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a sermon from LUKE 5:17-26:

PRAISE THE LORD, FOR MAN, THY SINS ARE FORGIVEN THEE !

Robert Baral
10/25/2007 AD

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I. A PRAYER

O Eternal “Father, because our Lord JESUS [CHRIST], Your Servant, became obedient even unto death, His sacrifice was greater than all holocausts of Old. Accept the sacrifice of praise we offer You through Him, and may we show the effects of it in our lives by striving to do Your will until our whole life becomes [a sacrifice of praise] and adoration [of You] in spirit and truth!”¹ In The Name of GOD The Father, Son and Holy Ghost. AMEN.

II. A PROPOSITION

When we are afflicted and suffering, if in faith we cry out to GOD in repentance at The blessed Cross of CHRIST, our Lord shall forgive us our sins and make us whole! Praise The LORD, for man, thy sins are forgiven thee at The Cross!

III. A SCRIPTURE – LUKE 5:17-26 – MAN, THY SINS ARE FORGIVEN THEE!

17: And it came to pass on a certain day, as He was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of The Law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of The Lord was present to heal them.

18: And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before Him.

19: And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before JESUS.

20: And when He saw their faith, He said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.

21: And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but GOD alone?

22: But when JESUS perceived their thoughts, He answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts?

23: Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk?

24: But that ye may know that The Son of Man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (He said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house.

25: And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying GOD.

26: And they were all amazed, and they glorified GOD, and were filled with fear, saying, We have seen strange things to day.

IV. THE POWER OF THE LORD WAS PRESENT TO HEAL THEM!

Is it not so, that when we are afflicted and suffering, if in faith we cry out to GOD in repentance at The blessed Cross of CHRIST, our Lord shall forgive us our sins and make us whole? This is the case in this Gospel miracle of JESUS healing the paralyzed man before us today. Saint Luke sets the stage for us, that we may see what the Pharisees and Doctors of The Law of GOD could not see – that The Messiah JESUS came, not merely as a good moral man inspired by GOD – but as The Son of Man and GOD Incarnate: CHRIST The One Who forgives sins. CHRIST The Healer of the broken!

¹ 1, Liturgy of The Hours, Volume IV, a PSALM-Prayer, p 1217. “Saturday, Morning Prayer.”

We open then with LUKE 5:17, “And it came to pass on a certain day, as He was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of The Law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of The Lord was present to heal them.”² The Pharisees were those men of the post-Babylonian exile return of the Jews, “godly men called CHASIDIM (saints)” who sought to keep The Law of Moses with all diligence out of a deep love of GOD. But by The Day of CHRIST’s First Advent, they had overlaid The Law of Moses with a severe mechanical “letter-strictness” of their interpretation of Israelite oral tradition, which they held to also “have been communicated by The LORD to Moses” directly and of “equal authority” to The Word of GOD.³ Men became separated from GOD and His Law by manmade walls of human fences. As The Messiah JESUS pulled down these walls, the Pharisees became His enemies.

The sect of the Pharisees held in common with our Lord Himself that there is an immortal human soul, a Day of Judgement for all men’s souls before The Throne of JEHOVAH, an eternal life whose end is dependant upon how we live this earthly life and a resurrection of the body. Yet JESUS reserved His most severe denunciations for these religious men. Yes, they were externally “moral, zealous and self-denying” for the sake of The Kingdom of GOD.⁴ But alas, as Scofield observes, they were also often severely lacking in humility, awareness of their own sins and the need to extend The Divine Charity towards others which The Almighty showers down upon us all.⁵ Liefeld notes the Pharisees of that age were often “rigid, imbalanced and hypocritical.”⁶ And the more CHRIST confronted, chastised and convicted these men, the greater was their rage against Him, becoming The Lord’s “foremost persecutors.”⁷

But let us not be too harsh on these learned men of GOD’s Word who stood listening and watching The Master. If we were in their number, we also might well have asked, “Who is This Man, that He speaks The Words that only GOD Himself can speak, Your sins are forgiven?” These men had their own agenda, and they were expecting The Almighty to conform to it, “O LORD, expel by Your might hand these heathen Roman dogs who infest our holy nation and restore Israel to her full glory before men, that we may make it possible for You to do your will on earth as You do in Heaven!”

