

PROGRESSIVE FULFILLMENT OF THE PROMISES IN SALVATION HISTORY, 13 pgs

This study combines Christ's mission with His fulfillment of God's promises to Abraham and David. It is the Christological view of His authority, his power, and his entitlement to the throne of David.

The Devil, the Curse, and the Seed of the Woman

Gen.3 traces the source of mankind's troubles to an enemy and a vulnerable person. *Now the serpent [a figurative depiction of Satan] was more crafty than any other beast of the field ... (v.1)* He confused and deceived Eve bringing a curse upon himself. *I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring [Jesus] ; he shall bruise your head [deliver a fatal wound] , and you shall bruise his heel [injure him]. (v.15)* [See my article SNAPSHOTS - THE STORIES BEHIND THE PICTURES, The Devil's Place] Thousands of years later, that prophecy unfolded as Jesus came into the world through Mary by the Holy Spirit. *The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. (Mk.1:1)* Jesus took the prophecy against Satan in Gen.3 as a **mission goal ... The Son of God appeared to destroy the works of the devil. (1 Jn.3:8)**

The Promise to Abraham & His Descendants

We first find Bible promises, warnings, instructions, and commands expressed in physical or literal terms. The land promise associated with the Abrahamic Covenant was initially physically fulfilled to Abraham's genetic descendants. *All the land of Canaan, where you now live as strangers, I will give to you and to your descendants for an everlasting possession. (Gen.17:8; 13:15; 12:7)* But there was more to the promise than a land grant to Abraham's seed. There was the promise to the world of blessing through the seed of Abraham ... *in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed. (Gen.22:18; 18:18; 12:3)*

The Promise to David & His Descendant

The prophet Nathan delivered this promise to David. *I will subdue all your enemies ... the LORD will build you a house ... I will raise up ... one of your own descendants, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, ¹but I will confirm him in my house and in my kingdom forever ... (1 Chron.17:10-15)* Now **with these promises in place**, the Gospel of Matthew begins, *The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ ... the son of David ... the son of Abraham. (Mt.1:1)*

Jesus is the Light of the World

This promise to Abraham and his seed had a limited physical fulfillment when God gave Israel **rest from military engagement on every side (Josh.21:43-45)**. At this point (about 5 yrs after entering Canaan) the author considered the land promise kept and the victory officially won, even though there were still pockets of resistance and enemies in the land. **It would be another 400 years before Israel reached its zenith under Solomon.** The fulfillment in physical territory was in a sense incomplete because it was meant only to be a type and a shadow. **It would later have its true and complete fulfillment in Jesus Christ and his church.** The prophecy of John the Baptist's father, Zachariah, refers back to the promises to Abraham and to David as coming to fulfillment in Christ.

⁶⁷Zechariah ... prophesied, saying, ⁶⁸Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for **He has visited and redeemed His people,** ⁶⁹**and has raised up a horn of salvation for us** in the house of His servant David, ⁷⁰as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets of long ago, ⁷¹**that we should be saved from our enemies** ... ⁷²to perform the mercy promised to our forefathers and to remember ... ⁷³the oath which He swore to our forefather Abraham, ⁷⁴to grant us that we ... might serve Him without fear, ⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our lives. ⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, ⁷⁷**to give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins,** ⁷⁸**through the tender mercy of our God,** whereby the sunrise from on high has visited us *[the dawning of a new day]*; ⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. (Lk.1:)

This wasn't just good news for Israel. It was good news for all mankind for **the whole world had been kept in the dark under the dominion of Satan.** ¹³And leaving Nazareth *Jesus* went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what was spoken by the prophet **Isaiah** might be fulfilled: ¹⁵The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles — ¹⁶the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death on them a light has dawned. (Mt.4:)

Simeon's prayer upon seeing baby Jesus says it all. ³⁰**my eyes have seen your salvation** ³¹**that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,** ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel. (Lk.2:)

The Promise to Abraham

Paul interprets the promise to Abraham and his offspring as meaning that Christ would be heir to the world (Rom.4:13), not merely the land of Canaan. Since the NT is the pinnacle of God's revelation, **the meaning and relevance of OT passages to us is governed by what the NT says about them.** We recognize the NT as an updating and clarifying (modifying and upgrading) lens as it unveils that which was hidden in the Old.

