

LESSON 9: TOP SECRET BUT IN PLAIN SIGHT

We have been going over the met-narrative of the Bible for a few weeks now. I hope most of it is coming together for you.

We saw that God had an original plan, whereby He wanted a human family on earth like the one He has in Heaven – a family with which He can interact, move among with a goal of spreading His family over the earth. Adam and Eve were placed in Eden, the home of God on earth and were tasked with the dominion mandate, whereby they were to multiply outside of Eden, spreading the new family of God around the planet. They failed fairly quickly and were exiled from the garden. Things went downhill from there. By the time we get to Genesis 6, there was another rebellion, most likely stemming from the rebel in the garden, in which some of the sons of God left their

habitation and came to earth in order to fulfill their lust for women. The result of this was a hybrid race of giants. This prompted a response from God. He flooded the earth, leaving only Noah and his family, along with representatives from the animal kingdom. God then gave Noah the same marching orders, the dominion mandate he gave Adam and Eve. This failed also because humanity chose not to spread over the planet, but rather chose to become centralized in the region of Babel. This all came about as the people had gradually chosen to worship pagan entities which represented a rogue element of the divine council – created beings which serve an administrative role in heaven. They made up a large part of God's heavenly family. Because the people wouldn't obey God's command to spread over the earth, He confused their languages, forcing them to separate along family lines. This created tribes and language groups. When they couldn't communicate with each other they were forced

to separate. During this time, there was another wave of fallen sons of God which again took women, producing the giants that inhabited the promised land during the time of the conquest.

At the time of the dispersion at Babel, God disinherited all of the nations, giving them over to the rule of some of the sons of God still in the heavenly realm. But according to Dt. 32:8-9, they ruled unjustly. And for this they would also be judged at some time in the future. On the heels of all this, God chose a man by the name of Abram, making a covenant with him which dealt with the promise of land and his offspring, which would eventually bless the world, retaking the planet for the benefit of the nations. This plan, the formation of Israel as a nation of God's people and their land, which was beach-head from which God could reclaim the nations, failed. And that brings us to where we are now. If God's plan was to succeed, then

God would have to fulfill His covenants Himself. God would have to become man in order that weak humanity would have a way to redemption. But even in that, there was a problem. The plan would have to be kept on the down-low in order to pull it off.

God needed a man who was more than a man who could resist temptation, who would always obey, who was fit for kingsmanship, who could reverse the curse of death by dying and then rising again by His own power. There was only one candidate and everything had to come off in a certain way. God Himself would become man in order to fulfill His own plan. Only He could restore Eden in man's stead, on behalf man. Eden could never be a reality until humans were forgiven and made divine like Jesus through His resurrection power.

1 John 3:1-3

1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

But as we have seen already, there were powers who objected to this plan. And they wouldn't go away quietly. We've seen them disrupt things by corrupting mankind for their own reasons time and again. The plan called for the God-man (Jesus) to die and rise again by His own power in order to redeem mankind. And He would have to die by the hands of evil and fallen man. The evil powers had to be complicit. If they weren't, if they realized that Jesus' death would result in their downfall, then they

would do all they could to not kill Him and things would have to go back to the drawing board.

1 Cor. 2:6-8

6 However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, 8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Who were the rulers of whom Paul spoke? Were they just Pilate and the Jewish leaders? Well, those guys were the human side of the equation, but we have to remember that the game is being played on a much larger field than that. Paul speaks of the “Prince of the power of the air” as well as other rankings of

evil beings. And these categories have a geographical context as well (Eph.2:2; 6:12).

Eph. 6:12 For ^jwe do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against ^kthe rulers, against the authorities, against ^lthe cosmic powers over ^mthis present darkness, against ⁿthe spiritual forces of evil ^oin the heavenly places.

The plan had to keep these powers in the dark, while placing the God-man, Jesus on center stage? How do you do that? Understanding this point makes the Gospels that much more intriguing.

But this leads us to a question. How was Jesus mission kept in the dark? Isn't all this obvious from the OT? Actually, the answer is no, it isn't.

There is no verse in the OT that uses the word "messiah" if a man who was actually God and who would die for the sons of humanity. And

before you ask, no, not even Isa. 53:11, with the mentioning of the “suffering servant.” The word “messiah” never appears in that chapter and elsewhere in Isaiah the “servant” refers to the nation of Israel, not an individual savior, (Isa. 41:8;44:1-2, 21; 45:4; 48:20; 49:3). And the word messiah, meaning anointed nearly always refers to David or a descendant who reigned as king. If you believe Jesus’ mission was made clear in the OT, then just look at how confused the disciples were when Jesus told them He had to go to Jerusalem and die.

