

Chapter Six

Studies in the Epistle of Paul to the Romans

The Gospel of God

“¹ Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, ² (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)” (Romans 1:1-2). . .

The “gospel of God” is nothing new to the Scriptures. It is not something unique to the New Testament even though the New Testament Scriptures are more doctrinally definitive and detailed in their presentation of the gospel message. The first gospel proclamation (Protevangelium) is found in Genesis 3:15 right after God’s curse upon “the serpent” (Genesis 3:14) and just prior to God’s condemnation of all mankind in Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:16-19). The first gospel message is a bright beacon of hope in the midst of this curse of darkness.

“¹⁴ And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou *art* cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. ¹⁶ Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire *shall be* to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. ¹⁷ And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed *is* the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat *of* it all the days of thy life; ¹⁸ Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; ¹⁹ In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou return” (Genesis 3:14-19).

Although the first gospel proclamation message of Genesis 3:15 seems vague at first, it is actually quite detailed. In the statement “I will put enmity between thee (Satan) and the woman (fallen mankind)” God Himself enters into the restoration and redemption of fallen mankind. The “enmity” God puts between Satan and mankind is the Lamb of God in Christ Jesus.

“And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Revelation 13:8).

In this statement, God enters Himself into the human predicament and declares war on Satan in behalf of helpless and defenseless mankind now living under the curse of death. The Son of God would become the “enmity.” What a wonderful and merciful God! This is God’s war. Man becomes a partner with God in this struggle for the redemption of souls only when he individually is saved and joins himself with God in bringing the message of salvation and redemption to a lost and dying world. The work of redemption is totally of God. Fallen mankind is incapable of doing anything to redeem himself.

The “enmity” (the promised Messiah) will crush Satan’s head. The KJV has “bruise.” The Hebrew word *shuwph* (shoof) is better translated *crush* in this context. It refers to Satan’s dominion of death that he holds over mankind due to the curse. Satan stole mankind’s dominion through deception. That is the headship which Christ would crush on the Cross of Calvary by paying the wages of sin for all mankind and by being victorious over death in His resurrection. That is the focal point of I Corinthians 15:1-58 and the heart of the gospel. “We are more than conquerors through him that loved us” (Romans 8:37).

“⁵⁴ So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. ⁵⁵ O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory? ⁵⁶ The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (I Corinthians 15:54-57).

Christ said the Old Testament Scriptures were sufficient in gospel truth for a person to be able to understand and trust in Him for salvation.

“³¹ If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true. ³² There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true. ³³ Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth. ³⁴ But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved. ³⁵ He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light. ³⁶ But I have greater witness than *that* of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me. ³⁷ And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape. ³⁸ And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not. ³⁹ Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. ⁴⁰ And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life” (John 5:31-40).

The only Scriptures written at this time were the Old Testament books. Apostate Judaism (to which Christ is addressing in this text) taught that obeying the commandments and the law would assure people of the kingdom of God. Christ emphatically taught against that false doctrine.

“¹³ But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in *yourselves*, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in. ¹⁴ Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows’ houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation. ¹⁵ Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves” (Matthew 23:13-15).

The Law was never intended to be a means to save anyone. Its purpose was to expose mankind to the guilt of his fallen condition and his need of a Savior.

“¹⁹ Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. ²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin” (Romans 3:19-20).

Many of the Old Testament Scriptures give Messianic prophecies. Some of them give great detail. The following are a few of those prophecies and their New Testament fulfillment.

The virgin birth

1. O. T. prophecy

“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14).

2. N. T. fulfillment

“¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. . . ²⁰ But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. ²¹ And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. ²² Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, ²³ Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. ²⁴ Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: ²⁵ And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS” (Matthew 1:18 and 20-25).

His presence would be preceded by another great prophet preparing the way for Him.

1. O. T. prophecy

“The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God” (Isaiah 40:3).

2. N. T. fulfillment

“¹ In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, ² And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. ³ For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁴ And the same John had his raiment of camel’s hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, ⁶ And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins” (Matthew 3:1-6).

He would do great miracles.

1. O. T. prophecy

“⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. ⁶ Then shall the lame *man* leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert” (Isaiah 35:5-6).

2. N. T. fulfillment

“²⁸ And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. ²⁹ Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you. ³⁰ And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straitly charged them, saying, See *that* no man know *it*. ³¹ But they, when they were departed, spread abroad his fame in all that country. ³² As they went out, behold, they brought to him a dumb man possessed with a devil. ³³ And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake: and the multitudes marvelled, saying, It was never so seen in Israel. ³⁴ But the Pharisees said, He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils. ³⁵ And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people” (Matthew 9:28-35).