Gal.3:16, *the promises were made to Abraham and his seed (Christ)* ... The promises as they applied to Israel were only a shadow of their full realization. Christ is the descendant in whom the promises are completed. **He is the heir of the land and the source of the blessings that will flow to all nations.**

v.29, *If you are Christ's' then you are Abraham's seed, heirs according to promise.* The NT discusses these promises in the context of justification by faith where **Abraham** is a prototype *[original model, example of it's kind]* for all believers who will inherit the world which includes much more than Canaan.

The spiritual realities these types picture belong to the church. Words like *more, greater, and better* *[the idea of superiority]* are used throughout Hebrews to contrast the promises to the church with those originally given to Israel. The Promised Land was called Israel's **inheritance and rest.** Heb.3 & 4 tell us what the land foreshadowed. *We who have believed the Gospel have*

entered that rest (4:3) ... For if **Joshua** had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on [when he said through **David** so long afterward, today if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts, (4:4) - as your forefathers did in the rebellion, 3:7-11]. So there remains a Sabbath keeping for the people of God. (4:8-9)

This rest in turn points to a complete fulfillment. It will have its ultimate, eternal fulfillment in the new heavens and earth. We are currently in the age of “the already but not yet.” The Kingdom of God has infiltrated the kingdoms of this world and the saints of God from every nation have and will continue to paint the earth with their blood. This period from Christ’s resurrection to his return is the thousand year reign of Christ spoken of in Rev.20. The spiritual blessings are ours because of our status in Christ, and we are awaiting their fullness at his coming. Their ultimate fulfillment is **peace** in eternity, aka the new heavens and on the new earth.

Heb.11 gives us some insight into Abraham’s faith in God and how he interpreted the promises to him. *By faith Abraham **obeyed** when he was called **to go** out to a place where he was to receive an inheritance ... **By faith he went** to live in the land of promise as in a foreign land living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For [God construes this to mean] he was looking forward to the city that has foundations [a permanent dwelling place], whose designer and builder is God. (11:8-10)* The passage goes on to say that **all people of faith are seeking such a homeland** ... a better country, that is, a heavenly one (v.16).

The Law & the Prophets, and the Kingdom of God

¹⁶ *The Law and the Prophets were until John ; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone forces his way into it [by trying to enter it on his own terms] .* ¹⁷ *But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law [or one word of prophecy] to become void. (Lk.16:)* That is, the kingdom of God only comes as the prophecies pictured in the law and spoken by the prophets are fulfilled. Since both the law and the prophets testify of the coming of Jesus and his work, **John the baptist** heralded the coming of the kingdom and prepared the way by proclaiming that repentance was necessary for entrance into it (**Mt.3:1-2; Acts 17:30-31**). John was himself the fulfillment of prophecy concerning the return of Elijah in the closing words of the OT where both he and Moses [representing the prophets and the law] are mentioned – *Remember the law of my servant Moses ... I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers. (Mal.4:4-6)* This is the prophecy foretelling John’s birth and mission to call the nation back to God.

