

A Great People and a Strong

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I have often said; "if an area is dark, why spend so much time discussion the darkness? Why not just turn on the light, the light will surely dispel the darkness, talking about it will not."

Yet, Jesus stood overlooking the city of Jerusalem and lamented the darkness that prevented the children of this city (her people) from seeing Him for who He really was:

Luk 13:34-35 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, that killeth the prophets, and stoneth them that are sent unto her! how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her own brood under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you *desolate*: and I say unto you, **Ye shall not see me, until ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.**

To the people of Israel who came out of Egyptian bondage, through the sea and into the wilderness, was God's promise of a land flowing with milk and honey, a "promised land". It was a promise which could not be fully appropriated without trusting in God and believing God's words and then following God's directions. Self-reliance was not an option for possession of the promise.

A journey of just a few scores of miles, which by a direct route could have been traversed fairly easily by such a company in a matter of days. Yet, this journey took 40 years before they were ever permitted to even "see" the land of promise.

Then "entry" into the land was another issue. Some saw it, but because of unbelief and disobedience were forbidden to enter. Others entered, but even after entering the land, never yet has complete, sustained possession of the land of promise fully happend, even yet in June 2011.

Even as Jesus stood looking over natural Jerusalem, just before the cross, He declared; "***the desolation of their house***". so it is with Christians today, in June 2011. Our Spiritual Jerusalem, our Spiritual house is in *derision, division and while it may not be "desolate"* it is not yet what God has purposed it to be . Who will live

and rule in Jerusalem? A monumental question, yet unresolved in total in the natural... and so... as mirrored in the natural, so this issue has not yet completely been resolved in the Spiritual. Why?

**Lack of Believe in God's word!
Self-Reliance, not on the Holy Spirit
Trust in the doctrines of men and not the pure word of God!**

We see the lack of belief in God's word and self-reliance and the manifest fruit:

- In the children of Israel in the wilderness.....
- In the report of those sent to spy out the land of promise....
- In the Children of Israel's entry into the land but never, even yet, a fully sustained possession.....

All these, and many more are are metaphors for our instruction and our warning as Christians. Our promised land is;

*... the "land" within us that God promised us...where He would rule from. A land flowing with His righteousness, peace and joy. A land flowing with His enlightenment, in order that we may know that we can only do all things **through Christ** which strengthens us. A new land, a new creation, not a dry and unfruitful wilderness, but a land whose hills are filled with fattening sheep, a land whose valleys are covered with ripening wheat. A land where rivers of living waters flow from beneath His throne. A land where trees of righteousness produce their leaves for the healing of the nations. **His** land, which He calls; "**Beulah**". For we are His beloved and He is ours. United in the Father, in Christ Jesus, by the Holy Spirit. He in us and we in Him.
Blessed is He who cometh in the name of the Lord.*

Beware, because our eschatology has been leavened. Force fit nothing. Traditions have bound us, in many ways, for a long time. Forget tradition and leavened doctrine. Learn from the mistakes of the Jewish Religious leadership of 30AD. With all of their amassed knowledge of scripture, they still missed...." *the day of their visitation*".

For God, through Jesus Christ, has purposed that a people will be manifest in the earth, through "Christ" and the work of the Holy Spirit in them. This people, who hear **and** obey His words will manifest to a wicked and perverse generation; **His divine nature**. These will be Sons of God without need of further correction. This company of His servants and handmaids, through "Christ in them", will judge and convict the

nations and will judge principalities and powers. His conviction and judgments through this company will shake both the heavens and the earth, for these are; "**a great people and a strong**".

Peter, quoting the Prophet Joel on the day of Pentecost said;

*(Acts 2: 15-21) **But this is that** which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God; I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: And I will show wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord comes: And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

Pentecost was only the beginning of what Joel prophesied. It was not the "end" or "the goal" or the "point aimed at" by God. Pentecost was not its total fulfillment. And...what of the "**great people and a strong**" that Joel described in detail in Joel, chapter (2) Verses (1) through (11). We have only to look, with eyes to see; the Prophets are full of confirmation of this people whom God raises up and fills with His power and in whome He is glorified in the earth; "*In That Day*".

There have been others like those in the first century and on down through the centuries since. However, there has not been the likes of those in notable numbers, in one accord... "**even to the years of many generations**"....**until NOW**.

Without laboring this issue, the church, since its beginnings and ever since, has had everything "**at hand**", for every generation, to choose by way of the cross, to come to full maturity in Christ. Through Christ, by God's design and purpose, they would then by the Holy Spirit working in them, have whatever would be needed to fully possess their promised land by kicking out all of the aliens and to bring every thought captive forever and then; once their obedience was fulfilled, **then**; fully manifesting the knowledge and glory and power and wisdom of God from **within them** to a dark and dying world.

