

The Last Words of Christ

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Recorded on February 15, 2020

As was mentioned in the sermonette, Passover is coming up next. It seems it hits faster than you realize. The Passover is based around the death of Christ. It obviously centers around that. What I would like to share with you, if you're looking for a title, would be:

The Last Words of Christ

Obviously, the last words of Christ happened when He was on the cross or the stake. He has made mention of a couple of things. Some things He has said have confused a lot of people in the past. In Matthew 27, we read something that Jesus says towards the end of the crucifixion in verse 45.

Matthew 27:45 -*Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land.*

46) *And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"* (NKJV)

This passage has confused a lot of people and I am sure, may even be confusing to a lot of you. It has been covered already, but I thought my current understanding of this (which I've had for a while) was common knowledge. But what I have come to find out is that it is not common knowledge, even in the churches of God. It has caused confusion and has been used as evidence for a confused teaching. Continuing in verse 47.

47) *Some of those who stood there, when they heard that, said, This Man is calling for Elijah!"*

48) *Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink.;* (NKJV)

There are a couple of things. When He cried out My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? the other people thought He was calling for Elijah. Was He calling for Elijah? Did God forsake Jesus? Did He not forsake Him? For some reason had Jesus perceived that somehow God had forsaken Him?

A very common Jewish way of teaching is to use references and call backs, as I would call them. They would reference other things, mostly scriptures. They didn't have the Bible divided into chapters and verses like we do, so they would reference a passage and they would reference the beginning line—the first line—of a passage. Their audience, from the time they were children, had memorized large portions, if not all of the scriptures. They knew what He was talking about. The audience memorized everything. So, if you brought up a first line of a message, you would know what the rest

of the passage said. You have probably been around large groups of people at sporting events, and things like that. Many of us have seen the guy up there with the big billboards that say John 3:16. Everybody knows what that verse says, even people who have never even opened a Bible know what that says. If you didn't have the verses and you didn't have the chapters, that guy's sign may say, so God loved the world. You would all know that He gave His only begotten Son, and you would know the rest of the passage. We even do it today in modern times with movies and things like that. If somebody is caught in a lie or deceit and it's discovered, someone might say, well Toto has pulled the curtain back on that. If you have never seen the movie, then you won't know the reference. Everybody knows the dog Toto pulled back the curtain and showed who the wizard really was and exposed him. I'm going to give you an example of this in Matthew 21:15.

Matthew 21:15 *But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant.* (NKJV)

The King James says they were *displeased*. What was Jesus' response?

16) *and said to Him, Do You hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, Yes. Have you never read, Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise ?"* (NKJV)

As was brought out in the sermonette, that was the point—it was read in Mark 11—the same account and chronologically the same point. This was when they went to seek how to destroy Jesus. In verse 15, they were displeased and Jesus made this statement. They are now trying to destroy Him. What was He really saying? Were they upset because out of the mouths of babes came perfected praise? That is actually a reference to another verse. It is found in Psalm 8.

Psalm 8:1 *O Lord [that's YHVH the Jehovah], our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens!*
2) *Out of the mouth of babes [here's our tag line] and nursing infants You have ordained strength [or perfected praise], Because of Your enemies, That You may silence the enemy and the avenger.* (NKJV)

What Jesus was saying to these High Priests was, that they were actually the enemy of God and it is, at that point, they went from being displeased, to seeing how they could destroy Him. Jesus' reference in Matthew 27, the "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?" is the same deal. It's the same type of teaching, it's the same type of call back or reference. To what then, was Jesus referencing in Matthew 27:46? Some of you are very familiar with this. He was referencing Psalm 22. We are already in Psalms, so just go back a few chapters to Psalm 22. We will be going back and forth through the entire chapter of Psalm 22.

