

[Him Have I Beheaded] / Gospel of Luke 9:1 – 10:24

~ We went deeper into demonism than we care to go in our last report from our Spiritual Safari. We have dealt with it before - but not from this perspective. If you have not read our previous report from Luke, then I highly suggest you go back and do so now. Our reasonable conclusion is that we are experiencing an absolute onslaught of demonism in contemporary society. Multi-culturalism simply unites evil from all corners of the globe. The little bit of evidence we examined was more than sufficient to validate our hypothesis. We also realized two incidents of restoration of life in this Gospel; that is, the restoration of the dead to their previous natural state in this body on this earth – which died again – so, we make the careful distinction of not referring to those incidents as a "resurrection," per se. In this section of Scripture, we are also reviewing and comparing what we have already learned in the two other Gospels of Matthew and Mark....

IX

1 Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases.

2 And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

~ Jesus has more than adequately demonstrated how He alone can furnish the dynamic to complete our ethic through the work of the Holy Spirit and by the performance of miracles in every area of life; that is, the spiritual, physical, natural and supernatural realms. All four dimensions of this three-dimensional life was exposed to the apostles at this time; and only when they had received that message did Jesus send them to preach. Have you had that encounter with Christ, my beloved? If not, I highly suggest you refrain from going forth to preach - because, if you do, Jesus isn't sending you.

When Jesus was here on earth, He gave the gift of healing to His apostles. They were called sign gifts. They were given to them at that time to demonstrate that Jesus was Who He claimed to be. These apostles did not

have a nice leather-bound New Testament Bible to carry around with them. They had to have credibility and the Lord Jesus gave that to them by giving them the power to heal and raise the dead. The sign of an apostle – at the time in which we are studying – was validated by exercising sign gifts. That is how the early church was established. Peter healed the sick AND raised the dead – and so did Paul. Today, you and I have a Bible. That is our source of all credibility in Christ Jesus. Sola Scriptura. If you are attempting to affirm credibility outside of the Word of God, you are practicing Satanism, friends. That goes for tongues, too. You can just write it down.

Interestingly, Paul never healed himself of his thorn in the flesh. Paul asked God to remove the thorn myriad times; God didn't remove it. Paul died with it buried deep – you may be absolutely sure! Paul also told Timothy to take some wine for his stomach problems! Paul didn't heal Timothy, either – so, what about it? Before the canons of Scripture are even closed, the sign gifts cease, are removed and all governance of God on earth is transferred to our record of Holy Writ. That's what about it. If you are a faith healer who does not raise the dead, then you are simply a fraud and a phony.

So, the first admonition Jesus gave the disciples was to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom – healing was always secondary. The apostles were not sent out with a physical primary objective; it was spiritual, first and foremost. John will say later to refuse any man not having this doctrine. Paul says if an angel from Heaven doesn't preach this Gospel - then reject them - I don't care if they can bring down fire from Heaven, friends, if you don't have the sound doctrine of the apostles concerning the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ from the Word of God then, my friend, you are possessed by Satan. To those atheists who have heard the Gospel but willfully continue to reject it, I say, anathema - let you be damned. Frankly, your eternal damnation is your problem - not mine. Yes, it is strong language – I'm just bringing you the message of the love, love, love of the Lord Jesus Christ from His Word; irrespective of whether you believe it, understand it, agree with it, accept it, like it - or not....

3 And he said unto them, Take nothing for your journey, neither staves, nor scrip, neither bread, neither money; neither have two coats apiece.

~ Let's find who's taking up an offering, too, because Jesus says take nothing. Does he pack a bag for his journey? Well, you will find verse three is avoided like the bubonic plague by the healing crowd – a faith healer will never use this verse. Of course, they don't believe anything Jesus says - but I digress, sort of. The laborer is worthy of his hire – that is a fact; but it isn't what we are talking about here. Any man – whoever he is - who is giving out the Word of God should receive support for that effort. I wish more Christians could recognize these differentiating facts of Biblical truth. At this time in history that we are studying, the circumstances were entirely different, as you should be able to understand. Tragically, those who are truly called by the Lord today mostly exist starving and alone – many completely homeless; no additional personal comments at this time....

4 And whatsoever house ye enter into, there abide, and thence depart.

5 And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them.

6 And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing every where.

7 Now Herod the tetrarch heard of all that was done by him: and he was perplexed, because that it was said of some, that John was risen from the dead;

8 And of some, that Elias had appeared; and of others, that one of the old prophets was risen again.

9 And Herod said, John have I beheaded: but who is this, of whom I hear such things? And he desired to see him.

10 And the apostles, when they were returned, told him all that they had done. And he took them, and went aside privately into a desert place belonging to the city called Bethsaida.

11 And the people, when they knew it, followed him: and he received them, and spake unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing.

