

December 26, 2010

CHRIST MAGNIFIED IN THE SIGHT OF HIS PEOPLE

Joshua 3: 5-8

Introduction. You will recall from our last study the öwayö into the Promised Land was REVEALED. Joshua told his people, “**When ye see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place, and go after it...that ye may know the way by which ye must go.**”

The Ark of the Covenant with the priests bearing it REVEALED the WAY.

We will begin today in Joshua 3: 5, “**And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.**”

Apparently, this is the day BEFORE Israel would cross the Jordan into Canaan. And, Joshua tells them to ösanctify yourselvesö. Prepare yourselves (physically, mentally, spiritually). Prepare yourselves for the miracle you will witness tomorrow.

Look at Joshua 3: 6, “**And Joshua spake unto the priests, saying, Take up the ark of the covenant, and pass over before the people. And they took up the ark of the covenant, and went before the people.**”

According to our next verse, this is the “tomorrow” of verse 5. This is the day that öthe LORD will do wonders among youö. Joshua commands the priests to take up the Ark and öpass overö (the Jordan), revealing the öwayö for Israel to enter into the land of Promise.

Look at Joshua 3: 7, “**And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day will I begin to magnify thee in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee.**”

“**This day**”. “**This day**” begins a new era for Israel. “**This day**” Israel would be delivered from their wilderness wanderings. “**This day**” Israel would enter in to take POSSESSION of the land they have ALREADY been given.

ö**This day will I begin..ö This will be but the BEGINNING of God ömagnifyingö Joshua in the sight of his people. There will be many other days, many other occasions. But, today will be the BEGINNING.**

“**This day will I begin to MAGNIFY thee...**” Magnify means to cause to grow; to make great or powerful. **Illustration:** eye glasses. God is speaking of causing the respect, the esteem the regard of Joshua to “grow” in the eyes of Israel. ö**This day**” God will cause Joshua to be seen in a different light by those he has been chosen to lead.

“**This day will I begin to magnify thee in the sight of ALL ISRAEL.**” Beginning today, ALL in Israel would know that Joshua was öwholly followingö the God of his Fathers

(Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob). **Beginning** today, the regard and respect of **ALL in Israel** for Joshua would grow. **Beginning** today, **ALL in Israel** would know that Joshua's AUTHORITY was from God.

Beginning today, Joshua will be seen by National Israel as the ONE God has AUTHORIZED to bring them into POSSESSION of the land He has ALREADY given them.

In this Joshua is a TYPE. **He** is the TYPE. **Christ** is the ANTITYPE. Just as God will **begin** today to **MAGNIFY Joshua in the sight of all (National) Israel**", there is a day (a specific day) when God begins to "**MAGNIFY Christ in the sight of all (Spiritual) Israel**". **There** is a given day when the Spirit of God **BEGINS** to cause the reverence and respect for Christ to **GROW** in the **ōsightō** of each of His people.

And, He **MAGNIFIES** Joshua, the TYPE and Christ, the ANTITYPE:

1. **As** the ONE who has the AUTHORITY of God.
2. **As** the ONE who manifests the PRESENCE of God.
3. **As** the ONE certain to drive out all the ENEMIES of his people.

Today we will just be considering the **FIRST** point. In fact, we could subtitle this message, **THE AUTHORITY TO ENTER IN**. **God** **MAGNIFIES** Joshua (the type) and Christ (the antitype) as the ONE who has the AUTHORITY of God.

Look back at Joshua 3: 7, "**And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day will I begin to magnify thee in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee.**"

There is a reason that Joshua must begin to be **MAGNIFIED** in the sight of Israel.

"**.. that they may know...**" **Israel** must **LEARN** something about Joshua that they don't ALREADY know. **They** (already) know that he is an able warrior. **They** (already) know that he is a successful commander of Israel's fighting forces. **Joshua** has already led them in the successful defeat of Amalek (who attacked them when they were at their weakest). **Under** Joshua's command, they defeated Sihon, king of the Amorites and Og, king of Bashan (whose land they conquered and are currently encamped on).

