

Plain Path

Weekly newsletter of the Fry Road church of Christ

Sunday, September 28, 2014

Volume 19, Number 39

“Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path... Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart” (Psalm 27:11-14)

IS JESUS THE MESSIAH?

by Bob Pulliam

WE ARE FINISHING up our adult class study of “The Kingdom of the Messiah” this morning. As a conclusion, if I were to choose one question to ask, I believe I would ask, “Is Jesus the Messiah?” Do you believe that He is *right now!* Not after a rapture and seven year tribulation. Do you believe Jesus is the Messiah *right now!*

If your answer is *yes*, then I want to know what makes Him the Messiah. We know that the word *Messiah* means *the anointed one*. But you do not believe Solomon was the Messiah, do you? He was an anointed king who descended from David. In fact, many kings descended from David who were anointed, but you

do not believe that any of them were the Messiah. And the Jews didn’t (and don’t) either. So what makes the Messiah different? Ask any Jew and he will tell you. The Messiah must fulfill prophecy in every detail about Himself. I agree! Surely you don’t believe a person can be called the Messiah until they’ve fulfilled the prophecies about the coming of the Messiah (Dt 18:18-22)! But some do deny that Jesus has fulfilled all prophecy.

That they believe He will do so in the future does not mitigate their blasphemy in claiming that He has not yet fulfilled some of the most significant prophecy about Himself. I refer to His reign on the throne of David over the Messianic kingdom. Here is what

this means. Dispensationalists who are still waiting for a Rapture and Messianic kingdom are denying that Jesus is the Messiah! In rhetoric, they would affirm that Jesus *is* the Messiah. But He cannot be the *anointed* if He has not fulfilled the expectations for the “Anointed”. You can argue that He is still the Messiah, but He cannot be until He is actually God’s anointed upon the throne of David!

Let’s turn to Scripture. Peter told a multitude that Jesus had ascended to the throne of David!... “Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ — this Jesus whom you crucified.” (Acts 2:36) That God had made Jesus “Christ” means that Jesus had been anointed as the Messiah. The word Christ corresponds to the word Messiah in the Old Testament.

(Messiah, continued on pg 3...)

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(Looking, continued from pg 1...)

Don't forget that David had many successors, and they were all *anointed*. They also ruled as kings. What will make Jesus different from all of His predecessors? It must not simply be in the fact that He is anointed, or that He is reigning. It must be this kingdom we are talking about. The Messiah is not just the descendant of David who is anointed to rule. He is the descendant who has fulfilled the promise that was made to David! That will, necessarily, involve a successful fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy concerning the kingdom.

My question is simple. What makes Jesus' reign any different from the reign of David's son, Solomon? That He was the Son of God did not make Him the

Messiah. That He was God in the flesh did not make Him the Messiah. What made Jesus "the Anointed One"? Being anointed to sit upon the throne of His father David. That this was the grand expectation for the Messiah is confessed by Premillennialism as it *still waits* for that to be fulfilled!

Returning to Peter's sermon in Acts 2, we learn that Jesus was not only "exalted to the right hand of God", but also "received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit". Some assume that the "promise of the Holy Spirit" was the promise to send the Holy Spirit upon the apostles. But that was not the point! The

point was that there was a promise of exaltation. David was a prophet (v30), and received revelation from the Holy Spirit! The "Promise of the Holy Spirit" was the promise made to David by the Holy Spirit. This is clear if you will read on and let Peter elaborate. Verse thirty-four begins, "For it was not David who ascended...". The promise of the Holy Spirit was not to the disciples. It was made to David concerning *his* descendant being exalted. And the "promise of the Holy Spirit" was that God would "seat one of his descendants upon his throne" (v30).

When was this grand coronation to take place? Peter told the multitude that it had!... "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ — this Jesus whom you crucified." (v36) That God had made

Jesus "Christ" means that Jesus had been anointed as the Messiah. The word Christ corresponds to the word Messiah in the Old Testament. Both actually mean "the anointed one". Peter is saying that Jesus had been anointed king. God promised David that his descendant would sit upon his (David's) throne, and now that promise had been fulfilled! Peter told the Pentecost multitude that

Jesus was on David's throne! But people today look around mockingly and say "Where?!" They expect Him to be seated on a piece of furniture in Jerusalem.

