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Christian Soldier 74, Doctrine Of Kenosis, Part 16. 3 Parts Of Our Lord's Evidence Testing.

We have been noting the evidence testing of our Lord and how three parts of His evidence testing challenged His relationship to God.

We have already finished the first two:

1. The Holy Spirit; (MAT 4:1-4).
2. The Word of God; (MAT 4:5-7).
3. The plan of God; (MAT 4:8-11).

In verses 8-10, we have the third and final temptation which is the relationship with the Father's plan.

Let's read it.

MAT 4:8 Again, the devil *took Him to a very high mountain, and *showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and their glory;

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MAT 4:9 and he said to Him, "All these things will I give You, if You fall down and worship me."

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MAT 4:10 Then Jesus *said to him, "Begone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'"

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MAT 4:11 Then the devil *left Him; and behold, angels came and {began} to minister to Him.

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We begin with location of the third and final test MAT 4:8 Again, the devil *took Him to a very high mountain, and *showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and their glory;

Let's get some principles down concerning our Lord's third temptation :

1. It is the plan of the Father that Jesus Christ should rule the world, but this plan demands the cross before the crown as the basis for establishing an eternal kingdom of regenerate believers.

2. In the third temptation, Satan offers a plan which by-passes the cross and Satan tempts Jesus to accept the crown by-passing the cross.

Satan is the only one who could tempt Jesus this way because he is the ruler of the world.

JOH 16:8 "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment;

JOH 16:9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me;

JOH 16:10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you no longer behold Me;

JOH 16:11 and concerning judgment, because the *ruler of this world has been judged.*

Satan is the ruler of the world.

3. Since Satan is the ruler of the world, we have certain safeguards to keep Satan from gaining control of the world like the divine establishments.

The divine establishments are:

1. Freedom
2. Marriage
3. Family
4. Nationalism

4. Satan's plans always ignores, distorts, obscures, or rejects the cross.

5. This temptation, rejected by Christ, will be accepted in the Tribulation by the beast of REV 19:20.

REV 19:20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.

Verse 8 gives us the location of the third temptation.

MAT 4:8 Again, the devil *took Him to a very high mountain, and *showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and their glory;

- We can speculate all we want about how high the high mountain was but it is unknown.

Remember,

The kingdoms of the world are ruled by Satan — JOH 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; EPH 2:2.

Look at JOH 12:31 "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world shall be cast out.

- Go forward to JOH 14:30 "I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me;

- Next JOH 16:7 "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

- JOH 16:8 "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment;

- JOH 16:9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me;

JOH 16:10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you no longer behold Me;

- JOH 16:11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

- The title in Ephesians 2:2, "the prince of the power of the air," actually deals with the earth as a title for Satan's rulership of the world.

EPH 2:1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,

EPH 2:2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

- EPH 2:3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

- EPH 2:4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

EPH 2:5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

EPH 2:6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly {places}, in Christ Jesus,

EPH 2:7 in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

EPH 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, {it is} the gift of God;

EPH 2:9 not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

EPH 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

There are some a few principles to this temptation .

First of all,

1. The temptation is to try to get Jesus to avoid the cross which is repugnant to Him and was illustrated by the scene of Gethsemane where Jesus Said: "If it be Thy will let this cup pass from Me."

MAT 26:39 And He went a little beyond {them,} and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as Thou wilt."

2. Jesus did not want to go to the cross in His humanity but He went because it was the Father's will.

3. He went joyfully because He had us in mind, but the cross and bearing the sins of the world was repugnant to Him and this is a temptation to ***avoid the cross***.

4. The word "glory" in MAT 4:8 casts some light on this temptation, Jesus didn't see the kingdoms in some of their dirt and filth.

5. These kingdoms are presented in their glamour, which means only the nice side is seen by Jesus in His humanity.

It reminds me of New York city at night time which is one of the most beautiful cities in America until the light of the morning comes and then we will see it in the light.

This makes the temptation very more attractive if Satan tempts Him at night.

Go back to MAT 4:9 and he said to Him, "All these things will I give You, if You fall down and worship me."

This was a legitimate offer to our Lord.

6. In this manner Jesus would have received the kingdoms of the world without going to the cross and this would have constituted a deviation from the Father's plan.

Satan offers the world to our Lord because he is the god of this world.

