

THE MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

Chapter Six

Overcoming Willful Ignorance

After the Great Flood, Shem became the Patriarch of the Semites and the genetic line of faith in the promised Messiah. Shem's descendants became the progenitors of the Noahic Covenant and the Adamic Covenant. God commissioned these descendants with the responsibility of proclaiming the Gospel of redemption "by grace through faith" and proclaiming God's expectations regarding moral and practical holiness within society in general. Although Shem lived 530 years after the Great Flood, society corrupted the vast majority of his descendants with Paganism and Hedonism. The Dispensation of Human Government was rapidly failing even by the end of Shem's life. The kingdom of Shem, the *King of Righteousness*, was rapidly dwindling and spiritual darkness was once again engulfing humanity with spiritual ignorance.

Jesus fulfills the prophetic Messianic Melchisedecan type in Shem as the promised Prophet, High Priest, and King. As the Prophet, Jesus is the fulfillment of the Tetragrammaton (YHWH) translated "LORD" or Jehovah in our KJV. Jesus IS "him which is, and which was, and which is to come" (Revelation 1:4). Jesus IS "Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty" (Revelation 1:8). The significance of these descriptive phrases is that Jesus IS the subject and fulfillment of all Messianic prophecies regarding the incarnation of Jehovah as the Redeemer and Deliverer.

As High Priest after "the order of Melchisedec, Jesus is the perfect Offerer and the perfect Offering. We have a High Priest in Jesus who has "finished" (John 19:30) His work of Redemption. All a believer does to be "born again" is to **repent** of sin, **believe** in the "finished" work of Christ, **confess** Jesus to be Jehovah incarnate, **call** on His Name to save, and **receive** the indwelling Holy Spirit.

²⁴ For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, *which are* the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: ²⁵ Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; ²⁶ For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷ And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: ²⁸ So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look

for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation” (Hebrews 9:24-28).

Jesus is also the “King of kings and LORD of lords.” He is the supreme and sovereign Potentate who will restore dominion to humanity at His second coming and will reign supreme over the kingdoms of the world for a thousand years. As the “King of kings and LORD of lords,” Jesus fulfills all the Messianic prophecies regarding the nation of Israel, the restoration of the Davidic throne, and the original prophecy regarding crushing Satan’s head in Genesis 3:15. In this aspect of redemption, Jesus restores dominion to “born again” humanity as an eternal *kingdom of priests* (Revelation 5:10).

“⁶ And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. ⁷ And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. ⁸ And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four *and* twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. ⁹ And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; ¹⁰ And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. ¹¹ And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand {100,000,000}, and thousands of thousands {*and millions more; the most probable intent is an innumerable host*}; ¹² Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. ¹³ And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, *be* unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever” (Revelation 5:6-13).

We live in the age of almost complete ignorance of Biblical prophecy. Because of this ignorance, most people in the world live with no opportunity to know and believe in the exact specificity of God’s revelation of future events. God is fulfilling prophecy before our eyes every day. We must never forget that spiritual ignorance is usually *willful*. **A constant in history is that unbelief is always progressive in our generations. Unbelief always manifests itself with**

predictable outcomes. These predictable outcomes will ultimately become the downfall of every unbelieving society resulting in God's imminent judgment. Two kinds of willful ignorance keep people imprisoned in spiritual darkness.

1. There is willful ignorance of unbelief that rejects the existence of God and therefore rejects any form of moral absolutes or moral accountability to God. This form of willful ignorance that is due to unbelief manifests itself in varying degrees of progressive abandonment of moral absolutes whereby God ultimately gives them over to a "reprobate mind." This is a visible progression in a society.

“¹⁹ Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed *it* unto them. ²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: ²¹ Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²² Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, ²³ And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. ²⁴ Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: ²⁵ Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. ²⁶ For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: ²⁷ And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. ²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; ²⁹ Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, ³⁰ Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ³¹ Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: ³² Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them” (Romans 1:19-32).

This first form of unbelieving willful ignorance often will manifest itself by mocking the prophecies of God and the prophets of God. Even the Jews killed

their prophets when they foretold the pending judgments of God coming upon them for their willful disobedience. This is equally true in our present times amongst the vast majority of professing Christians. The “scoffers” mentioned in II Peter 3:3 are people *familiar* with the prophecies of the Bible regarding the second coming.

“³ Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, ⁴ And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of the creation. ⁵ For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: ⁶ Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: ⁷ But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men” (II Peter 3:3-7).

2. There is willful ignorance of the Word of God that exists because believers refuse to study the Word of God. Because of this willful ignorance, believers become dependent upon some religious authority for their beliefs and practices. These people will not be able to create a continuum of knowledge of the Word of God or faith in the God of the Word in their generations. This kind of willful ignorance seals their descendants in either spiritual impotency or spiritual deadness. This kind of willful ignorance provides opportunities for satanic deception, misplaced faith, and an open door for spiritual corruption.

“¹ Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. ² For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. ³ For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God” (Romans 10:1-3).

“¹³ But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. ¹⁵ For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷ Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord

in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Wherefore comfort one another with these words” (I Thessalonians 4:13-18).

Willful ignorance has been Satan’s tool since the beginning of time. He could not be effective in his questions of “hath God said,” if people knew and understood what God has said. God’s solution to the willful ignorance is twofold:

1. The foolishness of preaching –show me a person who does not love the preaching/teaching of the Word of God and I will show you a person who is most probably willfully ignorant of the Word of God. Such a person is destined to reproduce his apathy for the Word of God in his generations.

“¹⁷ For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. ¹⁸ For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. ²⁰ Where *is* the wise? where *is* the scribe? where *is* the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? ²¹ For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. ²² For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: ²³ But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; ²⁴ But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men” (I Corinthians 1:17-25).

2. Personal in-depth study of the Word of God–show me a person who does not spend much time studying the Word of God and I will show you a person who is most probably willfully ignorant of the Word of God. Such a person is destined to reproduce his apathy for the Word of God in his generations.

“¹⁴ Of these things put *them* in remembrance, charging *them* before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, *but* to the subverting of the hearers. ¹⁵ Study {*spoudazo, the word means to endeavor carrying the idea of intense labor or effort to accomplish a task*} to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing {*to make a straight dissecting cut, the idea is to be able to clearly differentiate between right and wrong and between worldliness and godliness so as to never be led astray*} the word of truth. ¹⁶ But shun {*stay away from*} profane {*to step*

across a threshold, this is referring to teachings that cross the line or are outside the boundaries between light and darkness} and vain babblings {philosophical nonsense without any basis in Scriptural revelation}: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. ¹⁷ And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; ¹⁸ Who concerning the truth have erred {missed the mark}, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow {subvert} the faith of some” (II Timothy 2:14-18).