But, they **need** to know something **else** about Joshua. **Israel** must **LEARN** that God is "**with**" Joshua. **They** must **LEARN** that God is "**with**" Joshua in the same way that He had been "**with**" Moses.

Look back at Joshua 3: 7 (with **NEW** underline), **ō**"**And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day will I begin to magnify thee in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee.**"

The question, then, is, **How** was God **ōwithō** Moses?

Up to this point in Israel's brief history, Moses was the God appointed leader of Israel. **Moses** has been the man who spoke face to face with God. **It** was **Moses** who received instructions

from God and relayed them on to the people. **It** was the words of **Moses** that carried the WEIGHT of ONE speaking for God. **Moses** was (the) **ONE** in Israel who had the AUTHORITY of God.

There is no doubt that God had ðmagnifiedö Moses. **There** is no doubt that God had caused the esteem of Moses to be great among the Israelites.

Before Joshua, **Moses** was a TYPE of Christ. **He** was the God appointed Mediator between God and the Israelites. **It** was under **Moses**, and by the hand and AUTHORITY of **Moses**, that Israel was delivered from BONDAGE in Egypt. **By him** 10 plagues were brought upon Egypt. **By his** mediation, none of those plagues touched the nation Israel. **By him** the Red Sea was parted and the people walked to safety on dry land.

After this MIRACULOUS Deliverance, it was **Moses** who went up into Mount Sinai. **It** was **Moses** who received the Law (Ten Commandments). **It** was **Moses** who built the Ark of the Covenant, where those Ten Commandments were kept (continually) before the Nation Israel.

And, we remember from our last study, it was the Ark of the Covenant that TYPIFIED Christ, His Person and Work to satisfy the law and justice of God on behalf of His people. **It** was the Ark of the Covenant (with the Mercy Seat over it) that provided the ONE meeting place between God who is ever Holy and man who is ever sinful. **All that** was accomplished under the AUTHORITY of **Moses**.

There was no doubt among the Israelites that under Moses, God was “**with them**ö. **Even** those who did not respect Moses, (personally), knew that God was ðwith **him**ö. **There** was no doubt that the instructions and commands of Moses carried the AUTHORITY of God. **But**, Moses is now dead.

Many in Israel probably wondered whether God was **still** with them. **God** (must) MAGNIFY Joshua. **God** must cause the esteem of Joshua to be great in Israel. **Israel** must know that their leader is being directed by God, that he has the favor of God, that he has the power of God. **Israel** must know that God is ðwith **him**ö.

God is telling Joshua, “**this day**, (this PARTICULAR day), **will I begin to magnify you in the sight of all Israel**”. ðThis dayö ALL Israel will KNOW that “**as I was with Moses, so I WILL BE WITH THEE**”.

MOSES had fulfilled his mission. **He** had TYPIFIED Christ as the ONE delivering His people from bondage and giving Israel the law which pointed them to Christ for all of salvation. **He** had played out his role as the one whose words and actions carried the AUTHORITY of God. “**This day**” Israel would know that it is no longer Moses but **JOSHUA** who had that AUTHORITY.

Look at Joshua 3: 8, “**And thou shalt command the priests that bear the ark of the covenant, saying, When ye are come to the brink of the water of Jordan, ye shall stand still in Jordan.**”

We learned in our last lesson that the priests bearing the Ark of the Covenant would reveal Israel's WAY into the land of promise. The command to Israel was,

“When ye see the ark of the covenant, and the priests bearing it, go after it...that ye may know the way by which ye must go.”

And, it would be JOSHUA commanding the priests. JOSHUA would be the ONE in Israel receiving instructions from God. The priests would bear the Ark. And the Ark would REVEAL the WAY. But it would be JOSHUA directing their movement.

BEFORE Israel could take POSSESSION of the land God had given them, God MUST magnify Joshua in their sight. National Israel must know that **“as God (had been) with Moses, so He would be with JOSHUA”**. JOSHUA must be seen by National Israel as the one having AUTHORITY (from God) to bring them into POSSESSION of the land they had been given.

Now, why is this NECESSARY? Why MUST Israel see that Joshua is the One who has the AUTHORITY of God to bring them into this land? Think of Israel BEFORE now! Not a sword has been drawn; nor an arrow fired. No battles have been fought. No kings have been conquered.

