



Matthew Chapter 2c and 3 Unfolding The Beginning

During our journey into the 2nd chapter of the book of Matthew last week we spoke about how the Apostle Matthew worked hard within his writings to make sure that we all understood that our Messiah not only came from the lineage of David and the tribe of Judah... but that he was also originally a Bethlehemite and not a Nazarene as he was often called.

The Apostle Matthew doesn't even mention the town of Nazareth until after the birth of our Messiah, after his travels to Egypt and after King Herod had murdered all of the Hebrew children under two years of age. It was after all of these things had taken place that Matthew finally tells us that Joseph and Mary settled in Nazareth to raise Yeshua as a young boy.

We also spoke last week about why it's important to understand that our Messiah was originally a Bethlehemite and not a Nazarene. It is written in the book of Acts that the Noble Jews of Berea knew that what the Apostle Paul was telling them about their Messiah was true because of what they had read in the Old Testament Scriptures. And it was prophesied in the Old Testament Scriptures that their Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem not Nazareth. And it was because our Messiah was born in Bethlehem... (also known as the city of David) that the Noble Jews of Berea were able to see that this Yeshua that Paul was speaking of was indeed... the Messiah that they were expecting to come.

We also talked about King Herod and the demonically inspired work that he had done in attempting to stop our Messiah from even being born just as the Pharaoh of Egypt had once done in the book of Exodus and Haman in the book of Esther. And we saw a direct connection between those who say that they are Jews and are not... and those who say that they are Apostles and are not.

We also spent some time talking about those who have a store-bought theology concerning what the Bible says and why it is that we were warned long ago to be weary of the wisdom of men and their philosophy and their empty deceit according to human tradition and according to the elemental spirits of the world and not according to our Messiah. And we took the time to mention that even though every word of Yehovah God proves true... there have been just as the

Apostle Jude tells us those who have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation. Ungodly people who would pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord Yeshua Hamashiach (Jesus in the Greek).

We also talked quite a bit about how the Apostle Matthew was deeply concerned with the world knowing that our Messiah was indeed a Jew who had come from the house of David and the tribe of Judah... born in the city of David also known as Bethlehem, created in the womb of his virgin mother Marry to be the one that would indeed sit upon the throne of David forever. And we even spoke as we closed last week about how it is written in the second chapter of the book of Luke, that our Messiah increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with both God and man.

And this week, we're going to continue to see the important work that the Apostle Matthew had done in proving out the true identity of our Messiah and who he was, where he had come from and where it was that he went. And one of the most important pieces of the puzzle that Matthew is trying to put together for us resides in the very title that they called our Messiah.

Often times we will hear people calling our Messiah "Jesus Christ" ... or simply... "the Christ". But most modern-day Christians today have no idea where the word "Christ" even comes from or what it means. And although some of us may find this laughable... there are truly some modern-day prophesying Christians in the world today who think that "Christ" is Jesus last name. And although this may make some of us giggle under our breath and shake our heads... I would submit to you that this is a very serious matter.

The very word "Christ" in our English translated New Testaments should give us pause when it comes to understanding why it was that they called him the "Christ". And so, I would like to begin our study this evening by turning back to **Matthew chapter two verses 3 and 4 E1**

Mat 2:3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;
Mat 2:4 and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where **the Christ** was to be born.

We touched on this very thing during our Thursday night Bible study into the second chapter of the book of Numbers, but I would like to touch on it once again here this morning because I know that not everyone who comes to our seventh day Sabbath study also attends our Thursday night Bible study. And therefore... it's important to reconcile what we are reading here in both the Old, and the New Testaments in order to see clearly that the Old Testament Scriptures truly are revealed in the New Testament. And this is exactly why the law of Yehvoah God (which is also known as his Torah... which is also known as the first five books of our Bibles) is not done away with, nor is it a curse as some so wrongfully and shamefully proclaim.

The Apostle Matthew clearly tells us here in Matthew chapter two, that King Herod was inquiring of where this "Christ" was to be born.

We must remember that King Herod claimed to be a practicing Jew. Although not a Jew... this offspring of the devil himself just like his devilish father loved to dress himself up like an angel of light. And even this false self-proclaimed Jewish King knew what he was looking for, and it wasn't just any "child King" that he was after... it was the promised "Christ".