Psalm 22:1 [Again, here's our tagline] *My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning?*

2) *O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear; And in the night season, and am not silent.*

3) *But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel.*

4) *Our fathers trusted in You; They trusted, and You delivered them.*

5) *They cried to You, and were delivered; They trusted in You, and were not ashamed.* (NKJV)

God was staying with them. Now, we are going to go back and forth to pick up on the parallels between this chapter and the last words of Christ—the last events of Christ's life. We will look at this verse for just a little bit.

6) *But I am a worm, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people.* (NKJV)

In verse 6 where it says, "I am a worm and no man", the Old Testament Hebrew word for "worm" is typically *rimmah*. In Strong's it is H7415. It usually means "worm or maggot" or something like that. But that is not the word used here. The word here translated "worm" is the word *tolah*. It is H8438 and it is translated "worm or worms" about eight times, but it is mostly translated as "scarlet or crimson". Notice this in Exodus 26:1.

Exodus 26:1 *Moreover you shall make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine woven linen and blue, purple, and scarlet thread; [that is our word tolah] with artistic designs of cherubim you shall weave them.* (NKJV)

Again, another verse—Leviticus 14:4.

Leviticus 14:4 *... then the priest shall command to take for him who is to be cleansed two living and clean birds, cedar wood, scarlet, and hyssop.* (NKJV)

Again, that word *scarlet* is the same word translated "worm". The reason for the use of this particular word, is because it is where they would get the red dye to make their scarlet linens. It is not even really a worm. It is an insect of some kind, which is called the Crimson Grub. For all the Latin buffs, it is *coccus ilicis*. They would take this grub or insect or whatever it was, grind it and smash the body and this process would make the red dye. They would make this dye for those highly sought-after red garments, cloths, linens, fabrics and so on.

The word *tolah* oftentimes is used in conjunction with another Hebrew word, *shaniy*. That is H8144. That definition is, "scarlet or crimson", properly the insect *coccus ilicis*. The dried body of the female, yields the coloring matter from which the dye is made for the cloth. The color is scarlet or crimson. It is the insect with the color. Both of these words are used together, usually to form one word translated scarlet but sometimes they are used separately. Here in Isaiah 1:18, both words are being used.

Isaiah 1:18 *“Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the Lord, Though your sins are like scarlet [that is shaniy], They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson [tolah], They shall be as wool. (NKJV)*

In verse 6 of Psalm 22, he is not just saying he feels like a lowly worm. He is being specific. I did a little bit more looking into this particular worm and I'll share with you what I found. I will put a disclaimer however, as most of the information I found is from mainstream Christian sources. Not a whole lot on scientific sites—wildlife—things like that. It doesn't mean it is not correct, but it may tend to be a little biased. But I will share with you what I found.

When this particular insect, worm, little critter, is about to give birth, it climbs up onto a tree, a branch or fence post. It attaches itself to it—permanently attaches itself to it. It will never move again alive from that spot. The young that are inside start to feed on the body and blood of the parent. The young start out white in color. But the blood of the parent, permanently dyes them red and that is where they get their red coloring. After they have consumed everything there is, whether they are hatched or released, however that works, the body of the parent that is pinned to the fence post, stake or branch, dies and stays there for three days. After the third day, the body loses its red coloring, turns stark white and falls to the ground like snow. Again, I just add this here for your consideration. You can look it up for yourself. It is interesting to say the least. I think it is more than just the word “worm”.

Back to Psalm 22:7.

Psalm 22:7 *All those who see Me ridicule Me; They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying,*

8) He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!” (NKJV)

Now to Matthew 27:39.

Matthew 27:39 *And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads 40) and saying, You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”*

41) Likewise, the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said,

42) He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him.

43) He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, I am the Son of God.

44) Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing. (NKJV)

You see, it says everybody that sees Me, ridicules Me. Even the fellow crucifixion victims were mocking Him and ridiculing Him. Back to Psalm 22 and continuing in verse 9.