But....nope, like the Children of Israel who came out of Egypt, we Christians, for the most part, grumbled and complained, wanted meat instead of "manna", loved to do it our way, loved the recognition of men, set up our idols, hung on to our old liturgical ways, refused to hear directly from God and looked to and relied on men who said they did. We generally sought to satisfy our fleshly lusts and relied on what we could see, touch, smell, taste or hear with our soulish senses.

We said; "no, no..... we know how to pray in accordance with the will of God with our own understanding, we will use our own tongue and our own will, our own intellect and with our own lips and understanding will we prevail unto righteousness. What we can't see or fathom with our intellect, we won't rely on. We can pretty well figure out God's will without much tongue talking or intimacy with God through the Spirit of God". "Oh"..., we said; " we can teach and preach and prophesy out of our flesh and no one will say anything and yes we will make mistakes, but we are growing and learning and we won't ever be perfected, this side of heaven".

Without a vision, we remained; babes on milk, in division and generally; a derision in division. Having so few church leaders that ever got weaned from the breast, the meat desired, by the babes who thought they were mature leaders, choked them and they puked all over the tables and there was no place clean for anyone to eat (see Is 28: the NIV version is especially accurate here).

We, generally, have fouled up the grace-faith stuff and did it our own way, rule after rule after rule, grit our teeth, gut it out and fail, then try again righteousness. We clung to liturgy and leavened doctrines with a death grip. Generally, we have dressed, talked, walked, raised families, entertained ourselves, done business and recreated, just like all the other Babylonians for over 2,000 years now. We followed false teachers, let ourselves get divided and we became for the most part as; "***the lost sheep of the house of Israel***" were when Jesus was revealed to Israel by John. Unable to fully recognize "the day" of our visitation.

Generally, we followed the course of our Natural Jewish fellows in their wilderness and on into...trying to possess their promised land and keep it. *As Christians, our course, like theirs, has included all the ups and downs they experienced while trying to see, enter and finally; fully possess and remain in possession of our "promised land"*.

When Jesus finally was revealed to the Natural Jewish people, after being hid out amongst them, as it were, the majority of them couldn't or wouldn't recognize Him as "the Messiah" and therefore rejected Him.

"How sad", we say, "they didn't know or recognize their time of visitation". Yet, since Pentecost, Christians, like the Jews of Jesus day, have been told; "*The Kingdom is at hand*" ...and what have we done differently than the Jews in the natural to really recognize and understand this revelation...?? Have we Christians **really** recognized "our" time of visitation??**"Ye shall not see me, until ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."**

Jesus has already told us, not to look for His kingdom here or there. It is within us, ready to move and be manifest with all of the power and presence of His divine

nature from hearts cleansed and filled to overflowing with HIM. Then, from our hearts, His life and nature and works are to be manifest to neighborhoods and nations, filling the earth with His glory and the knowledge of the glory of the Lord. His Kingdom come, His will be done, in earth, as it is in Heaven. Only doing; His will in His strength. It is His work, we are NOTHING without Him. "Jesus is Lord".

This has been so available to us since Peter said; "This is that". His hand is stretched out still....."This is that..... This is that..... This is that.".....It is still at hand....."the Kingdom"....."His dominion in us"..."where the King has dominion"..... "Christ in you", the hope of glorifying the Father in the Earth again, as Jesus did.

These people, described by Joel as; "**a great people and a strong**", will be "**Servants and Handmaidens of God**" who have chosen to submit their fleshly lusts to the work of the cross and by the work of the Holy Spirit in them, will be dead to self-interests of the flesh and alive only unto Him.

These will be fully mature and manifest Sons of God. These, who when He appears in them, will be like Him; Jesus the Christ. When these "**Sons of God**" are manifest, or Christ is fully manifest in them, they will glorify God again in the earth. These will be wholly in one accord, united and committed to Jesus as were David's mighty men of valor. Through this company, God will do as Enoch and others have prophesied. Then shall the powers of heaven and of earth be shaken before His mighty Army; a **great people and a strong**.

Joel 2: 30 *"And I will show wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath blood and fire and vapor of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before that great and notable Day of the Lord come". Joe 3:16-17 **The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth shall shake**; but the LORD will be the hope of His people, and the strength of the children of Israel. "So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God **dwelling in Zion, My holy mountain**. Then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more.*

When? How will this happen?

Hold steady, do not force fit what we think we know. For we still only know in part. Rest in Him, He must do this work, we must totally surrender, NO MORE STRIVING. Enter His REST, for without Him, we can accomplish nothing.

Rom 8:13-19 *For if you live after the flesh, you shall die: but **if you through the Spirit** do put to death the deeds of the body, you shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For you have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but you have received*

the Spirit of adoption, by which we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, so that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation waits for ...

...the manifestation of the sons of God.

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