¹³ ... the angel said to John’s father , Do not be afraid, **Zechariah** , because your prayer has been heard. Your wife **Elizabeth** will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁴ There will be joy and delight for you, and many will rejoice at his birth. ¹⁵ For he will be great in the sight of the Lord ... **He will be filled with the Holy Spirit** while still in his mother’s womb. ¹⁶ He will turn many of the children of Israel [back] to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ And he will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to make ready for the Lord a prepared people. (Lk.1:)

At the transfiguration of Jesus, Moses [representing the law] and Elijah [representing the prophets] appeared talking with Jesus about his **departure** [Gk. exodos, a euphemism connecting his eminent crucifixion with the Exodus], **Lk.9:28-31; Mt.17:1-3**. Peter attempted to assign equal standing for all 3, but God singled out his son as the one to listen to. (**Mt.17:4-8; Lk.9:32-36**) Like the law and the prophets, John also faded into the background once his mission was fulfilled. (**Jn.3:30**) [In True Spirituality, p.47-54, Francis Schaeffer offers a different interpretation of the Mount of transfiguration incident – Moses represents the OT believers who have died; Apostles, the NT believers who have died; Elijah, those living NT believers who will be translated at Christ's second coming.] Jesus is the heir to the throne of David and *of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end [emphasizing the eternity of Christ's reign] . (Isa.9:6-7)*

Daniel, a much later prophet than David, interpreted king Nebuchadnezzar's dream and foretold of the kingdoms that would follow his. The final kingdom would be the great everlasting kingdom that God would establish over the whole Earth ... *And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever. (Dan.2:31-45)*

Jesus, the Son of God & the Son of Man

¹*Paul ... set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³ concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead , Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace ... to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations ... (Rom.1:)*

⁶*though Christ Jesus was in the form of God, he did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ ... he humbled himself [Gk. Low lying, pictures bowing in submission] by becoming obedient to the point of death ... ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. (Phil.2:)*

¹⁴*Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood [so he could die] , Christ likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death , that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery [as the Jews under Pharaoh] ... he helps the offspring of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest ... to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For because he himself has suffered when tempted , he is able to help those who are being tempted. (Heb.2:)*

when Jesus began his ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph, the son of Heli. (Lk.3:23)

Jesus Binds the Strong Man (Mk.3:22-27)

After he was baptized by John ... ¹ *Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit ... was led by the Spirit in the wilderness* ² *for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days ...* ¹³ *And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.* It was in this confrontation where Jesus' resistance to Satan's temptations resulted in the devil's binding - Jesus' power over him. ¹⁴ *And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country.* ¹⁵ *And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. (Lk.4:)*

This is how we who follow Jesus can have power over Satan

⁷ *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.* ⁸ *Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands [stop involving yourself in things you shouldn't] , you sinners, and purify your hearts [filter out anything that dilutes it from being single, pure] , you double-minded. (Jas.4:)*

Jesus Plunders the Strong Man's House

[Jesus was in a synagogue in Nazareth on Sabbath reading from Isa.61:1-2a] The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me because He has appointed Me to proclaim good news to the poor [category: destitute; needy; powerless; helpless; oppressed by the devil]. He has sent Me to proclaim liberty to the captives [as Moses did for the Hebrew slaves in Egypt] and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor [Not a calendar year, but the period when salvation would at last be announced by the Gospel accompanied by physical healing demonstrating the coming of God's kingdom after some 400 years of silence, since Malachi] Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing. (Lk.4:16-21) [See my essay, Christ Our Sabbath – The Year of the Lord's Favor.] So, in the fullness of time, Jesus our champion began plundering the devil's stronghold [by setting us free]. Let us walk with him as he conquers the very same territory that God had given to the descendants of Abraham ... and beyond.

²³ *And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues [among the Jews] and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.* ²⁴ *So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them.* ²⁵ *He didn't merely treat them, HE HEALED THEM! And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis [Gentile region of 10 free cities in league, demonstrating that this Gospel of deliverance had come to everyone] , and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan. (Mt.4:)*

After Jesus was raised and ascended the apostle Peter finally understood through a vision the universality of God's kingdom. ³⁴ *Peter ... said: I understand now that God shows no partiality [favoritism] ,* ³⁵ *but in every nation anyone [not just Jews] who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.* ³⁶ *As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all),* ³⁷ *you yourselves [Cornelius and his household] know what happened throughout all Judea ...* ³⁸ *how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil , for God*

was with him ... ⁴³ To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. (**Acts 10:**)

¹¹ *May you be strengthened with all power ...* ¹² *giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.* ¹³ **He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son**, ¹⁴ *in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (Col.1:).* Jesus not only rescues people from the misery of living under Satan's rule but shares his own inheritance with us.