Psalm 22:9 *But You are He who took Me out of the womb; You made Me trust while on My mother s breasts.*

10) *I was cast upon You from birth. From My mother s womb You have been My God. (NKJV)*

John 19 doesn't spell it right out like some of the others, but here He is talking about His mother. I imagine if you are reciting and going through this verse in your head while you're dying on the cross, you are probably running the verses through your head as well. It is interesting that John gets to the point where David is talking about his mother.:

John 19:25 *Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.*

26) *When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, Woman, behold your son!"*

27) *Then He said to the disciple, Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home. (NKJV)*

The verses in Psalm 22 speak about His mother—Jesus has already recited this—and He looks up and sees His mother and one of the last things He does is to make sure that His mother is going to be taken care of by John.

We were up to verse 11 in Psalm 22.

Psalm 22:11 *Be not far from Me, For trouble is near; For there is none to help.*

12) *They gape at Me with their mouths, Like a raging and roaring lion. (NKJV)*

Again, this might be a little bit interpretational, but He was surrounded by the Sanhedrin, and He was being mocked and smacked. He was then in front of the Roman soldiers, again being beaten and mocked. I believe it fits the analogy pretty well.

In verse 14 of Psalm 22:

Psalm 22:14 *I am poured out like water, And, all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me.*

15) *My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death. (NKJV)*

Again, in John 19, go to verse 34.

John 19:34 *But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. (NKJV)*

As for the water pouring out. Go back just a little to verse 28 in John 19.

John 19:28 *After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, I thirst!” (NKJV)*

The other ones are a little bit interpretational, but this one pretty much says this is scripture being fulfilled. It talks about the bones and the heart.

Some points on the crucifixion—the Romans inflicted the most amount of pain they could on a human body before it died. They had it down to a science. The nails that were put through the hands were not really put through the hands. The weight of the human body wouldn't hold through the hands—it would rip through them. They were put through the wrists, right where the two bones come together—your radius and your ulna. It goes right through them and you're left hanging on your wrist bones.

Just for added “fun”, the main nerve for the hand runs right through the middle of it—your median nerve and when the nail went through it, it would sever it. Even if you were to get off the cross, you would never use your hands again. The nails for the feet were put through the ankles—the ankle bones usually. The weight of the body was basically pulled, especially on the arms—whether you were up there on the cross like stretched out sideways, or in my personal take, I believe Christ was probably on a stake with his arms above His head.

Regardless of how it was, the weight of the body was pulling on the arms and usually the arms stretched another five or six or more inches longer and the shoulders were usually pulled out of joint. When He is saying “My bones were pulled out of joints”, that is a lot of what happened during a crucifixion. The blood loss and the gaping wounds they usually had, as they were beaten very badly (the people that were being scourged) did not usually survive long enough to get put on the cross. Due to the blood loss, the heart and the lungs would start to stiffen and stop working correctly. After everything a person dealt with, what actually ended a person's life was suffocation. When you are in that kind of position you cannot breathe—your lungs cannot expand and contract. You cannot pull air in and you can't exhale air out. So, they would sit there and slowly suffocate. It has always been interesting to me that, even though someone has been beaten and scourged, and is in the most intense amount of pain that anyone could really endure, would still try to breathe. You are hanging there and suffocating and you know if you hang there long enough, they are going to come and break your legs and you are going to suffocate anyway. Yet still, they will try to sit up and use whatever strength they have left to pull themselves up to get another breath. I think that's a testament to the human body's inherent ability and desire for self-preservation. The drive to survive is always there and I have always thought that was amazing.

Back to Psalm 22. We are now at verse 16.

16) For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; (NKJV)

I would think that it would be self-evident of what that means, but there are some dissenters out there. Did you know that there are people that argue about the Bible? There are people arguing that this particular word, pierced, is not translated correctly and that the word is actually supposed to be *lion*. It does render itself to be lion occasionally, here and there, but it would throw off the context of the verse. Most biblical scholars agree that it is actually translated correctly as “pierced” My hands and My feet. I honestly don’t know if it really matters whether your hands and your feet are pinned or nailed or pierced or held down by a lion. It appears all about the same to me. Besides, what do you do with the rest of the verses that all parallel with the account.

Psalm 22:17.

