

## -THE WOMAN OF CANAAN-

"Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto Him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and besought Him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. But He answered and said, I AM NOT SENT BUT TO THE LOST SHEEP OF THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL. Then came she and worshipped Him, saying, Lord help me. But He answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast to dogs. And she said, Truth, Lord; yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their master's table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great thy faith; be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour." Matt. 15:21-28.

This same story is told in Mark 7:24-30.

## -THE LORD'S MINISTRY-

In the foregoing account the Lord emphasized the fact that His ministry was limited. It was only to Israel. This same fact is brot out in Rom. 15:8 where Paul says, "Jesus Christ was a minister of the Circumcision," and then goes on to speak of the calling of the Gentiles which was later.

Matthew speaks of Christ as the Son of David (1:1) and goes on to say, "He shall save His people from their sins"(1:21). His people here refers to the Jews. When He sent out the twelve He told them to go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel (Matt. 10:6).

You will notice also that in the story of the woman of Canaan there is nothing said about salvation. This woman was in no position to receive salvation, for that was of the Jews (Jno. 4:22).

## -GENTILES GIVEN UP-

The reason that salvation was of the Jews and that this woman could not receive it was because that at the call of Abram from Ur of the

Chaldees God had given up the Gentiles. The account of this giving up is in Rom. 1:24,26,28. There are three main reasons given for this giving up of the nations. When they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God. They were not thankful. They exchanged the glory of God for images, even of repulsive creeping things (serpents and also insects).

## -THE HOPE OF THE GENTILES-

Up to the time of Abraham the only hope of the future for men was a resurrection after the heavens and earth had passed away (Job 14:12). This then would be the Great White Throne Judgement as recorded in Rev. 20:11. Following this is the establishing of the new heavens and earth known as paradise. The dying malefactor on the cross asked for a place in the Lord's kingdom, but it was refused. He was a Gentile and would not have a resurrection early enough to get into the kingdom. So the Lord assured him of life in paradise.

Now when the Gentiles were given up it does not mean that they are doomed to destruction. It just means that God will not strive with them any more. Their hope is not changed, but if God does not work among them by His Spirit, few will seek Him.

## -THE HOPE OF THE JEWS-

God promised a land to Abraham and his seed. But you can soon see that the promise could not all be fulfilled during the lifetime of Abraham. So if Israel is yet to occupy the position on earth that God assigned to her, then the nation of Israel must have an earlier resurrection. It will be at least a thousand years earlier than the resurrection for the Great White Throne Judgement. When Peter opened the door of the Kingdom to Gentiles at the house of Cornelius, all the Gentiles that believed had the date of their resurrection set forward by a thousand years. That was the salvation of the Jews. It was a decided advantage. It is said of Cornelius before this that he was a devout man and that God

recognized his good works. So his hope had been the same as that of Job and the dying malefactor. From the time of the opening of the door to the Gentiles to the end of Acts, the Gentiles were grafted into the Olive tree (the Jews) and so partook of the same promises and blessings of Abraham. Paul makes this position clear in Romans 11. The people Israel also had another hope that was attained by faith. The ones who had this hope were designated as SPIRITUAL ISRAEL. They had a hope of a still better resurrection than they had before. It was a resurrection at the coming of the Lord in the air (parousia) and gave them a place in the New Jerusalem. The grafted-in Gentiles also could partake of this hope.

If this woman of Canaan had been able to live till the time of the opening of the door of the kingdom to the Gentiles, then she could have been able to have the hope of an earlier resurrection and would have access to the promises made to Abraham.

I might add here that a Gentile did have a chance to come into the hope of Israel from the time the nation was organized unto the decision of the council in Jerusalem concerning Gentiles. But they could not realize that hope and remain Gentiles. They had to become Jews. The law provided for this rite. They would have to be circumcised and then obey all the laws of the Jews.

#### -NO HOPE FOR JEWS NOW-

At Acts 28:28 God gave up and set aside the Jews. No longer did they have a special hope over and above the Gentiles. Their hope of an earlier resurrection was cut off and they were set back on the same basis as the nations before the call of Abraham. This also would discontinue the ingrafting process for the olive tree has been cut down. So no Gentile can possibly have a hope to have a part in the Millennial Kingdom or in the New Jerusalem. Neither can a Jew. No one today can have the hope of the PAROUSIA or of the APOCALUPSIS.

#### -HOPE FOR TODAY-

If the woman of Canaan could have lived until the time of the writing of the Ephesian and Colossian epistles by Paul, she could have entered into a still better hope and an earlier resurrection.

During the Acts period Paul wrote his epistles to the Corinthian and Thessalonian churches. In these he expressed the hope of being numbered with Spiritual Israel and being caught up with the rest of the living ones to meet the Lord in the PAROUSIA. But later in his epistle to the Philippians which was written after the Acts period, he was hoping for an earlier resurrection from among the dead (Phil. 3:11). Something had happened that had made him change his hope. What happened was that God had set Israel aside at Acts 28:28 and then had revealed a new hope which was available by faith to new believers as well as those of the former hope.

The hope that any had before this turning point was not taken from them, but no new converts, either of Jews or Gentiles, after Acts 28:28 could hope for the rapture. No matter how much they might wish or profess faith in it, this hope was not offered any more. It is sad to think of the many thousands today who will be bitterly disappointed when they are resurrected and find that they are at the Great White Throne Judgement and have missed all the earlier resurrections. But such will be the case. No amount of faith or profession can obtain for anyone a place or a position that God does not offer. Be sure that you can give a reason of the hope that is within you.

