

Welcome friends to another broadcast of “Morsels for Zion’s Poor”

Every prophet that the LORD raised up under the old covenant testified of the LORD JESUS CHRIST in one way or another. John the Baptizer, being the last of the Old Testament prophets was enabled to see him face to face in the flesh testifying: *“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”* John was chosen by the LORD to baptize JESUS CHRIST in water, “to fulfill all righteousness.” Under the Levitical law the sacrifice had to be prepared by washing in water and this baptism was that which symbolically prepared the LORD to begin HIS ministry as the ONE sent from GOD to save HIS people from their sins. In performing that task it demonstrated HIS purpose to fulfill every prophecy and every jot and tittle of the law, so that no accuser can be found against those for whom CHRIST satisfied that law and manifested the fact that HE came not to destroy the law but to fulfill it. *“To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.”*

John’s baptism of repentance was indeed that which was but a foretaste of that baptism which CHRIST HIMSELF would administer which is testified of by John when he said, *“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.”*(Mat 3:11) This is a far better baptism than that which John administered. John occupies a place of great preeminence among the Old Testament prophets even as the LORD testified, *“But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist.”*

John is emblematic of the closing of an era and CHRIST is the ushering in of the new. The greatest man born of woman under that old covenant even though he was ordained of GOD to be the forerunner of CHRIST, must be buried with Moses on Mt. Pisgah looking into the promised land but not allowed to enter. For though John was present to see the beginnings of the ministry of CHRIST in the behalf of his people he was not permitted to view HIM hanging upon a cross with HIS very life blood flowing from HIS body as a sacrifice for the sin of HIS elect. Nor was he a witness of HIS resurrection, nor did he behold HIM ascending into the heavens to sit at the right hand of the FATHER.

Yet those to whom the kingdom is given both have seen the HEIR of all things and witnessed the completion of the basis of HIS redemptive work as HE bled for their sins, rose for their justification, and is coming back to redeem them in the day of the resurrection. We are presently in no place of doubt as to the absolute finality of that which JESUS CHRIST has performed. Those who have been given NT faith in CHRIST look for no other but CHRIST. They entertain no notion that there is salvation in any other, but testify with Peter, *“This is the stone which was set at naught of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”* The very least of the privileged saints which have been made heirs of the new covenant can see far more clearly than the greatest of those prophets of the old. But the best is yet to come.

Now as clearly as we see with undimmed vision of the finality of the work which CHRIST has performed in the behalf of all of those whose sin HE bore, we yet see through a glass darkly, but live in the light of that promise, that we shall see HIM face to face. The prospect we have is not different from that which was given to the OT saints for even Job testified, *“And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.”* Yet none of those OT saints ever saw the accomplishment of the basis of that redemption like those to whom such privilege has now been given. The best is yet to come.

Now we would be remiss to speak of John the Baptizer and not to consider the purpose of water baptism in the NT as it differs from that of John. John’s baptism was one of preparation but that which the LORD commanded HIS disciples to perform is one of completion. There is no sacramental importance to this baptism but it is merely that which is a profession of one’s faith in the person of CHRIST even as Peter described it. *“The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.* Do you have the answer of a good conscience toward GOD?

“Thy free grace alone,”#11 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthe poor@windstream.net**