17) *I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me.*

18) *They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.*
(NKJV)

That can be found in Matthew 27:35.

Matthew 27:35 *Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet: They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.”* (NKJV)

Kind of hard to weasel around that one - a direct quote. Even the Bible itself, is saying that was fulfilled by what was spoken by the Prophet. In the rest of Psalm 22 is where I believe the parallels between Jesus’ death and crucifixion end. Then it seems to start talking about a future time.

There has been some debate about the last words of Christ. There is debate about everything. What were the actual last words of Christ? We are not one hundred percent sure. Based on the Gospels, I am sure there are a lot of people who have studied it and made decisions in their minds. In Matthew, it says, “My God, My God why have You forsaken Me” and then He cried out with a loud voice before He yielded up the Spirit. Mark says, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me” again. Then He cried out with a loud voice and breathed His last. It is similar in Matthew and Mark. Luke says, “Father, into your hands I commit to You My Spirit”. That is when He breathed His last. In John He simply said, “It is finished and He bowed His head before He gave up the Ghost.” There is some debate about it, but those are pretty much the four Gospel accounts of what His last words were.

With all of this in mind, with all the parallels between Psalm 22 and Him calling back to those verses and the way it is taught and referenced. Did God forsake Jesus? Read the rest of Psalm 22 and just listen to some of these words. Read these words and just see what they say.

Psalm 22:19 *But You, O Lord, do not be far from Me; O My Strength, hasten to help Me!*

20) *Deliver Me from the sword, My precious life from the power of the dog.*

21) *Save Me from the lion's mouth And from the horns of the wild oxen! You have answered Me.*

22) *I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise You.*

23) *You who fear the Lord, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, And fear Him, all you offspring of Israel!*

24) *For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; Nor has He hidden His face from Him; But when He cried to Him, He heard.*

25) *My praise shall be of You in the great assembly; I will pay My vows before those who fear Him.*

26) *The poor shall eat and be satisfied; Those who seek Him will praise the Lord. Let your heart live forever!*

27) *All the ends of the world Shall remember and turn to the Lord [again, all of these are YHVH, Jehovah], And all the families of the nations Shall worship before You.*

28) *For the kingdom is the Lord's, And He rules over the nations.*

29) *All the prosperous of the earth Shall eat and worship; All those who go down to the dust Shall bow before Him, even he who cannot keep himself alive.*

30) *A posterity shall serve Him. It will be recounted of the Lord to the next generation,*

31) *They will come and declare His righteousness to a people who will be born, That He has done this. (NKJV)*

A lot of these words—He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, He has not hidden His face, the Kingdoms of the LORD—they are all His. Basically, did God the Father forsake Jesus Christ when He was on the cross? This statement from Jesus has been really misunderstood. The fact is, God the Father never turned His back on Jesus Christ, nor forsook Him. As hammered as this point might be for some of us, it is still relevant. This statement by Jesus, My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me, has been misunderstood. This has been done to either:

- A. Start a false teaching or
- B. Prove a false teaching

I'm not really sure which came first. Is it relevant? A friend of mine, in this last year gave a message explaining how God the Father did not forsake Jesus Christ. We have grown up together in the church—his family (brothers and cousins) have built themselves up and have climbed up into the ranks of the ministry. I don't believe he is a minister, but he is a pretty regular figure behind the podium. When he had finished his message, he was pulled aside, talked to—given a little bit of a reprimand—and informed that his message would never be posted on the website because it was not what their teaching was. It's not something far away, it's not something that's not hitting close to home, it's current, it's relevant. The people who know the truth on certain matters and

try to teach it, are getting silenced. People are not being given a chance to learn what might be going on with certain things. The teaching was—and is, in certain places—that God the Father is so perfect that He cannot even be in the presence of sin. Therefore, when Jesus Christ was on the cross, He became sin and at that point, God the Father could no longer be in the presence of Jesus, so God had to forsake Him—or He turned His back on Him.

