

In The Beginning Was The Word

John 1: 35-51

INTRODUCTION:

John's gospel is written for a specific purpose: that we might believe.

In this chapter one John reiterates who Jesus is and by what authority he has come to bear witness.

John's testimony is that of Christ the Messiah is coming as he speaks, and he has been sent by God the Father to announce His arrival to Israel.

- ❖ It is this arrival of the Messiah which the Jews, the priests and the Levites where about to reject the idea that Jesus was the true Messiah. (Verse 19).

However the message was clear from God to John to identify the Messiah Jesus Christ to the people and to Israel.

So now we see here in our scriptures this morning John's testimony of the first disciples to follow Jesus.

I. The testimony of the first disciples.

1. (John 1:35-39) Two of John's disciples begin to follow Jesus.
2. (John 1:40-42) Andrew brings his brother, Simon Peter to Jesus.
3. (John 1:43-44) Jesus calls Philip to follow Him.
4. (John 1:45-51) Nathaniel overcomes prejudice to follow Jesus.

Verse 35.

For the second day in a row, John continued to point to the Messiah and continued to be that witness of the testimony of Jesus. A great announcement is always best delivered standing up.

Verse 36.

As John stood and announced "behold the Lamb of God", he was actually making reference to the OT scriptures which spoke of the Messiah that would come.

For example like the scripture in Isaiah 9:6.

Isaiah 9:6

⁶ 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.

Jesus was referred to by many names in the OT as well as in the NT.

And here in Isaiah five of His names are already used to refer to Him in one verse alone.

1. Wonderful,
2. Counselor,
3. The mighty God,
4. The everlasting Father,
5. The Prince of Peace.

This reference to the OT would be key to the announcement because for those who knew the OT like the Jews, and the priests.

This would be a time that John could use it to bring into reality that the OT scriptures did in fact testify of Jesus the Messiah in the OT and that what was said about Him there, was in fact now come to fruition.

So who could they withhold their thoughts or beliefs that this was now happening because they the Jews and the Priests were believers of the OT and now it had actually happened. The Lamb was in the OT.

The "Lamb" that Isaiah 53 had spoken about was now come in the very flesh and in their very presence.

❖ That is why Isaiah said "who has believed our report". He was speaking of the Messiah and those who would not believe his testimony.

1. So when we look at these scriptures they are mentioned three times in the Bible.
2. Once in the OT and twice in the NT.

Isaiah 53:1

Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?

John 12:38

That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, **who hath believed our report?** and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?

Romans 10:16

But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, **who hath believed our report?**

❖ Here is that full extended portion of the scriptures from Isaiah 53 which was able to save them if only they had believed.

Isaiah 53

¹ Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

² For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

³ He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴ Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

⁸ He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

⁹ And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

¹¹ He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

1. So overwhelming was His presence that the Jews and the Priests sought to make it difficult for Him, and tried to deceive Him in many ways.
2. From the questions that they would ask Him, and the trick questions that they would pose to him would all be part of their plan to get rid of Him.
3. The scripture here in John 8:38-40 is one such scripture where the Jews only wanted to know Abraham and not the Messiah Jesus.
4. But The Lord reminds them that if Abraham was truly their father then they would do the works of Abraham. They of course did not like that.

John 8:38-40

³⁸ I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

³⁹ They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.

⁴⁰ But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.

- Very often when we think about the OT, we sometimes think that the messages contained in the scriptures then in those days were unclear and that the Jews or Priests or religious men in those days did not have a clear understanding of the Messiah, and therefore we may ask ourselves was it fair to them that they are the way they are today still not believing that Jesus is God.
- ❖ Perhaps we feel sorry for them and in doing so we just want to accept that they are Christians and embrace them as such. No No. They need Christ as their God also in their lives to be saved.
- ❖ If you don't believe me check out this next scripture in Matt 3:8-10.