¹⁹ ... *the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. (1 Jn.5:)* But Jesus has broken that power over us. **Let us walk with Jesus as the dawn of a new era breaks upon the land.**

²³ ... *there was in their synagogue [building used on the Sabbath for instruction in the law] a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out,* ²⁴ *What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God .* ²⁵ *But Jesus rebuked him, [commanding the unclean spirit to] be silent, and come out of him!* ²⁶ *And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him.* ²⁷ *And the people who witnessed it were all amazed , so that they questioned among themselves, saying, What is this? A new teaching with authority ! He even commands the unclean spirits and they obey him. (Mk.1:)* Everywhere Jesus went the spirits laid down before him – there was no resistance because they recognized his authority. *He ... entered the house of Simon and Andrew ...* ³⁰ *Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever ...* ³¹ *And he ... took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her ...* ³² *That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons.* ³³ *And the whole city was gathered together at the door.* ³⁴ **And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons ...** ³⁹ **And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons. (Mk.1:)** The power of the old ruler was broken and people for the first time tasted freedom.

Everyone who comes to Jesus is healed from his infirmity. It is symbolic of the greater work that Jesus came to accomplish – the forgiveness of sins and salvation of sinners. ⁴⁰ *a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, If you will, you can make me clean.* ⁴¹ *Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched [the unclean man - Jesus doesn't defile himself or catch diseases, he removes them] ...* ⁴² *And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean ... he went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news, with the result that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, [but that didn't stop him, he continued healing] out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter. (Mk.1:)*

A Man Went Out to Sow Seed (Mk.4:14-20, 2 sections below)

Meanwhile, opposition to Jesus had been fomenting in the hearts of the Jewish rulers. *And when he returned to Capernaum ... it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room ... And he was preaching the word to them. And four men brought a paralytic ... when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they ... made an opening in the roof and let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith [by what they did], he said to the paralytic, Son, your sins are forgiven. Now some of the*

scribes were sitting there [oblivious to the miracle and its implications], questioning in their hearts [criticizing], Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone? [Exactly right, so that means?] ... Jesus ... said to them, Why do you question these things in your hearts? ... But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins [Mt.28:18]—he said to the paralytic rise, pick up your bed, and go home. And he ... went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, We have never seen anything like this! (Mk.2:1-12)

The **Jewish leaders** had become Jesus' constant companions and they had only criticisms on their tongues. ¹³ Jesus went out again beside the sea, and all **the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them.** ¹⁴ And as he passed by, he saw **Levi** the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, Follow me. And **Levi** rose and followed him ... ¹⁶ And **the scribes of the Pharisees**, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, Why does he eat with **tax collectors and sinners?** ¹⁷ But **Jesus himself answered them saying**, Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous [as you suppose yourselves to be], but sinners. (Mk.2:) [... few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy (high born) when God called you. ²⁷ Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. ²⁸ God chose things despised by the world, (low born people) things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important , 1 Cor.1: 26-28]

Scripture reveals **the motives that lie behind the constant criticisms the leaders leveled at Jesus.** They were blind to the miracles because they were only looking for something they could use to discredit Jesus. [God's patience is meant to result in man's salvation (see v.9) ... as Paul pointed out ... referring to these matters ... Though some things are difficult to understand, which ... ill-informed and unbalanced people distort ... and so bring disaster on their own heads. 2 Pt.3:15]

¹a man was in the synagogue with a withered hand. ² And the Pharisees & Herodians watched Jesus, to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, **so that they might accuse him.** ³ And Jesus ... said to them, Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill? But they were silent. ⁵ And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart , and said to the man, Stretch out your hand. **He stretched it out, and his hand was restored .** ⁶ The Pharisees went out and held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him . (Mk.3:) The two groups that would not ordinarily associate with one another are united around a common purpose. These are people who have been in positions of power too long and it has corrupted them. **The only motives they have left are self-serving.** They are full of envy, and jealousy, greed, and hatred. They have been using the Law to elevate their own status and control the people unchallenged for way too long. They have never been held accountable for their abuses of office. They represent "the swamp" of Jesus' day. They see Jesus as a threat to the status quo which they have an interest in maintaining, which made them blind to his miracles and what they signify.