So, what does "Christ" mean? Well... once again, if we were to look up the original Greek word for "Christ" here in Matthew chapter two verse 4, we would find that the original Greek word for "Christ" is the Greek word "Khris-tos" (Christos). And it means... "anointed one" or "the Messiah".

You see because King Herod was a self-professing Jew, he would have had at least some knowledge of who this promised Messiah was that was prophesied about all throughout the Torah, the writings of the Prophets and the Psalms (also known as our Old Testament). We should not think that old King Herod was ignorant of who this child King was or what he represented. King Herod knew that what he was searching for was indeed the prophesied offspring of a human woman that God had said that he would send to crush the head of the Serpent clear back in the book of Genesis.

Once the wisemen from the east had made it known to King Herod that this Jewish King was about to be born... we should make no mistake in thinking that old King Herod was ignorant of who this child King was and what he was being sent for. And this is exactly why King Herod commanded that all Jewish children under the age of two years old be murdered in cold blood.

You see, old King Herod knew full well the power and the authority that this child King would have. And not just over the Jews... but over the world at large. And King Herod knew full well that if this King were allowed to be born... this could indeed mean the end of the authority of men upon the earth. And he was right. But what old King Herod did not know... was that this child King had not come to exercise his authority over the nations of the earth in a physical manner... but in a spiritual manner. This child King was coming to set the stage for the final event that would come later in time.

You see what both Matthew and his Jewish audience already knew, was that this child King was about to be born in order to fulfill the prophecy of Jeremiah and to deliver unto his Father's people a new covenant between them and his Father. And that new covenant can be found in **Jeremiah chapter 31:31-33 (scrn 1)**

Yehovah God's "New Covenant" After Those Days...

Jer 31:31 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah,

Jer 31:32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD.

Jer 31:33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.



Yehvoah God promised that the days were coming that he would make a “new covenant” with the house of Israel and the house of Judah some time in the future after the time of the prophet Jeremiah. And this “new covenant” that Yehvoah God promised to make with the house of Israel was a covenant promise that came directly from Yehvoah God himself. And this new covenant promise was that Yehovah God would put his law within the hearts of his chosen set apart people. And because his law would be written in their hearts... he would once again be their God... and they could then once again be... his people.

Now my friends... I don't know about you... but my God is not a liar. My God does not make mistakes. My God does not make promises that he cannot keep. My God is fully capable of doing what he has promised to do.

And so, not only did Yehvoah God promise David that he would create a prophet from Davids body to sit upon David's throne forever in 2nd Samuael chapter seven... but he also promised that he would write his law in the hearts of his people so that they could... once again be his people. And so that he could... once again be their God. And this is exactly what Matthew is pointing directly to in his writings. Why do we think that Matthew tells us right off the bat in Matthew chapter one verse one... the very first sentence of the New Testament mind you... that this book that Matthew was writing was the genealogy of Yeshua Jesus the Son of David the Son of Abraham?

Why do we think that the very Jewish Matthew tells us right here in the 2nd chapter of the book of Matthew that Herod was inquiring of the “Christ”... the “Messiah”... the “Anointed one”?

Matthew knew that his mostly Jewish audience would be well acquainted with the prophetic covenant promise that God had made with David and the prophetic promise of this “New Covenant” that God had promised the House of Israel through the prophet Jeremiah.

You see it is only the ignorant... that willfully and intentionally chose to be ignorant... because some man told them not to read the first half of the Bible... that don't know these things. It is because of our own willful ignorance and slothful apathy that keeps us from knowing what the Apostle Matthew already knew before he ever began to put pen to paper.

You see, when Matthew sat down to record these things Matthew had already assumed that his readers would be familiar with the Torah, the writings of the prophets and the Psalms. That's why he keeps quoting from them. Those who have never read the beginning of the Bible before are at a monumental disadvantage when attempting to understand the writings of the Apostle Matthew because they have no foundational knowledge of the covenants or promises of Yehvoah God to his people. They have no knowledge of the prophecies that were set in stone, no idea how this unfolding plan of salvation was supposed to unfold according to God, no concept of what the Jewish people expected from their Messiah, no clue what it was that our Messiah came to bring according to Scripture, and no direction as to how the law of God itself was put into motion to save them and to lead them back to... the tree of life that man had been banished from so long ago.

You see, Matthew's Jewish audience would have known about these covenant promises made in the Old Testament, but today's modern day prophesying Christian has no concept of these things because they have been wrongly and shamefully taught that all they have to do is to read the back half of the book.

