprisonment by King Herod, sent two of his disciples to Jesus to ask Him, "Art Thou He that should come, or do we look for another?" (Matthew 11:2-3), thereby putting a direct question to Jesus: "Are you Messiah or are you not?" Jesus answered by reminding John and his disciples of His **miraculous works**, thus assuring them that He was Messiah:

Go and show John again those things which ye do hear and see: The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the

deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them (Matthew 11:4-5).

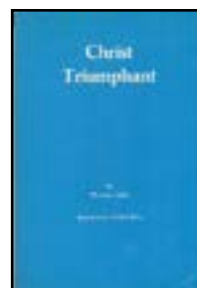
These things are the very marks of Messiah given in the Old Testament! Jesus Himself appealed to the people to believe on Him for "the very works' sake."

Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of Myself: but the Father that dwelleth in Me, He doeth the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me: or else believe Me for the very works' sake (John 14:10-11).

(3) Messiah's "Special" Work will be to offer Himself as a Sacrifice to redeem the world.

Finally, after His benevolent ministry of healing and blessing the people, Christ accomplished the *great work* for which He came into the world, to which work He was foreordained from before the foundation of the world (see I Peter 1:18-20); He died on the cross, offering Himself as a sacrifice to redeem the world.

Messiah's *special* work was to offer Himself an offering, a sacrifice (Isaiah 53). Messiah would be the world- ►



Christ Triumphant

by — Thomas Allin (1838–1909)

327 pp, PB

(See order form.)

Originally published in 1890, this book answers the question of questions: Can evil triumph finally over good? If we answer affirmatively with the popular creed, we are practically falling into Dualism. Men strive to save the popular creed by various modifications: by diminishing the number of the lost, by softening their torments, or by asserting their annihilation. What are all of these but so many unstated confessions that men everywhere feel it impossible to maintain the creed still generally professed?

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wide Savior, for “salvation to the ends of the earth” (Isaiah 49:6): as the “Redeemer of Israel” (:7; 43:6) as well as a “light to the Gentiles” (42:6-7; Isaiah 11:10).

In the New Testament Christ is the worldwide Savior: “Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all” (I Timothy 2:6). “Jesus ... by the grace of God ... tasted death for every man” (Hebrews 2:9). “Christ ... once in the end of the ages appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself” (9:26).

Jesus is indeed the universal Savior, the “Lamb of God Who taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). His love envelops the world (John 3:16); His gospel is for every creature (Mark 16:15); His is the only Name under Heaven, given among men “whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

The Overwhelming, cumulative Effect of Added Signs

We have traced the Messianic Line from Shem, through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, Jesse, David – and down to the virgin birth, the “Seed of the woman,” at the appointed time and place – and we found all perfectly fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth, without one failure!

We also saw that since all the genealogical records were destroyed in 70 A.D., no Messianic claimant since then can prove his Messiahship. We have shown that the Old Testament predicts a Messiah with a perfect character, a benevolent ministry characterized by miracles of healing, and that His great work will be to offer Himself as a sacrifice for Israel and the Gentiles.

Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ of the four Gospels, fulfilled all of this perfectly. The cumulative effect of one fulfillment after another, without one failure, is staggering.

We present an illustration to show that comparatively few distinctive “signs” are sufficient to identify one individual out of billions.

Identifying David Greenglass

When U.S. authorities got on the trail of traitor David Greenglass, who gave atomic secrets to the Russians

after World War II, he fled to Mexico. His confederates arranged for him to meet the secretary of the Russian Ambassador in Mexico City, and to identify himself by these prearranged signs (identical instructions were given to both Greenglass and the Secretary):

- (1) He was to write a note to the Secretary and sign his name as “I. Jackson.”
- (2) After three days he was to go to the Plaza de Colon in Mexico City, and
- (3) Stand before the statue of Columbus,
- (4) With his middle finger placed in a guidebook.
- (5) When the Secretary approached, Greenglass was to say that it was a magnificent statue and that he was from Oklahoma.
- (6) The Secretary then was to give him a passport.

Needless to say, the plan worked.² They knew – all men know – that with as few as six identifying signs, it would be impossible for an impostor to deceive the Secretary, unless he learned what the signs were. God has seen fit to give us not six but scores of signs to identify Messiah and to make the signs of such a nature (such as the virgin birth or resurrection of Messiah!) that no false Messiah could possibly fake them!

All who take the time to look into the facts, such as we are presenting here, will come to know positively that a Messiah was predicted and that the only One Who could be that Messiah is Jesus the Christ of the New Testament.

A moment’s thought will convince all fair-minded persons that Jesus the Christ of the New Testament who fulfilled **all** of the 333 prophecies that relate to His First Advent is the only character of **all** history to qualify as the predicted Messiah, and that there is no other book than the Bible that has anything comparable to Messianic Predictions, having twenty or more specific details.

