

CHAPTER TWENTY-NINE

400 SILENT YEARS AND A REMINDER OF OLD TESTAMENT PREDICTIONS

God did not speak to His people for 400 years. As far as history goes, we have already studied about the rise and fall of the Babylonian empire. The Medo-Persian Empire had come into existence. During these 400 years this empire fell to the Greeks. The Greek empire also gave way to the Roman empire during these 400 years. This brings us up to the New Testament time. The Roman Empire is in control of all the known world at that time.

A transition is about to be made. God was about to deal with His people through grace as opposed to the Old Testament Law. Love and liberty are the foundation stones of the New Testament. To get our study of the New Testament we are going to begin with The Appearing of the World's Redeemer. But first, let us be reminded of some of the Old Testament Scriptural predictions of the Second Person of the Godhead becoming human.

GENESIS 3:15-19

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.

DEUT 18:15-19

15 THE LORD THY GOD WILL RAISE UP UNTO THEE A PROPHET FROM THE MIDST OF THEE, OF THY BRETHREN, LIKE UNTO ME; UNTO HIM YE SHALL HEARKEN;

16 ACCORDING TO ALL THAT THOU DESIREDST OF THE LORD THY GOD IN HOREB IN THE DAY OF THE ASSEMBLY, SAYING, LET ME NOT HEAR AGAIN THE VOICE OF THE LORD MY GOD, NEITHER LET ME SEE THIS GREAT FIRE ANY MORE, THAT I DIE NOT.

17 AND THE LORD SAID UNTO ME, THEY HAVE WELL SPOKEN THAT WHICH THEY HAVE SPOKEN.

18 I WILL RAISE THEM UP A PROPHET FROM AMONG THEIR BRETHREN, LIKE UNTO THEE, AND WILL PUT MY WORDS IN HIS MOUTH; AND HE SHALL SPEAK UNTO THEM ALL THAT I SHALL COMMAND HIM.

19 AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS, THAT WHOSOEVER WILL NOT HEARKEN UNTO MY WORDS WHICH HE SHALL SPEAK IN MY NAME, I WILL REQUIRE IT OF HIM.

ISAIAH 7:14

14 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 9:6

6 FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN, UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN: AND THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE UPON HIS SHOULDER: AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL, COUNSELLOR, THE MIGHTY GOD, THE EVERLASTING FATHER, THE PRINCE OF PEACE.

DANIEL 7:13

13 I SAW IN THE NIGHT VISIONS, AND, BEHOLD, ONE LIKE THE SON OF MAN CAME WITH THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN, AND CAME TO THE ANCIENT OF DAYS, AND THEY BROUGHT HIM NEAR BEFORE HIM.

For the Son of God to actually become human, He had to humble Himself. He had to empty Himself of everything that He had in the dwelling place of God—God’s glory, His holiness, and His riches. The Second Person of the Godhead, even before the foundation of the world, volunteered Himself to become subject to God the Father.

Up to this point, He had been equal to the Father in every way. Although He remained equal in deity, He agreed to surrender Himself by laying aside His deity so He could be a Son to the Father. As you know, a son is always be subject to his father. Emptying himself also meant that the Eternal Son of God, determined to come to this earth and live here without relying on his deity. He would live on earth in every way as a human being even though He is God Himself.

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8

**5 LET THIS MIND BE IN YOU, WHICH WAS ALSO IN CHRIST JESUS:
6 WHO, BEING IN THE FORM OF GOD, THOUGHT IT NOT ROBBERY TO BE EQUAL WITH GOD:
7 BUT MADE HIMSELF OF NO REPUTATION, AND TOOK UPON HIM THE FORM OF A SERVANT, AND WAS MADE IN THE LIKENESS OF MEN:
8 AND BEING FOUND IN FASHION AS A MAN, HE HUMBLING HIMSELF, AND BECAME OBEDIENT UNTO DEATH, EVEN THE DEATH OF THE CROSS.**

This Scripture, of course, describes the position that Jesus took by coming to the earth. Do you understand? He surrendered the independent exercise of the Divine attributes and determined to take on human attributes. The union of the Divine with the human would be limited the Son of God to all of the restrictions of human nature. The purpose of the self-emptying was so that the Son of God could be the Redeemer for sinful mankind. The Son of God as a human would be able to bear all the infirmities that were on mankind as a result of man’s fall. He would descend to the depths of degradation to which man would fall.

HEBREWS 2:17-18

17 WHEREFORE IN ALL THINGS IT BEHOVED HIM TO BE MADE LIKE UNTO HIS BRETHREN, THAT HE MIGHT BE A MERCIFUL AND FAITHFUL HIGH PRIEST IN THINGS PERTAINING TO GOD, TO MAKE RECONCILIATION FOR THE SINS OF THE PEOPLE.

18 FOR IN THAT HE HIMSELF HATH SUFFERED BEING TEMPTED, HE IS ABLE TO SUCCOUR THEM THAT ARE TEMPTED.

As a human, the Son of God would become subject to the demands of the curse of the law. He placed Himself under the law, in order to discharge its federal and penal obligations in behalf of His people. By doing this He became legally responsible for our sins and liable to the curse of the law.