⁷ Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the sea, and a great crowd followed. ⁸ ... many people came

to him from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea [Edom], and the regions across the Jordan and around Tyre and Sidon [Gentile territory]. ¹⁰ for **he had healed many**, so that all who had diseases pressed around him to touch him. ¹¹ **And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, You are the Son of God ...** ¹⁴ And he appointed twelve **disciples** ... **so that they might be with him and he might send them out (Mk.6:7-13) to preach** ¹⁵ **and exercise authority to cast out demons ... (Mk.3:)**

Jesus is Accused of Working for Satan

Now the enemies of righteousness who are minions of the devil begin an outright assault on the light that has come into the world. (Jn.1:4-5; 3:19-21) And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, He is possessed ... by the prince of demons he casts out the demons. And he ... said to them in parables, How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand [a truism]. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he [is stronger and] first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house. (Mk.3:22-27; Lk.11:21-22)

Jesus teaches about the kingdom of God in several parables. **This one reveals the importance of proclaiming and embracing the Gospel.** ¹... a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. ² And **he was teaching them many things in parables** ... he said to them: ³ **a sower went out to sow** [by broadcasting the seed]. ⁴ ... some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. ⁵ Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. ⁶ And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. ⁸ And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain ... (Mk.4:)

¹⁴ **The sower sows the word**. ¹⁵ there are people **along the path** and people hear, but Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. ¹⁶ And ... the ones sown **on rocky ground**: when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. ¹⁷ **However they are not able to take root**, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, they fall away. ¹⁸ And others are ... sown **among thorns**. They ... hear the word, ¹⁹ but the cares of the world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²⁰ But **the good soil** represents those who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit ... (Mk.4:)

Jesus was invading the physical territory that was promised to the seed of Abraham. He walked the length and breadth of the land **symbolically retaking it as the heir to the promise and exercising his authority as the heir to David's throne.** **He was separating his people from those that belong to the devil (1 Jn.3:1-10) by teaching the truth and delivering his people from the misery of slavery in the darkness under the cruel hand of Satan.** He was demonstrating his power over the illegitimate god of this world having overcome him at their confrontation in the desert. He

was bringing the Gospel to those held down in ignorance and rescuing everyone who comes to him in faith.

Jesus rebukes the Wind and Calms the Sea

Jesus continues to reveal himself to be Lord of creation. ³⁵ ... when evening had come, the disciples got in boats to cross the sea [of Galilee] ³⁷ And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that it was filling. ³⁸ Now Jesus was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they cried out to him ... ³⁹ And **he ... rebuked the wind and said to the sea, Peace! Be still !** And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ He said to them, **Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?** ⁴¹ And they were filled with great fear ... (Mk.4:)

¹ They came to the other side ... to the country of the Gerasenes. ² And there met **Jesus** a man with an unclean spirit. ³ ... And no one could bind him **anymore**, ⁴ for ... he kept breaking free ... ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he would cry out and cut himself with stones. ⁶ And when he saw Jesus, he ran and fell down before him. ⁷ And crying out said, What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me ... ⁹ ... My name is Legion, for we are many ... ¹¹ Now a great herd of about two thousand pigs was feeding there on the hillside, ¹² and they begged him to allow them to enter them. ¹³ **So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs;** and the herd rushed down the steep bank and drowned in the sea. ¹⁴ The herdsmen fled and told it in the city and in the country. And people **came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man ... sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid.** ¹⁶ And those who had seen it described to them what had happened ... ¹⁷ And they ... begged Jesus to depart from their region. ¹⁸ ... the man who had been possessed begged to come with him. ¹⁹ But **Jesus** ... said Go home and tell your friends how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you. ²⁰ And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and **everyone marveled.** (Mk.5:)