2CO 4:3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.

2CO 4:4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Notice Satan is called the god of this world

7. Since God is eternal the only kingdom that Jesus can rule forever and ever must be an eternal kingdom.

8. The only eternal kingdom will be composed of members of the human race who have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ and they will be a part of this eternal kingdom.

So:

9. Jesus Christ could have taken the kingdoms of the world without going to the cross but He refused it.

In Verse 10, we have the Victory.

MAT 4:10 Then Jesus *said to him, "Begone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'"

"Begone, Satan" in the Greek is a very dramatic, "Get out of here," Jesus gave him an order.

Jesus gave him an order says the present active imperative.

So that in MAT 4:11 Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and {began} to minister to Him.

Satan obeyed the order.

The word “left means to depart quickly; “and, behold, the angels came to minister to Him.”

Now, after 40 days without food Jesus Christ eats again.

He must have eaten a lot and had a feast.

Actually, after a person has fasted, the stomach has shrunk and one must be very careful not to damage their stomach by overeating.

Our Lord could have anything He wanted but only in small amounts.

As a result of this great victory Jesus Christ enters into a marvellous period of ministry.

In MAT 4:12-25 we have the ministry of the King. He is prepared for this ministry because He has faced the greatest possible temptations and testing's.

He has endured pressure and His ministry is based on the decision made at His baptism.

In our Lord's Baptism, the water represented the plan of the Father, i.e. the cross, and at the baptism Jesus made His decision.

As a result of this great victory Jesus Christ enters into a marvelous period of ministry.

Look at

MAT 4:12-25, where we have the ministry of our Lord after He passed evidence testing.

MAT 4:12 Now when He (our Lord) heard that John had been taken into custody, He withdrew into Galilee;

MAT 4:13 and leaving Nazareth, He came and settled in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali.

- MAT 4:14 {This was} to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet, saying,

- MAT 4:15 "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles

- MAT 4:16 "The people who were sitting in darkness saw a great light, And to those who were sitting in the land and shadow of death, Upon them a light dawned."

- MAT 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

- MAT 4:18 And walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.

- MAT 4:19 And He *said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

- MAT 4:20 And they immediately left the nets, and followed Him.

- MAT 4:21 And going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the {son} of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them.

- MAT 4:22 And they immediately left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

- MAT 4:23 And {Jesus} was going about in all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.

- MAT 4:24 And the news about Him went out into all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, taken with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them.

- MAT 4:25 And great multitudes followed Him from Galilee and Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and {from} beyond the Jordan.

- **Point 5. The False Doctrine of Kenosis.**

The traditional view says that Jesus Christ surrendered or emptied Himself during the First Advent.

The gnostic view denies that Christ had a real body or that His body was made of some heavenly substance instead of human flesh.

The Lutheran view denies that the incarnation involved any humiliation.

We know differently now.

Now, this leads us to the next “end time event” that the Christian Soldier needs to master which is the Rapture:

The order of the future events that are to come:

1. Rapture
2. Big Genuflex.
3. The Judgment seat of Christ which is also called the beam seat because the light of Christ will shine on the quality of good, whether it is divine good or evil.

This is why we are told in GAL 6:9 And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary.

Or in EPH 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

That is how you receive rewards at *the bema seat judgment*.

A mature believer knows the difference between good and evil or divine good and evil also known as human good.

HEB 5:14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

2CO 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Now, as I told you that when we chose to study the Christian Soldier that there would be many doctrines that are found in the study.

Therefore, the next prophecy that we are waiting for is the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ which is also called the Rapture.

First of all, we need to understand what the Lord will fulfill and why He says in:

REV 3:10 'Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that {hour} which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell upon the earth.

Why does the Lord promise to take His bride out from the world?

No real man would ever leave his mate in disaster situations if he had the ability and power to save her.

We are His bride and as such He takes us out from that time.

Not only that but our Lord would never ask us to do something that He would not do Himself.

For example, He told Husbands how to treat their wives and then commanded them to do so.

EPH 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her;

- EPH 5:26 that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

- EPH 5:27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.

- EPH 5:28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;

- EPH 5:29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also {does} the church,

- EPH 5:30 because we are members of His body.

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So, we will begin with the

The Doctrine of the Rapture.

Point 1. Introduction.

