

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

841 Old Hickory Blvd.
Jackson, TN 38305
oldhickorycofc.com

November 23, 2025

Volume 45, # 47

Progressive Revelation

Yes, I believe in it and the kind of which will be obvious as we proceed. The Old Testament contains many prophecies of the coming of Christ and His system, His church, His kingdom: Christianity. In these prophecies God progressively revealed, bit by bit, the desired information.

Follow!

Genesis 3:15: Merely, the "seed" of woman. This nearly 4,000 years before Christ. This was the first reference to His coming.

Genesis 22:18: "And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; . . ." Here a particular individual is singled out through whom He would come. This approximately 1900 years B.C.

Numbers 24:17: ". . . there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Scepter shall rise out of Israel. . ." Some of the first characteristics of Him are here revealed, about 1500 years B.C.

Deuteronomy 18:18-19: He was to be a prophet, from among Israel, like unto Moses, and to be God's spokesman. This, too, about 1500 years B.C.

2 Samuel 7:12-17: He was to be of the seed of David. This was about 1000 B.C. In our references, from Abraham, to Jacob, to David.

Psalms 2:7: ". . . the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee." Some things that were to happen to Him are here told. This, also, would be about 1000 years B.C.

Isaiah 2:2-4: Some of the characteristics of His kingdom, as well as Himself, are set forth, about 750 years B.C.

Isaiah 7:14: "Therefore the Lord himself shall give thee a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel." How He is to be brought into this world is explained. More facts from about 750 years B.C.

Isaiah 53:1-12: Many more details of His experiences in this life; and where, when, and how He should die are presented. The purpose of His death is detailed. This, also, about 750 Years B.C.

Daniel 2:36-45: Daniel gives more details and characteristics of His kingdom, when it is to be established and the fact that it was to be eternal. Daniel gave this information about 600 years B.C.

Micah 5:2: Micah repeats some of the prophecies of Isaiah (4:1-3) and then identifies the birthplace of God's Son as Bethlehem of Judea. Just more facts concerning Him.

Zechariah 6:13: "He shall build the temple of the Lord; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both." Bringing things closer Zechariah pictures Him as building the temple (the church) and how His priesthood and kingship were combined in Him.

The picture is becoming more and more complete.

Matthew 1:21: "The angel said to Joseph concerning Mary, 'She shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.'" As the time approaches, His name and purpose is given.

Luke 1:30-33 adds to this by identifying Him as the Son of David, and again showing His kingdom to be eternal.

Matthew 16:18-19: Jesus, Himself, relates the church and kingdom as He promises to build the same.

Mark 9:1: ". . . There be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power." Though a promise and prophecy, this statement may be seen as a test of His claim to divine power and wisdom.

Indeed, these statements are progressive; and we have not come close to using all such statements found in the Old Testament. This is God revealing, bit by bit, the necessary information concerning His Son and His system. It is like Isaiah said, "Precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little" (Isaiah 28:10). The logic and God's approach to this stands as a great testimonial to His wisdom and as an unanswerable argument for the absolute accuracy of His word.

- Olen Holderby, via Truth Magazine, 04/03/2003

"BUT A FAITHFUL MAN WHO CAN FIND?"

Solomon said: "Most men will proclaim everyone his own goodness; but a faithful man who can find?" (Proverbs 20:6).

It seems that some people think that nearly all men are faithful while others think that no man is faithful. Although Solomon declared that most men will proclaim their own goodness, he suggests by the asking of the question ("But a faithful man who can find?") that there are not many faithful men.

Similarly another Proverb (31:10) says: "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies." Likewise this proverb suggests that there are not many virtuous women.

There are some virtuous women and there are some faithful men, but relatively speaking, there are few. Please consider the following.

I. SOME EXAMPLES OF FAITHFULMEN.

A. ABRAHAM. In Galatians 3:9 Paul said, "So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham." Abraham was a man of faith and prompt obedience. (See Hebrews 11:8-10; 11:17-19).

B. MOSES. Speaking to Aaron and Miriam, the Lord said: "My servant Moses is . . . faithful in all mine house." (Numbers 12:7). (Also see Hebrews 3:2 & 11:24-26).

C. DAVID. In 1 Samuel 22:14 we read: "And Ahimelech answered the king, and said, And who is so faithful among all thy servants as David . . .?" He was a man after God's own heart according to Paul in Acts 13:22.

