Sunday March. 12th 2017 Finishing the Journey

I. Kings, Worshipers, and Prophets (Approx. 1100 to 550 BC)

- A. Within this five hundred year period, an overwhelming amount of revelation was given concerning both of the currents we have been considering. Promises and descriptions of God's dwelling and the coming of the Anointed One; up until this point; pale in comparison with the volume and detail of insight given through the Psalms and the Prophets.
 - 1. <u>Hannah</u> Out of the intercession of a barren woman, the Monarchial Age of the nation of Israel was born. The birth of Samuel marked the end of the Judges and the prophetic declaration that God was going to establish the Anointed One as the King over the earth. Hannah's prophetic prayer would formally begin the "Messianic Expectation" (1 Sam. 2:10)
 - 2. <u>David</u> Through David, the people would see a foreshadowing of the Messiah to come. However, God reiterates the promise given to Abraham for David, revealing that the promise had yet to be fulfilled. Like those before him, David received a promise of an Anointed One to come through his line to eventually build the resting place of God on the earth. In that day, the promise of the everlasting possession of the land would come to pass. (2 Sam. 7:12-16)
 - 3. <u>Tabernacle of David</u> While the tabernacle built at the command of Moses sat in Gibeon, David brought the ark into Jerusalem beneath a tent and appointed singers and musicians to minister before the presence of the Lord. Devoid of the veil and the requirements of the priesthood, the Levites gazed directly at the Glory cloud over the mercy seat, atop the ark with the gold cherubim on either side. I believe the pinnacle expression of David being a man after God's own heart was demonstrated in his zeal to make a resting place for God. (2 Sam. 7, 2 Chron. 29:25, 35:15, Ps. 26:8, 27:4, 132, Ezr. 3:10, Neh. 12:45)
 - 4. <u>Psalms</u> As the 24/7 singers and musicians gazed at the Glory of God over the mercy seat, prophetic revelation was poured out upon them. For the purposes of this series, I have divided them into 3 categories.
 - a) Anointed One (Ps. 2, 8, 72, 89, 110)
 - b) Dwelling Place (Ps. 46, 48)
 - c) Convergence (24, 45, 132)
 - 5. <u>Tabernacle of Solomon</u> The task David yearned to complete to build the Lord a house to dwell in, was appointed to Solomon. Roughly forty years after David had placed the ark in the tent in Jerusalem, the Temple was built. Upon its dedication, the Lord filled the house again with His Glory. (1 Kin. 5:3-5, 2 Chron. 5:13-6:2)

II. Declarations, Reminders, and the Promises

- A. During the reign of kings following Solomon, the Lord raised up many prophetic voices who would boldly and clearly declare the zeal in the heart of God, to bring forth His promises, even in the midst of a rebellious people.
- B. The progressive revelation began to shift in clarity from Seed to King, and the emerging of the Son of Man (Gen. 3:15) who would embody the Messianic hope to not only the descendants of Israel, but the Gentile nations as well. (Joel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Micah, Zephaniah, Ezekiel, Daniel)
- ¹⁶ The LORD also will roar from Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem; the heavens and earth will shake; but the LORD will be a shelter for His people, and the strength of the children of Israel. ¹⁷ "So you shall know that I am the LORD your God, dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be holy, and no aliens shall ever pass through her again."... ²¹ For I will acquit them of the guilt of bloodshed, whom I had not acquitted; for the LORD dwells in Zion." (Joel 3:16-21)
- ² Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. (Isaiah 2:2)
- ⁵ ...then the LORD will create above every dwelling place of Mount Zion, and above her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day and the shining of a flaming fire by night. For over all the glory there will be a covering. (Isaiah 4:5))
- ⁶ For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this. (Isaiah 9:6-7)

¹ There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. ² The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD...10 "And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious" (Isaiah 11:1-2)

⁵ In mercy the throne will be established; and One will sit on it in truth, in the tabernacle of David, judging and seeking justice and hastening righteousness." (Isaiah 16:5)

²³ Then the moon will be disgraced and the sun ashamed; for the LORD of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem and before His elders, gloriously. (Isaiah 24:23)

Sunday March. 12th 2017 Finishing the Journey

- ⁶ And in this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all people a feast of choice pieces, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of well-refined wines on the lees. (Isaiah 25:6)
- ¹ "Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. ² He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. (Isaiah 42:1-2)
- ¹³ Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high. (Isaiah 52:13)
- ¹⁹ "The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; but the LORD will be to you an everlasting light, and your God your glory. ²⁰ Your sun shall no longer go down, nor shall your moon withdraw itself; for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and the days of your mourning shall be ended. (Isaiah 60:19-20)
- ¹⁷ "At that time Jerusalem shall be called The Throne of the LORD, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem. No more shall they follow the dictates of their evil hearts. (Jeremiah 3:17)
- ⁵ "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. ⁶ In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. (Jeremiah 23:5-6)
- ¹⁴ 'Behold, the days are coming,' says the LORD, 'that I will perform that good thing which I have promised to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah: ¹⁵ 'In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David a Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell safely. And this is the name by which she will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.' ¹⁷ "For thus says the LORD: 'David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel... (Jeremiah 33:14-17)
- ² "But you, Bethlehem, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting..." ⁴ And He shall stand and feed His flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD His God; and they shall abide, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵ and this One shall be peace. (Micah 5:2, 4-5)
- ¹⁴ Sing, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away your judgments; He has cast out your enemy. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall see disaster no more. ¹⁶ In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Do not fear; Zion, let not your hands be weak. ¹⁷ The LORD your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing." (Zeph. 3:14-17)