And though these well lettered men of theology were more polite and refined than the Zealots, those patriots of Judea who stalked the occupiers and those who cooperated with them with their bloody daggers, they would have been happy to see Rome depart by whatever means. “The power of The Lord? Bring it on, O GOD!” we can hear these men cry out, “That is our field of expertise! See our emblems of authority as those who sit in the seat of Moses! Observe our phylacteries and tastles! We are ready, O LORD our GOD, for You to do our bidding!”

² 2, KJV, LUKE 5:17.

³ 3, Scofield Bible Study System, MATTHEW 3:7, note “Pharisees,” p 1237-1238, paragraph 1.

⁴ 3, Ibid., paragraph 1.

⁵ 3, Ibid., paragraph 2.

⁶ 4, Expositor’s Bible Commentary, Volume 8, LUKE 5:17, p 880, paragraph 2.

⁷ 4, Ibid., paragraph 2.

V. THEIR FAITH HAD SAVED THEM!

They were studying JESUS, that if He were The Promised One of GOD – sent to deliver Israel – they had their checklist readily at hand, “Diligent keeping of The Law of Moses? Check! A charismatic public leader and speaker? Check! A proper worshipper at The Temple? Check! Miraculous powers? That could be a plus, if He uses them to do our bidding! He calls Himself here, Son of Man? A messianic title of old that the people might rally around – could work to our advantage! A Man Who can stir up the people back to faith? That’s fine, as long as it’s not too out-of-hand, and as long as He gives us our due honor!”

So we continue in LUKE 5:18-19, “And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before Him. And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before JESUS.”⁸ Note here what faith these throngs of GOD-fearing people had! They were hungering and thirsting after the righteousness and peace of The Kingdom of GOD. They could see that JESUS had it to offer them! And they wanted it!

The Master is here! Perhaps He is The Promised One, come to deliver and set free GOD’s people? Is this The Anointed One, of Whom it is written in PSALM 118:26⁹

בָּרֹךְ הוּא בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה

BARUCH HABA’ BESHEM [‘ADONAY¹⁰] ¹¹ – “Blessed be He that cometh in The Name of The LORD...? ¹² Have we not heard of His miraculous conception and birth to The Virgin Mary, and what the angel Gabriel declared to His chaste Mother as in LUKE 1:28, “...Hail, thou that art highly favoured, The Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women?” ¹³

Was this not exactly what was prophesied of The Deliverer in ISAIAH 7:14, “Therefore The Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a Virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and shall call His Name Immanuel?” ¹⁴ Have we not hungered in faith for The Presence of The Almighty to come down and deliver us? Is not this exactly what John The Baptist, having come in the spirit of Elijah, proclaimed to us as in

⁸ 2, KJV, LUKE 5:18-19.

⁹ 5, BHS, PSALM 118:26.

¹⁰ It is the practice of faithful Jewish people to not pronounce The Name of The LORD - יהוה - “The Tetragrammaton,” out of reverence for Him, but rather in reading The Sacred Scriptures in The Hebrew to substitute - הַשֵּׁם - HASHEM, which means simply “The Name,” or - אֲדֹנָי - ‘ADONAY, which means “The Lord,” a title of JEHOVAH.

¹¹ In my transliteration of The Hebrew, I represent the letter א aleph = ‘ and the letter ע ayin = “

¹² 2, KJV, PSALM 118:26.

¹³ 2, KJV, LUKE 1:28.

¹⁴ 2, KJV, ISAIAH 7:14.

MATTHEW 3:2, "...Repent ye: for The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand?"¹⁵ See how This JESUS comes in such power, doing miracles that can only be of GOD!

Now what did these great throngs of people have that many today so sorely lack? They had faith: faith in GOD's promises, power, mercy, love and active Presence in their lives! The Spirit of The LORD was being poured out on these people, and they received Him gladly. But note what faith requires: Divine Grace that precedes us, saves us and sustains us. As The Catechism of The Catholic Church observes, "...Before this faith can be exercised, man must have The Grace of GOD to move and assist him; he must have the interior helps of The HOLY SPIRIT, Who moves the heart and converts it to GOD, Who opens the eyes of the mind," so that we may embrace His Truth and mercy extended to us!¹⁶

