

Truth For the Final Generation

Midday Message

“The Interpretive Key of the Old Testament”

Opening Hymn: 547 NH “Be thou My Vision”

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 1:1-3

Introduction:

Last time we looked at the biblical method of interpretation from the scripture. God wants His people to understand what the scripture means not merely what it says. Often statements are read that appear to support a particular view but they must be rightly interpreted. In the Great Controversy satan has painted God in such a false light that students of the word need to be careful that they do not wrest the scriptures.

The Clear Testimony

³⁹ Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. John 5:39 KJV

³⁹ You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, John 5:39 English Standard Version

Jesus, in speaking to the Jews, said “ Search the scriptures...” but the more modern translations highlight the thought of the passage which supplies the “You..” This is important in the context.

The Jews were trying to get salvation by obeying

the word of God apart from Christ. They were misguided by their understanding of scripture in that they were looking for a military messiah and missed what the scripture was teaching. All this was influenced by the enemy to lead to the rejection of the messiah.

Consider a similar example in Romans 6:23, 24

²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

²⁴ Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:6:23-24 KJV

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. Romans 6:23-24 New International Version

The translators grappled with the idea of Justification being full and free apart from the individual choice and therefore missed the thought of legal justification.

In *John 5:39* Jesus clearly teaches that the scriptures testify or point to Him as the messiah to come. The old testament is the unfolding of the gospel plan to look forward to the messiah.

All Things Concerning Himself

¹³ And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs. ¹⁴ And they talked together of all these things which had happened. ¹⁵ And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.

¹⁶ But their eyes were holden that they should not know him. ¹⁷ And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?

¹⁸ And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?

¹⁹ And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:

²⁰ And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him. ²¹ But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done. ²² Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre; ²³ And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive. ²⁴ And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not.

²⁵ Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have

spoken: ²⁶ Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. Luke 24:13-27 KJV

Notice that Jesus told them from ALL the scriptures the things concerning Himself. How much of the scriptures? ALL! All scripture points to Jesus Christ as the messiah that was to come. In fact, early reformers like Martin Luther and John Calvin saw that Jesus Christ was the interpretive key of the Old Testament.

Martin Luther said:

“Wherever God’s Word is, there is Christ.”
— Martin Luther, *Sermon on Septuagesima Sunday*, 1525

John Calvin adds:

“The law serves to hold the godly in expectation of Christ’s coming; at his advent they should hope for far more light... they had but a slight taste of it; we can more richly enjoy it.”
— John Calvin, *Commentary on the Law*

Jesus Reveals the Father

¹ God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

² Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

³ Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the

right hand of the Majesty on high: Hebrews 1:1-3

⁶For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:6

A critical part of the mission of the messiah was to reveal the character of God. To present a character that was completely opposite to that which was represented by satan.

The Lord Jesus Christ revealed a character entirely opposite to that of Satan. 11LtMs, Ms 57, 1896, par. 13

Christ exalted the character of God, attributing to him the praise, and giving to him the credit, of the whole purpose of his own mission on earth,—to set men right through the revelation of God. In Christ was arrayed before men the paternal grace and the matchless perfections of the Father. In his prayer just before his crucifixion, he declared, “I have manifested thy name.” “I have glorified thee on the earth; I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.” *When the object of his mission was attained,—the revelation of God to the world,—the Son of God announced that his work was accomplished, and that the character of the Father was made manifest to men.* ST January 20, 1890, par. 9

The object of Christ’s mission encompassed not only His sacrificial death as the Second Adam but also a revelation of the character of God!

Understanding The Life of Christ unlocks the Mystery Old Testament

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.² The

same was in the beginning with God.³ All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.¹⁴ And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.¹⁶ And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.¹⁷ For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.¹⁸ No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him. John 1:1-3;14;16-18

The Apostle John is clear that the law came by Moses. That is, the particular understanding of the law which was misunderstood was given by Moses, but grace and clarity came through Jesus!

Grace and Truth

³⁸ Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:

³⁹ But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.⁴⁰ And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also.⁴¹ And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.⁴² Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn no` t thou away.

⁴³ Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

⁴⁴ But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;⁴⁵ That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

On the mount of the Beatitudes Jesus shows the true meaning of the old testament law and adds that it was so because of the “hardness of [their] hearts.” *Matthew 10:5* that they missed what God was teaching.

Closing Appeal

⁶ Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour. ⁷ There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink. ⁸ (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.) ⁹ Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.

¹⁰ Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

¹¹ The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? ¹² Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?

¹³ Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: ¹⁴ But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

¹⁵ The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.

¹⁶ Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither.

¹⁷ The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: ¹⁸ For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.

¹⁹ The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. ²⁰ Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.

²¹ Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. ²² Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. ²³ But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. ²⁴ God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

²⁵ The woman saith unto him, I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.

²⁶ Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.

Jesus announced His mission to make plain the truth about God!

Closing Hymn: NH 326 “Open My Eyes That I May See”

Yours in Our Master's Service
Elder Ryan Griffith
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