

"JESUS CHRIST - A MAN APPROVED OF GOD (Acts 2:22)"

Miracle #10 - "THE CENTURION'S SERVANT"

Matthew 8:5-8,9-12,13; Luke 7:1-4,5-8,9-10

"THE WHOLE WORLD MAY BELIEVE AND BE SAVED ... and ISRAEL BE BROUGHT TO JEALOUSY!"

The following two points sum up the Centurion's servant miracle by Christ ... that

1. The Gentiles might have Christ's **salvation** privilege afforded to Israel. "Even us, **whom he hath called**, not of the Jews only, but also of the **Gentiles**? As he saith also in Osee (Book of Hosea), I will call them my people (**the Gentiles**), which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved (**the Gentiles**). And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye (**the Gentiles**) are not my people; there shall **they be called the children of the living God**." (Romans 9:24-26)

2. Israel will be brought to jealousy

"But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will **provoke you to jealousy** by them that are no people **(the Gentiles)**, and by **a foolish nation (the Gentiles)** I will anger you. But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them **(the Gentiles)** that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them **(the Gentiles)** that **asked not after me**. But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people **(Israel)**." (Romans 10:19-21)

Now Dear Reader, in Israel's history, any other nation, indeed individual, could believe in the God Almighty JEHOVAH, convert to become a Jew, and have the temporary salvation privileges that a Jew had. A classic example is evidenced by Nineveh turning to the LORD upon the visit by Jonah (<u>Jonah 3:5-10</u>). They were **not** seeking the LORD.

Now although the Centurion's case is different ... as he **seeks** the Lord God ... as he "... loveth our nation (Israel), and he hath built us a synagogue" (<u>Luke 7:5</u>) ... **the principle is the same** ... that an individual Gentile, indeed another nation, may find grace and mercy with the Lord Jesus Christ being the LORD God Jehovah manifest in the flesh (<u>1 Timothy 3:16</u>).

THE POINT OF THE MIRACLE ...

The centurion being a commander of men, understood **humility**, **authority** and **obedience** without doubting and questioning. He knew the authority of Christ that no Jew knew ... to only speak the word would be sufficient (Matthew 8:8)

"When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel" (Matthew 8:10).

because

"For I (the centurion) am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it" (Matthew 8:9).

THE RESULT ...

"And I say unto you, That many (Gentiles) shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven (not the kingdom of God at this stage). But the children of the kingdom (the Christ rejecting Jews that put Jesus on the cross) shall be cast out into outer darkness (hell): there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Matthew 8:11-12)

Unlike the centurion, Israel had **no humility** and **obedience** to Christ, as they did not recognise Christ's **authority**,

BUT ISRAEL'S COMFORT IS ...

"I say then, **Hath God cast away his people? God forbid.** For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. **God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew.**" (Romans 11:1-2)

AND TO THE GENTILES ...

"And if some of the (natural) branches be broken off (Israel), and thou, being a wild olive tree (the Gentile), wert graffed in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; Boast not against the branches. But if thou (the Gentile) boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. Thou wilt say then, The branches (Israel) were broken off, that I (the Gentile) might be graffed in. Well; because of unbelief they (Israel) were broken off, and thou (the Gentile) standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:" (Romans 11:17-20)

INDEED ...

"And they also, if they (Israel) abide not still in unbelief, shall be graffed in: for God is able to graff them in again. For if thou (the Gentile) wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert graffed contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches (Israel), be graffed into their own olive tree?" (Romans 11:23-24)

THE FULFILMENT OF PROPHECY ...

"But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I (the LORD God Jehovah the Lord Jesus Christ) will provoke you (Israel) to jealousy by them that are no people (the Gentile), and by a foolish nation (the Gentile) I (God) will anger you (Israel)." (Romans 10:19)

THE MORAL OF THE STORY?

Dear Reader, be a centurion! Humble yourself and come to Jesus Christ!

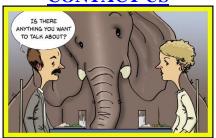
Harley Hitchcock April 2023



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A MAN APPROVED OF GOD (<u>Acts 2:22</u>)"
Miracle #1 - Water into Wine (<u>John 2:1-11</u>)





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