But within The Mystery of GOD's plan of salvation for our lives and souls, He also requires that we humbly receive and cooperate with His Grace, all the while respecting and preserving the dignity of our free will and rational mind that He Himself has given us. Even so, He alone is sovereign over all things, including our earthly and eternal lives and their courses. As The Catechism continues, "...it is no less true that believing is an authentically human act. Trusting in GOD and cleaving to The Truths He has revealed are contrary neither to human freedom nor to human reason."¹⁷ Therefore Saint Augustine confesses, O Lord, "I believe, in order to understand; and I understand, the better to believe!"¹⁸

V. THEIR SINS WERE FORGIVEN THEM!

But what is this? Suddenly, This Man JESUS is saying to this presumably paralyzed man, "Thy sins are forgiven thee!" We might hear the Pharisees and Doctors of The Law of GOD gasp aloud, "This is not in the program guide that we've handed out to The Almighty and the people! Hold the clock and stop the presses, JESUS – You're not following our script!" From our vantage point even 2,000 years later, we may clearly hear the sirens start to wail and the alarm bells begin to clang! "Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but GOD alone?" Indeed, Who alone but GOD can forgive sins? This is the key in this Gospel miracle, and indeed all The Gospels, the very heart of The Good News of GOD!

Saint Luke continues in LUKE 5:20-24, "And when He saw their faith, He said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee. And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but GOD alone? But when JESUS perceived their thoughts, He answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts? Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk? But that ye may know that The Son of Man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (He said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy

¹⁵ 2, KJV, MATTHEW 3:2.

¹⁶ 6, Catechism of The Catholic Church, # 153, p 47. "Faith is a Grace."

¹⁷ 6, Ibid., # 154, p 47-48.

¹⁸ 6, Ibid., # 158, p 49. "Faith and Understanding."

couch, and go into thine house.”¹⁹

As Matthew Henry observes here so truly, “...sin is the fountain of all sickness, and the forgiveness of sin is the only foundation upon which a recovery from sickness can comfortably be built. They [therefore] presented the sick man to CHRIST, and He said [in LUKE 5:20], ‘Man, thy sins are forgiven thee!’”²⁰ Liefeld concurs, seeing in this Gospel “pronouncement story” first, CHRIST’s “declaration of forgiveness” of this man’s sins; second, “affirmation of JESUS’ authority to make that declaration.”²¹ Who indeed can forgive sins but GOD? CHRIST forgave this man’s sins. The forgiveness of The Word of His mouth effected the making whole of the paralyzed man. What does this reveal? That JESUS CHRIST, though having taken on human flesh, is also fully GOD!

And this is the most astounding thing that these learned men of theology could not grasp, that in The Incarnation, The Messiah has come – not to be a tool or pawn of earthly authorities for their purposes – but to bring back into total subjection and dominion under His authority all of creation: men, creatures, the cosmos, demons and the very devil himself! The Kingdom of GOD had in fact arrived, and it may well be that these religious men were terrified, for if anyone in Israel that day knew that men were standing in The Presence of The King of the universe come down from Heaven in The Person of JESUS CHRIST, it was they! This they could not control. And they knew it! And they trembled before The Presence of GOD Incarnate!

So our Saviour confronts the Pharisees and the learned Doctors of The Law. He identifies Himself as “The Son of Man,” but with meaning that these men are only beginning to grasp. As Fausset says, CHRIST comes first as “the embodied representative of humanity and the whole human race.”²² Thus, JESUS as The Son of Man, being without sin, will take upon Himself the sins of the whole world. This, His then coming, and now completed humiliation of His Passion and death at The Cross for us! As Saint John says of Him in I JOHN 2:2, JESUS CHRIST is “the atoning sacrifice,”²³ the “propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world,”²⁴

The Saviour’s Blood being sprinkled upon The Eternal Mercy Seat Above before GOD’s holy Presence, JESUS CHRIST becomes The Sacrifice on our behalf, “provided by The Father’s love, removing the estrangement [between GOD and men], appeasing GOD’s righteous wrath against the sinner” and paying the price for our sinful souls which we could never pay – a price which only The GOD-Man The Messiah JESUS can pay!²⁵ Son of Man, humanity’s head; Son of GOD, fully Divine!

¹⁹ 2, KJV, LUKE 5:20-24.

²⁰ 7, Matthew Henry Commentary, LUKE 5:17-26, “Cure of a Paralytic,” II., 1., (1).

²¹ 4, Expositor’s Bible Commentary, Volume 8, LUKE 5:20, p 880, paragraph 1.

²² 8, Fausset’s Bible Dictionary, “Son of Man,” entry # 3397.

