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Weekend Manna: FRED SAID

Extracts from Manna Bible teaching commentaries by Fred Morris

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Weekend of 1st/2nd January 2022

1 Samuel 4: *The Philistines take the Ark of the Lord*

The elders disobeyed God and took the Ark of the LORD God Almighty from Shiloh. It held tablets of stone on which were written the covenant of God including the Ten Commandments. They carried it with them into the battle camp. Israel wanted to carry God with them, as the Philistines carried their little Dagon god statues. But God was not with Israel on that day. He left them to their own ways. They believed they had God Almighty with them on their side. Their faith was in the Ark of the Lord which He did not want them to remove from Shiloh.

The Philistines fought and defeated the men of Israel (4:9-10). 30,000 men of Israel died that day. God promised Joshua 300 years earlier, "No-one will be able to oppose you as long as you live" (Joshua 1:5). But the purpose of God for the salvation of Israel had not failed. He also planned for 1000 years of prophets, priests and kings to prepare the way for a new covenant through His Son, Jesus Christ, Israel's Messiah and the Saviour of the world.

Meanwhile, the Ark of God was captured by the Philistines. The Israelites believed that God had deserted them. They did not know that God would help Samuel to lead the country back into good ways. Because of what he did, the purpose of God to save the world would continue through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Extracted from "SAMUEL AND SAUL" Bible teaching commentary by Fred Morris, © 2000, 2021.

Weekend of 8th/9th January 2022

Mark Chapter 4: *Parables about the Kingdom of God*

Jesus asked, "Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or under a bed? Or do you put it on its stand?" (4:21). Jesus came as a light for the world (John 8:12). His light must be brought into the open (Mark 4:22). This light of Jesus is the truth from God.

Jesus said, "Everyone who has ears should listen" (4:23). He added, "Think carefully about what you hear" (4:24). We must seek the Holy Spirit's guidance to know what is the truth from God. We must be prepared to reject what non-believers tell us and even walk away from them. We must also test what other believers tell us by reading the written word of God in the Bible.

We should also share with others the understanding from God that we have received.

The light of the truth from God will bless others. It brings gifts from God. It brings new life on earth, joy, peace, faith and eternal life in heaven. Jesus said, "As you give [to others], so you will receive. In fact, you will receive even more" (4:24).

However, people who do not listen and do not receive these gifts from God have very little to share. Jesus warned, "If you have nothing, even what you have will be taken away from you" (4:25). So let us listen carefully and understand the things of God. Then let us share what we understand to bless others.

Extracted from "THE EARLY TEACHINGS OF JESUS CHRIST" Bible teaching commentary by Fred Morris, © 2000, 2008, 2016.

Weekend of 15th/16th January 2022

Mark Chapter 14: *The Last Meal of Jesus.*

Many years before Jesus lived on Earth, the people of Israel were slaves in Egypt for over 400 years. Then God, by His great power, brought them out. This happened 3500 years ago.

Each year, at Passover, God's special people always remember what He did for them before leading them out of Egypt to the Promised Land. Each family kill a lamb, just as they did at the first Passover in Egypt, when the angel of death passed over them. In remembrance, they eat the Passover meal as a family. At the time of Jesus, Jews came from all over the country, and from far-away places, to celebrate in Jerusalem. Jewish families still eat this meal today which includes lamb and bread made without yeast and wine.

Jesus was a devout Jew and ate the Passover meal with His disciples. Jews remembered that the blood of the lamb was painted on the doorpost of the Israelites to save them from the angel of death in Egypt. Today, we remember the death of Jesus, the Lamb of God, whose sacrifice of blood saved us from death into everlasting life.

Christians everywhere remember the Lord's Last Passover Supper. Some call it the breaking of bread, or Communion, or Eucharist, to remember the last fellowship meal that Jesus ate with His disciples. This was before He gave His life on the cross as punishment for our sins.

This last meal helped the disciples to remember their Lord's death. He became the Lamb of God and His blood would pay the price for our punishment and save all believers from their sins.

Extracted from " THE DEATH, RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION OF JESUS THE CHRIST" Bible teaching commentary by Fred Morris, © 2002, 2020.

John 11:17-27. Martha and Mary meet Jesus.

Jesus arrived in Jerusalem four days after the death of Lazarus (11:17). Many Jewish friends were with Martha and Mary to comfort them (11:19). Martha went out to meet Jesus. Mary stayed at home (11:20).

'Lord,' Martha said to Jesus, 'I wish You had been here! Then my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give You anything You ask for' (11:21-22).

Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again' (11:23).

Martha had a strong faith in Jesus. She also knew there would be a resurrection of the dead. This was taught by Jesus and promised in the Old Testament writings (John 5:29; 6:44; Daniel 12:2). Therefore, Martha said, 'I know that he will rise again. This will happen when people are raised from death on the Last Day' (John 11:24).

Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies. And those who live and believe in me will never die' (11:25-26). These are the well-known words of Jesus which are often read at funeral services today.

Then Jesus said to Martha, 'Do you believe this?'

Martha did not understand everything, but she knew the One who spoke to her. 'Yes, Lord' she told Him. 'I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God' (11:27). Martha believed that Jesus was the promised Messiah and Saviour to come into the world. For Martha, and for us all, this truth is the beginning of our salvation and eternal life.

Martha hurried home to talk to her sister Mary. Then Mary went quickly to meet Jesus (11:28-29). Others followed her.

Extracted from " THE GOSPEL OF JOHN Part 1" Bible teaching commentary by Fred Morris, © 2008, 2015.