

THE MESSIAH DID NOT COME AS A REVOLUTIONARY **(Matt. 12:19-21)**

The Messiah would not come as expected; that is, He would not come in the manner the rabbis currently taught. He would not come with political or military force – not the first time. They should have read more carefully, as Jesus repeatedly said to them, “Have you not read...?” (cf. Mt. 12:3, 5).

Matthew 12:19 (NKJV)

19 He will not quarrel nor cry out, Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets.

The Messiah would not come as a “revolutionary”. He was not looking to take over in a hostile or military fashion. He was not looking for a fight. He would not be a rabble-rouser in the streets stirring up revolutionaries to follow Him. He wasn’t leading a mob to riot and take over.

The prophecy was clear...

Isaiah 42:2 (NKJV)

2 He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, Nor cause His voice to be heard in the street.

The picture here is of a gentle and humble Messianic figure. He was not forcing things in a fleshy manner. His quiet withdrawal in the face of hostility was in perfect keeping with this portrayal.

Contrary to general expectations, the Messiah was not to come as a WARRIOR-KING – not the first time. It is for this reason that Jesus did not want the fact of His Messiahship published or promoted in the wrong way. The general populace just didn’t get it – including the multitudes that were currently following Him.

The Messiah’s mission at His first coming was a non-violent mission. He came in a gentle and gracious manner. He did not engage in public haranguing or demagoguery. He came graciously offering the kingdom – not forcing the issue. This was the time of a grace-invitation. As John 1:17 says, “**grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.**”

The Messiah came as One “gentle and lowly in heart” who ultimately entered Jerusalem in His official presentation to the nation “lowly and sitting on a donkey” (Mt. 21:5). Thus, His approach and presentation were completely out of sync with what the Jewish populace expected of the

Messiah, and yet it was in perfect fulfillment of prophecy as seen in Isaiah 42.

Matthew 12:20 (NKJV)

20 A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench, Till He sends forth justice to victory;

A **reed** is a “tall, slender-leaved plant of the grass family that grows in water or on marshy ground”.

A reed is delicate to start with, so a bruised reed is in a very weak position. A bruised reed is “wounded”, but Christ did not come to totally break it. In other words, the tenor of His ministry would be that He would deal gently and mildly with people. He would not be harsh and rough with the weak. Rather, He would show mercy as He had told the religious leaders they needed to learn (cf. Matt. 12:7; Ps. 72:2,4).

Jesus did not show up like “a bull in a China closet”. No, he invites the wounded and heavy laden to come to Him for rest (Mt. 11:28).

Flax threads were commonly used as wicks in oil lamps. The smoking flax wick is one that is about to burn out. This represents a person who is down and depressed and ready to lose hope. This person is about burned out. Jesus would not snuff out this person’s smoldering wick. He didn’t come to blow people away. That is not the Jesus way! He deals gently with people.

The Messiah did not come in a forceful or harsh manner! He came full of grace, but I want you to see that applies only to HIS first advent!

Note the little word “**Till**” in the middle of verse 20. He didn’t break people or snuff them out at His first coming – rather, the evidence of Who He was and the grace invitation to BELIEVE on Him went forth far and wide. This was not the time for harsh judgment.

And Christ knew it all along.

Early in His ministry, He went back to His hometown of Nazareth, and as He went into the synagogue, they presented Him a scroll, and He turned to Isa. 61 and read from there.

Luke 4:18–21 (NKJV)

18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the

brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;

19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”

20 Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him.

21 And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

What is amazing is that if you turn back to Isaiah 61 from where Christ was quoting and applying it to Himself, you will find that He stopped quoting MID SENTENCE.

Isaiah 61:1–2 (NKJV)

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, -**CHRIST STOPPED RIGHT HERE** And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,

Christ came to proclaim an acceptable time when people can get right with God through faith in Jesus as the Messiah.

Christ stopped right before it says, “***And the day of vengeance of our God***”. It wasn’t time for vengeance. It wasn’t time for judgment. That relates to His Second Coming when He will establish justice on the earth.

