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- 1-5** = 5 Installments of the 5th Course of Punishment
- = 5 Mandates of the Davidic Covenant (Redeemer, Deliverer, Avenger, King, & Blessor)

TIMES OF THE GENTILES



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ISRAEL - "The Circumcision" - "nigh unto God"

THE LAW serves as a "middle wall of partition."

Israel's Program is Resumed and Fulfilled

GENTILES - "Uncircumcision" "far off" "without God"

Genesis	Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deut.	Josh.	Jud. Ruth 1 Sam 1-16	1 Sam 16 to 1 Kgs 12	1 Kgs 12 to 22	2 Kgs 1 to 10:31	2 Kgs 10:32 to 16:20	2 Kgs 17:1 to 25:30	Ezr Neh Est	The Silence of God	Matthew Mark Luke John	Acts 1-8	Hebrews James 1 & 2 Peter 1, 2 & 3 John Jude The Book of the Revelation
				1 and 2 Chronicles				Isa, Jer, Lam, Ezk, Dan, Hos, Joel, Amos, Oba, Jon, Mic, Nah, Hab, Zeph, Hag, Zec, Mal.					

Jesus and Nicodemus

Pt. 2

3/30/2023

	ENCOUNTER WITH MARY AT THE WEDDING	ENCOUNTER WITH THE VRS AT THE TEMPLE
Aspect of Prophetic Program	Israel's Prophetic Clock	Israel's Prophetic Calendar
Heart Condition	Hearing and Believing	Not Hearing and Not Believing
Auspicious Signs	Fruit of the Vine; Wedding Banquet; Superabundance; the Lord with them; Joy; Obedience	Only that at this point it is not too late for the nation.
Ominous Signs	The Nation is Without blessing; Mary doesn't understand yet about Jesus's hour.	Passover—judgment is coming they need to prepare for; Temple needs cleansing; Non-fruitbearing; Emphasis on removal of sacrificial animals—Israel's predicament goes beyond anything that sacrificial system can provide. They don't see or hear or obey Jesus; Ps. 69 quote about persecution ahead; Jesus foretells His death a resurrection.

Nation needs: New Kingdom/New Covenant Blessings
(Jn. 2:1-11)

Nation needs: New Cleansed Religious System (Jn. 2:13-22)

Nation needs: New a Spiritual Birth and Restoration (Jn. 2:23-3:11)

Jesus is going to give Nico an overview of Israel's whole national salvation package. As the leader and teacher of Israel, this would be a good thing for him to know and surprising that he doesn't know it now!

1. Jesus tried to invite the religious leaders into a discussion about Him being the inner sanctum of the Temple, the One who gave it life (Jn. 2:19-21):
 - a. First there was the travelling tabernacle filled with the Glory of God (Ex. 25:9; 40:34-38).
 - b. Then the Temple was God's dwelling place on earth in which His Glory resided and from which it burst forth from the inner sanctum , giving life and power (Ps. 26:8; 2 Chron. 7:1)
 - c. The Glory of the Lord left the Temple 500+ years before (Ezek. 11:23).

- d. Now, the Glory of the Lord was back at the Temple, only now instead of residing in the inner sanctum of the brick and mortar Temple, it was residing in the inner sanctum of the tabernacle of Jesus's flesh (Jn. 1:14; 2:11; 17:1-5; Heb. 1:1-3).
- This tabernacle would become Israel's ultimate sacrificial lamb that all those other lambs pointed to: Her Light, Bread, and her door that leads into the revived and restored Temple, Jerusalem and Israel and through her the whole world.
- e. He is the glorious King who ascends His Holy Hill and goes into His Holy Temple from which the whole earth will be filled with His Glory (Ps. 24; 72:19).

- f. Jesus in cleansing the Temple and identifying Himself as its inner sanctum, preparing it for the return of God's Glory, which He was offering to the religious leaders in Himself as the one and only way to re-enliven the Temple, Jerusalem, Israel and the whole world (Jn. 3:16). But they did not enter in.
- The offer Jesus offers here based on the grace resident in His Jehovah name, offering mercy first, will be forced on them later in accord with His wrath and judgment (Ps. 24:8-10).
- g. When the godly engage with the divine presence, they have an eternal hope of being at home with God forever in His Temple (Ps. 48:8-9) but the ungodly reject the blessing of divine presence only have the grave as their everlasting home, and Death as their shepherd (Ps. 49:6, 14)

