

February 6, 2011

CHRIST MAGNIFIED IN THE SIGHT  
OF HIS PEOPLE (Part II)  
Joshua 3: 9 - 16

**Look** at Joshua 3: 7, “**And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day will I begin to magnify thee in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee.**”

**You** will remember from our study of this book that Joshua is a TYPE. **He is** a TYPE of Christ. **Christ** is the ANTITYPE. **Just** as God began (on a SPECIFIC day) to MAGNIFY Joshua, (the TYPE), in the sight of all (National) Israel, there is a (specific) day when He begins to MAGNIFY Christ, (the ANTITYPE), in the sight of each of His elect (all Spiritual Israel).

**And**, you will remember also from our last study that the FIRST way God began to MAGNIFY Joshua, the TYPE, and begins to MAGNIFY Christ, the ANTITYPE, is as the ONE who has the AUTHORITY of God.

**God** gave Joshua the AUTHORITY to bring National Israel into POSSESSION of that land they had ALREADY been given through their father, Abraham, hundreds of years earlier.

**Christ** earned the AUTHORITY to bring Spiritual Israel into the eternal salvation they have ALREADY been given in Him “before the world began”. **In time** in each generation Christ brings His sheep into POSSESSION of the salvation He worked out for them by His death of the Cross.

**Today** we will see another way that God began to MAGNIFY Joshua in the sight of National Israel and begins to MAGNIFY Christ in the sight of Spiritual Israel.

1. As the ONE who has the AUTHORITY of God.
2. **As the ONE who MANIFESTS the PRESENCE of God.**
3. As the ONE certain to drive out all the ENEMIES of his people.

**We** could sub-title this message, MANIFESTING THE PRESENCE OF GOD. **We** will see how God MANIFESTED Himself, (I.e. He made His PRESENCE known), to

National Israel **through Joshua**. **And**, we will see how He makes His PRESENCE known to Spiritual Israel **through Christ**.

**Look** at Joshua 3: 9, “**And Joshua said unto the children of Israel, Come hither, and hear the words of the LORD your God.**”

**In these** verses we will see Joshua MAGNIFIED in the sight of all Israel as the ONE who MANIFESTS the PRESENCE of God. **And**, he MANIFESTS the PRESENCE of God because he (**alone**) has the WORDS of God and because he (**alone**) has the WORKS of God.

**First**, let’s see that it is Joshua who has the **words** of God. (**Look** at the underline.) Joshua is the one who has been **taught** of God. **Obviously**, God had ALREADY spoken these **words** to him. **Joshua** makes it clear that these are not HIS **words** but GOD’S. **He is** (simply) telling Israel what God has ALREADY told him.

**Look** at Joshua 3: 10, “**And Joshua said, Hereby ye shall know that the living God is among you, and *that* he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Hivites, and the Perizzites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Jebusites”.**

**Through** Joshua, God assures National Israel of these two things: **FIRST**, He assures them that He, the living God, is “**among them**”. **And**, **SECOND**, He assures them that He, the living God, will (“**without fail**”) drive out from before them ALL their enemies. **Today**, we will consider how Israel was to **know** that “the living God was among”. **And** they would **know** that God was “among them” by that ONE God had appointed to bring them into POSSESSION of this land.

**So**, consider the living God “among them”. **He is** not speaking here about God’s **universal presence**. **God** is Omnipresent. **He is** EVERYWHERE. **He is** in ALL things. **And**, He is there at ALL times. **That** is what Paul told the philosophers on Mars Hill in Acts 17.

**Look** at Acts 17: 24-28, “**God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;**”

- 25 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;
- 26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;
- 27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:
- 28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

God was “among” Israel and He is “among” ALL MEN in THAT way.

**But**, Israel was to **know** (Israel was to **be assured**.) that God was “among them” (in a more SPECIFIC, a more SPECIAL way). **Israel** was to **know** that God was “among them” as a DELIVERER, as a SAVIOR. **They** were **be assured** that He was “among them” as One FAITHFUL to fulfill His Promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. **They** were to **be confident** that He was “among them” as the One who had **DETERMINED** to give them POSSESSION of the land that stood before them. **And**, therefore, they were to be **assured** that what God had **DETERMINED** He was CERTAIN to bring about.

**They** were to be confident that God was FOR them (fighting FOR them); that God was **on their side**. **And**, what better knowledge can a people have than that God is “among” them (as a SAVIOR, as a DELIVERER)? **The** Scripture is **clear** on this matter, “**If God be for us, who can be against us?**”

**Let's** answer two questions on this matter. **WHY** was it so important that National Israel know that “the living God was among them”? **Think** about it!