~ Remember, the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God are not synonymous terms. The Kingdom of Heaven is within the Kingdom of God, but they are altogether different. The Kingdom of Heaven speaks to the rule of the Lord over the earth. The Kingdom of God includes not only the Kingdom of Heaven, but also the kingdoms of men and all of creation itself. It's not as difficult to understand as the feeding of the five thousand is, that's for sure. However, because we have considered this miracle twice before in our Spiritual Safari, we will pass them by this time and just let them eat in peace. If you have not read all of our safari reports from Matthew, Mark and Luke thus far - this would be a good time to go back and do so....

12 And when the day began to wear away, then came the twelve, and said unto him, Send the multitude away, that they may go into the towns and country round about, and lodge, and get victuals: for we are here in a desert place.

13 But he said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they said, We have no more but five loaves and two fishes; except we should go and buy meat for all this people.

14 For they were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples; Make them sit down by fifties in a company.

15 And they did so, and made them all sit down.

16 Then he took the five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them, and brake, and gave to the disciples to set before the multitude.

17 And they did eat, and were all filled: and there was taken up of fragments that remained to them twelve baskets.

18 And it came to pass, as he was alone praying, his disciples were with him: and he asked them, saying, Whom say the people that I am?

19 They answering said, John the Baptist; but some say, Elias; and others say, that one of the old prophets is risen again.

20 He said unto them, But whom say ye that I am? Peter answering said, The Christ of God.

21 And he straitly charged them, and commanded them to tell no man that thing;

~ We have also previously considered Peter's confession that Jesus is the Christ – the Son of God! We are not going to dwell on matters that are already set in concrete in our thinking from previous Gospel accounts; I highly suggest you review them if you are a new reader. And, with that, we come to the first announcement in this Gospel of Jesus making the statement that He is going to Jerusalem to be crucified. That also makes segue in this Gospel to the transfiguration account. We have considered the transfiguration twice before, but this supernatural event is something that needs to be examined very, very carefully - and many times. Our doctorate level consideration of events in this safari, generally speaking, has information that graduate programs omit....

22 Saying, The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day.

23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

24 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.

25 For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?

26 For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.

27 But I tell you of a truth, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God.

~ Simon Peter is the one who interprets this for us by saying he saw the Kingdom of God while they were standing on the Holy Mount! Peter says he was an eyewitness to the event:

2 Peter 1:16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. 18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount ~

Peter makes it more than clear and understandable what they saw. We are not left to guess about anything. All of these were seen when they were with Jesus on the Holy Mount - and that's when they heard the voice of God. That is the Biblical explanation – is it good enough for you? See, in this doctorate level learning we need to shut up and listen if we are going to learn anything. I think that is the trouble with most modern scholars – and even just the lay person that might honestly think they love God. Most have no idea what they believe! Jesus says, “believe!” – and that's fine with me – BUT – you better know precisely what that belief is, or you are going to find yourself right back to square one! It just baffles me that people think they can decipher this meaning on their own when they weren't there? That is like trying to give the minute-by-minute play action of a ball game that you aren't at – it is – absurd! ~

28 And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray.

29 And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistening.

~ We closely detailed the metamorphosis of a caterpillar when we were in Matthew; and we saw the correlation of a transformation to the transfiguration. Naturally, a dangerous and feared little caterpillar makes itself a cocoon and it is transformed – miraculously - into a beautiful butterfly! It is a miracle, friends. It is the same word and same attached meaning that is used for the transfiguration! As we have said, the transfiguration, to me, doesn't set forth the deity of Christ but, rather, the humanity of Christ! The transfiguration is the goal of all humanity!

When we closely examine the transfiguration of Jesus, it defines precisely what happens when we are translated. The dead shall be raised and those that are alive shall be changed. So, the living and the dead will all be translated and brought into the presence of God. That is what we have here; His countenance was altered, and His raiment made white and glistening. This is not some light coming down from Heaven – it is light emanating FROM the Lord Jesus Himself! This light came from Christ and shone out from Him. I, personally, believe that Adam and Eve were clothed with this type of glorious light prior to the fall. When they sinned, they became aware that the light had left them and that they were naked! Some people ask the ridiculous question: will we wear clothes in Heaven? All I know is that God graciously and lovingly gave Adam and Eve skins for clothes as they exited the garden; and that you won't be seeing any flesh in Heaven. We know it will all be covered up....

30 And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias:

31 Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.

~ The topic of discussion between Moses, Elijah and the Lord Jesus was concerning His death on the cross at Jerusalem. This is not contrary to the Old Testament in any way. The law and the prophets BOTH revealed that the only way God saves us is by the death, burial and resurrection of the

Messiah! That is the righteousness we obtain by faith in Christ! The animal sacrifice was the very heart of the Mosaic system. That little lamb being offered speaks of Him on the cross, too. Of course, the prophets spoke of the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world....

32 But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him.

33 And it came to pass, as they departed from him, Peter said unto Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias: not knowing what he said.