And so, Yehovah God Makes two very distinct and yet very connected covenant promises in the Old Testament that we as modern-day Christians need to be aware of today in our time. **(scrn 2)**

The “New Covenant” Promise of Yehvoah God..

1. The covenant promise made to David that it would be his offspring that would sit on his throne forever. **2nd Samuel 7**
2. The covenant promise made to the house of Israel that he would write his law in their hearts so that they could be his people and so that he could be their God. **Jeremiah 31:31-33**



And by the way... this “New Covenant” promise was also repeated just like much of the Old Testament is in the New Testament book of **Hebrews chapter 10 (scrn 3)**

New Testament Verification ofThe “New Covenant”...

Heb 10:15 **And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,**

Heb 10:16 **“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds.”**

Heb 10:17 **then he adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”**



And so, we have these two covenants... these two prophecies... these two promises that come directly from Yehovah God himself that tells us of his unfolding plan of salvation and how it's going to unfold and play out. We know that according to Yehovah God... a Messiah from David was going to be born according to 2nd Samuel chapter 7, and we know that Yehovah God had said that this prophet would sit on the throne of David forever. And we know that Yehovah God promised David that David's offspring would have a kingdom that would be established by God forever. And we also know that according to Jacob in Genesis chapter 49, the scepter shall not depart from Judah nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, and we know that according to our God breathed Scripture... this descendant of David came to establish the writing of Yehovah God's law in our hearts and in our minds so that he could once again be our God and so that we could once again be his people. Not says I... but says our God breathed Scripture!

And so... knowing all of this... and knowing that this New Covenant that writes God's law in our hearts is going to be exactly what brings God's children back to him... the only question left is... when was this New Covenant established? When was God's law written in the hearts of his chosen set apart people?

The answer to that question is... this New Covenant that wrote the law of God within his chosen set apart people was established through blood of the descendant of David who is the only begotten Son of God. You've already seen and heard the New Covenant through the very death of the only begotten Son of God who came to write his Father's law in your heart.

How could God's law not be written in the hearts of his children after knowing and seeing that Yehovah God had given his only begotten Son so that not one of us would perish... to pay for our transgressions... to be our ransom... our Passover Lamb? How could his law not be written in our hearts after watching our Passover Lamb being slaughtered mercilessly for our transgressions? How could the law of God which is his word... that our Messiah became... not be written across and even seared and branded into our hearts?

Only the most callous... only the most thoughtless... only the most indignant... only the most evil of men could possibly proclaim the spoken word of Yehovah is a curse! It was that very spoken word... that once again... as it always has... saved us from the wickedness that humanity has become. It was our Messiah's very blood that brought us the "New Covenant" that writes his Father's law in our hearts so that he can once again be our God and so that we can once again be his children. **Luke 22:15-20 (scrn 4)**

“This Is The New Covenant In My Blood”

Luk 22:15 And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.

Luk 22:16 For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”

Luk 22:17 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, “Take this, and divide it among yourselves.

Luk 22:18 For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”

Luk 22:19 And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Luk 22:20 And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.



You see, Matthew knew what had been done. And Matthew knew that his mostly Jewish audience would also be able to know what had been done because they would have known about these two very important promises that Yehvoah God had made to both David and the house of Israel. And Matthew also knew that this was only the beginning. This very prophecy had only been set in motion but had not yet been completed and would not yet be completed until the return of our Messiah. There is indeed more. You and I are in the very middle of this unfolding plan of salvation that our Father in heaven has put into motion. But in order to understand that there is more... we need to go back and finish the prophecy of Jeremiah so that we can know not only what else is to come... but so that we can also know just how sure and iron clad that this “New Covenant” that writes God’s law in our hearts truly is.

Let’s return to finish reading **Jeremiah chapter 31 E1**

Jer 31:34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

Jer 31:35 Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—the LORD of hosts is his name:

Jer 31:36 “If this fixed order departs from before me, declares the LORD, then shall the offspring of Israel cease from being a nation before me forever.”

Jer 31:37 Thus says the LORD: “If the heavens above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth below can be explored, then I will cast off all the offspring of

Israel for all that they have done, declares the LORD.”

Jer 31:38 “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when the city shall be rebuilt for the LORD from the Tower of Hananel to the Corner Gate.

Jer 31:39 And the measuring line shall go out farther, straight to the hill Gareb, and shall then turn to Goah.