**This** people stood on the border of a land that God had given Abraham in a Promise made some 470 years earlier. **Inside** this land are seven nations each more powerful than Israel.

**These** people have occupied this land for generations. **They** have built homes in this land (walled cities). **They** raised their families in this land. **They** have accumulated many possessions in this land. **They** think this land belongs to them. **And**, they are willing and ready to fight to keep it.

**It was NECESSARY**, (absolutely NECESSARY) for National Israel to know that they were not entering this endeavor on **their own** strength and ability. **It was NECESSARY** for them to **KNOW** that God was fighting **for** them; **that** they had His power and purpose behind them; **that** God was **determined** for them to **POSSESS** this land. **And**, that they would enter in and **POSSESS** it by **His** strength and power and **NOT** their own.

**So**, HOW was Israel to **know** this? **How** were they to **know** that “the living God was among them”? **How** were they to **know** that He had **DETERMINED** for them to **POSSESS** this land? **They** were to **know** because God **MANIFESTED** His **PRESENCE** in Israel. **And**, He **MANIFESTED** His **PRESENCE** **through Joshua**.

**Remember**, what God is doing here. **He is** **MAGNIFYING** Joshua in the sight of his people. (“**This day will I begin to magnify thee in the sight of all Israel...**”)

In our last lesson we saw God **MAGNIFYING** Joshua as the One who was given the **AUTHORITY** of God. Today, we see God continuing to **MAGNIFY** Joshua as the One who **MANIFESTS** the **PRESENCE** of God.

**Through Joshua**, Israel would know that the living God was “**among them**”. **Through Joshua** Israel would know that “the living God” was **FOR** them. **Through Joshua** Israel would know that “the living God” was **on their side**. **Joshua** would be the One in Israel **MANIFESTING** the **PRESENCE** of God.

**And**, they would know this **FIRST** because it was **to Joshua** that God gave “the **WORDS** of God”. **It was** Joshua (**ALONE**) who could (rightly) say, “**Come hither, and hear the words of the LORD your God.**” **And**, these are **NOT** general **WORDS**, but specific. **They** are declaring Israel’s “miraculous” entrance into the land of Promise.

**Joshua** is the One God told what He was about to do to bring Israel into this land. God informed **Joshua** of “the **WAY** by which Israel must go”. **Joshua** **ALONE** was given **WORD** of Israel’s miraculous entrance into the land of Promise.

**So**, Joshua tells them what God is about to do.

**Look at Joshua 3: 11-13, “Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth passeth over before you into Jordan.**

**12 Now therefore take you twelve men out of the tribes of Israel, out of every tribe a man.**

**13 And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests that bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of Jordan, *that* the waters of Jordan shall be cut off *from* the waters that come down from above; and they shall stand upon an heap.”**

**Joshua** had the WORDS of God. **Joshua** knew ahead of time what God would (with CERTAINTY) bring about in time.

**All the** nation Israel needed to know that the living God was “among them” was to hear the WORDS of God spoken to them by Joshua. **And**, then, to see the WORKS that **confirmed** both the WORDS and the WORKS to be of God.

**And**, that is the SECOND way Joshua MANIFESTED the PRESENCE of God “among” the Israelites. **He not** only had the WORDS of God. **But**, He was the One used by God to perform the WORKS of God.

**Before** this, God used Moses to perform His WORKS in Israel. **But** Moses is dead. **Now**, God has chosen **Joshua** for this task. **Before**, Moses MANIFESTED the PRESENCE of God “among” this nation. **Now**, that responsibility has passed on to **Joshua**.

**We will** see in this point that it is the WORKS of God that **confirm** the WORDS of God. **The** WORKS (must) **confirm**; they (must) **back up** the WORDS. **Without** the WORKS to **confirm** them; **without** the WORKS to **back them up**, the WORDS are nothing more than literature.

**According** to what Moses wrote in Deuteronomy, **without** the WORKS (to **confirm** them), the WORDS (claiming to be speaking for God) are nothing more that **presumption**.

**Look at Deut 18: 21-22, “And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken?”**

**22** When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that *is* the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, *but* the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.”

**Joshua** said to Israel, “**Come hither, and hear the words of the LORD your God.** Then, he informed them what was about to take place. **Now**, if what he prophesied (I.e. declared ahead of time), if that fails to take place (exactly as he said), what does that mean? **It means** that Joshua was NOT stating the WORDS of God. **It means** that God had NOT told Joshua what to say.