Let's look at this teaching and run with it for just a little bit. First and foremost, none of that is stated in the Bible anywhere. So that's strike one. I have often wondered, if God cannot be in the presence of sin, how was He in the presence of Satan? I would think Satan would represent sin in some fashion. Also, for the ones who like to put Them, that is God and Christ, into one category, if they are one, how come one can be around sin and one can't. That doesn't seem to make a lot of sense. I've also wondered how far away from sin's presence does God the Father have to be, before it is safe for God to come out of hiding? Does He sense sin around the corner and then thinks He needs to jump out of the window? It does not make any sense.

In Psalm 22:28, we read that the Kingdom is the LORD's—it's His Kingdom. Psalm 47:7 says God is the King of the earth. In Isaiah 66:1, He says heaven is My throne, the earth is My footstool. He created heaven and He placed that Himself on there as His throne. The earth is His footstool and everything in it is at the foot of God's throne. We are at the foot—on the earth—of God's throne, in basically what would be His throne room. Let's put it this way: If you were brought before the king and were at the foot of his throne, in his throne room and you did something that was displeasing to the king, who is going to be leaving? Whose presence is not going to be around anymore? Will it be the king's? Is he going to be running and toddling off to his chambers and hiding under his bed, peeking out to make sure you are gone and the coast is clear? I don't think so. It's going to be you—you would be the one who is going to be escorted out and that's putting it lightly. The king is not going to be going into hiding. That's the way it's always been taught—you are sin, therefore God has to be way, way far away. The earth is at the foot of His throne, why is He taking off? None of this seems to be making a whole lot of sense when you hold it up to any kind of real scrutiny. Don't kid yourself—God is not going to remove Himself so that you can have your way. He is going to be off somewhere else.

Not only that, but when Jesus Christ died, what were some of the things that happened? There was an earthquake, the sun was darkened, the gigantic, thick veil was torn—split in two. The graves were opened, the bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. A little side note: I have also found it humorous. that when you are reading certain things in the Old Testament and it goes into painstaking detail, it can get a little dry, to be honest with you. But it is all there for a reason. God inspired it all and put it all there for everybody's edification. When it says, the LORD spoke to Moses, instruct the people of Israel to build this thing and it's going to be this long and it's going to be this wide and it's going to be covered with this material and on and on. Then Moses spoke to the children of Israel, thus says the LORD, build this thing, it's going to be this long, this wide and we're going to put it with this material. So, the children built this thing and

it was this long and this wide and if you're really lucky, it's repeated again in the next chapter.

Here's the thing with this, it's like earthquake, graves open, dead are walking through the streets and it's like, that's all you have to say on that? Just one little mention in passing? It's just a comical thing that I've found that this is the account I have to go with, so I'm going to go with it. The point is, who is doing all this? Jesus Christ is dead. If He's the God Who interacted with all the people, who is raising the bodies, who is causing the earthquake? He is dead and if He was completely dead—fully dead, then it was God the Father. It's not that God the Father turned His back. At what point, how long was it? Five minutes, five seconds, a nano-second, ten minutes? I'm going to put all the sins on His head, turn My back on Him and as soon as He's dead, alright I'm back. Cue the earthquakes, split the veil, the dead rise. He is then going to orchestrate all this stuff? No!

Christ's death was forgiveness of sins, but here is an interesting thing. You might get the argument that when Christ died, His death forgave all of our sins because He was the sacrifice. That much we can agree on. However, let us just say it did. What was it that they were looking for? Atonement----On the day of Atonement what was Aaron supposed to do with the blood? The blood of the bull which was for Himself? He was to take the blood of the bull and the goat and He was to go and present it in the Holy of Holies and sprinkle it on the Ark. Take that blood and put it there.

