

THE RECONCILER

Paul & Nuala O'Higgins paulandnuala@comcast.net www.reconciliationoutreach.net

SEPT. 2022

DAVID'S COVENANT, THE CLIMAX OF HISTORY & THE FEASTS OF THE LORD

Confusion and despair prevail among the statesmen who lead the world today. The intellectual leaders of our universities (with their atheistic humanistic world view) can give no philosophical meaning or vision to their students.

In stark contrast to this darkness the scriptures stand out as a beacon of light for the world today. They reveal a vision of tremendous hope for the future of the earth and announce a glorious new day that is coming to the world. This is a breathtaking time to be alive. The earth trembles at the nearness of the coming of the Lord. The cloud of witnesses who have gone into heaven are cheering with anticipation of the events that will soon take place on the earth. The molecules of our bodies and the depths of the earth vibrate in earnest expectation of the Lord's soon return to take the throne of His ancestor David in Jerusalem.

This vision, and blueprint for the outcome of world history is intimately entwined with destiny of Israel and with its return to the Land of Promise. The prophets clearly show that the return of the Jewish people will climax in the restoration of the Kingdom of David, when David's incorruptible descendant (Yeshua) will restore the Davidic Kingdom and rule righteously from Jerusalem.

Thus says the Lord God: "Surely, I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again. ... "David My servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; and My servant David shall be their prince forever. (Ezekiel 37.21-22,24,25)

When Yeshua returns to claim and restore the Throne of David, He will reign, not only as King over Israel, but as King over all nations. He will totally reverse the separation between God and man, which originated with Adam, and bring the entire creation back into harmony with Our Loving Creator.

The Kingdom of God (which is now present inwardly in the hearts of all who believe that Jesus is Lord) will then prevail outwardly and Yeshua will rule over a golden age for Israel and the nations. All of this is promised and foretold in the Davidic Covenant. (Ps 89 28-37, 2 Sam 7)

This hope of the fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant that the Messiah will restore Israel Kingdom and reign over the house of David - and over all the nations- forever, was the driving expectation of the New Testament followers of Jesus. They recognized Him, not only as the Lamb "who take away the sins of the world" and "baptizer with the Holy Spirit", but also as the One who will restore the dynasty of David. They went into the world to invite people of all nations to be cleansed of their sin and to become citizens of this coming Kingdom.

This was also the faith of Mary who was assured that her Son would restore the throne of David and reign over Israel forever.

"Then the angel said to her (Mary), "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." (Luke 1.30-33)

However, Jesus was aware, from the prophetic scriptures, that the Kingdom of David could not be restored until His own people (Israel) were scattered and brought back from the nations to settle in their own land. *"He who scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him as a shepherd does his flock."* (Jer. 31.10)

*"Surely, I will take the children of Israel from among the nations wherever they have gone and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all;
"David My servant shall be king over them, and they shall all be one shepherd;
.... and My servant David shall be their prince forever."* (Ezekiel 37:21-23; 24-25)

As we anticipate the return of the Lord and the Golden Age that He will inaugurate, let's keep in mind that Yeshua is not coming to establish a Christian Kingdom. He is coming (with His saints) to reign on David's throne from Jerusalem as King of Israel and King of all nations.

"And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east.

Thus, the Lord my God will come, and all the saints with You. And the Lord shall be King over all the earth.
(Zech. 8:3,4, 89)

In the meantime, the disciples were to receive power to proclaim that the Kingdom is at hand and within us and available to all who will believe.

An Antisemitic Leftover

Much of the end time teaching in the Body of Christ today, ignores the Davidic Covenant - the promises that Jesus will come to be King of Israel, reigning on David's throne from Jerusalem. This omission is part of the antisemitic legacy of traditional Christian theology. Instead of emphasizing the coming of the Messiah as the climax of Israel's restoration most end time teaching overlooks the Davidic Covenant and

focuses instead on the problems and tribulations that will be on the earth before Messiah Yeshua comes.

God Is Focused on the Glorious Outcome

God's present-day focus is not on the 'birth pangs' that will precede the return of Yeshua but on transformation that will take place when He returns to judge, rule and reign on the earth.