**It is** no LIGHT MATTER that the WORDS a man speaks in God’s name, **be confirmed** by WORKS that prove them to be so. **So**, God **confirmed** the WORDS He gave Joshua to give to the people. **He confirmed** them with WORKS that proved both the WORDS and the WORKS to be Of God.

**Look** at Joshua 3: 14-16, “**And it came to pass, when the people removed from their tents, to pass over Jordan, and the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people;**

**15** **And as they that bare the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, (for Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest,)**

**16** **That the waters which came down from above stood *and* rose up upon an heap very far from the city Adam, that *is* beside Zaretan: and those that came down toward the sea of the plain, *even* the salt sea, failed, *and* were cut off: and the people passed over right against Jericho.”**

**Obviously**, God performed a tremendous miracle here. **I am** not ignoring that miracle. **We will** consider the details of it in the next lesson.

**What** I want us to see today is this: **God** told Joshua what He was about to do to bring Israel into the land of Promise. **He gave** him the WORDS of God. **Joshua**, then, relayed those WORDS on to the people. **And**, then, those WORDS were **confirmed** by the WORKS of God. **God** brought about (exactly) what He had previously made known.

**Thus**, God **MAGNIFIED** Joshua as the One in Israel who **MANIFESTED** the **PRESENCE** of God. **Joshua** was the One who had the **WORDS** as well as, the **WORKS** that **CONFIRMED** his **WORDS** to be of God. **“By THIS”**, (i.e. **“By this”** ONE that God had given them to bring them into the land of Promise), Israel could **“know”** (They could **be assured**.) that “the living God was among them”.

**Joshua** **MANIFESTED** the **PRESENCE** of God in Israel as a **TYPE**. **Ultimately**, it is Christ who **MANIFESTS** the **PRESENCE** of God in the earth (and **ESPECIALLY** in salvation). **Christ** did not just **HAVE** the **WORDS** of God. **He IS** the **WORD** of God.

**He** is the **ETERNAL WORD**. **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God,** (John 1: 1).

**He** is the **Incarnate WORD**. **“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us...,”** (John 1: 14).

**His** very name means “God with us”. **“...and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us”**, (Matt 1:23).

**Paul** wrote to Timothy in I Timothy 3:16 (concerning Christ), **“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”**

**Christ IS** the **WORD** of God. **And**, Christ is the sum and substance of the **written WORD** (Old Testament and New).

**Look** at Matt 24: 27, **“And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.”**

**The** entire Bible from beginning to end is **ABOUT HIM**. **It is** about His glorious Person (God and man). **And**, it is about His **WORK** (of Redemption, of Righteousness, of Justification). **Therefore**, Christ is **THE WORD** of God in salvation. **To be IN HIM** is to be forever saved. **To NOT be IN HIM** is to be forever lost.

**It is** the **WORKS** of Christ that **confirm** Him to be the God-man, the Redeemer, the Savior which the Scriptures declare Him to be. **The**

Scriptures **declare** Him. **And**, His **WORKS confirm** Him to be the One declared. **That** is what Christ said to those of His day.

Look at John 10: 24-25, “**Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly.**

**25 Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.”**

Christ healed the sick. He raised the dead. He made the blind to see and the deaf to hear. **I.e.** He did things that only God can do. He performed miracles that could only be performed by the power of God. **And**, men could easily see the hand and power of God in His **WORKS**.

Nicodemus said, “**we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.”**

Look at John 14: 10-11, “**Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.**

**11 Believe me that I *am* in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.”**

**Again**, without the **WORKS** to confirm the One being declared, the **WORDS** mean **nothing**.

Look at John 5: 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.”**

The **WORKS** Christ is speaking of here are **WORKS** that **confirm** Him to be the Savior and Redeemer of His people. **They** are the **WORKS** required (demanded) of a Just God (One who **MUST** do **RIGHT**). **And**, they are the **WORKS** of a God who has **determined** to show mercy to a multitude of sinners, by providing them a Righteousness they **MUST** have, but **CANNOT** produce.

**These** are the same **WORKS** Christ said He **FINISHED** in John 17 in anticipation of His death on the Cross.



**Look** at John 17: 1&4, **“These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: 4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.”**

**These** are WORKS which fulfill the prophecy of Christ in Daniel 9.

**Look** at Daniel 9: 24, **“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.”**

**Daniel’s** prophecy is of the coming Messiah. **He is** foretelling what Christ would do for His people when He came. **These** are the WORKS the Father gave Christ to do. **They** are the WORKS that glorify God, a Just God and a Savior. **They** are the WORKS that **confirm** Christ to be the Savior of His sheep.

