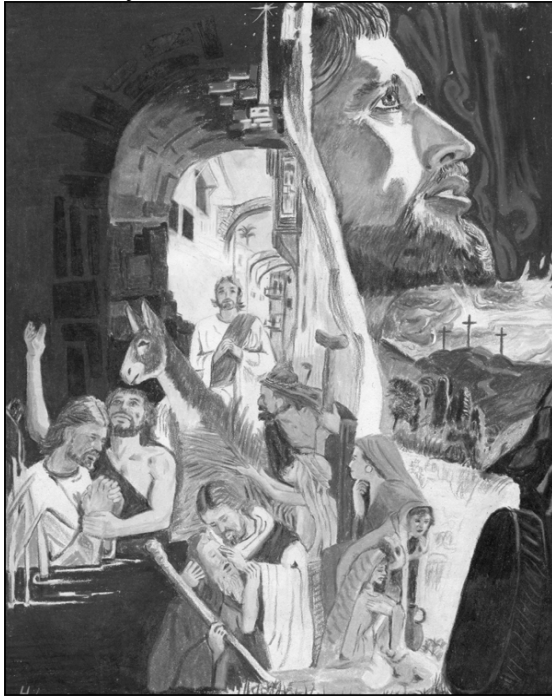


THE WORD – Part VIII

The Son of Man



As many of you know, we here in Florida have experienced some intense catastrophic occurrences. Here in the panhandle we took a pretty nasty hit from Hurricane Ivan. We still have no landline and many of us have what's known as blue-roof phenomenon. This is where ones' roof has taken on water and the only way to cover it is to get blue tarp to cover the hole. My roof is multi-colored. At first I thought we could color-code it, but alas, we needed more tarp, thus its 'coat of many colors.' Unfortunately the reason for this is more disturbing. The roofers are so busy (most are having a hard time even getting estimates), that it may take months before our roofs can be repaired. But

a roof, a house, a piece of carpet or other material item can be repaired or replaced---a soul is for eternity.

We got the great honor to minister to many during this time. As many of you know, we are a small ministry. Months before these series of storms the Lord told me to stock up on canned items and other survival gear. I'm glad I did. The stores were closed and water was a commodity for many. While we had no cell phones, we had generators---and even one small one generator could keep food frozen. We were able to offer food, showers, clean clothes, hot coffee and a freezer! As the weeks have passed, we have met new people. In the first day or so, we were fortunate to have two Christian saints stay with us. Because the Lord sent a brother to us, we were able to clear away storm debris and do what we could to stop more rain from coming in. As the days passed we got to meet many others. I'm not going to be bashful in what I'm about to ask. Many people are being reimbursed by FEMA and insurance companies. But there are some folks that have fallen between the cracks. I'll bring you the story of just one family that we know about. Right up front, so you know where I'm going with this, I'm going to ask those of you that can, to consider donating to this non-profit organization in an effort to help at least 6 children get a solid roof over their heads (and many more, depending on your generosity).

Just before the storm, Glenda, a hard-working Christian lady and mother of two, along with her husband, Dwayne, fought for

custody of her sister's four children. HRS came and took the children away from her sister because of addiction related problems. They were going to separate them but Glenda had to fight to get all four. You see, her husband has Type I diabetes and has lost his job. Her salary is meager, especially for 8 mouths. These are the working poor. For many years these are the folks that the Lord has called us to help. I don't talk about that much on this site, but there it is. After her victory with HRS, she had another battle---where do you get enough furniture to sleep four more? We were in the process of getting her a twin mattress when the hurricane hit. Their problem is that they own their own home. It's very hard to get assistance when that is the case. To make a long story short, because of the need to keep the insulin cold, they evacuated. They felt safer going to Alabama where they secured one hotel room. After the storm and after electricity was restored, they went back home to find a house with \$23,000 worth of damage. If it rains, they're in trouble again. FEMA came out. I won't go into the nonsense she experienced from this agent. Let's just say that this representative was not typical of the many wonderful people that FEMA does employ. I was so mad after hearing her story that I begged her to let me call **SOMEBODY!!!**----**ANYBODY** that could stop this kind of abuse. In the end they deposited \$1275 into her account. A little less than \$21,000 of the bare minimum they need for repairs. If she can get two more estimates, she can appeal. My experience has not been great in getting just one estimate, never mind three. She and her

husband are trudging forward. What else can they do?

I wish I could say that this was an isolated incident. I could tell you about the Christian worker with 8 children, the family with 3, the single mom who begged her landlord to split the rent this month, but wouldn't, and countless others. Many have yet to experience their own insurance adjusters---and they're the fortunate ones. For those of you that can donate, we will earmark your donation for Hurricane Ivan victims first, then other hurricane victims. We'll send you a card and receipt for exactly who and what your donation was used for. God bless you as you give.

