

Lesson 28 Matthew 16:13-14 (13)

Jesus teaching on "the need for clarity on His person and Kingdom"

Jesus at Caesarea Philippi

Caesarea Philippi is a beautiful location-it offers the dramatic principal headwaters of the Jordan which roar out of the base of the overhanging sheer cliff. Its wooded picnic area abounds with tall trees and welcome spaces. I have picked pomegranates along the approach walkway. Besides there is water to swim in -the Sultan's pool and there are paths that wind down to Dan-sun-kissed toe paths with flowers of the field hard by each inviting you to admire its shape and colour. Then there is that other Caesarea-where the niches of the spirits have been carved -nooks that testify to the faith of some that this is the mouth of hell-the entrance to the underworld. When Jesus drew His disciples to these northerly parts He knew the score-He knew that this was the vaunted vestibule of the underworld. Hence the significance of His question right here. He is master over the Devil-and mounts a direct challenge to his kingdom from start to finish of His glorious ministry. cf the temptation of Christ; Satan falling from heaven; the resurrection; the growth and victory of the kingdom

Who do people say that I the Son of man am?

Questions need to be bottomed before they are answered-especially those of Jesus! He was not shy to lay claim to the title, "Son of man". This phrase appears in a telling context in the writings of Daniel- coming down from heaven in the latter day. He is also depicted in terms of divinity (gold) and humanity (linen)(Daniel 7.13 & 10.5 and 12.6 ff). So our lord Jesus was as Albrecht Ritschl sagely remarks" aware of a unique relationship with the Father"

The reply of the disciples

They replied in a memorable or "epic" way. Some say ' John the Baptist'; others 'Elijah'; others of a very different sort (the Greek is ετεροι) 'Jeremiah' or 'one of the prophets'. This reply teaches us several things. First there was a view that Jesus was John raised up-some believed in a sort of reincarnation of John that would sweep the nation to repentance and renewal. Some believed the restitution of all things had come-the last days of glory; some believed a national crisis and carrying away into gentility was pending. These verdicts show how confused people become when they do not keep company with Jesus and walk with Him.

The Son of Man

The precise passage which yields this expression in Daniel speaks of several matters attendant to Christ's ministry. It tells us:-

- (a) Christ will come/arrive with clouds **aymV yma ma wra**
- (b) He lived and continually approached the ancient of perpetual days -His ancients brought Him into the midst **yhwbprh yhwmdqy hfm aywy qyt [d[w hwh hta via rbk**
- (c) He will be given authority glory & sovereign power **rqyw nfi v bhy hl w**
- (d) He will rule over all people nations and languages will worship Him **nj l py hl aywvl w ayma ayyma l kw wkl mw**
- (e) As Sultanship of sultans age-long -one not deposed or abrogated -one which will not be spoiled corrupted destroyed-two verbs here represent two features-its last times aspect and its eternal dimension cf v18 (**adw aml] d[** literally "for an age and still(ie eternally) **d[l bj tt l a yd htukl mw hday al yd ml a nfi v hnf l v**



From Paper to Practice

1. What evidence can you supply from scripture that Jesus is master over Satan?
2. What was the "special relationship Jesus had within the Trinity?
3. Which if any of the popular ideas of the time about Jesus are valid?
4. Jesus is king. What can we do to further His rule in human lives?
5. Think about the petition in the Lord's Prayer and Christ's desire to effect His rule in all its glory on the earth-how far has that been achieved through reforming and reviving the church? Is it present in life of the people of God today in part or in its final form? Alternatively you see it's fulness as yet future ?
6. Is it God's intent that Church replace Israel's world ministry or achieve Christ's purpose in the world?

Read Romans Chapter 11