²³ 9. NIV, I JOHN 2:2.

²⁴ 2, KJV, I JOHN 2:2.

²⁵ 8, Fausset Bible Dictionary, “Propitiation,” entry # 2892.

But JESUS CHRIST is also, connected with His title “Son of Man,” also “Son of GOD.” This, His then coming, and now completed exaltation at His resurrection, ascension and enthronement Above for us! For unless He was also fully Divine, His death on The Cross could atone for no mans sins but His own, though He Himself is without sin. But Saint Paul declares for us in COLOSSIANS 2:9-13 that “...in Him dwelleth all the fulness of The Godhead Bodily.” Only in The Messiah JESUS are we then safe and complete, forgiven and healed, for He alone “...is The Head of all principality and power.”²⁶

For if we are “Buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of GOD, Who hath raised Him from the dead.” JESUS CHRIST heals the paralytic, and heals us who are His saints, because though we were dead in our sins, He as GOD gives us new life in Him, “...having forgiven you all trespasses!”²⁷ Therefore, as Fausset says, “He comes again as “The Son of Man” to “reinstate man in his original glory, never to be dispossessed of it. He is now set down on The Throne of GOD as The Son of GOD.”²⁸ O, what a mighty GOD we serve!

VI. THE WORD OF THE LORD HIMSELF DELIVERED THEM!

Now this paralytic man, his friends, the throng of people there that day -and the disciples themselves - did not yet understand exactly Who The Master was. But those who loved GOD with all their hearts, minds and might could see plainly enough that the hand of The Almighty had come down before them to work a great miracle in The Person of This JESUS of Nazareth! So the formerly paralyzed man, forgiven of his sins by CHRIST, arose, took up his litter and headed on home – all the while praising GOD!

Saint Luke says next in LUKE 5:25, “And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying GOD.”²⁹ We perhaps can see ourselves running along side of this man, crying out to him, “Look what The Master did for you! He has healed you and made you whole again! What did He do? Did you see The Shekina Glory of The Almighty descend upon you? Did Moses and Elijah come to stand there with you and The Master? Did you behold The Throne of The LORD in a great vision?” We may hear the formerly crippled and now whole man reply simply in unspeakable joy, “No. Like my friends who lowered me down to The Master on my bed, we have faith in Him as A Man of GOD. The Master simply spoke. He forgave my sins. He commanded me to arise and walk home with your bed. This can only be the work of GOD! Praise ye The LORD!”

That GOD The Son has taken on human flesh, coming to earth to give Himself up as a sin offering under His Own holy Law decreed for us, that we might be reconciled and bought back to Himself at The Cross! This is what Saint John writes of in JOHN 1:14, “And The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His Glory, The Glory as of The Only Begotten of The Father,) full of grace and truth!” Recall the

²⁶ 2, KJV, COLOSSIANS 2:9-13.

²⁷ 2, KJV, COLOSSIANS 2:9-13.

²⁸ 8, Fausset’s Bible Dictionary, “Son of Man,” entry # 3397.

²⁹ 2, KJV, LUKE 5:25.

Apostles John, Peter and James had indeed beheld The Master's Glory in The Transfiguration. John writes as one knowing that JESUS CHRIST is The GOD-Man!

So the man went his way praising The LORD, as Liefeld observes, "the healing validat[ing] the declaration of forgiveness" by JESUS upon him! For CHRIST's command - that the paralyzed man simply get up and walk - and that He forgave his sins, "is impossible of forgiveness - except by the power [and authority] of GOD!"³⁰ JESUS forgave his sins. JESUS commanded the lame to walk. The faith of the man received The Divine cleansing of his broken soul and body. Therefore JESUS is GOD Incarnate. Indeed, this is perhaps the primary purpose of why The Lord designed this miraculous pronouncement and healing to occur as it did, and why He caused the record of it to appear here in The Gospel as it does!

And we may hear and see, as if we ourselves are rejoicing among them, the throngs of those GOD-hungry, sin-scarred and life-broken people singing out to praise The LORD! Indeed, they shout for joy to GOD as they would later do during CHRIST's messianic entry into Jerusalem during The Last Passover as in MATTHEW 21:9, calling out, "Hosanna to The Son of David: Blessed is He that cometh in The Name of The Lord...!"³¹ Hosanna - meaning "Save us," O Lord!"³² We may hear the people say, "Behold the messianic title This Man calls Himself by, 'The Son of Man!' Behold His godly wisdom He pours out upon us that satisfies our souls! Behold the mighty miracles He does by the power and authority of The Almighty Himself!"

