

Unfolding Unveiling: Studies of Christ Revealed in the Types of Joshua, David, and Solomon

Preface

It was years ago that I first heard the message of Christ and Him crucified. As I sat in a conference where the living Word was being expounded, I experienced a conflict within. My heart leapt within as the Holy Spirit moved on the Word of God, but my mind could not grasp what was shared. I diligently tried to file this new “teaching” away in the appropriate mental folder, but there was none that would contain what I was hearing. And so even though my heart loved the Word at that instant, my mind was offended at the preaching of the Cross.

This personal struggle continued for a long time. Try as I might, I could not reconcile Christ crucified with how my mind worked, and therefore continued to be offended at the Cross’ demands. I agreed that knowing the Cross by revelation was absolutely necessary for every believer, including myself, but I continued to hold onto ideas and interests that I held dear and whose only purpose could be found in giving me a sense of value and importance apart from Christ. The Cross demands everything, however, for into Jesus’ death was gathered not just our sins, and not just our sin nature, but all that we are apart from Him – our ideologies, ambitions, preferences, and prejudices, which was much more than I was willing to lose. And so while I was pursuing Christ, I kept His Cross at arm’s length, hoping to circumvent the end of those things that still held my affection.

As I was to discover, there is a heavy price to pay for refusing the Cross its full work: the lack of life flowing forth from the believing heart. The purpose for the Cross and the purpose for our end there is that Christ might fill us and spill out in manifestation into the earth. If we refuse the Cross a deep and personal work in us, then the glory of God remains locked in the heavenlies, and the Lord is denied His rightful increase. As long as this is the case, the closest we will ever be to the realization of God’s eternal plan will be some exciting studies in the Scriptures that will soon pass from memory and have no bearing in our lives.

Thanks be to God for the Holy Spirit Who will forever lift up Jesus! He never ceases to work in our hearts to bring about in us all that is true in Christ. I had lived in a cycle of determining to know nothing save Christ and Him Crucified, only to be pulled away by the abovementioned affections, when the Holy Spirit broke through in an overwhelming flood that lifted up Jesus beyond anything I had ever known up to that point. He began to show me in the historical books the spiritual progress of the believer who has set out to know Christ crucified by revelation and to be conformed to His image. Over a period of months, He repeatedly lead me back to Joshua, Judges, I & II Samuel, I Kings and I Chronicles, pointing out types of Christ and of the Cross. With Israel as my example, I began to discover how believers progress through true Spiritual growth, with all its side trails and pitfalls.

Two hundred and fifty pages of notes later, I was persuaded. I had no more justification for seeking value or identity outside of Christ than I had for walking away from Jesus Himself. I repented of trying to add anything to the gospel (which is an impossibility anyway, since the Cross consumes everything it touches), and threw all of my extra cargo overboard. I was free to pursue the Jesus I so desperately needed the way the Holy Spirit had always intended!

That was not enough. All that the Lord had showed me of Himself over those months was too much for me to digest in the time He was speaking to me. It was as though the Holy Spirit had given me the road map for a journey that I had barely begun. I would be chewing on many of these notes for years to come as I would pass through the very things subjectively that the Israelites had historically. Being conformed to the image of Christ does not just happen overnight. It is a lifelong process that can seem painstakingly slow at times.

Even more than that, though, I began to think it selfish of me to assume that all of the rich Word I had received from the Lord was for me alone; it was too much for me to contain by myself! The Lord had a much larger plan than just getting me over a few hang-ups. I realized that the Lord, while dealing with me, also intended that the things He had shared with me would be shared with others, too. It was then that I decided to organize my notes into a book that could be used for study by anyone who was in need of such a tool.

This book is for those who need more than a good sermon. It is for those who need to be convinced that the Cross is not only a truth; it is the truth!