III. PROPHETIC PARADOXES IN PROPHECIES CONCERNING CHRIST

The Old Testament presents a mysterious prophetic puzzle of strange combinations of prophecies concerning the coming Messiah that appear at times so

² These facts are taken from the April 2, 1951 edition of *The New Leader*.

conflicting they seem impossible of fulfillment. We call these prophecies that are seemingly contradictory and apparently irreconcilable “prophetic paradoxes.” We define a “prophetic paradox” as two or more prophecies that contain a seeming contradiction, with no real absurdity involved, and presenting an enigma which, without the “clue” or fulfillment, seems impossible of solution. The Old Testament abounds with such prophetic paradoxes concerning Christ which were and still are absolute mysteries except as the New Testament solves them in Christ. These paradoxes in prophecy have an element of obscurity presenting as it were a **lock** for which only the New Testament has the **key** – and that key is Jesus the Christ.

This amazing feature of many Messianic predictions prevents both wicked men and over-zealous disciples from purposely fulfilling them – even if they could. For the prophecies, in at least some instances, were not fully understood until the fulfillment explained and made them plain (See I Peter 1:10-11). Such unique prophecies absolutely prove that the God of Prophecy Who designed them and the God of Providence Who fulfilled them are one.

Let us examine in more detail a few of the many prophetic paradoxes in the predictions of the coming Messiah.

(1) Concerning His birth. Notice in the following predictions these striking irreconcilables: a virgin ... shall bear a son: something unknown in human experience.

The Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and shall call His name Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:14).

To fulfill these amazing prophecies God performed a “biological miracle” and Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35) and born of the virgin Mary as recorded in Matthew 1:16-25.

Not only was Messiah to be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14; 9:6), He was in some mysterious way to be all of these: “*the Seed of the woman*” (Genesis 3:15); “*the Son of man*” (Daniel 7:13); the “*Son of God*” (Psalm 2:7); the “*Seed of Abraham*” (Genesis 22:18); and the “*fruit*” of David’s body (Psalm 132:11).

How can he be the “*seed of the woman*” when the woman “*knew not a man*”?

How could one person be **all** of these? Wonder of wonders, Jesus was! The Lord Jesus was *man* (John 1:14); He was the “*seed of the woman*” (Galatians 4:4); He was the “*Son of man*” – the representative man (Luke 19:10); He was the “*Son of God*” (John 3:16); He was the “*seed of Abraham*” and the “*seed of David*” (Matthew 1:1).

(2) The Place of His Origin: from whence did He come: Bethlehem? Egypt? Nazareth?

Here is another involved series of predictions. Prophecy said,

Out of thee [Bethlehem] shall He come forth ... Who is to be Ruler in Israel (Micah 5:2).

Yet another Scripture said,

I have called My Son out of Egypt (Hosea 11:1; Matthew 2:15).



The Sequel Which Sustains –

The Pohorlak Papers: Volume 1

by — Frank Neil Pohorlak

In cooperation with his estate, this is the first in a series of collected articles on various scriptural themes by Frank Pohorlak (1907-1988). In associations with men such as Bob Jones, John R. Rice, J. Frank Norris and A.E. Knoch, he enjoyed a long, illustrious, colorful life and teaching ministry spanning many states and foreign countries.

120 pp., PB

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Yet there was also *spoken* by the prophets, commonly known among the people of Israel, that

He shall be called a Nazarene (Matthew 2:23).

Are these all contradictory? Not at all when the Person came Who unlocked the puzzle by the course of events in His divinely ordained life. He was born in Bethlehem, as Micah said; soon after, He was taken to Egypt by Joseph and Mary, from whence God “*called*” Him back to the Promised Land after the death of wicked king Herod (Matthew 2:13-23). Then when Joseph and Mary came back to Palestine with the child Jesus, they settled in Nazareth, the city where the Lord was reared.³

Hence, in His ministry He was called “*Jesus of Nazareth*” (Luke 18:37; Acts 2:22; etc.). Isn’t it strange that, though He was born in Bethlehem, no one ever calls Him “*Jesus of Bethlehem*,” and though He is called “*Jesus of Nazareth*,” everyone knows He was born in Bethlehem, not Nazareth!

The historical record of the life of Jesus makes crystal clear these three apparently contradictory prophecies.

(3) Christ’s Right to David’s Throne. Here is an intricate, involved puzzle so involved that it will take a little concentration on the part of the reader to follow the problem and its solution – but it will well repay the effort.

