

LESSON 18 - BEHOLD THY KING COMETH

Matthew - Mark - Luke - John

THEME: *To teach the identification of Christ with His people.*

Four hundred years of silence! Had God forgotten His promises? Would the King come? Suddenly a voice broke into the stillness! God was speaking again! The voice was the Prophet, John the Baptist. He spoke: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand...Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight." Matthew 3:2-3. KINGDOM HIGHWAY must be repaired and made straight for the coming of the King.

Thirty years before John came telling this message, a baby had been born in Bethlehem. His name was called JESUS *for He was to save His people from their sins.* Matthew 1:21-23. For 30 years very little was heard of the child born in Bethlehem until John the Baptist came preaching: "Repent!" "There went out to him Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around about Jordan, and were baptised of him in Jordan, confessing their sins." Matthew 3:4-6. This was the way Israel was to repair KINGDOM HIGHWAY and make ready for their King.

When John saw Jesus coming to him, he said: "Behold, the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29. Actually, John did not want to baptise Jesus, but we can see what Jesus replied in Matthew 3:14-17. Afterwards Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness of Judea to undergo temptation by the devil. For every temptation, Jesus quoted the Word of God and Satan was defeated each time.

Afterwards Jesus began preaching: "Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" Matthew 4:17. Jesus proved Himself to be the Son of God, the King in truth. He was the One the Prophets had foretold would come. He worked mighty miracles, healed the sick, even lepers, healed the blind, calmed the waves and walked on the sea, cast out demons, and even raised the dead.

He chose 12 disciples and gave them His power. Matthew 10:1-10. Then He sent them out with orders quite different from those that preachers receive today. We note here Jesus' instructions to the 12 disciples: "Go not into the way of Gentiles...but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel and say, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand...heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons...provide neither gold nor silver, nor two

coats, nor shoes." Matthew 10:5-10.

One day a strange incident occurred. On our chart we have been traveling KINGDOM HIGHWAY giving no attention to the Gentiles on GENTILE BYWAY. Israel was the channel through which God was working ever since God gave up the Gentiles a long time back at the tower of Babel. Jesus was teaching on the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon when a woman of Canaan came to Him. The complete story is found in Matthew 15:21-28. This Gentile woman had heard of the power of the Lord Jesus and had come over from GENTILE BYWAY to ask for a blessing. Jesus honoured her faith, although it was not yet the time prophesied for full blessings to be shared with Gentiles in the Kingdom.

"Behold, your King comes unto you, and sitting on a donkey." Matthew 21:5. Israel had called Jesus of Nazareth their King and had crowned Him, but the chief priests and scribes were much displeased. Matthew 21:15. Thus the nation of Israel did not any longer welcome their King.

We look back to the baptism of Jesus. Why was He baptised? The Bible says: "To fulfill all righteousness." Baptism was a picture /sign to Israel of washing away their sins. Acts 22:16. Jesus had no sins, but He was in the world at this time, beginning to take the sinners' place, and to be made in all things like His brethren so that He might give us His perfect righteousness. Hebrews 2:17.

In our next lesson we will see how Christ went all the way to death on Calvary's Cross to complete the work of becoming sin for us. Today that work is finished and you may be saved by simply believing that He died for you.

MEMORY VERSE: "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." 2 Corinthians 5:21.

LESSON 18 - WORK SHEET

Fill in the blanks in the following statements.

1. After 400 years of silence, Israel heard the voice of _____ saying _____ . Matthew 3:1-3.
2. Israel prepared for the coming King by _____ Matthew 3:6.
3. John said that he baptised with water, but the One coming after him would baptise with _____ Matthew 3:11.
4. Jesus said that He was baptised in order to fulfill all _____ Matthew 3:15.
5. Jesus gave His disciples power to perform miracles in order to prove that the King and the Kingdom of Heaven were truly at hand. Name these miracles from Matthew 10:8:

Look up the references and answer the following WHY questions.

6. WHY did Jesus tell His disciples *not to go to the Gentiles*? Mark 7:27.

7. WHY did Jesus finally honour the request of the Gentile woman? Matthew 15:28 _____
8. WHY is this portion of *THE HIGHWAY OF LIFE* called KINGDOM HIGHWAY? Matthew 21:5 _____
9. WHY is it *not necessary* for those who live in the Day of Grace to be baptised with water in order to receive righteousness? 2 Corinthians 5:21 _____
10. Write 2 Corinthians 5:21 from memory. _____
