

One True Church Series
4 - Forerunner of Truth
Bible Sermon Notes by Pastor Cary Rodgers, Jr

Review

1. One Church established by Christ in which He is the Head of the Body.
2. The body are member "limbs" attached to the body.
3. All members of the ONE true church of Christ keep both the law and testimonies
4. The law (Ten Commandments) reveals sin. The testimonies have a solution of sin, Jesus Christ.
5. The testimony of Jesus is also known as the spirit of prophecy because it reveals the past, present, and future ministry of Jesus Christ. For example, the OT predicted the first coming or advent of Jesus. The NT was a fulfillment of the Messiah's first coming. The NT also predicts the second coming of Jesus Christ in the near future.
6. The contents of the covenant revealed and given to Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Israel in the Old Testament was the LAW and TESTIMONIES!
7. The everlasting gospel is built on the law and the testimonies from Genesis to Now.

Why did Israel (the northern kingdom) fail?

2 Kings 17:13-16

- 13 Yet the LORD testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, *and by* all the seers, saying, Turn ye from your evil ways, and **keep my commandments** *and* my statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets.
- 14 Notwithstanding they would not hear, but hardened their necks, like to the neck of their fathers, that did not believe in the LORD their God.
- 15 And they **rejected his statutes, and his covenant** that he made with their fathers, and his **testimonies** which he testified against them; and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that *were* round about them, *concerning* whom the LORD had charged them, that they should not do like them.
- 16 And they left **all the commandments of the LORD their God**, and made them molten images, *even* two calves, and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal.

Israel rejected the everlasting covenant. They rejected both the law and the testimonies. They went from drinking the pure water of life to the poison of corruption. From worshiping the true God of Heaven to the worship of Baal!

The fall of Israel is one of the main reasons why all those in Babylon will fail because they reject both the law and the testimonies.

Who is the last king of Israel (northern kingdom)?

King Hoshea -

2 Kings 17:1-2

- 1 In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah began **Hoshea the son of Elah to reign** in Samaria over Israel nine years.
- 2 And he did *that which* was evil in the sight of the LORD, but not as the kings of Israel that were before him.

Because of Israel's rejection of both the law and the testimonies they were slaughtered by the Assyrian army. That was the end of the northern kingdom of Israel. Judah was the only one left, but was later destroyed by the Roman army in 70 AD as Jesus prophesied because they also rejected the law and the testimonies of Jesus Christ.

Remember (Very Important)

From the Old Testament through the New Testament God has clearly revealed the establishment of both His Law and Testimonies for His One True Church. They are inseparable!

Remember what will God teach his people in His last day church on the "Mountain of Truth"?

Micah 4:1, 2

1 (Isa 2:2) But in the last days it shall come to pass, *that* the **mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established** in the **top of the mountains**, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.

2 (Isa 2:3) And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us **go up to the mountain of the LORD**, and to the **house of the God of Jacob**; and **he will teach us of his ways**, and **we will walk in his paths**: for the law shall go forth of Zion [a mountain of Jerusalem](The LAW), and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem ["teaching of peace"] (TESTIMONIES). (Who is the WORD? Jesus!)

Today, God's One True Church revealed in the everlasting covenant starting from Genesis in the Old Testament was established in the New Testament by Jesus Christ, Himself.

Remember "Testament" Greek = Contract or covenant. What is contained in the covenant? (Law and Testimonies) **The Old Testament (Contract) revealed it! The New Testament (Contract) SEALED IT! Old Testament and New Testament are unified as one in the One True Church of God. They are inseparable.**

The New Testament fulfills all the 100 plus prophecies of the Messiah (Jesus) in the Old Testament. Jesus sealed the deal! Without the literal fulfillment of Christ the Old Testament contract would not have been valid.

Who was the forerunner of Jesus Christ as prophesied in the Old Testament that prepared the way for the fulfillment of Law and testimonies in the New Testament?

Matthew 3:1, 3

1 In those days came **John the Baptist**, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, **Prepare ye the way of the Lord**, make his paths straight.

Referring to John the Baptist

Luke 3:4 - 6

4 As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways *shall be* made smooth;

6 And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

What was the prophecy of John in the OT?**Isaiah 40:1 - 4**

- 1 Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.
- 2 Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.
- 3 The **voice of him that crieth in the wilderness**, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
- 4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

John, as we already read, was clearly the fulfillment in the New Testament as the one to prepare the way of the Lord!

Did you know John's parents were part of the One True Church, who kept all the commandments of God and believed the testimonies?**Luke 1:5, 6**

- 5 There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named **Zacharias**, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was **Elisabeth**.
- 6 And they were both righteous before God, **walking in all the commandments** and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

Like Abraham and Sarah, Zacharias and Elisabeth were old and Elisabeth was unable to have children. But God revealed to Zacharias that he would have a son named John. This seemed impossible! But remember with God NOTHING is impossible!

