

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

There are some scriptures which men made wise by the SPIRIT of GOD, tread lightly, confessing that they know nothing as they ought to know. The meaning of some scriptures is not so clearly revealed as are others. Yet we must look at them, seeking greater light, and desiring to speak truth alone. Thus, we can merely state our opinion about them, desiring to glorify CHRIST alone. The man who is convinced that his opinion is always correct is either a fool or unlearned in the limitations of even “spiritually minded” men.

The LORD said, in Mark 9:1, *“Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.”* I have no certain understanding of this passage, yet I think that I do have some understanding of it which I hope to share in a manner which would encompass the essence of truth as it is in JESUS even if I miss the exact import of this passage in every detail. The LORD could have been speaking of an event in the future, yet it would appear that it could not be beyond the lifetime of those to whom HE was speaking. Some have surmised that HE is speaking of the “coming” of HIS Kingdom at the end of the age, when HE returns with a shout and the voice of the archangel. But such seems unlikely since HE did say that this event would occur while some of them were still alive. *“some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death”*.

Others have thought that HE has reference to the coming destruction of Jerusalem around the year 70 AD. Such seems a strained consideration to me since one has to adopt the whole theory of what has been called “preterism” (which primarily contends that all prophecies have had their fulfillment at that time, including the return of CHRIST to the Earth) in order to support that view. Then there are those who believe that HE has reference to the day of HIS ascension back to the right hand of the FATHER, which was witnessed by them, as the Heavens opened and HE was received into the glory which HE had with the FATHER from the beginning. This was indeed a momentous and glorious event which surely shaped their concept of the extent of the reign of HIS Kingdom. Yet I do not believe this is the event, which was referenced by the LORD, due in large part to HIS statement that *“some of them”* would see this event. It would appear that all of them were present when HE ascended.

So, we are left to consider what event did HE have reference to. When we look at the scriptures which are considered “prophetic” we can be certain that they have their fulfillment in CHRIST, since the *“testimony of JESUS is the SPIRIT of prophecy”*. All of the creation shall worship at HIS footstool because HE is the CREATOR of all things which HE made for that very end. HE would reveal HIS glory to a people which HE created for that very reason, who would delight not simply in HIS creation of them but in their redemption, which is clearly made manifest in the unfolding of HIS Kingdom in the Earth. HE had reference to this fact when HE said, *“upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”* The opening up of the understanding of HIS disciples was an ongoing work of HIS ministry. One can only guess at their wonderment each time HE performed some act which caused them to say, *“what manner of MAN is this”*. Usually, the LORD brings home truth to our hearts, not in the initial word which HE gives us, but later, as HE is pleased to open our minds and causes us to see what should have been apparent to us from the start, like the men on the road to Emmaus.

So, it would appear to me that the event which HE has reference to here in Mark 9:1, is the event which occurred on the Mount of Transfiguration. We can tell the limited knowledge that the disciples had of who HE is and the place which HE occupies in the Kingdom of GOD, by the fact of Peter’s desire to build three tabernacles of equal import for Elijah, Moses, and the LORD. Now to be sure I expect that Peter was overwhelmed at this vision and probably spoke without thinking too deeply. Yet his line of thought is in keeping with his Jewish heritage and tradition. How startling it was to hear that VOICE from Heaven thundering out, *“This is my beloved Son: hear him.”* as Moses and Elijah faded from view. If this is not a revelation of the Kingdom of GOD coming with power, I am not able to imagine what would be. Yet that revelation was not immediate to Peter, but was cemented in his mind on the day of Pentecost when he declared, *“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.”* This is the message of HIS Kingdom which has no end. Do you see CHRIST seated on the everlasting throne of HIS Kingdom in glory?

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