**Christ** DID **“make an end of the sins”** of His people. **He “put their sin away by the sacrifice of Himself”** (Heb 9: 26). **The** sins of His people were “charged” to Christ and they CANNOT be “charged” to them. **Their** sins CANNOT condemn them or ever bring them into disfavor with God. **Christ** put their sins away SO COMPLETELY that they will never be brought up in the court of God’s justice.

**And,** Christ DID **“bring in everlasting righteousness”**. **He** established in time the ONE Righteousness which the Father imputes to His elect and by which He declares them forever righteous in His sight. **Christ** is the One **“by whose obedience the many shall be made righteous”** (Rom 5: 19).

**These** are the WORKS by which God MANIFESTS Himself to **every** Spiritual Israelite in **every** generation. **They** are the WORKS that **confirm** Christ to be the Savior/Redeemer declared in the WORD.

**Well,** as I already told you, it was important for National Israel to KNOW that “the living God was among them”. **They** stood against IMPOSSIBLE odds in an IMPOSSIBLE task (humanly speaking). **They** needed to KNOW that the God who

had GIVEN this land to Abraham in a Promise was the SAME One who had DETERMINED that they have it and was CERTAIN to bring them into POSSESSION of it now.

**And**, God showed them that He was “among them” **through Joshua**. **He** gave **Joshua** the WORDS, as well as, the WORKS that confirmed both to be of God.

**In every** generation Spiritual Israel stands against IMPOSSIBLE odds in an IMPOSSIBLE task (humanly speaking). **Spiritual** Israel needs to know that the God who gave them salvation IN CHRIST “before the world began” is CERTAIN to bring them into POSSESSION of that salvation in time in each generation. **God** is **DETERMINED** that each of them KNOW the Savior whose blood has bought them and is bringing them to final glory. **Just** as National Israel MUST POSSESS this land, Spiritual Israel MUST POSSESS this salvation.

**Everyone** we know in religion (outside the Gospel), which is by far the majority, stands in opposition to what we see the Bible saying about the WORDS of Christ and the WORKS of Christ. **We declare** a salvation COMPLETE in Christ and totally contrary to man’s natural way of thinking. **And**, we do so because God has CHANGED our thinking.

**God** has determined to glorify Himself in the hearts of a people. **I.e.** **He** has determined to make Himself known as a Just God and a Savior in and by the WORKS of Christ ALONE. **Those** sinners who look to Christ ALONE as the One who ACCOMPLISHED their (complete) salvation are those who reveal God’s PRESENCE “among them”.

**God** is “among” those who know Christ as a TRUE Savior, **One** who put away the sin of EVERY sinner He died for; **One** who established the One Righteousness by which God declares EVERY sinner He died for Righteous in His sight. **He is** “among those” who proclaim the WORDS of Christ – the ones He spoke and the ones which speak **rightly** of Him. **He is** “among those” who declare the WORKS that **confirm** Him to be the One declared.

**We** worship God in the “light” He has given us. **We** worship God under the Gospel, which declares Christ to be the Savior and Redeemer of EVERY sinner He represented, as well as, the WORKS that **confirm** to be so.

**And**, we are to avoid those who speak NOT “according to the light of this WORD”.

**Look** at Isaiah 8: 20, **“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because *there is no light in them.*”**

**We** are to AVOID those who speak the name of Christ, but then (in the same message) DENY the WORKS that confirm Him to be the SUCCESSFUL Savior/Redeemer of EVERY sinner He was given. **Such** men preach a POTENTIAL Savior (One who will save you...IF...). **The** WORKS they attribute to Christ do not **confirm** the One revealed in the WORD.

**God** commands us to avoid such men.

**Look** at 2 John 9-11, **“Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.**

**10 ¶ If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into *your* house, neither bid him God speed:**

**11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.”**

**God** “MAGNIFIED Joshua in the sight of all Israel” as the one who MANIFESTED the PRESENCE of God “among them”. **He** gave him the WORDS and the WORKS that **confirmed** both to be of God.

**God** MAGNIFIES Christ in the sight of His people. **The** Gospel declares Christ, the WORD of God (eternal, Incarnate, written, spoken), as well as, the WORKS that **confirm** Him to be the One declared.

**Those** who look to Christ ALONE are the ones who can **know** that “the living God is among them”.

**Today** – the One by which God brings us in. **Next** time, the Way He brings us in by which He assures us that He will drive out ALL our enemies.

By Mark Pannell