Matt. 17:22 *“As they were gathering⁶ in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men,²³ and they will kill him, and he will be raised on ⁿthe third day.” And they were greatly distressed.*

Mark 9:30 *“They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he did not want anyone to know,³¹ for he was teaching his disciples,*

saying to them, **“The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise.”** ³² But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him.

Peter even rebuked Jesus for saying such things.

Matt. 16:21 From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, **“Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”**

Why were the disciples so confused? Why was Jesus’ death never on their radar? Because it is never spelled out completely in the OT. There are allusions to things, and they are scattered throughout the OT. The plan is not clearly stated in one place. As far as the disciples were concerned, Jesus was the son of David, which made Him at the very least, a rightful heir to the throne. He was to conquer the Romans. And Jesus also prophesied, and worked miracles like the OT prophets. Dying in

Jerusalem, especially while the Romans remained in power made no sense at all. Even after the resurrection, Jesus still had to open their minds supernaturally for them to understand the concept of a suffering messiah.

Luke 24:44 Then he said to them, **“These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”**
⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,

The fact is that there are three messianic track you can follow in the OT. The first one is that of the Davidic king. The disciples understood the basics of that one and rightly attributed them to Jesus. The second is that of the “son of man” mentioned in the book of Daniel. He is a pre-existent, supernatural being. That is very different from a Davidic king. The third track is that of the suffering servant, but he was never identified in scripture as/ with the messiah. With three tracks to look at, the disciples clearly identified with that of a Davidic king, as

did most who heard Jesus. They couldn't wrap their minds around that of the "son of man." And they definitely couldn't grasp the suffering servant as it was the least explicit. And they most certainly could put all three tracks together. That was a definite mind-blow.

So, God's plan that He would die and then rise again from the dead to reverse the curse of the fall isn't at all evident in the OT. In fact, it is very cryptic. The clues are scattered in dozens of places. The entire plan is never revealed in one place. It is only clear in hindsight, and even then you have to really know what you're looking for.

The evil powers knew that the prophesied son of David had arrived (Mt. 8:28,29; Lk 4:31-35), but they never seem to understand that Jesus had come to die and rise again, let alone that such an act would result in their defeat. Look once again at what Paul said.

1 Cor. 2:6-8

6 However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, 8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

We have to remember that while Satan and co. are intelligent, they aren't the equal to God. They aren't all-knowing and they aren't all-present and they certainly aren't all-powerful. They are created beings. And as such aren't truly gods, in the Biblical sense. Only God has these attributes and only God is eternal. So, while they are intelligent, they still had to be duped into crucifying Jesus and bringing about their own demise by launching a series of

events that would lead to the crucifixion of Jesus. It was divinely designed misdirection.

We can see things more clearly than the disciples – though we do so in hindsight. Once again, there is no one verse that spells all this out, but we can begin to see patterns that develop in the OT. Figures such as Adam, with Jesus being called the “second Adam” and David being the prototypical king from whom Jesus would come, set up typologies for Jesus as the messiah. The point is that these figures, along with others all point to Jesus in some way and Jesus completes these patterns. Everything was in plain sight, yet undetectable without hindsight.

Why does all this matter?

Once again, and importantly, intelligent evil such as Satan, demons, and the lesser gods who rule the nations don't know everything

and they can't read our minds. They don't have the mind of God and they can't penetrate it. We tend to think that they since they are supernatural and divine that they are all – knowing, but that isn't true. That ability belongs only to God.

Because of the fall, Satan had rightful jurisdiction over mankind. Because of Adam's sin, death spread to all mankind (**Rom. 5:12**). The serpent was cursed and cast down to the realm of the dead, which he then ruled.

But that all changed when Jesus came and fulfilled God's plan of salvation by dying and rising from the dead. In order to restore Eden there had to be a means for humanity to escape the curse of death. Those who believe in faith are made members of God's family and kingdom and are no longer under the power of death and/ or the lord of the dead. I wonder sometimes if we truly appreciate what this

means. Identity politics are a big deal nowadays. But our identity, as Christians comes from Jesus. Collectively, as the church, we are called the body of Christ. Jesus' body was raised from the dead. And because of that we will rise again also (**1 Cor. 15: 20 -23**). Jesus is the firstborn of the dead and we are the church of firstborn, registered in Heaven (**Heb. 12: 22 – 24**). And as John said, we have been given the right to become the children of God (**John 1:12**).

Satan has no claim on us! There is no reason to look for the living in the realm of the dead.