Matthew 3:8-10

⁸ Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

⁹ And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

¹⁰ And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

1. Well the truth be told is that they had the answer and rejected it quite clearly.
2. Their problem was that they had set themselves up to focus on human skills and human achievements to be greater than what God could actually or would do for them.
3. The scripture in Isaiah 53 alone was sufficient to announce and convince them that the one to come who would be the Messiah and was sufficient in forgiving all men's sins.
4. But they concluded in themselves that this would not be enough and so continued practicing the Jewish rituals they had set up for themselves.
5. The reason why we can know that the Jews and the those presents who did not believe that Jesus was God, is because we can conclude with the NT as being a witness to that very same event that took place in the scriptures in Isaiah 53.

In the NT in the Book of Acts 8:26-39 we read of a man being saved by Jesus Christ.

This man came to Christ because of the OT.

The passages of scripture that was sufficient to declare Jesus Christ was in fact that of Isaiah 53.

❖ Here is that account of Salvation by Jesus Christ.

Acts 8: 26-39

²⁶ And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.

²⁷ And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,

²⁸ Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.

²⁹ Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

³⁰ And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?

³¹ And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

³² The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:

³³ In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.

³⁴ And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?

³⁵ **Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.**

³⁶ And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

³⁷ And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

³⁹ And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

1. So the OT just like the NT pointed to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

2. There is no excuse that they could not believe that Jesus was and is the Messiah.
3. In Galatians 3 we can read all about how the Jews used the Law to justify themselves in the sight of God. Yet God said it is by Faith in Jesus Christ that we can come to Him.
4. In Galatians 3:23, tells us that before the Faith came (the Messiah Jesus), we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.

The forerunner John was the messenger that God used to notify everyone that His Son was now come, and it would be necessary for all to embrace Him as their Savior if they were to come for salvation.

- ❖ Knowing God is not salvation, coming to Him is.

In the closing verses today of verse 45-51, we see a great commentary from our Lord to Nathanael.

Verse 45

⁴⁵ Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

1. In this verse like so many of the other versus in John 1, we come across the invitation by Philip to his brother Nathanael to come and see Jesus.
2. Just like we do or should do with our own close families we should share the word of the Lord with them.
3. But here in our text and verse 41 we see some remarkable evidence that is posted for all our social media friends to see back in the day.
4. Philip tells Nathanael that **“We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph”**.

Just when everyone is starting to doubt, this verse pops up for us to reassure ourselves of Jesus in the OT.

The statement is made to Nathanael that Moses in the law had written about Jesus of Nazareth.

And, sure enough if we go to the scriptures we can see that for ourselves.(Gen 49:10).

Genesis 49:10

¹⁰ The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.

1. John has so many references to the OT that it gives us comfort of the truth, and yet so many still distort the scriptures.

2. What a great comfort to know that Moses had written about the Messiah. Other scriptures which confirm this by Moses is Psalm 22.

Verse 51

1. As we conclude this morning with Verse 51 it requires us to look again to the OT for the answer.
2. He we see the same quote given in the scriptures.
3. But what does He mean by the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man? (Verse 51)
 - i. This may be in connection with the dream of Jacob in Genesis 28:12, where Jacob saw a ladder from earth to heaven, and the angels ascending and descending upon it.

Genesis 28:12 ¹² And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

- ii. Perhaps it is that; Jesus says that *He* is the ladder, the link, between heaven and earth.
- iii. Verse 51 Talks of the Son of Man. And what does that mean.

Son of Man (Verse 51):

1. The idea behind this phrase is not “the perfect man” or “the ideal man” or “the common man.”
2. Instead, it is a reference to Daniel 7:13-14, where the King of Glory is coming to judge the world is; is called the Son of Man.

Daniel 7:13-14

¹³ I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

¹⁴ And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

- i. Jesus used this title often because in His day, it was **a Messianic title** free from political and nationalistic opinion.
- ii. When a Jewish person of that time heard “King” or “Christ” they often thought of a political or military savior.
- iii. Jesus emphasized another term, often calling Himself the Son of Man.

So with these words we close today, to celebrate and realize that Jesus Is our Savior of all time. There is NO OTHER.

PRAYER.....CLOSE