D. HANANIAH. We learn from Nehemiah 7:2 that "he was a faithful man and feared God above many."

E. DANIEL. We learn from Dan. 6:4 that Daniel was faithful.

F. TIMOTHY. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 4:17 that Timothy was "faithful in the Lord."

G. TYCHICUS. In Ephesians 6:21, he is spoken of as a "faithful minister in the Lord."

H. EPHAPHRAS. In Colossians 1:7 he is spoken of as "a faithful minister of Christ."

I. ONESIMUS. He was "a faithful and beloved brother" (Colossians 4:9).

J. ANTIPAS. We learn from Revelation 2:13 that Antipas was a "faithful martyr". (Also see Acts 22:20 regarding Stephen). The aforementioned men are spoken of specifically as being righteous. Others were righteous that are not specifically mentioned as such.

II. SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF FAITHFUL MEN.

A. FAITHFUL MEN WILL NOT LIE. Proverbs 14:5 says: "A faithful witness will not lie." You can depend upon a faithful man to tell the truth. He will not lie!

B. FAITHFUL MEN WILL TEACH OTHERS. Paul said to Timothy: "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." (2 Timothy 2:2). NOTE: Men who are faithful to the Lord will endeavor to teach others the truth.

C. FAITHFUL MEN WILL BE FAITHFUL IN SMALL THINGS. Luke 16:10 says: "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much" (Also read Matthew 25:21, 23; 3 John 5).

D. FAITHFUL MEN WILL ABOUND WITH BLESSINGS. Solomon said: "A faithful man shall abound with blessings" (Proverbs 28:20). In Matthew 6:33 Jesus said, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things [food, drink, clothing – CRS] shall be added unto you."

To be A Christian and faithfully serve the Lord one must have enough faith in God to obey His Word. (See James 2:14-26; Hebrews 5:9; Revelation 2:10). Are you a faithful man (or woman)? If you are not you can be.

Do you want to be a faithful person? If so, begin today to learn and obey the word of God! We are happy to encourage you!

- Carrol R. Sutton (1932-2016) [slightly edited – GFS]

Ready to Remind!

Peter wrote in 2 Peter 1:12-15:

"Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you. I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder, knowing that the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind."

Peter, as a close associate of the Lord, had urged them to maintain their diligence in greater exercise of virtues, having been recipients of God's wonderful promises. Then here he calls them to the things they had believed from the beginning. All who preach Christ have nothing new to add to the doctrine. There is no continuous revelation, modifying and adapting truth to present-day life and culture. The truth was already present with his readers, and his established purpose was to remind them of it. Peter was not teaching superstitions, inventions, corrupt opinions or false rules from those who would corrupt the gospel (Galatians 1:6-9). His purpose was to have his brethren remember

always the doctrine of Christ as it had been presented to them in divine approval through the Holy Spirit. The grave danger was in forgetting the truth they had learned. Forgetting through negligence leads to unfaithfulness.

It was Peter's intention to stir them up by reminders at every opportunity. (It was a three-fold emphasis, vv.12, 13, 15.) This letter was one of those occasions. Even after his death, such a letter would continue to remind them of the truth they had received and in which they stood, the qualities they had cultivated in their lives as Christians and the promise of an abundant entrance into the eternal kingdom.

Those who are faithful to Christ today imitate Peter in this regard. They "entrust" the message of the cross "to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." (2 Timothy 2:2). Paul's charge to Timothy is essentially the same:

"Remind them of these things, and solemnly charge them in the presence of God not to wrangle about words, which is useless and leads to the ruin of the hearers. Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:14-15).

Faithful to the Lord are the people who teach His doctrine repeatedly, without corrupting it by changes, even though it is well-known, "living and active" (Hebrews 4:12) in God's people. Are you living in remembrance of the gospel of Christ today?

- Gary Smalley

[All Scriptures quoted are NASB, 1995 © The Lockman Foundation, unless otherwise noted.]

-
- * "Hooks of error are often baited with fragments of truth!"
 - * "Reputation is what men and women think of us; character is what God and angels know of us!"
 - * "The cynic is one who never sees a good quality in a man, and never fails to see a bad one!"
 - * "A truly charitable man is like an apple tree. He gives his fruit and is silent!"
 - * "Enthusiasm is infectious — and so is the lack of it!"
-

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

HEAR THE GOSPEL

(Romans 10:14-17; John 20:30-31; Romans 1:15-17)

BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST

(Acts 8:37; John 8:24; Hebrews 11:6)

REPENT OF PAST SINS

(Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30)

CONFESS CHRIST

(Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37)

BE BAPTIZED

(Romans 6:3-4; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:36-39; 1 Peter 3:21)

LIVE A FAITHFUL LIFE

(Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 1:5-11; John 15:1-8; Hebrews 10:23-25)