As an introduction to the rapture, we need to say something about the disasters our Lord will take us from,

There is a time coming on this earth which is called "Satan's time of desperation"

"It is also called the day of wrath."

It is a period of the greatest power struggle in all of human history.

And it involves not only people but angelic creatures as well.

It is not a time that you would want any of your family members, friends, neighbors, and if you truly understood it, even your enemies to have to go through.

It is a great period of wrath on this earth, both from God and from Satan, Zep 1:14-18.

ZEP 1:14 Near is the great day of the Lord, Near and coming very quickly; Listen, the day of the Lord! In it the warrior cries out bitterly.

ZEP 1:15 A day of wrath is that day, A day of trouble and distress, A day of destruction and desolation, A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness,

ZEP 1:16 A day of trumpet and battle cry, Against the fortified cities And the high corner towers.

ZEP 1:17 And I will bring distress on men, So that they will walk like the blind, Because they have sinned against the Lord; And their blood will be poured out like dust, And their flesh like dung.

ZEP 1:18 Neither their silver nor their gold Will be able to deliver them On the day of the Lord's wrath; And all the earth will be devoured In the fire of His jealousy, For He will make a complete end, Indeed a terrifying one, Of all the inhabitants of the earth.

It is a time of great judgment on the earth like never before, REV 6:16-17.

REV 6:16 and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb;

REV 6:17 for the great day of their wrath has come; and who is able to stand?"

It is said to be a great time of indignation, Isa 26:20-21.

ISA 26:20 Come, my people, enter into your rooms, And close your doors behind you; Hide for a little while, Until indignation runs its course.

ISA 26:21 For behold, the Lord is about to come out from His place To punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; And the earth will reveal her bloodshed, And will no longer cover her slain.

It is also called:

The hour of testing, Rev 3:10.

Destruction, Joel 1:15.

JOE 1:15 Alas for the day! For the day of the Lord is near, And it will come as destruction from the Almighty.

Darkness, Joel 2:2.

Desolation, Dan 9:27.

Punishment, Isa 24:20-21.

JOE 2:2 A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness. As the dawn is spread over the mountains, {So} there is a great and mighty people; There has never been {anything} like it, Nor will there be again after it To the years of many generations.

It is a very difficult time to be alive and it is called the Tribulation period!

And

The "wrath of God" will be poured out upon the world during the great Tribulation period.

And according to the word of God, it is a time that could take place on this earth tomorrow!

And this is because of the immanency of the Rapture!

The nature of the Tribulation is also one of practical importance.

If the church is destined to endure the persecutions of the Tribulation, it is hopeless to proclaim the coming of the Lord as an imminent hope.

Instead,

It should be recognized that Christ cannot come until these predicted sorrows have been accomplished.

On the other hand, if Christ will come for His church before the predicted time of trouble, Christians can regard His coming as an imminent daily expectation filled with joy.

So,

Because of the rapture, the church will not go through this period.

And this is because;

The Rapture is used in a technical theological sense for the Resurrection of the Royal Family of God.

Since the church or royal family of God is the first spiritual building to be completed, it is resurrected after our Lord.

It is the second phase of the first resurrection following the resurrection of Christ.

And so,,,,,,

The rapture or the resurrection of the church is God's means of terminating the Church-age and delivering us from the wrath to come; 1Th 5:9 For God has not destined us for wrath.

Another very important point concerning the rapture of the church is that:

The Lord Jesus Christ will remove the church from this world was unknown before that Church-age because they could not know it because it was a mystery to them.

How do we know that?

EPH 3:1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles

EPH 3:2 if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you;

EPH 3:3 that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief.

EPH 3:4 And by referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,

EPH 3:5 which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;

Look at ROM 16:25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past,

ROM 16:26 but *now* is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, {leading} to obedience of faith;

We also have COL 1:26-28, which tells us that the Old Testament saints did not know about such doctrines like the Rapture.

COL 1:26 {that is,} the mystery which has been hidden from the {past} ages and generations; but has now been manifested to His saints.

COL 1:25 Of {this church} I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, that I might fully carry out the {preaching of} the word of God,

COL 1:26 {that is,} the mystery which has been hidden from the {past} ages and generations; but has now been manifested to His saints,

The church, therefore, could not have been in view in the Old Testament prophecy concerning the Tribulation period which is to come upon the whole earth.