The ONLY right Israel has to this land is that God has been pleased to GIVE it to them. Their POSSESSION of this land is the fulfillment of a promise God made to Abraham 470 years earlier. They have done NOTHING to OBTAIN this land. They have done NOTHING to DESERVE this land. It is theirs because the Sovereign God of the universe (and He alone) determined it to be so.

Now, we know Joshua's role here TYPIFIES Christ. We also know that National Israel entering in to POSSESS this land they have ALREADY been given, TYPIFIES Spiritual Israel entering in to POSSESS the salvation they have ALREADY been given.

As Joshua must BEGIN to be magnified in the sight of National Israel, Christ must BEGIN to be magnified in the sight of Spiritual Israel. Christ MUST BE seen by each of His elect as the ONE having AUTHORITY from God to bring them into POSSESSION of the eternal salvation they were given in Him before the world began.

Salvation has ALREADY been given to a people of God's choosing. It was given to THEM in their Representative in an Everlasting Covenant made before time.

Look at II Tim 1: 9. According to this context, Paul is encouraging Timothy to be a partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; **“Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began...”**

“Grace” was given to a people chosen of God. And, grace was given to them in Christ before the world began. Grace is often defined as the unmerited favor of God. And, it is UNMERITED by the sinners who receive it. Grace is unmerited BY THEM because it was

merited FOR THEM by Christ. **The** ðgraceö (the salvation) is ALREADY theirs. **This** last AGE is about them learning of that ðgraceö; like Noah ðfinding grace in the eyes of the Lordö. **This** last AGE is about God's chosen people entering in and POSSESSING the salvation that is ALREADY theirs in Christ.

Israel was entering into a land they did NOTHING to obtain and NOTHING to deserve (no battles fought, no swords drawn). **They** were entering in to POSSESS a land they had received as a GIFT by the goodness of a Sovereign God.

In like manner, sinners are saved because that same Sovereign God determined it to be so. **They** do nothing to DESERVE salvation. **They** do nothing to OBTAIN salvation. **They** are saved because their God appointed Surety and Substitute came in time and fulfilled all the requirements and conditions of that salvation.

Joshua must be ðmagnifiedö in the sight of National Israel as the ONE having AUTHORITY from God to bring them into POSSESSION of this land of Promise.

In like manner, Christ must be ðmagnified in the sightö of each Spiritual Israelite. **He** must be seen as the ONE having AUTHORITY from God to bring them into POSSESSION of the salvation He worked out for them by His obedience unto death.

Christ spoke to His disciples about this AUTHORITY after His resurrection.

Look at Matt 28: 18-20, “**And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.**

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.”

The word ðpowerö in verse 18 is AUTHORITY. **Christ** has been GIVEN (all) AUTHORITY. **One** element of Christ's AUTHORITY is to send His disciples forth into the world to preach the Gospel.

Another element of Christ's AUTHORITY is to ðgive eternal lifeö to as many as the Father has given to Him.

Look at John 17: 1-2, “**These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said,**

Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:

2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.”

Christ has the AUTHORITY to GIVE life to each of His sheep. (**I.e. to** bring each of them into POSSESSION of the eternal life He has merited for them.) **It is** the work of the Holy Spirit to impart life. **But it** is Christ who sends the Spirit to His sheep.

Look at John 16: 7, “Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.”

And, when the Spirit comes to a sinner, what does He do? **He testifies** of Christ; Christ crucified and risen again.

Look at John 16: 13-15, “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

The Spirit’s work is to testify of Christ. **It is** the Spirit who “magnifies” Christ “in the sight of His people”. The Spirit does not “speak of himself”. (I.e. He does not emphasize His work IN sinners). **Rather**, He emphasizes Christ’s work FOR sinners.

So, Christ has been “given all AUTHORITY”. **He sends** His preachers to preach the Gospel. **He sends** the Spirit to empower the Gospel and to impart life.

In Christ’s day the chief priests and elders questioned His AUTHORITY. **They** wanted to know, “How can you do what you are doing? **How** can you say what you are saying? **Who** gives you your AUTHORITY?”

