

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

Many think that they can come to a right understanding of them by a rigorous study of them. The Pharisees were just such students. They diligently studied, discussed, and debated the scriptures, and while they possessed great knowledge of the letter of scripture, they were totally ignorant of the nature and appearing of the Kingdom of GOD. The LORD JESUS told them, *“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”* HE followed this admonition with these words, *“And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.”* All prophecy has its fulfillment in the ONLY BEGOTTEN SON of GOD. Whatever else a man might learn from the scriptures, if he is without a revelation of CHRIST as the center, sum, and substance of all that GOD would manifest to men, then he is ignorant of the nature and power of the Kingdom which CHRIST came into the world to establish. Thus, we can say that the Kingdom of GOD is hidden in plain view.

The Pharisees, in rebuking Nicodemus, said, *“Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet.”* They were right according to the letter of the scriptures as they understood them. Yet they could not see that the scriptures did indeed declare that the greatest of all prophets would be a Nazarene and therefore of the region of Galilee. In Isaiah 11:1, we read; *“And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:”* This verse gives us the origin of the MAN CHRIST JESUS, and the subsequent verses declare the nature of HIS Kingdom over which HE would rule forever. Isaiah confirms this when he wrote, *“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever.”*

So CHRIST is called the BRANCH. This word BRANCH is translated from the Hebrew word “netzer” which literally means a green shoot or limb and by illustration refers to green trees, plants, and grass. It is concluded by many scholars that the city of Nazareth got its name directly from the Hebrew word “netzer”, because of its verdant growth of foliage of all types. Hence HE shall be called a Nazarene, or an inhabitant of Nazareth. This is a historical fact which can be discovered by anyone who is looking for CHRIST in the pages of the scriptures, just as surely as it is hidden from those who look for something else. In this fashion the Pharisees were blinded as are all who place confidence in their religion and its schemes of doctrine whatever they may be.

They looked for prophetic fulfillment according to their fleshly understanding, they could not see that the NAZARENE was indeed born in Bethlehem. They assumed the RULER would live in Bethlehem and not Nazareth. The Jews in the main rejected CHRIST because HE did not “rule” as they assumed that a Messiah would. They figured one would arise and deliver them from their carnal oppression, yet the KING of kings came to deliver HIS people from a far greater oppression than any earthly nation could bring upon them.

To this end HE did indeed establish HIS Kingdom in the earth and does presently deliver HIS own from the dominion of sin with its curse and guilt. HE is the Nazarene who *“made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”* While HE could have come in the pomp and splendor which is rightfully HIS, instead HE came ignominiously so that HE might hide HIMSELF from the wise and prudent and reveal HIMSELF and the nature of HIS kingdom to babes. There are some who are yet looking for HIM to set up a kingdom in the earth at some future time. In relegating the establishment of HIS dominion to some future era, they despise the KINGLY work which HE has already demonstrated in triumphing over all of HIS enemies and taking captivity captive. They make the work of REDEMPTION to be a secondary work rather than the substance of HIS reign. HE was born into the world as a KING over a Kingdom which would never end. HIS Kingdom is demonstrated in this world but it is not of this world, since HIS dominion transcends flesh and blood and extends over the world even as light swallows up the darkness. This is the same error of the Jews who looked for the establishment of an earthly king to subdue their carnal enemies and restore them to their nation. They could not see the fact as the LORD pointed out to them that the Kingdom of GOD was in their very midst. *“The kingdom of God cometh not with observation.”* HIS Kingdom cannot be seen, apart from HIS mercy giving men eyes to see it. Do you behold the KING upon HIS throne?

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