Jer 31:40 The whole valley of the dead bodies and the ashes, and all the fields as far as the brook Kidron, to the corner of the Horse Gate toward the east, shall be sacred to the LORD. It shall not be plucked up or overthrown anymore forever.”

And so, according to the prophet Jeremiah... Yehvoah God had promised the house of Israel that he would establish a “new covenant” with them that would write his law in their hearts so that he could be their God and so that they could be his people. And how sure does Yehovah God tell us that this promise is?

He tells us in verse 37 and I quote, “If the heavens above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth below can be explored, then I will cast off all the offspring of Israel for all that they have done, declares the LORD.” I ask you plainly... can the heavens be measured? And can the foundations of the earth be explored? To this very day with all of man’s glorious scientific knowledge and machinery... man cannot even reach the bottom of the sea, nor can he even reach the end of the heavens.

And according to Yehovah God... because man cannot do these things... Yehvoah will never cast off all of the offspring of Israel for what they have done. How sure is this prophecy of Yehvoah God writing his law in our hearts so that he can be our God and so that we can be his people? I would say that this “new covenant” ... this prophecy... the promise that comes straight from the very lips... the very breath... and the very mouth of Yehvoah God himself is more iron clad than any promise that has ever been made! It’s already in progress!

And when our Messiah returns to complete this prophecy in its totality... we will no longer need to teach each other about God. Because we who are alive and remain will all know him. And he will have forgiven our iniquity and he will remember our transgressions no more. And his Kingdom will be an everlasting Kingdom that shall not be plucked up or overthrown anymore forever.

You see the Apostle Matthew was well aware of these prophecies and promises and Matthew was well aware of how iron clad that they were. Matthew knew what had been done and this is why the Apostle Matthew does all that he can do to establish the Davidic lineage of our Messiah and the fact that he was born in the city of David also known as “Bethlehem”. It was important for Matthew to make it clear to everyone that this Messiah... this anointed one... this Christ... was indeed the fulfilment of the unfolding plan of salvation for mankind that Yehvoah God had put into place from the very beginning of Genesis clear back in the first book of the Bible when he told the serpent that it would be a human offspring that would come from a human woman that would crush his head.

Let me ask you this my friends... has today's modern day "Church" replaced the house of Israel as so many man-made denominational empires of men so proudly proclaim? Has the new Gentil country club Church today superseded the power and authority of the Elohyim of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and turned his promises into a train wreck of failures? Are we to believe that the Elohyim of Israel is too weak... to feeble... to inept to fulfill what he has spoken?

Listen closely to what the Prophet Hosea had to say about how Yehvoah God was going to bring back both Ephriam and Judah. **Hosea 11:1-12 E2**

The Lord's Love for Israel And Ephraim

Hos 11:1 Early in the morning were they cast off, the king of Israel has been cast off: for Israel is a child, and I loved him, and out of Egypt have I called his children.

Hos 11:2 As I called them, so they departed from my presence: they sacrificed to Baalim, and burnt incense to graven images.

Hos 11:3 Yet I bound the feet of Ephraim, I took him on my arm; but they knew not that I healed them.

Hos 11:4 When men were destroyed, I drew them with the bands of my love: and I will be to them as a man smiting another on his cheek: and I will have respect to him, I will prevail with him.

Hos 11:5 Ephraim dwelt in Egypt; and as for the Assyrian, he was his king, because he would not return.

Hos 11:6 And in his cities he prevailed not with the sword, and he ceased to war with his hands: and they shall eat of the fruit of their own devices:

Hos 11:7 and his people shall cleave fondly to their habitation; but God shall be angry with his precious things, and shall not at all exalt him.

Hos 11:8 How shall I deal with thee, Ephraim? how shall I protect thee, Israel? what shall I do with thee? I will make thee as Adama, and as Seboim; my heart is turned at once, my repentance is powerfully excited.

Hos 11:9 I will not act according to the fury of my wrath, I will not abandon Ephraim to be utterly destroyed: for I am God, and not man; the Holy One within thee: and I will not enter into the city.

Hos 11:10 I will go after the Lord: he shall utter his voice as a lion: for he shall roar, and the children of the waters shall be amazed.

Hos 11:11 They shall be amazed and fly as a bird out of Egypt, and as a dove out of the land of the Assyrians: and I will restore them to their houses, saith the Lord.

Hos 11:12 Ephraim has compassed me with falsehood, and the house of Israel and Juda with ungodliness: but now God knows them, and they shall be called God's holy people.

