

## If You're Messiah, Where's Elijah?

Mark 9:11-13

## "Where is the Messenger?"

- The last prophet of Israel had promised that before Messiah came, a messenger would come first and prepare the way.
  - Mal. 3:1 - "Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts.

## I. A Question about the Last OT Prophecy about Messiah (11)

- When & Where?
  - 9 – "as they were coming down."
  - Luke 9:27 - On the next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met Him.
    - Cf. 14 - When they came *back* to the disciples...
- What OT text was the basis for the scribes' teaching?
  - Mal. 3:1; 4:5-6

## II. Jesus' Explanation of the Last OT Prophecy about Messiah (12-13)

- **A. Elijah does come first. (12a)**
  - Mal. 4:5-6 - "Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. 6 "He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse."
  - Cf. Is. 40:3 - A voice is calling, "Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God."
  - Is. 40:4 - "Make ready the way of the Lord, make His paths straight."

## II. Jesus' Explanation of the Last OT Prophecy about Messiah (12-13)

- **B. Messiah will suffer. (12b)**
  - Gen. 3:15 - And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."
  - Ps. 22:1 - My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning.
  - Ps. 22:6-7 - But I am a worm and not a man, A reproach of men and despised by the people. 7 All who see me sneer at me; They separate with the lip, they wag the head.

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- **B. Messiah will suffer. (12b)**
  - Ps. 118:22 - The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief corner stone.
    - Cf. Acts 4:11 - "He is the **STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED** by you, **THE BUILDERS**, but **WHICH BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER** stone."
  - Is. 49:7 - Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and its Holy One, To the despised One, To the One abhorred by the nation, To the Servant of rulers, "Kings will see and arise, Princes will also bow down, Because of the LORD who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel who has chosen You."

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- **B. Messiah will suffer. (12b)**
  - Is. 50:6 - I gave My back to those who strike Me, And My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard; I did not cover My face from humiliation and spitting.
  - Is. 52:14 - Just as many were astonished at you, My people, So His appearance was marred more than any man And His form more than the sons of men.
  - Is. 53:3 - He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.
  - Cf. Luke 24:25-27; 44-48

## II. Jesus' Explanation of the Last OT Prophecy about Messiah (12-13)

- **C. Elijah already came. (13)**
  - Mal. 3:1; 4:5-6
  - Both were partially fulfilled at the 1st coming of Christ.
  - In the 1st coming, the messenger was not actually Elijah.
    - John 1:21 - They asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No."
  - But he came as Elijah would have.
    - Luke 1:17 - "It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

## II. Jesus' Explanation of the Last OT Prophecy about Messiah (12-13)

- **C. Elijah already came. (13)**
  - Cf. Matt. 11:14 - "And if you are willing to accept it, John himself is Elijah who was to come.
  - Cf. Matt. 17:12 - but I say to you that Elijah already came, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they wished. So also the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands."
  - Those prophecies in Malachi about Elijah were partially fulfilled in Jesus' 1st Coming in the person of John the Baptist.
  - Cf. Matt. 17:13 - Then the disciples understood that He had spoken to them about John the Baptist.

## Implications...

- **1)** The identity of Messiah is certified.
- **2)** The necessity of Messiah's suffering is proven.
- **3)** A general principle is established: Suffering must come before glory.
  - A) Elijah
  - B) John the Baptist
  - C) Jesus
  - D) For all of us!
    - Rom. 8:16-23