Jesus Raises the Dead

²¹ When Jesus crossed again to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him. ²² Then came **Jairus**, one of the rulers of the synagogue, and fell at his feet ²³ and implored him earnestly, to heal his daughter ²⁴ And Jesus went with him ... (²⁵ now there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, ²⁶ and had suffered much under many physicians. She had spent all her money and was no better but grew worse. ²⁷ ... she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment ²⁸ thinking I will be made well. ²⁹ And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that **she was healed of her disease.** ³⁰ And Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, Who touched my garments? ... ³³ the woman came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. ³⁴ And he said to her, Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease, **Mk.5:)**

³⁵ ... meanwhile there came from the ruler's house some who said, Your daughter is dead. ³⁶ Jesus said Do not fear, only believe. ³⁸ They came to Jairus' house and people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹ he said to them, The child is not dead but sleeping ... he ... took the child's father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ **Taking her by the hand**

he said to her, **Little girl, arise.** ⁴² **And the girl got up and began walking ... and they were overcome with amazement. (Mk.5:)**

Jesus Delegates Authority to His Apostles

⁷ And he sent out the twelve [**apostles**] two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits ... ¹² So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. ¹³ And **they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them. (Mk.6:3:14).** the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. (**Rom.16:20**)

Jesus Feeds the Multitudes

³⁰ The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught ... ³² And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. ³³ ... and people ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴ ... and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And **he began to teach them many things.** ³⁵ And when it grew late, his disciples wanted to send to them away ... ³⁷ But he answered them, You give them something to eat ... ³⁸ And he said to them, How many loaves do you have? ... they said, Five, and two fish ... ⁴⁰ So they sat down in groups ... ⁴¹ And ... he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And **he divided the two fish among them all.** ⁴² **And they all ate and were satisfied.** ⁴³ **And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish.** ⁴⁴ ... **There were five thousand men. (Mk.6:)**

Jesus Revisits the Decapolis

⁴⁵ ... he sent his disciples in a boat to the other side of the sea, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd ... ⁴⁷ And when evening came ... he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them. And **about the fourth watch of the night [just before dawn] he came to them, walking on the sea ...** ⁴⁹ but when they saw him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and cried out, ⁵⁰ for they ... were terrified ... **Jesus said, Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.** ⁵¹ And **he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased.** And they were utterly astounded, ⁵² for they did not understand about the loaves [the supernatural provision like manna and quail in the wilderness, Ex.16, he who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little, 2 Cor.8:15], but their hearts were hardened (Mk.6:)

⁵³ ... they came to land at Gennesaret ... ⁵⁴ And ... the people [**in contrast to the first visit**] ... began to bring the sick people on their beds to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶ And wherever he came, in villages, cities, or countryside, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and implored him that they might touch even the fringe of his garment and **as many as touched it were made well. (Mk.6:)**

Jesus Exposes the Pharisees as Lawbreakers

The “questions” the religious leaders ask are in reality **accusations** in the form of questions. ¹ Now when the **Pharisees** gathered to him, with some of the **scribes** who had come from Jerusalem, ² they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were ... unwashed. ³ (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands properly, holding to the tradition of the elders, ⁴ ... And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and

pots and copper vessels and dining couches.) ⁵ And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands? ⁶ And he said to them, Well did **Isaiah** prophesy of **you hypocrites**, as it is written, This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; ⁷ in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men. ⁸ You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men. ⁹ ... **You have a fine way of rejecting [nullifying] the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition!** ¹⁰ For **Moses** said, Honor your father and your mother; and, Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die. ¹¹ But you say, If a man tells his father or his mother, Whatever you would have gained from me is ... given to God— ¹² then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, ¹³ thus making void the word of God by your tradition ... And many such things you do. (**Mk.7:**)

