

The Unholy Land and the Ministry of Death

Overcoming the Present Accusation:

These men speak against this people and the Law and against this place

They put forward false witnesses who said, "This man (Stephen) incessantly speaks against this holy place and the Law; for we have heard him say that this Nazarene, Jesus, will destroy this place and alter the customs which Moses handed down to us." Acts 6:13-14

...the Jews from Asia, upon seeing him (Paul) in the temple, began to stir up all the crowd ... crying out, "Men of Israel, come to our aid! This is the man (Paul) who preaches to all men everywhere against our people and the Law and this place Acts 21:27-28

Just like in the day when God was doing a new thing in the first century, He is doing something similar today to deliver His people from a mindset that is not only unspiritual, but superstitious. It is superstitious to think that God is pleased with anything or anyone else other than His Son, Christ Jesus. It is superstitious to think that God has some special place on earth or some special group that can please the heart of God apart from Christ. The natural seed of Israel, the natural city Jerusalem, or the state of Israel, cannot *replace* Christ. I am aware that I may be accused of speaking against the Jews, the Law of Moses, and Israel, specifically Jerusalem, but the word of the Lord is clear when speaking of these matters. The Jews are a type and shadow of Christ and God's New Testament people. God's chosen people today are not ethnic or a race. His people are those who are chosen by God and born of the Spirit. The children of the flesh are NOT the children of God (Romans 9:8). It is crucial to understand that the early church was facing a tremendous transition. The first council of the church in Acts 15:7-10 states that the Apostle Peter stood up, "After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "Brethren, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and believe. "And God, who knows the heart, testified to them giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He also did to us; and He made no distinction between us and them, (Jews & Gentiles) cleansing their hearts by faith". Here again the Apostle Paul states in Rom 10:12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same *Lord* is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him... Paul is in agreement with Peter. No distinction between Jews and non-Jews. Why are we today making a distinction since the New Testament revelation shows us that there is no distinction any longer? Paul again says to the saints in Colossae, Col 3:11 - Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scyth'ian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all. RSV. The word here is quite significant because Paul is saying, "here", where?, in the new creation. In the new creation there cannot be distinctions, race, color, social status, etc. All these things are part of the old creation. The new man is Christ and Paul says, "He is all and in all". This is the New Testament revelation and not for those weak of heart. Jesus and the New Testament People are the true people of God. We are Christ! In 1 Corinthians 12:12 Paul says that as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body are one body so also is Christ. May

God open our eyes to see Jesus this way. It is a necessity for us to see Jesus this way, even Paul, on the road to Damascus was arrested by Jesus and when Paul said, "Who are You, Lord? The Bright Light said, "I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you are persecuting". Acts 22:8. When Paul killed and persecuted the Lord's people, he in fact was persecuting Jesus the Nazarene. Check out this Amplified version of this verse, 2 Corinthians 5:16, Consequently, from now on we estimate and regard no one from a [purely] human point of view [in terms of natural standards of value]. [No] even though we once did estimate Christ from a human viewpoint and as a man, yet now [we have such knowledge of Him that] we know Him no longer [in terms of the flesh]. AMP. What has changed that we are to look at each other and Christ Himself differently? We must not have a carnal understanding of each other and we definitely cannot have a carnal understanding of the Messiah. Christ Himself said to Nathaniel in John 1:47-50, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you". Nathanael answered, "Rabbi You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel". The Lord answered back to him and said, "you will see greater things than these". What could be greater than seeing Jesus as the Son of God and King of Israel? Christ elucidates this remarkable statement with, "you shall see the heavens open and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man." This is seeing Christ in a most marvelous way. This reference to Jacobs' ladder is amazing! Jacob's response in Genesis 28:17. How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." NASU My point in bringing this verse up is to reiterate explicitly that Jesus as the Son of Man is much larger than we think. The nature of the Son of Man is more than we can know humanly. WE need this revelation of Jesus to uplift our view of His presence with us. Jesus is God and He is Man! All at the same time. Can we see Christ as a MAN that connects Heaven and Earth? He is huge and angels of God ascend and descend on the Son of Man John 1:50. This spiritual activity is operating on the Son of Man. Jacob's dream states, Gen 28:11-12, And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. NKJV This is a revelation of the enlarged Jesus that we do not hear of very often. This is the corporate Christ. The Whole Christ! Christ and Messiah are synonymous terms. One is Greek and the other is Hebrew and both mean Anointed. The Apostle Paul saw Christ or the Messiah in a much higher way than some of the other apostles. In 1 Corinthians 12:12, Paul states, For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ. What if we gave this a verse a Hebrew application, ... *all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is the Messiah*. Now isn't that a different twist on that verse? The Messiah is a many membered Man! The One New Man in the image and likeness of God. This is a radical view of Jesus! Paul saw it and those under Paul saw this and thank God now I see it. So my point is Who are the people of God, the chosen people? Be careful now. Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. **He does not say,** "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ. Gal 3:16 Now connect the dots with me. Just like in 1 Corinthians 12:12, "so also is the Christ", speaking of the people of God where there is no distinction between Jew, non Jew, male or female, slave or free. The real people of God are a corporate SEED of Abraham. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. NKJV This