- ²⁶ And above the firmament over their heads was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like a sapphire stone; on the likeness of the throne was a likeness with the appearance of a man high above it. ²⁷ Also from the appearance of His waist and upward I saw, as it were, the color of amber with the appearance of fire all around within it; and from the appearance of His waist and downward I saw, as it were, the appearance of fire with brightness all around. ²⁸ Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. (Ezekiel 1:26-28)
- ²² Thus says the Lord GOD: "I will take also one of the highest branches of the high cedar and set it out. I will crop off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and will plant it on a high and prominent mountain. ²³ On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it; and it will bring forth boughs, and bear fruit, and be a majestic cedar. Under it will dwell birds of every sort; in the shadow of its branches they will dwell. ²⁴ And all the trees of the field shall know that I, the LORD, have brought down the high tree and exalted the low tree, dried up the green tree and made the dry tree flourish; I, the LORD, have spoken and have done it." (Ezekiel 17:22-24)
- ⁷ And He said to me, "Son of man, this is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever. No more shall the house of Israel defile My holy name, they nor their kings, by their harlotry or with the carcasses of their kings on their high places. (Ezekiel 43:7)
- ⁴⁴ And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. (Daniel 2:44)
- ¹³ "I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. ¹⁴ Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed. (Daniel 7:13-14)

III. Second Temple Judaism (Approx. 550BC – 70 AD)

- A. Those who returned to Israel rebuilt a much smaller version of the Temple under the prophetic ministry of Haggai and Zechariah as well as the leadership of Joshua and Zerubbabel. Hundreds of years passed as the Most Holy place remained hollow, even though the priests offering the daily sacrifices. They now possessed only a fraction of the original Promised Land, and had no king sitting upon the throne.
- B. As prophets of that day spoke words of hope, they struggled to hold on to their faith. The disparity between their past circumstances and their current condition could not have been greater. The promises of God that the descendants of Israel used to be able to taste and feel, had now become as fables and starry-eyed dreams.

Sunday March. 12th 2017 Finishing the Journey

- ⁶ "For thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; ⁷ and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,' says the LORD of hosts. (Haggai 2:6-7)
- ² Then speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, saying: "Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, and He shall build the temple of the LORD; ¹³ Yes, He shall build the temple of the LORD. He shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule on His throne; so He shall be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both." (Zechariah 6:12-13)
- ⁹ "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰ I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem; the battle bow shall be cut off. He shall speak peace to the nations; His dominion shall be 'from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.' ¹⁴ Then the LORD will be seen over them, and His arrow will go forth like lightning: the Lord GOD will blow the trumpet, and go with whirlwinds from the south. ¹⁵ The LORD of hosts will defend them; they shall devour and subdue with sling stones. They shall drink and roar as if with wine; they shall be filled with blood like basins, like the corners of the altar. (Zechariah 9:9-10, 14-15)
- ³ Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. ⁴ And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; and half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south. ¹⁶ And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. (Zechariah 14:3-4, 16)
- ¹ "Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts. ² "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like launderers' soap. (Malachi 3:1-2)
 - 1. Sadly, as they waited and longed for the deliverer to come, what they still lacked, was the intended fruit of the law. Paul says that the law was put in place in order to convict of sin until the Seed came. Yet despite so much suffering and turmoil, the Jewish nation did not generally have an understanding of the human condition. They had lost the prophetic voice to guide them back to repentance, and were left to wonder, to grieve, and to hope. (Amos 8:11)

IV. Messianic Expectation and Prideful Ignorance

- A. As Roman rule began around 100 BC, the Hebrew people yearned to rise again to the splendor of David and Solomon's kingdom. Oh, that the Son of David would come to Israel once more!! This was the time to reign over an everlasting kingdom that would never end. Like in the days of their captivity in Egypt, the faithful began to lift a desperate cry for deliverance to the throne of God
 - 1. The advent of the Anointed One and the reality of the dwelling place were tarrying under the undiscerning pride of the covenant people. Surely they perceived the consequences of their sinful actions; but they had not submitted to the tutelage of the Torah, instructing them of their deeper need of freedom from their depravity.
 - 2. What they still lacked was the intended fruit of the law. <u>Paul says that the law was put in place in order to convict of sin until the Seed came</u>. Yet despite so much suffering and turmoil the Jewish nation did not generally have an understanding of the human condition. (Gal. 3:19-24)
 - 3. A High Priest of a different order, who would bring expiation and freedom from sin, had never even dawned upon them. Through their persistent rebellion, the unthinkable had happened; the covenant people were experiencing an expression of the curse of the law, and yet thought their righteousness was established through their possession of it.
 - 4. With no glory in the Temple, no prophetic voice, no land in their possession, and no king upon the throne; the only thing they did have, the Torah; placed them under the curse because of their disobedience and hardness of heart. The ignorant inhabitants of the world lay under the sway of the darkness, desperately in need of reconciliation to God.
- B. Just when all seemed hopelessly lost, the night sky just below the City of David exploded with the light of thousands of angels joyfully singing, mingled with the cries of a newborn baby. The Anointed One had come to restore all that was lost. (Lk. 2:10-14)