2. Jn. 3:1: He is going to do something similar here with Nico.
 - a. While Jesus knows what is in his heart (Jn. 2:24), we don't.
 - b. If he is already believing in Jesus, then we know his heart contains things like Mary's.
 - c. If, however, he is at this point still an unbelieving member of the VRS, then we know his heart contains things like those of the religious leaders at the Temple cleansing. On one hand, like the Temple leaders, he doesn't appear to enter into Jesus's words, but on the other hand he comes to Jesus and asks questions baffled not contradicting.
 - d. We have to wait for more clues, perhaps much later in the Gospel. He is certainly no Mary, but he doesn't appear to be quite like the vain religious leaders either.

3. 3:1: If Nico is one of those who believed in His Name from Jn. 2:23, then he is “saved” in the sense of justification before God—Like Abraham, Nico would have believed God, and God would have counted his faith for righteousness.
 - a. This seems likely because of later accounts of Nico.
 - b. Nico leaves the darkness of night and comes to the Light of the Word, meeting the requirement of Jn. 3:19-21.
 - c. Later passages show him aligning himself with Jesus (Jn. 7:50-52; 19:39). Is he a Pharisee but not of the Pharisees?
 - d. Here we have ambiguous believing not ambiguous unbelief. On Israel’s “heart spectrum” perhaps we can say he has left the heart of the VRS and is heading to the heart of Mary and the Believing Remnant.

THE BELIEVING SPECTRUM

**UNBLIEVING
HEARTS AS
VRS**



God will fulfill
all His
promises
To Israel
through us.

BELIEVING REMNANT OF ISRAEL

**Individual Salvation:
Justification before
God For participation
in eternal life (Rom.
3-4)**

**Israel's National
Salvation:
Justification
before Christ at
His 2nd Coming for
participation in the
Kingdom (Jms. 2)**

**BELIEVING
HEARTS AS
MARY**



God will fulfill
all His
promises
To Israel
through my
Son.

4. Jn. 3:2a—he leaves the darkness of night and comes into the Light of the Word incarnate, the Lord Jesus Christ, which might lead us to think favorably on him based on Jn. 3:19-21.

5. Jn. 3:2b: He comes in and starts saying good things about Jesus:
 - a. **Rabbi**—good start; even the disciples started with this (Jn. 1:38).
 - b. **We “know” You are a teacher come from God**—this sounds good on the surface, but it comes from a leader of Israel who doesn't even understand basic OT truths about how God's plan for Israel works (3:10). What he knows is questionable.

c. **For no one can do “the signs” unless He be from God.**

Again, this sounds good on the surface, but an expert in the Law would know it is not really true.

--Signs can be done apart from God. To discern you must see how they align with God’s Word (Deut. 13:1-5; Mat. 7:21-23).

--So here, he claims to know Jesus is from God (which is good) but it is based on something that is not true (which is bad).

--Hmm ... We continue to scratch our heads.

6. Jn. 3:3: Now Jesus does what he did with Nathaniel, Mary and the religious leaders. He sweeps aside Nico's blathering ignorance and plunges down into the depths of his heart, soul and mind.
 - a. Rather than address Nico's external superficial concerns and needs, He addresses his greatest need, deepest concern and strongest longing: To see and enter Israel's long prophesied earthly Kingdom.

- b. If Nico was a member of the Believing Rem., he would be treasuring kingdom expectations in his heart and mind like Mary, Anna and Simeon, JohnB, disciples etc., eagerly waiting for the Christ to come and deliver the nation.
- c. If he is not believing at this point, he was viewing the Kingdom thru the lens of the VRS, assuming that as Abe's natural progeny he was automatically right with God and would not only see and enter the Kingdom but rule in it as well, thereby rejecting Christ.
--Maybe Nico thinks he is involved in a job interview here.

7. Jn. 3:3: Nico is the representative of the leaders of Israel, which is for the most part a VRS. So, Jesus is going to enlighten him, addressing these core thoughts, concerns, needs; giving Nico, as the leading teacher of Israel (who should have known these things already!) a complete primer on how Israel's national salvation program works:

8. Jesus is going to take Nico by the hand, and lead him step-by-step, into the Kingdom of Israel on earth by explaining what is involved in "seeing" the Kingdom at that time (3:3-4), "entering" the Kingdom (3:5-6) to participate in the restored and resurrected Nation of Israel in the future (Jn. 3:7-8).