Look at Matt 21: 23, “And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?”

Christ did not answer these religious leaders, but, rather, asked **them** a question.

Look at Matt 23: 24-25a, “And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things.”

25 The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men?

As far as worldly wisdom goes, these were smart men. **They** could see they must be careful how they answered Christ’s question.

Look at Matt 25b-26, “And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him?

26 But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet.”

These high ranking religious leaders tried to straddle the fence. **So**, Christ left them still wondering about his AUTHORITY.

Look at Matt 23: 27, “And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.”

Christ refused to tell **these religious leaders** where His AUTHORITY came from.

But, those chosen by God and redeemed by Christ are NOT left wondering about Christ's AUTHORITY. **In time** in each successive generation, Christ sends the Holy Spirit to each of His elect declaring **why** Christ has been given all AUTHORITY.

God has given Christ (all) AUTHORITY because He EARNED it.

Christ is the Good Shepherd. **He** layed down His life for the sheep. **He** put away the sin of the sheep. **He** established the Righteousness by which God justifies and declares His sheep Righteous in His sight.

Christ EARNED the AUTHORITY to give (eternal life) to EVERY sinner He died for. **He EARNED** the AUTHORITY to bring His sheep into the fold. **He EARNED** the AUTHORITY to bring them into the (eternal) REST that His obedience unto death has provided them.

Illustration: Consider a graduating class. **The** Valedictorian is the one STUDENT (from among the entire class) who addresses the students on graduation day. **Why** is this honor, this privilege, this AUTHORITY given to the Valedictorian? **Because** they EARNED it. **The** Valedictorian has the highest academic ranking in the class. **The** Valedictorian has maintained the highest grade point average for the four years of study. **The** Valedictorian has EARNED the privilege of speaking. **For this** honor to be given to another would be to **rob them** of what **they (alone)** DESERVE.

That is what preachers do who tell sinners that God will save you **IF you will** (walk an isle, pray a prayer, believe that Christ died for you). **Such** preachers are attempting to **rob Christ** of the AUTHORITY that He ALONE deserves; that He ALONE has EARNED.

As TYPES, Moses and Joshua were magnified in the sight of all Israel. **As TYPES** they were (given) AUTHORITY by God to carry out their respective assignments. **As the ANTITYPE**, Christ EARNED the AUTHORITY He was given.

In closing look back at Joshua 3: 7-8 (do not read), “**And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day will I begin to magnify thee in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee.**

8 And thou shalt command the priests that bear the ark of the covenant, saying, When ye are come to the brink of the water of Jordan, ye shall stand still in Jordan.”

Just as certainly as National Israel MUST enter in and POSSESS the land they had been given, Spiritual Israel MUST enter in and POSSESS the eternal salvation they have been given. **By the** AUTHORITY of God, Joshua commanded the priests to take up the Ark and stand still in Jordan in order to reveal the way for National Israel to enter into POSSESSION of the land that was ALREADY theirs.

On this (particular) day God **began** to magnify Joshua in the sight of all Israel. **On this** day He revealed him to be the ONE in Israel who had the AUTHORITY of God to lead Israel into POSSESSION of the land they had been given.

In each successive generation, it is Christ who sends forth men to preach the Gospel. **It is** Christ who sends the Spirit to impart life and cause each of the elect to find their hope of salvation in Christ ALONE.

On that (given) day in the life of each of His elect, God begins to magnify Christ in the sight of His people. On that (given) day they each become POSSESSERS of the salvation Christ accomplished FOR them by His death on the Cross.

On that (given) day Christ is revealed to each of His sheep as the ONE who has EARNED the AUTHORITY to bring them into POSSESSION of the salvation they were given in Him before the world began.

Christ (must and shall) be MAGNIFIED IN THE SIGHT OF HIS PEOPLE. **He has** EARNED and been GIVEN the AUTHORITY of God to save His people to the uttermost, even unto Final Glory.

Christ told His disciples, "All AUTHORITY has been given unto Me in heaven and in earth. **And**, the command of every scripture to sinners is look to HIM. Rest in HIM. Find all your hope of salvation in HIM who has been given such AUTHORITY.

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