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Lifting Up Of Jesus

(Pt. 2)

Jn. 3:13-16

1. Overview:

- a. The starting point: Believing in His Name through His works (signs) and words (Jn. 1:12-13; 2:23).
- b. This made and Israelite a child (born one) of God who had the spiritual eyes to "see" the Kingdom in the person of the King—Someone whom God was working through, and Someone God was with (Jn. 3:1-4).
- c. But Israelites don't want to just see the Kingdom, they want to "enter" it by being brought through (born of) Israel's national cleansing program, water baptism by men and Spirit baptism by Christ (Jn. 3:5).

- d. Now go teach these things to the rest of the whole nation of Israel, beginning with the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem. Take them from the fleshly realm into the spiritual realm where they can participate in Israel's national restoration (Jn. 3:6-8).
- e. The problem was not that God had not made Himself known. It was that they did not receive His testimony because they didn't believe God (Jn. 3:9-12).
- d. What God is doing today in Jesus's public ministry is like what He did in the days of Moses to restore the nation (Jn. 3:13-15).

- 2. Through Jesus's earthly ministry and based on the Grace resident in His Jehovah Name, God is providing Israel the means of being healed and restored, like He did for Israel in the days of Moses's.
 - -- Moses was to lift up a serpent. The people looked at it to be healed and given physical life. (Num. 21:5-9).
 - 1. Recognize they were bitten—sinful and worthy of Judgment.
 - 2. Believe God and His Word.
 - 3. Looked upon God's provision of healing, the serpent, thereby falling on the Grace resident in His Jehovah Name.
 - 4. Which resulted in the healing and restoration of the nation.

- 3. Now, in Jesus's ministry, rather than Moses lifting up a serpent, God was lifting up His Son for healing and restoration:
 - a. Like rebellious ancient Israel, they needed to recognize that the reason the nation was in ruin was because they had fallen under the Curses of the Law in 5th Course of Punishment, BEING AFLLICTED BY THE LORD—because of their idolatry and sinful rebellion.
 - b. Like rebellious ancient Israel, they needed to believe God and His Word.
 - c. Which would lead them to look upon God's provision of healing and restoration (the Son of Man in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ) not only for physical life but for eternal life, life fit for participating in the restored "born-again" Nation of Israel in her everlasting Kingdom.

- 4. The LORD is the One Who was afflicting them in the 5th COP trying to bring them to the end of their own means (Mat. 4:23-25); so that they would believe and rely on Him; so that He could heal and save the Nation of Israel from her sinful wrath-worthy predicament.
 - --That is why God sent His Son, the Son of Man, into Israel: So that they could believe God and His Word and in looking at Him be healed and receive eternal life (Jn. 3:13-15).

- 5. There is a play on the concept of "sign."
 - a. The pole in Num. 21:8 is usually translated ensign or SIGN. When we remember that in the Gospel of John, God and John never use the word "miracles" (as KJV) but only use the word "signs" (as NKJV), we can appreciate this:
 - --Just as Moses lifted up the serpent for a sign to heal Israel...
 - --So too, in John, Jesus is lifted up for a sign to heal Israel ...
 - --This is also reminiscent of Moses's rod that became a serpent, which was identified as a sign to bring about belief in His Name (Ex. 3-4).

- b. This is the way it was supposed to work: The Son of Man is lifted up through Jesus's signs (His Words and Works) to be looked upon by all who believe for healing and eternal life (Jn. 2:11, 18; 3:2, etc.).
- 6. Is. 45:22 will be ultimately fulfilled at Christ 2nd Coming: The Order of Being Lifted Up:
 - 1. By God: Public Ministry—the signs—words and works of the Father (Jn. 3:13-17).
 - 2. By God, Christ and the Jews working with the Gentiles: End of Public Ministry—Cross/Exaltation/Glorification (Jn. 8:28; 12:27-28, 32-36; 16:28).
 - 3. By God: 2nd Coming (Mat. 24:27-31).

- 7. Nicodemus, religious leaders and all Israel needed to realize that Jesus is the One that needed to be looked upon for Israel's salvation which would lead to the salvation of the whole world in accord with the Abrahamic Covenant—come on Nicodemus and all Israel get with the program, the whole world is waiting! (Jn. 3:16; Is. 45:22).
 - a. Galilee seems responsive to Him (Jn. 4:45).
 - b. Samaria seems responsive (Jn. 4:39-42).
 - c. But Judea is unresponsive (as represented by Nico—Jn. 3:4, 9).
 - d. And Jerusalem was down-right hostile, rejecting Him outright (Jn. 2:18-20; 5:16).