

## LESSON SEVEN - (Part Four)

# The Path of Scripture Leading us to Jesus Christ - His Gospel - His Church - And Beyond

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*"Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein" (Jeremiah 6:16).*

*"Because my people hath forgotten me, they have burned incense to vanity, and they have caused them to stumble in their ways from the ancient paths, to walk in paths, in a way not cast up (Jeremiah 18:15).*

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**Title: "As a Sheep to the Slaughter"**

**Standing Text: (Jeremiah 6:16; 18:15)**

**Lesson Texts: (Isaiah 53; Acts 8:32-33)**

### 1. REVIEWING AGAIN THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SERIES:

- A. As the texts suggest, there is a Path, Trail, or a line which starts very early in Scripture which leads us to Jesus Christ as well as His Gospel and His Church. It is the purpose of this study to follow the directions given as well as the **Landmarks** (Prov. 22:28) which will appear as we take this Journey. The way will be clear for it is **Lighted** by scripture itself (Psalm 119:105). As we make this journey, let us be sure to walk in the light and acknowledge the **Landmarks**.
- B. Today's Lesson is entitled: **"As a Sheep to the Slaughter."** This story will also start in Old Testament prophecy and will become an actuality in the New Testament.
- C. **Early Comments:**
  - (1) This chapter is another one of the most clear **"Landmarks"** which springs up in the Old Testament reminding us that we are still on the right Path in finding **"Jesus Christ, His Gospel, His Church and Beyond."**
  - (2) While there is a definite connection with Acts 8, there are also other New Testament verses which quote portions of this great chapter.
  - (3) As I have said before, the prophets of Old have not left one stone unturned in their prophetic picture of the Messiah that was to come.
  - (4) Let us work through this chapter adding the New Testament passages as we go.

### 2. "AS A SHEEP TO THE SLAUGHTER:"

**Scripture:** *"I Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?"*

- (1) The Apostle Paul used these same words to capture the attention of his Roman readers in

Romans 10:16: *"But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?"*

- (2) Please take notice that the word "gospel" will be showing up more as the individual lessons progress.
- (3) He then added the oft quoted, *"So then, faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17).*
- (4) Don't forget the words of John 1:11 *"He came unto his own and his own received him not."*

*"2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. 3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*

- (5) **George DeHoff:** "Messiah is a "shoot" from the stump of Jesse (Isa. 11:1). He is a shoot growing up in dry ground or in unlikely places. Palestine was an unpromising land. Bethlehem was insignificant. At Nazareth, Christ grew up in humble and lowly circumstances - - - -there was nothing that would attract the attention of man."

*"4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

- (6) **George DeHoff:** "All of our burdens, sorrows, and sins are borne by the Lord Jesus Christ. The Christian who beholds Calvary may truly exclaim, 'He carried my sins with Him there.' (See *"That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses" (Matt. 8:17).* Also, *"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross" (Col. 2:14).*

*"6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought **as a lamb to the slaughter**, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.*

- (7) Notice how this matches up with the following in the New Testament:
  - (a) *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).*
  - (b) *"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one" (Rom. 3:10).*
  - (c) *"There is no fear of God before their eyes" (Rom. 3:18 - Psa. 36:1).*

- (8) **Back to George DeHoff Again:** "The gentle Christ was humiliated by the servants of Caiaphas and the soldiers of Pilate. He was harshly treated and mishandled. He did not open His mouth to defend Himself. He needed no defense since no valid accusation was made against Him. He spoke to the Sanhedrin only when silence would have been a renunciation of His deity (Matt. 26:63-64). He spoke before Pilate only when silence would have renounced His Kingship. Before the incestuous Herod, He said nothing at all. As a sacrificial lamb, He was offered.

*"8 He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. 9 And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.*

(9) **Matthew Henry:** "God having made him sin for us, he was proceeded against as a malefactor; he was apprehended and taken into custody, and made a prisoner; he was judged, accused, tried, and condemned according to the usual forms of law: God filed a process against him, judged him in pursuance of that process, and confined him in the prison of the grave, at the door of which a stone was rolled and sealed. He was *cut off* by an untimely death *from the land of the living*, though he lived a most useful life, did so many good works, and they were all such that one would be apt to think it was for some of them that they stoned him. He was stricken to death, to the grave which he made *with the wicked* (for he was crucified between two thieves, as if he had been the worst of the three) and yet *with the rich*, for he was buried in a sepulchre that belonged to Joseph, an honourable counsellor. Though he died with the wicked, and according to the common course of dealing with criminals should have been buried with them in the place where he was crucified, yet God here foretold, and Providence so ordered it, that he should make his grave with the innocent, with the rich, as a mark of distinction put between him and those that really deserved to die, even in his sufferings.

(10) The scriptures will comment on verse 9:

(a) He made his grave with the wicked: *"And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left" (Luke 23:33).*

(b) And with the rich in his death: *"When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple: He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed" (Matt. 27:57-60).*

*"10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. 11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.*

(11) **E. M. Zerr:** "God did not find personal pleasure in the suffering of Christ, but it was his will that he suffer so that man might be saved. *Soul* in the Old Testament is from *Nephesh* and its primary meaning is '*a breathing creature.*' The clause means that Christ was put to death (ceased breathing) as an offering for the sins of the world. After God saw his seed (Christ) go through the sacrificial offering he took the case in hand and rescued him from death. By doing this the Lord *prolonged his days* and declared to the world that his Son should never die again (Rom. 6:9): *"Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him."*

*"12 Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors" (Isaiah 53).*

(12) As Jesus came *"to seek and save that which was lost"* (Luke 19:10), it was fitting that his Heavenly Father reward his successful mission. This reward is explained by the Apostle Paul in the first chapter of Ephesians. *"19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, 21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: 22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all"* (Eph. 1:19-23).

### **3. LOOK NOW HOW THE LORD USED HIS WORD TO WIN SOULS TO HIM:**

Many, many years later the words of Isaiah so intrigued a Nobleman from Ethiopia that God had a man, Philip, to explain to him the story **"As a Sheep (Lamb) to the Slaughter."** What a clear picture of the intent and purpose of God in offering a Lamb to be slaughtered for the sins of the world. Keep in mind that the Lamb had been slain on a cruel cross already. **Read it for yourself:**

*"26 And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. 27 And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, 28 Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. 29 Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. 30 And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? 31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. 32 The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: 33 In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. 34 And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. 36 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? 37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. 38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. 39 And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea" (Acts 8:26-40).*

### **4. CONCLUSIONS:**

- (1) This "path," like all others in this series will, if followed, lead to Jesus Christ, the presentation of the Gospel, His church - and beyond.
- (2) Remember, we have concluded in this series that all paths which have their "trail head" in the Old Testament will lead us into the highway to that which is beyond - HEAVEN!
- (3) Next Lesson, Part Five, Lesson Eight - **"The Peaceable Kingdom of the Lord"**  
**(Isa. 11:1- 9).**