The first coming was all about the offer of grace, and Christ comes humbly with great mildness and gentleness. The second time He will come forcibly with power and great glory, bringing judgment and vengeance on all those rejecting Him. But until then the wheat and the tares grow together.

Matthew 13:30 (NKJV)

30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.” ’ ’ ”

This is the age of GRACE where God says, “In an acceptable time I have heard you...Behold now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” (2 Cor. 6:2).

But there is coming the time when things will be different as indicated by the word “**Till**” (**Mt. 12:20**). “**Till**” denotes the Second Coming when He will “**send forth justice to victory**”. What is RIGHT according to God will then be forcibly brought to bear on the whole world and the Messiah will champion justice in victory! In the end justice will be victor under Jesus! God’s justice will triumph under the Messiah!

And at that time Jesus will break the world with a rod of iron. That is different than His first coming. If the world won’t respond to His invitation of GRACE they will get His ROD OF IRON.

Psalms 2:8–9 (NKJV)

8 Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.

9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.’ ”

Revelation 19:15 (NKJV)

15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And **He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron.** He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

This is a case of rightly dividing the Word of truth. If you don’t make a distinction between Christ’s first coming in grace and His second coming in judgment, the Scriptures won’t make proper sense.

The reason the world is “getting away” with their chronic blasphemy at the moment is purely because of the GRACE of God. This is the age of GRACE. Ever since Christ came the first time, GRACE has been extended.

2 Peter 3:9 (ESV)

9 The Lord is **not slow** to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is **patient** toward you, **not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.**

The Church Age is often referred to as “the Age of Grace”. When the Church Age is completed, the WRATH of God’s judgment will come upon the world. According to Christ, this will be the worst time in the history of the world, as seen in Matt. 24:21 (cf. Jer. 30:7; Dan. 12:1). These are the judgments described in the book of Revelation.

How GRACIOUS is God not to have brought judgment on the entire world yet at this point. He is more than 2000 years GRACIOUS. We keep

wondering how long He is going to wait before judgment falls – and He keeps surprising us by showing us the EXTENT of His amazing grace!

But someday that will come to a halt...

Acts 17:30–31 (NKJV)

30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

Matthew 12:21 (NKJV)

21 And in His name Gentiles will trust.”

This is now the second time the Gentiles (sometimes translated as “nations”) are mentioned. God’s plan definitely includes the Gentiles. And in context the sense is that the nation of Israel was rejecting their Messiah, but in contrast there would be a great RESPONSE on the part of the Gentiles. Many of them would come to TRUST (or hope) in the PERSON of the Messiah.

His name is His PERSON. Gentiles in saving faith come to trust in Jesus for WHO He is as Lord and Savior! We believe in Him as our Lord-God and as our Savior from sin. This is what the Jews as a nation failed to do, and yet there was a remnant. God always has a remnant (cf. Rom. 11).

John 1:11–12 (NKJV)

11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

We know from Romans 11:11 that through the conversion of the Gentiles God’s plan is to provoke the Jews to jealousy through the salvation of the Gentiles. Indeed, relatively FEW Jews have come to faith in the age of grace, but MANY Gentiles have.

The point is this: This KIND of Messiah presented prophetically in the Scriptures – a Messiah Who comes with a gracious ministry of APPEAL – would be EFFECTIVE! He would be EFFECTIVE in reaching MANY Gentiles who come to trust in Him. That is has proven true! While to this point in history MOST Jews have rejected Jesus as the Messiah, MANY Gentiles have come to trust in Him. How true! It has proven true in history!

“The indication of a future ministry to Gentiles is also very important. In the face of rejection by the nation of Israel Matthew by Messianic prophecies, prepares his Jewish reader for the proclamation of a universal Savior. The Gentiles shall hope in His name.” – ***Stanley Toussaint***

And it has happened! MANY Gentiles have come to HOPE in the Person of Christ of which I am one! Yes, the Church consists of both Jew and Gentile who have come to faith in Christ, but the Church is MOSTLY made up of Gentiles (by background), so much so, that Paul refers to the completion of the Church in Romans 11:25 as when “the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.”