Now as a believer you can take your choice. You can accept a place in the Church of the One Body by faith and have an earlier resurrection and be manifested in Glory with Him (Col. 3:4); or you can be a carnal Christian and come up at the Great White Throne over a thousand years after other groups have been resurrected.

-CHARACTER OF THE BODY-

On the previous page I made the statement that there was no hope for the Jew now. That is true. To become a member of the Church of the One Body such distinctions as race or a relationship to a former dispensation must vanish. The Jew must renounce his relationship to Abraham. His blessings now will be heavenly, not earthly. His blessings will be in Christ Jesus, not in Abraham. His hope will be in the super-heavenlies where Christ sits at the right hand of God, not in the earth or in the New Jerusalem which comes down out of heaven to the earth. The middle wall of partition between Jew and Gentile is taken down in this church. They are reconciled to each other and the two as one new man are reconciled in one body to God. See the first chapter of Eph.

So by her faith the Syro-Phenician woman could be assured of life at the last resurrection. If she could have received the new hope which was given to those to whom the kingdom was opened in Acts 10, she could have set her time of resurrection at a period of about a thousand years earlier. If she could have had opportunity to read the letter to the Ephesians or Colossians she could have obtained a still earlier resurrection and a higher hope.

The malefactor on the cross had no such opportunity, for he died that same day.

If Cornelius lived until the revelation of the Mystery by the apostle Paul, he too could have entered into a higher sphere of blessing with an earlier resurrection from among the dead.

Ignorance of what the plan and purpose of God is can be no excuse for you and me. It is our duty to search the Scriptures and find out what is God's will for each of us.

The organized church of today, just as at the time of Paul, has rejected truth (2 Tim. 1:15). It is up to each individual to either accept or reject God's Word. Do you believe God?

-REJECTION-

Of course if any reject Christ as the only means of salvation, they will be destroyed. That destruction is everlasting in that it is complete and final. There is no possibility of return from it.

Those who accept Christ as their Savior, but reject much of the record concerning Him, will suffer great loss. The believer who will reject truth in order to have his own way in life will be like the man who buried his talent. He had no desire to do the will of his master. He wanted to live his life in his own way. So he buried his responsibility. Some such will be saved as by fire. They are not lost, but will suffer great loss. Their lot will be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth until their time of correction is over.

How much this principle has to do with the present dispensation, I do not know, but would be very unwilling to take any chances. I do know that if one rejects a place in the membership of the Body, the only place left, so far as is revealed, would be the Great White Throne Judgement. That is the only judgement in which there is a question of life and death for the one judged.

-PREDESTINATION-

A question often comes up as to what is meant by the predestination in Eph. 1:5 and 1:11. This word never is used of the unbeliever. There is no such thing in the Word as being predestinated to life or death. The predestination is concerning the Body. Those who are in the Body are included in the predestination. Those outside have no part in it. Those who by faith accept a place in the Body have the certainty of adoption as children and the obtaining of an inheritance.

-OUR RESPONSIBILITY-

God has a purpose which will be carried out. He has a part for each of us in His will. It is our business to study and find out our place in His plans. If we fail, we are without excuse.

-TRUTH FOR TODAY-

The Scriptures contain many truths which are not truth for today. They were truth at one time. Much confusion has arisen because people have not rightly divided the Word of Truth. They have taught many things as being truth for today which are not. They also have missed many truths for today and do not teach them at all. Then some have tried to teach some things of a past dispensation and at the same time some truth for today which contradict each other. That causes more confusion.

It is our purpose to study and clarify the issue so as to eliminate confusion. We must recognize the divisions God has made between dispensations and be true to His purpose and plans.

For this reason a class meets at my home each Sunday afternoon at 2 and 2:45 CST. For this same reason I give a lesson out over the air every Tuesday night at 7:15 CST, station WRSW. And for this reason I am publishing this paper, TRUTH FOR TODAY, each month.

The Sunday afternoon class is now studying Genesis and Acts. You are welcome to come to this class. No charge or collections.

Please listen to the broadcasts and help me by asking any questions or making any suggestions that will help me to improve the

program in any way possible.

If you like this paper, then send me names and addresses of any friends you think would be interested in it too. It is now going out into many states and into some foreign countries.

I always welcome correspondence, and try to keep up with my replies. But do not feel badly if I get busy and do not write to you immediately. The farm is taking some time right now and I am still teaching music lessons in Warsaw on Saturdays.

I made the trip as planned to Rockford, Ill. Sunday Mar. 27. I spoke to the Rockford Gospel Fellowship in the morning and they made a wire recording so my little speech could be taken to Evanston later. Enjoyed the fellowship in Rockford very much. Their teacher, Mr. Hershey Julien, is a busy man. He has the classes in Rockford and Evanston, and also makes monthly trips to Kankakee and Gila, Ill.

On Tuesday, Apr. 19, I made the trip to Gila, Ill. which is near Effingham. Had a meeting that night in a little country school house. There was a nice group out and they were really interested in truth. I drove back the next day.

If this copy is marked sample on the front and you wish to receive it each month, just drop me a card. There is no subscription price.

---Oscar M. Baker, Ed.

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