



Spiritual Insight & Enlightenment

"And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come?" (Matthew 17:10).

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"And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead. 10 And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come? 11 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things. 12 But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them. 13 Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist" (Matthew 17:9-13).

Three disciples had just had a spectacular divine encounter on the mountain with Jesus. On their way down, Jesus had instructed them not to tell vision to any one until the Son of man be risen again from the dead. On the mount, God had just spoken confirming that Jesus Christ is His son and the expected Messiah. The disciples could not have had a clearer and better confirmation than this - directly from God Himself, in the presence of Moses and Elijah; but there was a nagging thought in their heart because of what appeared to be a "missing link" in the puzzle.

The scribes did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah, and they were very vocal about it. With their authority as "experts" in the scripture they had pointed out that the Messiah can not come until Elias first come. This worried the disciples, hence their question to Jesus. Note here that:

- 1) The scribes, with their "expertise" on the scriptures, lacked spiritual insight and enlightenment in spotting fulfilled prophecies. The prophesied Elias, had come and gone, but they did not understand, therefore, were still expecting his appearance. There are still many scribes today, who read and preach the Bible but do not understand what they are preaching;
- 2) "Great men are not always wise: neither do the aged understand judgment" (Job 32:9);
- 3) It takes diligent study to unravel spiritual truths. The deep things of God may not just be lying about like oyster shells on the shore to be picked up by just any wanderer. "It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter" (Proverbs 25:2).
- 4) God gives spiritual insight to those who have a child-like attitude to learn "In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for

"Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist" (Matthew 17:13).

so it seemed good in thy sight" (Luke 10:21);

- 5) The three disciples heard clearly from God, but what they heard from the scribes was casting doubt on what God told them. If we are not careful and discerning, then what we are hearing from modern day scribes, will drown and cast doubt on what God has clearly spoken and revealed to us;
- 6) When what God says, differs from what man says, you must decide who to believe;
- 7) In His response, Jesus pointed out to them that "Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed". Lack of spiritual insight and discernment led to the scribes fulfilling the negative prophecies;
- 8) Jesus also pointed out that because of their ignorance they would also fulfilled negative prophecies about Him "Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them". This explains why these scribes and their associates sponsored the betrayal and crucifixion of Jesus;
- 9) Jesus warned that a similar thing will happen to His followers "They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service" (John 16:2);
- 10) Following His explanation "... the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist" A little talk with Jesus opens understanding and clears doubt.

Hosea 4:6 confirms "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge". In this age of confusing noises, relative truths, hot air arguments, misinformation and fake news, we need divine insight and enlightenment to gain the right knowledge / perspective for right action. It takes revelation to produce revolution. Moses made a right choice (Hebrews 11:27) through seeing "the invisible". It is only what is done in truth and righteousness that will bring lasting success and blessings. In Luke 10:26 Jesus posed a question to a certain lawyer "... What is written in the law? how readest thou?" This question confronts everyone alive today. May God grant us the spiritual discernment to have a correct understanding and application of the scriptures in our everyday living.