

Mysterious Prophecies Altered Expectations

Jeremiah 23:5-6

12-5-2010

“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.”

Our lives, driven by our very nature, are run by expectation. We all gain our sense of peace and security from what we have learned to expect out of life. Why? Because mankind labors relentlessly at the quest for control. No surprises!

The desire is to build a world of predictability, a world that works according to plan and rule. You turn the light switch on and the darkness goes away, you flush the toilet and the ____ goes away, predictable, dependable and intentional. That is what allows us to live in a stress-free environment. (well the intent is to provide minimal stress)

Expectations are built around the reliability of the things we put our trust in. The Israelites lived in expectation of prophecies fulfillment. Their ever present sufferings would one day be comforted in the coming of their King who would rescue them from all oppression. The Messiah, the Christ, The King who will bring peace.

For much of Israel, that is all who had not sold out to Rome, the coming of this Messiah was a constant prayer. When Zechariah was startled out of his practiced routine by an unexpected angelic visitor, he became stressed. He was told great news, his prayer had been heard, he and his wife Elizabeth would become parents to a son who would be the prophesied return of Elijah. (Luke 1:5-25 (11-17); Mal.4:5) Zechariah's expectations just got adjusted to a different level. Now what? An aged man and woman thrust into

parenting the greatest prophet to ever walk the earth, not much to stress over there, nope not much. (Mat.11:7-15)

Consider what you might do if you were just informed that your child would be a long awaited fulfiller of prophesy. With such information how would you adjust your life? How should you raise such a child for such a destiny? Zechariah and Elizabeth responded to this new information by returning home to live in seclusion. (Luk.1:23-25)

If you knew what your destiny was or the destiny of your child, how would that affect the choices you make? If at birth an old sage laid their hands on your child's head and lifted their cataract filled eyes to heaven and spoke of great and terrible (mighty) things that this child was destined to do, how would that change your intentions concerning that child? Would you seek to raise that child in special ways? If that prophecy was about you, would you seek to learn and practice different things?

Would Jessie have raised David differently had he known that David was one day going to be king? If David had known he was going to be king would he have rebelled against being left out in the pasture with sheep? (and yet as a shepherd David learned how to trust in God to deliver a giant into his hands, hmmm.)

God, who has known each of you before you were born, has plans and purpose and destiny for each one of you. (Jer.1:5-8) Just as God has had plans for those who were called to serve him in past generations He has plans for you because each of us were called and are being called according to His expressed purpose and plan. (Rom.8:28-30; Gal.1:15; 2Tm.1:9; Rom.9:11; 1Cor.2:9-10) My encouragement to you is to seek God's will and destiny for your life. Choose to live in cooperation with His will, for His glory and dominion. May His will for you be done.