~ When Peter is actually awake, he has to talk; and what he means is, “....I have no earthly idea what I am saying!” That seems to be about ninety-nine percent of what we hear people saying today. They have the most pious vocabulary, but there is not cohesive thought in their little minds. Peter places Moses and Elijah on the same par as Jesus but Jesus is not on the same plane as them. Many anthropologists of religion give the founders, such as, Buddha, Mohammed and the Krishna, the same deity as God. The problem is that Jesus isn’t the founder of a religion! Jesus didn’t found Christianity. To say so is absurd. Christ dying on the cross for the sins of the world was prophesied of several millennia before it happened. In fact, if you come to Christ, then, by de facto, you must LOSE your religion! If you don’t lose your religion, you’ll never see Jesus Christ....

34 While he thus spake, there came a cloud, and overshadowed them: and they feared as they entered into the cloud.

35 And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.

36 And when the voice was past, Jesus was found alone. And they kept it close, and told no man in those days any of those things which they had seen.

37 And it came to pass, that on the next day, when they were come down from the hill, much people met him.

38 And, behold, a man of the company cried out, saying, Master, I beseech thee, look upon my son: for he is mine only child.

39 And, lo, a spirit taketh him, and he suddenly crieth out; and it teareth him that he foameth again, and bruising him hardly departeth from him.

40 And I besought thy disciples to cast him out; and they could not.

41 And Jesus answering said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you, and suffer you? Bring thy son hither.

42 And as he was yet a coming, the devil threw him down, and tare him. And Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the child, and delivered him again to his father.

43 And they were all amazed at the mighty power of God. But while they wondered every one at all things which Jesus did, he said unto his disciples,

44 Let these sayings sink down into your ears: for the Son of man shall be delivered into the hands of men.

45 But they understood not this saying, and it was hid from them, that they perceived it not: and they feared to ask him of that saying.

46 Then there arose a reasoning among them, which of them should be greatest.

47 And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart, took a child, and set him by him,

48 And said unto them, Whosoever shall receive this child in my name receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me receiveth him that sent me: for he that is least among you all, the same shall be great.

49 And John answered and said, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name; and we forbid him, because he followeth not with us.

50 And Jesus said unto him, Forbid him not: for he that is not against us is for us.

51 And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem,

52 And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him.

53 And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem.

54 And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?

55 But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.

56 For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village.

57 And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.

58 And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.

59 And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.

60 Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.

61 And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house.

62 And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

X

1 After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.

2 Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.

~ We hear a lot about 'praying to the Lord of the harvest' and we talk about how He looked out on the fields and, somehow, erroneously conclude that this should be our business today. Well, you need to read this very carefully: I do not consider my business harvesting. My business is sowing seed! If you know anything about farming, then you know it's difficult to harvest before the seeds grow up and mature into a viable plant. We reap what we sow. What must be recognized is that Jesus has not yet died on the cross at the time in which we are studying, and that the age of law was coming to an end. The end of EVERY age ends in judgment. That is what Jesus is talking about here.

Any age ending in judgment means a harvest. Our present age is the age of grace - that of sowing of seed of the Gospel. At the end of THIS age there will be a harvest - but that is not the harvest we are talking about here in this section of Scripture. Jesus said, "let both grow together until the end of the age." Christ Himself will send forth the harvesters for this age – AFTER the sowing of seed is complete. Today, the business of the believer is to sow the seed of the Word of God. I interpret that to be everyone's business as a Christian. Harvesting brings judgment and I don't want to judge anyone's heart. I don't know your relationship to God - because I can't see

your motives. God does see your heart, though - and He does know you. He is the One that will judge you. So, if you don't mind, I'll just keep sowing seed to get the Word of God to the world. If you see things the same way, then you and I are partners in a tremendous enterprise of getting the entire Word of God out to the entire world in the sound doctrine of the apostles. It isn't easy. It takes a lot of time, a lot of work and tremendous effort....

3 Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves.

4 Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes: and salute no man by the way.

5 And into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, Peace be to this house.

6 And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it: if not, it shall turn to you again.

7 And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house.

8 And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you:

9 And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.

10 But into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you not, go your ways out into the streets of the same, and say,

11 Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveth on us, we do wipe off against you: notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.

12 But I say unto you, that it shall be more tolerable in that day for Sodom, than for that city.

13 Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works had been done in Tyre and Sidon, which have been done in you, they had a great while ago repented, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.

14 But it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment, than for you.

~ We need to understand that this marks the end of the age of the Mosaic System of Levitical Law in Israel and throughout the world at this time. This is judgment; 'harvesting' means that. Sowing seed means giving out the Word of God and preaching the Gospel message. We are to attempt to bring people to the Lord BEFORE they're judged so they can be saved. To attempt to place this section of Scripture down on our present modern contemporary society is a reckless and irresponsible way to handle Holy Writ – nothing else. I hope we have made this point clear on safari....

15 And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted to heaven, shalt be thrust down to hell.

16 He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me.

17 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

21 In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise

and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.

22 All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him.

23 And he turned him unto his disciples, and said privately, Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see:

24 For I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them ~

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