On the first Passover, they were to kill the lamb and what were they supposed to do with the lamb? They were to place the blood of the lamb on the doorposts and the lintel. The sign that the destroyer or the death angel was looking for, was the blood of the lamb to be on the doorposts I can only imagine that if you did everything right. You took the lamb and you sacrificed the lamb and you had had it killed, but you never put the blood on the doorposts. The death angel would never have seen it. That was the sign he was looking for. There is no account that said anybody did that, and I cannot say that there was someone looking out the window saying, Hank the death angel is on our block, you have killed that lamb right? Yeah—did you remember to put the blood on the doorpost? I knew I had forgotten something!

What happened to Jesus? Christ appeared before Mary Magdalene.

John 20:14 *Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus.*

15) *Jesus said to her, Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away."*

16) *Jesus said to her, Mary!" She turned and said to Him, Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher). (NKJV)*

Just reading into the scripture, I can imagine she went to give Him a hug or something and Jesus' response was:

17) *Jesus said to her, Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God. (NKJV)*

Jesus had died, but just like the blood that was to be sprinkled on the Ark and just like the blood that was supposed to be put on the doorpost, Jesus Christ was to go and present Himself to the heavenly throne, to His Father and He had not yet done that. So, He told her not to touch Him, because He had not yet ascended and presented the sacrifice—His sacrifice and His blood. So even if Christ's sacrifice did cover the sins and everybody was forgiven, He had not yet presented that sacrifice to God.

Another thing that is interesting, is that the blood that was to be put on the doorpost was applied with a bunch hyssop. Hyssop was also used to take the sour wine which was put on Jesus Christ's lips. I just thought that was kind of interesting.

As I had mentioned, a common Jewish way of teaching is the reference—you are going to recall back and reference things from what you learn. I have some examples that are interesting. I would like to share some of these with you. In Matthew 11:1, and to set the stage on this, John the Baptist is in prison. I've heard a lot of things about this particular thing. We will just read this and see what it says.

Matthew 11:1 *Now it came to pass, when Jesus finished commanding His twelve disciples, that He departed from there to teach and to preach in their cities.*

2) *And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples*

3) *and said to Him [this is John the Baptist], Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?"*

4) *Jesus answered and said to them, Go and tell John the things which you hear and see:*

5) *The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them.*

6) *And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me." (NKJV)*

At face value, it looks as though John is questioning whether Jesus is the Coming One or not. Jesus' answer is, I've been doing all these miracles. Is that what that is saying? I've heard a lot of things on this which people use—that even John the Baptist was questioning whether Jesus was the Messiah, it runs the gamut. Jesus' only reassurance to John was, I'm going to have these people tell you that they've seen all these miracles. What John the Baptist is doing, is referencing an Old Testament scripture or teaching. He's says, are you the coming one or do we look for another? If you would turn to Zechariah 9:9.

Zechariah 9:9 *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey [that sounds familiar], A colt, the foal of a donkey.*

10) *I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim And the horse from Jerusalem; The battle bow shall be cut off. He shall speak peace to the nations; His dominion shall be from sea to sea, And from the River to the ends of the earth.*

11) *As for you also, Because of the blood of your covenant, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. (NKJV)*

That's the part that John the Baptist doesn't mention; I will set your prisoners free. In the next part of the passage, John is talking about the prisoners being set free. What John is actually asking is, when am I going to get released out of prison. You are the coming One, right? You are to set the prisoners free, so when am I being set free? Jesus' answer: The blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up and the poor have the Gospel preached to them. Now we will see what Jesus is referencing. Isaiah 35:4.

Isaiah 35:4 *Say to those who are fearful-hearted, Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, With the recompense of God; He will come and save you."*

5) *Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.*

6) *Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert. (NKJV)*

Then in verse 9.

9) *No lion shall be there, Nor shall any ravenous beast go up on it; It shall not be found there. But the redeemed shall walk there,*

10) *And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, And come to Zion with singing, With everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, And sorrow and sighing shall flee away. (NKJV)*

This is talking about a future state of Zion. In Isaiah 42 you can see more of what Jesus' answer is.