He would be rejected by the spiritual leaders of Israel.

1. O. T. prophecy

“The stone *which* the builders refused is become the head *stone* of the corner” (Psalm 118:22).

2. N. T. fulfillment

“⁶ Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. ⁷ Unto you therefore which believe *he is* precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, ⁸ And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, *even to them* which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed” (I Peter 2:6-8).

He would be betrayed by Judas for thirty pieces of silver.

1. O. T. prophecy

“¹² And I said unto them, If ye think good, give *me* my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty *pieces* of silver. ¹³ And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prised at of them. And I took the thirty *pieces* of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD” (Zechariah 11:12-13).

2. N. T. fulfillment

“³ Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, ⁴ Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What *is that* to us? see thou *to that*. ⁵ And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself” (Matthew 27:3-5).

He would be rejected by His own people, mocked, beaten and crucified.

1. O. T. prophecy

“¹ Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? ² For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, *there is* no beauty that we should desire him. ³ He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴ Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. ⁸ He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. ⁹ And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither *was any* deceit in his mouth. ¹⁰ Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put *him* to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. ¹¹ He shall see of the travail of his soul, *and* shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. ¹² Therefore will I divide him *a portion* with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors” (Isaiah 53:1-12).

“¹ My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? *why art thou so far* from helping me, *and from* the words of my roaring? ² O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent. ³ But thou *art* holy, *O thou* that inhabitest the praises of Israel. ⁴ Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them. ⁵ They cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded. ⁶ But I *am* a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people. ⁷ All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, *saying*, ⁸ He trusted on the LORD *that* he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him. ⁹ But thou *art* he that took me out of the womb: thou

didst make me hope *when I was* upon my mother's breasts. ¹⁰ I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou *art* my God from my mother's belly. ¹¹ Be not far from me; for trouble *is* near; for *there is* none to help. ¹² Many bulls have compassed me: strong *bulls* of Bashan have beset me round. ¹³ They gaped upon me *with* their mouths, *as* a ravening and a roaring lion. ¹⁴ I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. ¹⁵ My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death. ¹⁶ For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. ¹⁷ I may tell all my bones: they look *and* stare upon me. ¹⁸ They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture" (Psalm 22:1-18).

2. N. T. fulfillment

²⁶ Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered *him* to be crucified. ²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band *of soldiers*. ²⁸ And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. ²⁹ And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put *it* upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! ³⁰ And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. ³¹ And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify *him*. ³² And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross. ³³ And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull, ³⁴ They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted *thereof*, he would not drink. ³⁵ And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots. ³⁶ And sitting down they watched him there; ³⁷ And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS. ³⁸ Then were there two thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another on the left. ³⁹ And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads, ⁴⁰ And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest *it* in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross. ⁴¹ Likewise also the chief priests mocking *him*, with the scribes and elders, said, ⁴² He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. ⁴³ He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God. ⁴⁴ The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth. ⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. ⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? ⁴⁷ Some of them that stood there, when they heard *that*, said, This *man* calleth for Elias. ⁴⁸ And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled *it* with vinegar, and put *it* on a reed, and gave him to drink. ⁴⁹ The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Elias will come to save him. ⁵⁰ Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost" (Matthew 27:26-50).

Chapter Six
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The Gospel of God

1. Where is the first gospel proclamation (*Protevangelium*) found in the Scriptures? _____

2. Discuss the meaning of the word “enmity” in this verse and its significance in God’s plan of redemption. _____

3. Read I Corinthians 15:1-58 and discuss how the “enmity” God put between Satan’s seed and the woman’s seed would crush Satan’s head. _____

4. Read John 5:31-40. What Scriptures did Christ refer to in verse 39? _____

5. What did Christ mean by “in them ye think ye have eternal life” (John 5:39)? _____

5. Read Matthew 23:13-15. What perversion of the gospel by apostate Judaism was Christ addressing by His statement in Matthew 5:39 (compare Matthew 23:13-15 and Romans 3:19-20 to Christ’s statement in John 5:39)? _____

6. List the Scripture references from the Old Testament prophesying the following things and then list the verses fulfilling them in the New Testament.

A. His virgin birth: _____

B. Christ being preceded by a forerunner: _____

C. The miracles of Christ: _____

D. Christ’s rejection by the spiritual leaders and the people of Israel. _____

E. The betrayal by Judas: _____

F. His rejection, mocking, beating and crucifixion: _____