This is why Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of

this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting, that I might not be delivered up to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm." (Jn 18:36) It was never about a political presence on the earth. It was about the Messiah ruling over the hearts of men. Everything would be different in the Messiah's kingdom (*cf.* Heb 8:8-13). The kingdom would be found in "within you" (Lk 17:21), and would not come with observation (Lk 17:20), like an army advancing against an enemy. Jesus would reign at the right hand of God.

Now let me ask you, will the might and rule of Jesus ever be any higher than it is now? To answer that, read Ephesians 1:19-23 and I Corinthians 15:20-28. As you can see, Scripture says no. Therefore, Jesus is reigning at the height of His power.

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What makes Jesus' reign any different from the reign of David's son, Solomon?

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THIS WEEK'S DAILY BIBLE READINGS

NEW TESTAMENT READING

II CORINTHIANS 1 - 8

September 28 - 30

OLD TESTAMENT READING

I SAMUEL 1 - 8

October 1 - 4

I TIMOTHY 4:13



FAMILY NEWS & NOTES

*News and Notes of Interest
to Fry Road Members*

Because of the large number of visitors to our services, we would ask those wishing to identify with the congregation to do so by expressing this interest directly to the elders.

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

Gospel Meeting (Dee Bowman)
January 11 - 14, 2015

Gospel Meeting (Carl McMurray)
April 12 - 15, 2015

V.B.S.
June 21 - 25, 2015

Annual Singing
September 12, 2015

Sick and Shut-Ins

Ladies Class...

Fall Ladies Bible Classes will begin on Tuesday September 30, 2014. The morning class will run from 9/30/14 until 11/18/14 meeting every week at the Fry Road Building at 10:00 a.m. The evening class will run from 9/30/14 until 11/11/14 meeting every other Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m. at Cinco Ranch Library. On 11/18/14 there will be a Special Topics class for one evening. Please sign the morning or evening list on the round table in the foyer so we may get a binder with the lessons to you. They should be available starting today.

Directory Info

Sections have been removed to preserve members' privacy

Sermons:

Next Sunday:

The Pattern

Tonight:

The Person With
the Log in His Eye

"...I was sick, and you visited me..."
Matthew 25:36

Updates for friends and family members should be given to Bob regularly to keep necessary items up-to-date, and included in Plain Path.

Visitors

You are truly a blessing, and we are glad you chose to worship with us. Please take a moment to fill out a visitor card and drop it into the collection plate. Thank you.

FOR THE RECORD

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

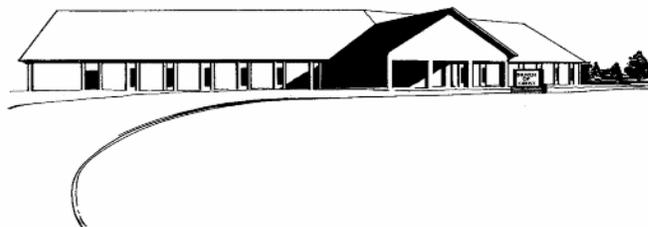
MONTHLY ASSIGNMENTS

Sections have been removed to preserve members' privacy

IN KEEPING WITH OUR LONG STANDING AGREEMENT, THOSE SERVING PUBLICLY ARE REMINDED TO PLEASE DRESS IN A MANNER RESPECTFUL OF THE GOD WHOM WE SERVE.

ELDERS:

Ruben Amador
Matthew Heaton
Donnie Mangrum
Steve Voss



DEACONS:

John Coleman	Ken Dunsmore
David Ellison	Ray Farrell
Aubrey Garner	Steve Geraci
Steve LaGrasta	John Light
Steven Martin	Mike McMurray
Jason Mock	David Stevenson
Glenn Tomblin	

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Assembly	10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Assembly	6:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes	7:30 PM

EVANGELIST & EDITOR:

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