According to the prophet Hosea... these promises are indeed iron clad. And according to the prophet Hosea... Yehovah says in verse 9 that Yehvoah will not abandon Ephraim to be utterly destroyed for he is God and not a man. He is the Holy One... the Qadosh of Israel in the midst

of thee, and he will not come in wrath... says... the Holy One of Israel. Even though Ephraim has surrounded God with lies and the house of Israel with deceit... he will not abandon them. Not says I... but says our God breathed Scripture. And there are loads and loads of Scripture that teach us the exact same thing time and time again all throughout our God breathed Scripture. And we could go on, and on in the teaching of the greater exodus that will take place at the end of the age but for times sake we need to stay on course here this morning in the book of Matthew.

You see, you can't just sit down and read the book of Matthew without knowing all of the story. And you don't know all of the story until you've read the book from the beginning just like any other book.

Do you see why pastors, priests, bishops and popes tell you not to read the beginning of the book? They know full well that if you read the book from the beginning... they won't be able to pull the wool over your eyes. They know that if you read the book from the beginning that your eyes will be opened to who they themselves truly are. They are the Pharisees and the Scribes of our time! They come not to save... because they have no power to save. They come to steal and to destroy the truth, not to bring the truth. Their truth comes from men and their so called "early church fathers" and their prestigious Bible commentators and Babylonian rabbinical sages... and Matthew knew full well that they would indeed come and think to change the times and the law of God. And by the way... so did our Messiah. That's why he warned us against such false Apostles who are no Apostles at all and those who call themselves "Jews" just like Herod did... and are not.

Matthew takes us step by step through the very genealogy of our Messiah who was the Son of David the Son of Abraham through the birth of our Messiah in the city of David to his flight to Egypt to avoid the murderous rampage of King Herod, to finally landing in Nazareth where he could grow up safely as a young boy and grow in wisdom and in stature and in favor with both God and man. And through it all... Matthew makes sure to make known the very Hebrew Jewish legacy of our Messiah who would become the Jew whom the scepter would not depart from and who's feet the ruler's staff would always remain between. And now that Matthew has established who this Messiah was and exactly whom and where he came from... the Apostle Matthew continues the story by introducing us to a wondering prophet called "John the Baptist". And if you think that our Messiah was full of fire and brimstone... wait until you meet John the Baptist.

And so, without further delay... let's now move into the third chapter of the book of Matthew as Matthew begins to introduce us to John the Baptist who is by himself a study in his own right.

Matthew chapter 3 E3

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

Mat 3:1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,

Mat 3:2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Mat 3:3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'"

Mat 3:4 Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.

Mat 3:5 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him,

Mat 3:6 and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Mat 3:7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

Mat 3:8 Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.

Mat 3:9 And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.

Mat 3:10 Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Mat 3:11 "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Mat 3:12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Baptism of Jesus

Mat 3:13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him.

Mat 3:14 John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

Mat 3:15 But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented.

Mat 3:16 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him;

Mat 3:17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Here in Matthew chapter three, we're introduced to a fairly peculiar fellow by the name of "John the Baptist". And this fellow who we're told is wandering in the wilderness of Judea has a preaching style much like another biblical figure that we've seen in the book of Kings back in the Old Testament. Another prophet by the name of "Elijah" who also wandered in the desert and ate locusts and chastised kings and those of authority on earth.

John the Baptist came preaching that people should repent much like Elijah did because the kingdom of heaven was at hand. John taught that people needed to repent and be baptized. But John the Baptist also taught that the Baptism that he Baptized with was inferior to the Baptism of the one that was to come. And John taught that the one to come would Baptize not only with

water... but also with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Many scholars today will say that John the Baptist was indeed Elijah who had come to prepare the way for the Messiah. And even in our Messiah's day many had thought the same thing and even questioned if John the Baptist was indeed Elijah. But why? Why would anyone suspect that John the Baptist might be Elijah the prophet?

Once again, most of the people of our Matthew's time were studying what we know today as the "Old Testament". The Torah (which is also known as the law of God) along with the writings of the prophets and the Psalms were what the people of that day called their Bible. There was no "New Testament" back in that day. All people had to study was the Torah, the writings of the prophets and the Psalms. And within the writings of the prophets, we find this in **Malachi 4:5-6 (scrn 5)**

I Will Send You Elijah..

Mal 4:5 "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.