Christ, the Seed of David, must be virgin-born and yet have a legal right to the throne of David despite the fact that one of Solomon’s descendants was a certain evil man named Jeconiah of whom it was written that

none of his descendants would ever rule in Judah (see Jeremiah 22:28-30); and despite the fact that in Israel the right to the throne was transmitted through the male line: and here Christ was born of a virgin!

It is perfectly clear that Messiah will inherit “*the throne of David*” (Isaiah 9:7; Jeremiah 33:15-17; 25; Psalm 132:11; I Chronicles 17:11, 14), but since He had to be born of a virgin, how can He get His legal right to the throne of David? And how can the roadblock erected by Jeconiah’s sin be circumvented? Who can untangle these apparently hopelessly confused predictions?

Leave it to the Master Mind Who both devised the strange prophecies and worked out their fulfillment. Remember, the prophet Isaiah said, “*The zeal of the Lord of Hosts shall perform this*” (Isaiah 9:7).

Not only was the apparently impossible solved and resolved in Jesus the Christ, but God has given us the complete record of how He did it in the genealogies of the New Testament. In Matthew’s genealogy the genealogy of Christ through Joseph is given. This genealogy shows Christ to be “*the son of David*” – so giving Him right to David’s throne – and also “*the son of Abraham*” – so giving Him right to the Land of Promise, the territorial possessions given to Abraham and his seed.⁴

In Matthew’s genealogy, Joseph is seen to be in the REGAL line of descent from King David, down through Solomon. However, Joseph was also a descendant of David through Jeconiah (also called Coniah) – hence, succession to the throne for Joseph personally is barred. Matthew’s genealogical record is careful to show that Jesus was **not**, through Joseph, the “*fruit of David’s body*,” *i.e.*, a direct descendant of David through Joseph.

In Luke 3:23-38 Christ’s genealogy is given through Mary. (Heli was obviously Mary’s father, Joseph’s father-in-law, :23).⁵ In the record Christ is shown to

3. There is an interesting historical sidelight that adds pungency to the understanding of the prediction and its fulfillment. When Joseph and Mary returned to the Promised Land from Egypt, Joseph was apparently about to settle near Bethlehem, in Judea; “*but when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: ... he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: and he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, ‘He shall be called a Nazarene’*” (Matthew 2:22-23). Humanly speaking, all hinged on this odd fact: in a peevish fret, before his death, King Herod changed his will and put Archelaus, the worst of his living sons, to rule instead of Antipas. It was this fear of Archelaus that led Joseph to look for another residence; then God led him to Nazareth! So God, Who uses the wrath of man to praise Him, used the wrath of a petulant king to bring to pass a fulfillment of His spoken Word! (See Psalm 76:10).

4. It is interesting to observe that in Luke (3:38) the genealogy of Christ is traced back through Heli (Mary’s father) to Adam and to God – so giving Christ a title-deed to the whole Earth, as “*son of Adam*” (see Genesis 1:27-30; Psalm 8:4-6; Hebrews 2:6-9; Revelation 5:1-10) and to “*all things*” as “*Son of God*” (see Hebrews 1:2).

5. It is interesting to note that in the genealogical record in Matthew, it is written that “*Jacob begat Joseph*” (Matthew 1:16); that is, Jacob was the actual father of Joseph, but in Luke it is written

be the LITERAL “fruit of David’s body” through His mother Mary. However, this is important: while Mary was in the ROYAL line from David, she was not in the REGAL lineage, for she was a descendant of King David through Nathan, whereas the THRONE RIGHTS were to come through Solomon’s line (see I Chronicles 28:5-6). Therefore, Joseph’s marriage to Mary before Christ was born was an absolute necessity – and that is exactly what happened!

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as His mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. ... And behold the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 1:18-20).⁶

So, through Mary, Jesus the Christ obtained His literal descent from King David; and from Mary’s marriage

that “Joseph was the son of Heli” (Luke 3:24), and the word “son” is not in the original, but is supplied by the translators. Joseph was the “son-in-law” instead of the son of Heli. Joseph was Heli’s “son” in the sense that he is married to Heli’s daughter. This is in accordance with Jewish custom (see I Samuel 24:16).

6. It is a mistake to minimize the importance of the genealogical records of the Bible. They are of prime importance in proving that Jesus of Nazareth is Messiah and that He has the right to the throne of David.

Incidentally, the presence of the genealogical records in the New Testament shows the importance that God places on the proof that Jesus is David’s Son, and indirectly shows the importance of the whole argument from fulfilled prophecy.

to Joseph, who was also a “son of David.” He obtained His legal right to David’s throne, for Mary was Joseph’s wife before Jesus was born, so making Joseph Jesus’ legal father, His foster/adoptive father. Withal, the prophecy concerning Jeconiah was fulfilled too, for Jesus the Christ is NOT the “seed” – a direct descendant – of Jeconiah. Can you think of anything more intricate and involved, and yet worked out with such precision?