Isaiah 42:1 *Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.*

5) *Thus says God the Lord, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk on it:*

6) *I, the Lord, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles,*

7) *To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the prison, Those who sit in darkness from the prison house.*

8) *I am the Lord, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.*

9) *Behold, the former things have come to pass, And new things I declare; Before they spring forth I tell you of them." (NKJV)*

When is this going to happen? When former things have come to pass and the new things are declared. One more in Isaiah that Jesus Christ mentions here. Isaiah 61:1

Isaiah 61:1 *The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
2) To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn ... (NKJV)*

We are now going to put all this together. When will the prisoners be set free? In a future state of Zion, after the Day of the Lord's vengeance. A Day when there are no ravenous beasts, when former things have come to pass and new things have been declared. The question is, did John start to doubt because this is what that's about. Was John the Baptist doubting whether Jesus was the Messiah? Jesus' answer was, I did all these miracles. Again, let's just keep some things in mind. The angel Gabriel visited John's father and told him that he was going to have a son and he was going to name him John. Gabriel told him that his son would be filled with the Holy Spirit and that John would come in the power of Elijah. John's father was made mute from before conception, through the duration of the pregnancy and up until John was eight days old, just for questioning this. John lived like a wild man because of this. He was subjected to ridicule of the people. John the Baptist was the voice of the one crying in the wilderness, preparing the way of the Lord. He brought scathing accusations and warnings to Jewish rulers without any indication of a second of fear. He baptized Jesus and witnessed God's Spirit descending upon Jesus like a dove, and He knew that this was proof that Jesus was the Lamb of God and the Son of God. He testified to that to ultimately his peril. So, did John the Baptist really start to doubt?

What were some of Jesus Christ's responses to other people that doubted? His responses were, ye of little faith, why did you doubt? Have I been with you so long that you still don't know Me? You'll deny Me three times before the rooster crows. What did He say about John the Baptist? What did you go out in the wilderness to see? A reed?

We see this in Matthew 11:7.

Matthew 11:7 *What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?
8) But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.
9) But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet.
10) For this is he of whom it is written: Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,
Who will prepare Your way before You.*

11) *Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. (NKJV)*

There is never a mention of him doubting. Jesus sang his praises and said there was not even one greater who has ever been born of a woman. So, what is going on? This correspondence between John the Baptist and Jesus Christ is, in a very referencing way, and in a very Jewish way. John the Baptist is asking, as You are the coming One when am I getting out of prison? Jesus' answer is that the freeing of the prisoners is not until a later time. I'm sorry, but blessed are you for your continued faith in your God. As unfortunate as it might be for John, in his current situation, he got his answer.

I think we have time for one more. This will be the last one. This is the story in John 8, of the woman that was caught in adultery.

John 8:1 *But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.*

2) *Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them.*

3) *Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst,*

4) *they said to Him, Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act.*

5) *Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?"*

6) *This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear.*

7) *So, when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first."*

8) *And again, He stooped down and wrote on the ground.*

9) *Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. (NKJV)*

This is another story that has brought all kinds of different debates and questions, and a lot of speculation. I've heard stories that, He wrote in the dirt with his finger all these men's sins. Then when they looked down, those without sin were told to throw the first rock. I don't know how long it would take, or how much space it would take, to write everybody's sins down. I've heard that He was basically proving a point and ignoring them and doodling in the sand. I've heard that when they caught the woman in adultery that she was still naked and so He was writing in the sand to divert His eyes from seeing the woman. I believe personally that He is calling back to Jeremiah 17:13.

Jeremiah 17:13 *O Lord, the hope of Israel, All who forsake You shall be ashamed. Those who depart from Me Shall be written in the earth, Because they have forsaken the Lord, The fountain of living waters." (NKJV)*

Their names have been written in the earth. I believe Jesus was writing the men's names in the dust, in the sand, calling back to this scripture, telling them they have forsaken the Lord and they will be ashamed. You can feel free to look into it yourself and correct me if you feel I'm wrong, but that's my personal take.

With that, that's all I've got and thank you for the time up here. I hope to show up sooner and more often. But until then enjoy the rest of your Sabbath and the rest of your weekend, thank you.