



Sermon Notes

US N^o. 36

Date: Oct. 23rd, 2011

Title: What is to be expected?

Series: #1 of "The Post-Exilic Community"

Summary: *God purposely created the universe and all that is contained by it for His good pleasure and as a manifestation of His infinite love that desires objects to love. Regretfully, the divine intention of God was frustrated by man's free will, a frustration that now requires perfect love to resolve the conflict through men and women wholly & freely submitted to His perfect and sovereign will.*

1. Adam

- a. Created by Divine imagination and power in His image. Gen. 1:26-27, Gen. 2:7, 21-22
 - i. Evidence of the Trinity in verse 26: ¹"God" is *Elohim* the plural form gods with definitive article (*the gods*), ²"said" is singular in Hebrew, and ³"Our" image.
 - ii. The basis of human worth is not in anything man does or has, but in whose image he was created.
 - iii. Adam
 1. Mud brick man (formed out of *adamah*) Gen. 2:7 → living stones 1 Pet. 2:5 (the indwelling Spirit)
- b. Charged to live according the model of his Maker. God delegated authority to Adam to steward all of creation
 - i. Elders are called to steward God's Bride
- c. Weakness; was good for food (*lust of the flesh*), was pleasant to the eyes (*lust of the eyes*), and desirable to make one wise (*the pride of life*) Gen. 3:6; 1 Jn. 2:16

2. Israel

- a. Created by Divine election. Abraham was elected by God via his faith. Gen. 12:1-3. Righteousness was imputed to him because of his faith and belief in God's promise. Gen. 15:6.
- b. Delivered by Divine power. The well known story of Israel coming out of Egypt, out of slavery and death. Ex. 3:6-10; Ex. 13 & 14. God manifested His power against the Egyptian gods, demonstrated His love for His people, and executed His judgment on sin.
- c. Mission.
 - i. Ex. 19:6, "And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."
 1. Interestingly, God first called the nation as a whole to be a priest among the nations, and then He went on after the weakness of the people with the Golden Calf to set aside a tribe within the nation to be its priests.
 - ii. By understanding that priests mediate between God and men we can see how God's intention was for Israel to mediate between the nations and Him. A call to holiness, of being called apart, of returning to the communion that God had intended from the beginning but according to His rules and not ours.
- d. Malfunction. Israel failed to live up to God's purposes and aspirations:
 - i. Idolatry and adultery
 - ii. Isolationism and nationalism
 - iii. Rebellion; Jeremiah, Nebuchadnezzar, captivity & exile.

3. Jesus

- a. Divine. Jn. 1:1-14.
- b. Mission. Luke 4:18-19, "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.*"

- i. Side note: the phrase “day of vengeance” which follows in the Isaiah 61:1-2 passage also means “day of vindication,” which is what happened at the resurrection. It is also a passage that describes the deliverance of Israel from exile in Babylon.
- c. Obedient to death, death on a cross. Phil. 2:8. Would only do what the Father told Him to do. Jn. 5:19, “...*Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.*”
 - i. Successfully resisted the temptations of Satan. Luke 4:1-13.
 - ii. Successfully fulfilled the Father’s will. Jn. 14:30, Jn. 17:4.
 - iii. Was justified and vindicated upon His resurrection from the dead, manifestly defeating the flesh and Satan. Col. 2:14-15, Acts 2:32-36
- d. His command. Mt. 28:19-20, “*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*”
- 4. The Church. 1 Pet. 2:5, 9-10, “...you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ...But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.”
 - a. Created by Divine election, “...who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.” (cf. Rom. 8:29-30, Eph. 1:4-5) Eph. 2:8-9, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”
 - b. Mission
 - i. A spiritual house, a holy priesthood.
 - 1. Construction requires straight lines (my own carpentry experiences), rulers, plumb bobs, etc.
 - 2. Paul as a wise builder. 1 Cor. 3:9-17, “For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.”
 - ii. Crush Satan under our feet. Rom. 16:19-20, “For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil. And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.”
 - c. Malfunction?
 - i. Circumcision of the heart instead of the flesh. Deut. 30:4, Jer. 4:4, Rom. 2:28-29
 - ii. Church ghettos. Luke 15:2, Gal. 2:11-13, 2 Cor. 10:12
 - iii. Sacred y secular mentality. Gen. 2:15, Mt. 25:14-30, Col. 3:22-4:6, Eph. 4:28
 - iv. Individualism. Acts 2:42,46, Heb. 10:24-25, 13:17 (just a “one another” word search reveals over 54 verses)
- 5. Our task as a local body is to be that community of Christ wherein the living Spirit of God dwells, through whom the Lord may touch a hurting world, and by whom God receives glory and praise. To do that we must be disciplined, accountable, and humbly submitted to the Father.