I pray this is the end of catastrophic occurrences, but as the electricity was turned back on, we watched as Japan, Mexico, Italy and now the U.S. all had seismic activity, along with the eruption of volcanoes. Mount St. Helens in Washington State, here in the U.S has been 'coughing.' As many of you know, in 1980 this dormant volcano erupted into a plume of gas 12 miles high. The mountain lost about 400 meters or some 1300 feet in height, killing 57 people and changing the landscape forever. Officials have a 5-mile area around the recent activity cordoned off in an effort to protect sight-seers from themselves. The hurricanes here in Florida have significantly changed the landscape. The U.S. Geological Survey has said that it will never be the same. Before the storm Alabama saw an odd occurrence of shark infestation. Usually helicopters spot some 3 to 6 sharks a day swimming in

proximity to the beach. About two weeks before the hurricane, 25 to 120 plus sharks were counted near the area in and around where Hurricane Ivan eventually made landfall. A great white shark has scientists baffled in Massachusetts. This large, female shark has been swimming in the bays and coastal tide waters where people boat, swim and fish. The waters in the northeast are too cold for these animals. They almost always stay out to sea. It's such an oddity that scientists have tagged her and are studying her behavior, while officials are warning everyone to stay out of the waters as they try to get her back out to sea.

I'm not sure that this number is totally correct, but if I'm not mistaken, it's been some 150 years since four major hurricanes struck Florida in such a short time. Almost all of us here at the ministry knew Ivan had the Florida panhandle in his sites. The one word the Lord would give me was to pray for mercy. I got a little annoyed with one of our intercessors before the storm. She said, "Ivan is ours." I politely replied that I did not believe that the eye of the storm would strike Pensacola---not that that would matter much. We have a saying here in Florida that I'm not sure other tropical areas have concerning these hurricanes, cyclones or whatever you want to call them: "The west side is the best side, the east side is the beast side." I got to experience that with Danny, Georges and Isabel. We all knew that even if the eye did not hit us directly, we were surely going to be on the "beast side" of this thing. And what about all the islands and other nations who have lost thousands of

people during this hurricane season? For those in south Florida that had 3 of these things pass over their heads, I know many wish that they still had a blue-colored tarp on their roofs---that's if they are blessed enough to have a roof.

Right after the storm, before I had a chance to meet folks in need, I felt strongly that the Lord wanted this month's article titled, "The Son of Man," and that He wanted me to take a look at this phrase in the Scriptures. It would take a small book to do this phrase justice, but I did come away with one overriding thought. This phrase is the most common term Jesus uses concerning His work, Himself and God's mission. Since antiquity Jewish thought surrounding the Son of Man is apocalyptic as well as redeeming. It is a central theme of Messiah, especially in the book of Daniel as well as other religious material of the time. Along with Jesus revealing the nature of a king, we see three main themes concerning the nature of the Son of Man: he is human, he is divine and he is a combination of both. There is another element in Jesus' teachings concerning the Son of Man that I found very revealing. There's a portion in Matthew where the disciple quotes our Lord that sums up this element. After all of the apocalyptic and catastrophic events in Matthew 24 along with the parables of those who are and are not ready; those who see ahead of time and those who don't, Matthew records our Lord as making this statement: "When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the

nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at his right hand, "Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." (Matthew 25:31-36)

This one quote seems to support the Jewish teachings of an apocalyptic Messiah-judge as well as some of the other modern traditions of Jesus' day. But it adds an element that only our Lord, the true King would add. Here Jesus is a king concerned with the needs of those in His kingdom. Not only does Jesus talk about the future, but He makes the point of us defining our own future in the light of His parameters. Those who help the helpless, the hopeless, the oppressed and the hurting are sheep in His pasture. Those who make their lives better will see rest in Messiah's future kingdom. While this may not seem like much to some, it means a whole lot to me. With all the odd occurrences that have gone on worldwide in the last three years, it warmed my heart to have the Lord take me to place in the Word where catastrophic events are occurring, yet our Lord's main concern throughout all of it was the need of those in His kingdom. It warmed my heart to know that in meeting the needs of hurting humanity we fulfill not

only the Great Commission, we fulfill what Jesus considered the most important of His end-time teachings: "To the extent that you did it to the least of these brothers of mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me." (Matthew 25:40)

My favorite messianic theologian, who is also a brother in the Lord quotes this from George Eldon Ladd: "If the Kingdom is the rule of God, then every aspect of the Kingdom must be derived from the character and action of God. The presence of the Kingdom is to be understood from the nature of God's present activity; and the future of the Kingdom is the redemptive manifestation of his kingly rule at the end of the age." (Young, Brad, H., "Jesus the Jewish Theologian," Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., Peabody, Massachusetts, 1995, p 241) Jesus' concepts are always profound, but for those of us that need it simple, He always kept it real and simple. For those of you who would like to donate to the family I mentioned or any others, please send your donations to Christ-Centered Ministries, 8688 AD Mc Call Road, Milton FL, 32583. If you would rather buy a book and donate that way, we will take half of every book sale made this month and give to the needs of one of these families. Click on the products link and Paypal will secure the transaction. God bless you as you give.

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