And there can be no question that this period will see the wrath of God poured out upon the whole earth.

Rev 3:10; Isa 34:2; 24:1,4-5, 16-21 and, many other passages make it very clear as well.

ISA 34:2 For the Lord's indignation is against all the nations, And His wrath against all their armies; He has utterly destroyed them, He has given them over to slaughter.

Jer 30:7 says this period is particularly called the time of Jacob's trouble and Jacob refers to Israel.

In Dan 9:24, God says 70 weeks are determined upon "thy" people (Jews not the church).

DAN 9:24 "Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression.

So, this whole Tribulation period will have as special reference to Daniel's people Israel and Daniel's holy city, Jerusalem.

In the Old Testament, the seventy weeks of prophecy are weeks of years.

In Gen 29:26-27 and Dan 9:24, one week is equivalent to 7 years.

So, 70 times 7 = 490

The background to this is that Israel was disciplined by God for their failure to keep the Sabbath.

Because of this, they had willfully rejected such things like the Sabbath, especially the year of Jubilee.

What is the Year of Jubilee in the Bible?

To understand the Jubilee in the Bible, one must understand the significance of number seven in the Bible.

Noe remember that.....

God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh.

The Bible says that the jubilee cycles began from the time that Israel (Jacob's descendants) entered the land of Canaan in 1406 BC; (LEV 25:1-8).

This is the main passage that gives the reason for the tribulation.

LEV 25:1 The Lord then spoke to Moses at Mount Sinai, saying,

LEV 25:2 "Speak to the sons of Israel, and say to them, 'When you come into the land which I shall give you, then the land shall have a sabbath to the Lord.

LEV 25:3 'Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in its crop,

LEV 25:4 but during the seventh year the land shall have a sabbath rest, a sabbath to the Lord; you shall not sow your field nor prune your vineyard.

LEV 25:5 'Your harvest's aftergrowth you shall not reap, and your grapes of untrimmed vines you shall not gather; the land shall have a sabbatical year.

LEV 25:6 'And all of you shall have the sabbath products of the land for food; yourself, and your male and female slaves, and your hired man and your foreign resident, those who live as aliens with you.

LEV 25:7 'Even your cattle and the animals that are in your land shall have all its crops to eat.

LEV 25:8 'You are also to count off seven sabbaths of years for yourself, seven times seven years, so that you have the time of the seven sabbaths of years, namely, forty-nine years.

A jubilee is seven cycles of seven years = 49 years.

And so.....

They were disciplined by God for 490 years, God has already fulfilled 483 years of that divine discipline and owes Israel seven more years so incomes the Tribulation period.

God owes Israel seven years!

They have had 69 weeks already = 483 years.

Therefore,

This is related to the Tribulation period which is also related to our doctrine of the Rapture.

Therefore,

The Church has nothing to do with this prophecy and since the Church did not have its existence until after the death of Christ, the resurrection of Christ, Rom 4:25; Col 3:1-3, and after the ascension of Christ, Eph 1:19-20.

EPH 1:18 {I pray that} the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

EPH 1:19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. {These are} in accordance with the working of the strength of His might

EPH 1:20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly {places},

Therefore, the church could not have been in the first 69 weeks of this prophecy.

So,

Since the church had no part in the first 69 weeks which are related only to God's program for Israel, then it can have no part in the 70th week which is again related to God's program for Israel.

So,

The Rapture is the blessed hope or the happy guarantee that God is going to take us out from the wrath to come.

1Th 4:13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope.

Please notice the Rapture removes sorrow and grief and gives hope.

Now, Rev 2:22 indicates clearly that the unsaved professing church will experience the tribulation period, Rev 2:18-22.

REV 2:18 "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze, says this:

REV 2:19 'I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first.

REV 2:20 'But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray, so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

REV 2:21 'And I gave her time to repent; and she does not want to repent of her immorality.

REV 2:22 'Behold, I will cast her upon a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds.

REV 2:23 'And I will kill her children with pestilence; and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.

Remember, the professing church is composed of those who make a profession of faith in Christ but it is:

Another Jesus (2Co 11:4)
Another spirit; (2Co 11:4)

Another Gospel (Gal 1:6)
Another doctrine 1Ti 4:1.