Mal 4:6 And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."



Many who read their Bibles for themselves have proclaimed that John the Baptist was indeed the prophet Elijah because our Messiah said that John the Baptist was Elijah. And so, we must take this into consideration when deciding for ourselves whether or not John the Baptist was Elijah the prophet or not. And therefore... we need to go read exactly what our Messiah said about John the Baptist for ourselves. We can find that in **Matthew 11:7-15 E4**

Mat 11:7 As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?"

Mat 11:8 What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold,

those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.

Mat 11:9 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

Mat 11:10 This is he of whom it is written, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you."

Mat 11:11 Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Mat 11:12 From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force.

Mat 11:13 For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John,

Mat 11:14 and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come.

Mat 11:15 He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

According to the red-letter words of our own Messiah... Yeshua says, and I quote... "If you are willing to accept it... he is Elijah who is to come.". And so, we have somewhat of a dilemma if you will. What we must keep in mind is that Yeshua does not come straight out and say that John is Elijah directly... but he says... if you are willing to accept it... that John is Elijah who is to come. And so... what does this mean?

Something else that we need to consider is that John the Baptist was directly confronted by the Pharisees in the book of John as to whether or not he was Elijah. And according to John the Baptist... he told the Pharisees that he was not... Elijah! **John 1:19-23 (scrn 6)**

The Testimony of John the Baptist

Joh 1:19 And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?"

Joh 1:20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ."

Joh 1:21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No."

Joh 1:22 So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

Joh 1:23 He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

And so, here we have John the Baptist flat out denying that he was Elijah the prophet. But John does say that he is the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, “Make straight the way of the Lord” as the prophet Isaiah had said.

And so, now we are confronted with an even bigger dilemma. Yeshua seems to say that John the Baptist is Elijah the prophet... and yet John when asked this very question denies that he is Elijah the prophet. How can this be? Is Yeshua contradicting John, or is John contradicting the Messiah that he said was greater than he?

I would submit to you that the answer once again lies in Spiritual understanding and not in the understanding of this world. You see, once again, one must read and be familiar with the whole of Scripture and not just half of it in order to understand the truth of what we are being told here in the New Testament. You cannot simply read the back half of the Bible and think that you know the story without reading the first half of the Bible. Only modern-day Christians are foolish enough to go to a bookstore and buy a book and only read the back half of it. No-one else ever does such a thing. And this has been a travesty and an utter shame among today’s modern-day Pharisees and Scribes that shamefully teach people to do such things.

According to Malachi chapter 3... Malachi predicts a day of divine judgment and salvation as well, but he also indicated that this day would be preceded by the ministry of a forerunner.

Malachi 3:1-5 E5

Mal 3:1 “Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

Mal 3:2 But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap.

Mal 3:3 He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD.

Mal 3:4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Mal 3:5 “Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

Here in the book of Malachi we can see that Yehovah God has already proclaimed that he would indeed send someone as a messenger to prepare the way before him and what he is about to do. And Malachi goes on to say that the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight... behold he is coming says Yehovah of hosts. Contrast what we see here in the 3rd chapter of Malachi with what we find in **Isaiah chapter 40:1-5 E6**

Isa 40:1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

Isa 40:2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

Isa 40:3 A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

Isa 40:4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Isa 40:5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

These passages are clearly what our Messiah was referring to in Matthew chapter 11 verse 10. John the Baptist was indeed this voice crying out in the wilderness, but this does not mean that it was time for the prophet Elijah himself to come. We must remember that in Matthew chapter 11 our Messiah tells us that if we are willing to accept it... John is Elijah... who is to come. Get that my friends... "who is to come". Not "has come" but "who is to come". And he then says, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear". In other words, this is not an easy truth to understand and only few would understand it.

What does our Messiah mean by "If you are willing to accept it"? This implies that what he is saying is outside of their normal way of thinking. What our Messiah was trying to tell his Apostles was that John was Elijah but not in the sense that Jewish tradition teaches.

Yeshua obviously knew that people would have a difficult time understanding the connection between John and Elijah. You see both John and Elijah had the same Spirit within them. John and Elijah were one with Yeshua and his Father because they were all tied together with the same Spirit that made them one. In order to better understand this concept, we need to go back and listen to the request of our Messiah that he made before his Father in prayer. We can find that in **John 17:15-26 E7**

Joh 17:15 I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.