verses says those who belong to Christ are Abraham's seed, not Abrahams' seeds or offsprings. One seed Christ and His blood bought, Holy Spirit indwelt sons of God. Again Paul says to the Corinthians in chapter one, "is Christ divided"? Everyone is saying, I am of Paul, I am of Cephas, I am of Apollos, and even I am of Christ. What Christ could they even be claiming to exclude other believers. This is the Christ according to a human point of view, a carnal view of Christ? That's right. WE need a bigger view of the Christ! The corporate Christ who is HERE presently working with us and through us to the glory of God! I hope this is crystal clear regarding the nature of the people of God and regarding Christ in His present revelation that has been since the Apostle Paul got it from the Lord on the road to Damascus. Stephen and Paul were accused of speaking against the people of God because they saw the people of God as spiritual people and the Old Testament saints as a shadow. They were persecuted because they identified the real and the spiritual. Paul says the Shadow people will always persecute the real and claim to be the real. But as then he that was born after the flesh (*shadow*) persecuted him (that was born) after the Spirit, so also it is now. Gal 4:29-31 (*Emphasis mine*) But Paul's exhortation to the Galatians was, Howbeit what saith the scripture? Cast out the handmaid and her son: for the son of the handmaid shall not inherit with the son of the freewoman. Gal. 4:30. CAST OUT the Bondwoman and Her SON. The natural has been cast out into OUTER DARKNESS! Possibly that could be a reference. The Bondwoman is the first covenant, the Sinai Covenant. Paul says, Cast it out!

Which leads us to my second point. The Law of Moses. Wherefore, brethren, we are not children of a handmaid (Mosaic Law), but of the freewoman (New Covenant) Gal. 4:31 ASV. Do we believe this part of God's word?

NT:1544 ekballoo; to cast out; to drive out; to send out

1. with the included notion of more or less violence
 - a. to drive out, (cast out): a person, Matt 21:12
 - b. to cast out: John 6:37
 - c. to expel a person from a society: to banish from a family, Gal 4:30
(from Thayer's Greek Lexicon)

Paul is saying expel that covenant and her son from your midst. It does not have a legal right to the promise. Look up inherit or heir. Kleronomeo from two Greek words, Kleros meaning lot, allotment, portion and the other word is Nomos meaning law or legal right. Paul says that the Old Covenant has no legal right to what God promised and the children of the Old Covenant have no legal right to the promises. This is strong, but it's the truth!

In the same way the Law of Moses is a type and shadow of the spiritual reality. We are not supposed to live by God's law like the OT saints. We are to live by a Person. **By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him . 1 John 4:9-10**

A small list of the "through Hims"

- For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us. (2 Cor 1:20)
- I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. Phil 4:13
- Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him , since He always lives to make intercession for them. (Heb 7:25)
- Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. (Heb 13:15)
- for the sake of you who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. (1 Peter 1:20-21)
- Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. (Heb 13:20-21)

Christ is the reality of the O.T. Law. This may sound like heresy, but please try to step back and consider this. The Law is a photograph of Jesus. God gave the Law to Israel to study the photo, so when He came they would recognize Him. The scribes and Pharisees got lost in the details and missed the point. "For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side, and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation." (Luke 19:43-44) The picture was so distorted by the Pharisees and scribes, no one could even recognize Him when He came. Jesus is He of whom the Law points to and now we live by a Person, He is our Life. He is not a rule book, but a relationship whereby He speaks to us and we obey. Now here is where someone shouts, "antinomianism"! I am not saying we become licentious or now we have a license to do whatever we want. I am not saying, we have no king in Israel and we can do whatever is right in our own eyes. I am 100% accountable to King Jesus. I live because of Him. For me to live is Christ and to die is gain (Philippians 1:21). So the Law is a shadow of a person. Jesus didn't fulfill just the ceremonial parts of the law, He also fulfilled the moral law and set me free from its obligation and transferred me into a different realm, where the righteous requirement of the law is fulfilled in us who walk according to the Spirit. It is ***not fulfilled by us, but in us*** (Romans 8:4). This is critical! Paul understood the difference. Paul concurred with the law of God according to the inward man and found that principle of operation is what set him free from the law of sin and of death. (Romans 8:2)

They accused Stephen and Paul of speaking against "this place" – Jerusalem. They understood that there was a holy place that was in another realm, a different dimension. Paul says it is "above" and is free, and is the mother of us all (Galatians 4:26). Jesus was bringing the woman

at the well into this understanding. He said neither in this mountain, (Samaritan Mount of Gerizim) or in Jerusalem, but the true (real worshippers) will worship in Spirit and Reality (John 4:21-24). The place is in a totally different realm where nothing unholy treads its courts. It is in the realm of the Spirit. Nothing can destroy it. It is eternal, incorruptible, invincible, invisible. The Hebrew writer says, you have come to Mount Zion, the city of the living God, heavenly Jerusalem. (Hebrews 12:22) We are not going there someday, come on saints, let's get this into us. We have come! Faith brings us to this glorious place, let's stop doubting now and start entering into all that God has for us, all that He has prepared for us who love Him. This is a bold belief that Christ has fulfilled, the people, the Law of Moses, and the place. He is all in all (Colossians 3:11)! For more information contact:

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