In the face of the inevitable troubles that are on the earth (wars, rumors of war, natural disasters, incompetent governments etc.) we can look up because the time for Our and Israel's Redeemer King to come to rule the world is at hand. This is the "BLESSED HOPE." (Titus 2.13) He will put an end to man's disastrous mismanagement of the world, bind Satan and his demonic hordes 'transform our lowly bodies, and redeem the creation. Under His rule the entire world will devote itself to loving Our Heavenly Father and loving one another with the life of the Holy Spirit.

"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself." (Phil. 3.20-21)

"Therefore, gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and REST YOUR HOPE FULLY upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 1.13)

The Feasts Of The Lord & David's Covenant

While awaiting the fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant, each year Israel celebrates the Feasts given to them through Moses. (Levit. 23) At the Fall/Autumn of the year they, and many Christians, celebrate the final three Feasts of the religious year.

White light when passed through a prism is broken into a rainbow of brilliant colors. So too the Feasts of The Lord provide a prism which divides the work of redemption into seven parts to better enable us understand and enter into the

awesome plan of God (1) in Israel's History (2) in the redemption of the world and (3) In the spiritual journey of the believer.

The seven feasts are (1) Passover, (2) Unleavened Bread, (3) First Fruits, (4) Pentecost (Shavout) (5) The Feast Of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah), (6) The Day Of Atonement (Yom Kippur) and (7) The Feast Of Tabernacles.

Each of these feasts recall events in Jewish history. They also point prophetically to an aspect of the Messiah, Yeshua's redemptive work. Thirdly they point to a dimension of the believers' personal redemption and transformation.

Passover commemorates the Exodus from Egypt by the application of the blood of the Passover lamb to their doorposts, and anticipates the greater Passover of Yeshua who became the Lamb of God for the sin of the world. The believer enters his personal Passover when he formally puts his faith in this great fact for the remission of his sin.

Pentecost (Shavout) commemorates the giving of the Law to Israel at Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover, and anticipates the giving of the Spirit fifty days after the Passover of Yeshua. The believer enters into His personal Pentecost when He formally welcomes the Holy Spirit in His fulness into His life. (The name Pentecost comes from the Greek word for 'fifty'.) The Autumn feasts (Trumpets, Atonement & Tabernacles) anticipate the climax of history - events that are to happen at the time of Israel's return from the nations.

The Feast of Trumpets commemorates the entry of the Jewish people to their land with the blowing of trumpets in the days of Joshua. It anticipates their final return to their Promised Land - which has been taking place for the last 150 years.

"So it shall be in that day: The great trumpet will be blown. They will come, who are about to perish in the land of Assyria. And they who are outcasts in the land of Egypt,

and shall worship the Lord in the holy mount at Jerusalem." (Isaiah 27.13) Here Israel's final return is called "The great Trumpet" and we should probably regard it as the end time fulfillment of the Feast of Trumpets."

Atonement commemorates the day when Israel's High Priest placed the blood of animals on the mercy seat in the Holy of Holies (as God directed) as and Atoning sacrifice to temporality cover the sins of Israel. Like Passover it points prophetically to God's provision of permanent atonement for the sin of the world, by sending Yeshua to bear the sins of Israel and the sins of the world. It further anticipates the time when Israel (after its return from the nations) will put their faith in Yeshua and the Atonement God provided through Him. Today in Israel it is known as Yom Kippur - at present a day of fasting and repentance

"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. (Zechariah Chapter 12.10)

Feast Of Tabernacles Is Linked To David's Covenant & The Return of The Lord

The Feast Of Tabernacles anticipates the return of the Lord when He comes to establish His Kingdom on the earth and reign from Jerusalem as King of Israel and King of the world. Tabernacles, the climax of the Jewish year, is a time of great rejoicing celebrating God's provision in the desert. In this way we can see that the Feast of Tabernacles anticipates the fulfillment of the promises of the Davidic Covenant.

These annual Feasts Of The Lord are not mere religious observances, but reveal God's blueprint for world redemption. They are especially relevant to our times as we see God working even through secular Israel and the turmoil of the nations to fulfill the words of the prophets concerning the fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant to establish His Kingdom on the earth.