Jesus Casts Out a Demon from a Gentile's Daughter

²⁴ And from there he arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon ... a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. ²⁶ Now the woman was a **Gentile** by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ And he said to her, Let the children [**Jews**] be fed [**taken care of**] first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs [**Gentiles**]. ²⁸ But she answered him, Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs. ²⁹ And **he said to her, For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter.** (**Mk.7:**)

³¹ Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³² And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment ... ³³ And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. ³⁴ **And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, Be opened.** ³⁵ **And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly** ... ³⁷ And they were astonished beyond measure ... (**Mk.7:**)

Jesus Feeds the Crowd

¹ In those days ... he called his disciples to him and said to them, ² I have compassion on the crowd, because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat ... ⁵ And he asked them, How many loaves do you have? They said, Seven. ⁶ ... And he took the seven loaves, and having given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people ... ⁷ And they had a few small fish. And having blessed them, he said that these also should be set before them. ⁸ And they ate and were satisfied. And **they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full.** ⁹ **And there were about four thousand people** ... ¹⁰ And ... he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the district of Dalmanutha. (**Mk.8:**)

¹¹ The **Pharisees** came and began to argue with him, seeking from him a sign from heaven to test him. ¹² And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, Why does this generation seek a sign? ... no sign will be given ... ¹³ And he left them, got into the boat again, and went to the other side. (**Mk.8:**)

The Battle in Heaven & on Earth

⁷ Now war arose in heaven, **Michael** and his angels fighting against ... the dragon and his angels ... ⁸ but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place [same wd. in **Eph.4:27** , nor give place to the devil] for them in heaven. ⁹ And the great dragon ... that ancient serpent, called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world was thrown down to the earth, and his angels ... with him. ¹⁰ And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, **Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come**, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down ... ¹¹ And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death . ¹² Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short! (**Rev.12:**)

The battle that resulted in the dragon's expulsion from heaven is a war in heaven that John sees in symbol, one that was fought on earth. It depicts Jesus' suffering and death on a cross outside Jerusalem and his resurrection from the dead. The dragon's banishment from heaven to earth marks the coming of God's kingdom and of Christ's authority (**Rev.12:10**). This celebration precedes the final victory (**Rev.11:17-18**); for it speaks of the devil, now deprived of authority to indict believers and aware that his days are numbered, venting his frustration by wrecking havoc on earth. This is the kingdom's coming promised by Jesus and fulfilled in his disciples' lifetime through his death and resurrection, his heavenly enthronement, and pouring out of the of the Spirit in power. (**Mk.1:15; 9:1; Acts 2:30-33**)

Now that *ancient serpent* has always been *the deceiver of the whole world (**Rev.12:9**)*, especially of the Gentile nations who in their spiritual darkness often oppressed the ancient people of God. Jesus' exorcisms were one indication that Satan, the strong man, had been defeated by the stronger man, Jesus (**Mt.12:29**), whose initial confrontation marked the arrival of God's kingdom. Another is that after Jesus' death and resurrection, the light of God's kingdom broke forth on the nations that had been enslaved in satanic darkness. In his sermons to Gentile audiences at Lystra (**Acts 14:15-17**) and Athens (**Acts 17:30-31**), **Paul** characterizes the dire spiritual state of the Gentile nations before Christ's coming: ¹⁶ *In past generations God allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways (**14:16**), [but no longer!] The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent , because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance [proof] to all by raising him from the dead. (**Acts 17:30 -31**)*

*... God raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name ... **Eph.1:20-21***

The resurrection of Christ is the great spiritual watershed for the nations for Satan no longer has free reign to deceive them, and this is good news to the Gentiles. *For so the Lord has commanded us [apostles], saying, I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth. (**Acts 13:47; Lk.3:6**)*

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude ... from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white

robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb! (**Rev.7:9-10**)