While Zacharias was doing his duty before the altar of incense, what did the angel Gabriel reveal to him about his son John?**Luke 1:13 - 17**

- 13 **But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.**
- 14 And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.
- 15 For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be **filled with the Holy Ghost**, even from his mother's womb. (HEALTH REFORM)
- 16 And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.
- 17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

At the beginning Zacharias, like Abraham and Sarah, had some doubt that his old barren wife Elisabeth could have a child. **As evidence that the prophecy would come to past, God shut the mouth of Zacharias during the duration of Elisabeth's pregnancy. Zacharias saw its fulfillment and had NO more doubt.**

John's purpose and mission was prophesied to his parents. They believed in the One True Church message. They kept ALL the commandments and believed in the testimony of the coming Messiah and that John was the one to prepare the way for the ministry of the first coming of the Messiah!

They were ON the mountain of TRUTH! They abode in the ONE Vine, one church of Jesus Christ.

They taught John to live and remain on the mountain of truth.

After John was born, what public announcement did Zacharias prophesy concerning his son and the testimony of Jesus?

Luke 1:67 - 79

67 And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying,
 68 Blessed *be* the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,
 69 And hath raised up an **horn of salvation (Jesus)** for us in the house of his servant David;
 70 As he spake by the **mouth of his holy prophets (testimony of Jesus)**, which have been since the world began:
 71 That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us;
 72 To perform the mercy *promised* to our fathers, and to **remember his holy covenant (Law & Testimonies)**;
 73 The oath which he sware to our father Abraham,
 74 That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear,
 75 In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.
 76 And thou, **child (John the Baptist)**, shalt be called the **prophet of the Highest**: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to **prepare his ways**;
 77 To give **knowledge of salvation** unto his people by the **remission (Gk: freedom/pardon) of their sins**,
 78 Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,
 79 To give light to them that sit in darkness and *in* the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the **way of peace**.

Notice again in the prophecy of Zacharias' public announcement, what main message was John the Baptist to give to "prepare the way of the Lord"?

1. Knowledge of salvation that only can be secured by the "remission of sins." Remember the Law reveals sin. The penalty of the Law is death, but the remission (freedom) from sin is life through Jesus Christ!
2. In summary John was to teach the Law and the testimonies, the covenant
3. The message that he was to bear was to give light to those in darkness and guide all to the "Pathway to Peace!"

While Zacharias had the attention of a group of people who were rejoicing after the birth of John and also amazed to hear Zachariah speak again after God had shut up his mouth during Elisabeth's pregnancy with John, the Holy Spirit moved upon Zacharias to make a **public announcement and confirmation from God that John the Baptist was the fulfillment of prophecy and that he was birthed to prepare the way for the ministry of Jesus on this earth.**

Again this is the evidence, the testimony of Jesus revealed in the OT and fulfilled in the NT!

Don't missed it! The message that John gave was a message that led those to true peace and freedom without the guilt and burden of sin! Sin keeps us in chaos and confusion, but salvation that is secured through the remission of sin gives us freedom and hope!

John the Baptist was a true one church minister who was trained by God to preach and teach about the covenant, the law and the testimonies. How does the prophet Malachi confirm this in his prophecy about John the Baptist?

Malachi 3:1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

John the Baptist, the messenger of the covenant, the law and the testimonies!

Remember, who gave John his name? God personally gave it.

What is the meaning of John's name?

Thayer Definition: (Greek) John = “Jehovah is a gracious giver”

John's name was a testimony that Jehovah (self-existent one-God) is the gracious giver of the plan of salvation through the ministry of Jesus Christ! God used John to be a “gracious giver” of Truth!

Did John give the message in his ministry as prophesied to prepare the way for the ministry of Christ? What was the main message as a “gracious giver” of TRUTH?

John 1:6 - 8

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all *men* through him might believe.

8 He was not that Light, but was *sent* to bear witness of that Light.

Mark 1:4

4 John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission(freedom) of sins.

Matthew 3:1, 2

1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

“Repent (turn from sin) ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand (near).”

This is exactly the same message that Jesus preached when he began his earthly ministry.

This is revealed in Matthew 4:17.

Matthew 4:17

17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Perfect unity! Again, in summary what John the Baptist and Jesus preached was the message of the covenant, the law and the testimonies. This is the same message that we are to give in the last days. The message that John the Baptist and Jesus gave was not a message of condemnation but a message of restoration! AMEN!

What message did John the Baptist give to the leaders of Israel who were leading God's people off the Mountain of Truth?

To be continued.... Appeal