Joseph and Mary had to be the parents (foster father and physical mother) of Jesus the Christ: they were the only two people of that generation who could be, and fulfill prophecy about Messiah. Joseph had to be married to Mary before Jesus was born, so He could get His legal right to David’s throne through Joseph. At the same time, Christ could not be a physical child of Joseph because of the bar against a descendant of Jeconiah. Though Joseph had to be married to Mary, yet Joseph could not “know” Mary as his wife until after Jesus was born, for He had to be born of a virgin! The Divinely ordered fulfillment was perfect in every detail!⁷

(4) Messiah was to be both the “Chief Corner Stone” and the “Rock of Offense.”

He shall be ... for a stone of stumbling and for a

7. [Editor:] For another look at the genealogical dilemma surrounding Jeconiah, see:

– The Genealogies of Jesus Christ as Found in Matthew and Luke, Joseph Edwin Hartill (1909-1981), [Bible Student’s Notebook #391](#).



264 pp., PB

See order form.

Daily Gleanings – 365 Selections on Scriptural Truths

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Editor

This book contains a collection of gleanings from some 200 different authors. These excerpts are intended to be an encouragement to those who are walking on a different path with the Lord – a journey that is “outside of the camp.”

Some quotations are from beloved and trusted authors, but more often than not, they are from unusual sources. Sometimes, it is simply amazing how an author can admit in print to some grand truth that their writings and ministries otherwise generally deny. For the authors of these quotes, the truth that is conveyed by them may oddly seem “out of place”; but in some ways, the more unlikely the source, the more amazingly it testifies to the truth – and the fact that it cannot be hidden.

Thanks for your ministry and the time you put into this work. – TX

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I love that you have done this for

us. There is no way that we could go through half the amount of material you go through and pull out these tasty morsels. – VA

What a treasured collection! – MI

You have made me aware of authors I didn’t even know. – GA

Truly an invaluable resource. – IL

These gleanings are so encouraging! – Kenya

rock of offence to both the Houses of Israel (Isaiah 8:14).

The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner (Psalm 118:22; Isaiah 28:16).

The key that unlocks this mystery is a simple one: Israel's belief on or disobedience to Christ. To those who disbelieve, Messiah would be a "Rock of Offence" and a "Stone of Stumbling." Peter explains the mystery by showing that all depends on one's attitude toward Christ, whether of faith or disobedience:

Wherefore also it is contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded." Unto you therefore which believe He is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed the same is made the head of the corner. And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the Word, being disobedient (I Peter 2:6-8; cf. Romans 9:32-33).

As He did so often, the Lord Jesus called attention to the prophecy in the Old Testament, making Himself the New Testament fulfillment of it.

Jesus saith unto them [the Pharisees], "Did ye never read in the Scriptures, 'The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'" (Matthew 21:42).

The Lord also added this significant statement:

And whosoever shall fall on this stone [seeking His mercy and grace] shall be broken [his hopes in himself completely crushed]. But on whomsoever it shall fall [in judgment] it will grind him to powder [ruin him for the ages] (see Matthew 21:44).

To those in Israel who believe that Christ was their Messiah, He is the Chief Corner Stone, and He is very precious. To the disobedient of the Nation, Christ is the Stone of Stumbling or Rock of Offence. To the one, Christ the Rock brings salvation; to the other He brings judgment. Those who stumble in disobedience to Christ reject Him and fall to their destruction.

(to be continued)

TOPICS:

Major: Divine Inspiration; Jesus Christ; Messiah
Minor: Prophetic Fulfillment; Prophetic Paradoxes

Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

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Scripture education in a semi-weekly format!

This free electronic publication is dedicated to:

- the proclamation of the riches of God's abundant, exceeding grace (Romans 5:20; 11:6; Ephesians 1:7);
- the affirmation that God will save all mankind through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (I Timothy 2:3, 4; 4:10; Titus 2:11);
- the "preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret in ages past" (Romans 16:25);
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Ephesians 1:1-3);
- the importance of receiving all whom Christ has received (Romans 14-15);
- the recovery of rich Biblical truth that has too long remained hidden under the veils of traditionalism, prejudice, misunderstanding, and fear (Mark 7:7, 13);
- the completeness of the believer in Christ (Colossians 2:10), with:

- total freedom from sins (Colossians 1:14);
- union in His death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6);
- adult sonship position (Galatians 4).

We do not claim infallibility for the contents of this publication. Our readers are asked to be as the Bereans and search the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-11; I Thessalonians 5:21).

This publication is not connected with any "church," "denomination," "movement," "organization," "mission," "creed," "meeting," "school," "conference" or "fellowship."

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