Joh 17:16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

Joh 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

Joh 17:18 As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

Joh 17:19 And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

Joh 17:20 "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,

Joh 17:21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

Joh 17:22 The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be

one even as we are one,

Joh 17:23 I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

Joh 17:24 Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Joh 17:25 O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me.

Joh 17:26 I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

You see... John the Baptist had the same Spirit that Elijah had. John the Baptist and Elijah had much in common because they were both led by the one in the same Spirit. And that Spirit was not afraid to speak out against injustice and deception even to kings and human authorities that had the power to take their very lives from them. John the Baptist, Elijah and the Holy Spirit of Yehovah God were indeed one in Spirit.

In order to better understand this and to have the eyes to see and the ears to hear... I'd like us to turn to the book of Luke so that we can hear what the angel Gabriel has to say about John the Baptist. We can find that in **Luke 1:13-19 E8**

Luk 1:13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.

Luk 1:14 And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth,

Luk 1:15 for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.

Luk 1:16 And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God,

Luk 1:17 and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

Luk 1:18 And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years."

Luk 1:19 And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news.

According to the Angel Gabriel... John would go before the Messiah in the Spirit and power of Elijah. What Spirit and power did Elijah have? Elijah had the Spirit and power of Yehovah who was working through him. John was working in the spirit of Elijah. Did John know who Elijah was? Yes of course he did. And it was in this same spirit that John did and said what John did and said. This should help us to better understand our Messiah when he said... "If you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come".

Just as our Messiah tells us in Matthew chapter 11... Elijah is still yet to come. And this is

exactly why many believe (myself included) that it will be Elijah who will be one of the two witnesses that will appear just after the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel in the very near future (which is another story that we don't have time to go into here this morning).

Something else that we need to keep in mind is the "transfiguration" when Yeshua took Peter and James and John (which is a different John) and led them up the mountain to see him transfigured before them standing in the presents of Moses and Elijah talking with them in front of his Apostles. And once again when we get to Matthew chapter 17, we'll see this take place and once again Yehvoah God will make himself known by speaking those infamous words and I quote, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

Once again... the Bible is not two different testaments my friends. The Bible is one story written by one creator from the book of Genesis to the book of Revelation. The Bible is one book that is indeed God breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness so that... the man of God may be complete, (get that my friends... COMPLETEL) and equipped for every good work.

God's name... the introduction to our Messiah, Moses, Elijah, the abomination of desolation, the plot to think to change the times and the law of God, the New Covenant promise, the covenant of David and much, much more are all taught and introduced to us in the beginning of the book, and without the knowledge and the warnings that are given to us in the beginning of the book we have no foundation to base our faith upon!

What we are reading in the book of Matthew can only truly be understood by those who just like Matthew's original audience... already knew and understood the beginning of the book. The Jewish population of Matthew's time would have understood all of these things, and this is why Matthew was primarily writing to them. Because only those who already knew the beginning of the book would truly be able to fully preach and teach the gospel message properly with the insight to help others to know and to understand the truth of the gospel message that our very Jewish Messiah came to lay down his life to deliver to us.

As we continue our journey through the writings of the very Jewish Apostle Matthew... let us always remember that our Father is searching for those who would worship him in both Spirit and in truth. He is not looking for those with half-truths, or the wisdom of men, or those who are full of philosophy and the higher learning of men and their brick-and-mortar institutions. He is looking for those who would worship him in both Spirit and in truth. And only those who take the time to slow down... to sit down... and to read the whole book for themselves will have the ability to worship him in both Spirit and in truth.

And just to put a nice bow on this morning's study... in closing this morning, we will once again mention what the whole duty of man is according to our God breathed Scripture. (**scrn 7**)

My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh. The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

Ecclesiastes 12:9-13



And with that... we will close the books for now until next seventh day Sabbath when we will pick up where we left off in Matthew chapter 3. And at that time, we'll talk about what John the Baptist had to say to the Pharisees of his time, and the Baptism of our Messiah.

And with that being said... as we close this morning... I will once again ask as I always do that everyone within the sound of my voice would please... take what you have heard here today to your own prayer closet, and to bow your head, and bend your knee, and face the holy promised land of Jerusalem, and ask in the name of Yeshua Hamashiach if what you have heard here today be true... or not.

Ask, seek, and knock on his door, and his door alone and the proper door will be opened to you. And if you will do that, and if you will stay the course to the end... you and I will surely walk through the gates of his soon coming kingdom together.