Many there might well have said, "Surely GOD has come down to us today, and His Kingdom is at hand, for we see before our very eyes exactly what the prophet Isaiah foretold of The Coming One of Promise to set us His people free! They might have then recalled ISAIAH 9:6-7, "...unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His Name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty GOD, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His Kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of The LORD of Hosts will perform this!"³³

VII. THEIR HEARTS SANG OUT GLORY TO GOD FROM WITHIN THEM!

So the Pharisees and Doctors of The Law were not jumping up and down in songs of praises to The LORD at this point, but the people surely were! Perhaps these learned men of theology were not sharing in the joy of the people because their hearts, souls and might were reserved first for themselves and not for GOD. Perhaps they, seeing themselves as above the people and having a better claim to the adulations of the common folk, felt slighted that JESUS had not worked them into the game plan that day for their fair share of praise. Perhaps all their learning and disputing had so dulled their

³⁰ 4, Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 8, LUKE 5:25-26, p 881.

³¹ 2, KJV, MATTHEW 21:9.

³² 10, GNM morph + Barklay-Newman, [UBS] w`**sanna**, hosanna (in Aramaic), an exclamation of praise literally meaning, "Save, I pray."

³³ 2, KJV, ISAIAH 9:6-7.

eyes of their souls that all they could see was the darkness of their own ivory towers. Or perhaps, this being the most likely explanation, they were terrified to stand in their own self-righteous hypocrisy before The Presence of GOD Incarnate!

But inexorably, we now come to the end of This Gospel miracle in LUKE 5:26, “And they were all amazed, and they glorified GOD, and were filled with fear, saying, We have seen strange things today.”³⁴ And though the healed man, his friends and no doubt many of the common people there that day could see the arm of The LORD at work before them – and were indeed astounded and filled with joyous fear before The Presence of The Almighty – the Pharisees and learned lawyers of The Law of Moses standing by could not. We must ask more deeply, “Why?”

We must keep in mind, that what we now see clearly by GOD’s Grace from our vantage point in redemptive history, the Pharisees and Doctors of The Law could not, that The Messiah JESUS had come to fulfill the prophetic job description which He Himself had hundreds of years before revealed to Israel and mankind through the prophet Isaiah. So we read in ISAIAH 53:11-12, “He shall see of the travail of His soul, and shall be satisfied: by His knowledge shall My righteous Servant justify many; for He shall bear their iniquities. ...because He hath poured out His soul unto death: and He was numbered with the transgressors; and He bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”

The Saviour JESUS CHRIST would first need to endure His humiliation before He could claim His exaltation. The Messiah would have to suffer and die to redeem the saints of GOD with His Own Body and Blood given up for them. And The Messiah would have to be fully GOD and fully Man but without sin to do so! Who indeed can forgive sins, but GOD Himself? O let us sing out in thanksgiving and praise To The Lord at The blessed Cross of our Redeemer – JESUS CHRIST and Him alone! For He has wiped away our sin-guilt, redeemed us back to Himself, made us His own people, brought us into His Kingdom The Church – on earth now and then in Heaven above – and made us whole!

Come, let us rejoice before His Presence! Hosanna, to The Eternal Son of David Who sets us free! Dickerson observes of This Divine Mercy, “It is The Glory of The Lord to forget sin, and when remission of sins is prayed for according to GOD’s promise, The Lord’s Glory is engaged for the helping of faith to obtain it!”³⁵ What GOD offers by His Mercy to men He makes to come to pass in us by His Grace!

For “when The Lord’s people are brought very low, let them not look for a lifting up or relief except from GOD only!”³⁶ And the prisoners are set free by the hand of The Master! PSALM 79:9-13, “Help us, O GOD of our salvation, for The Glory of Thy

³⁴ 2, KJV, LUKE 5:26.

³⁵ 11, Treasury of David, Volume 2, PSALM THE SEVENTY-NINTH, Verse 9, 6th entry, p 383-384, commentary by David Dickerson.

³⁶ 11, Treasury of David, Volume 2, PSALM THE SEVENTY-NINTH, Verse 9, 6th entry, p 383, commentary by David Dickerson.

Name: and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for Thy Name's sake... Let the sighing of the prisoner come before Thee; according to the greatness of Thy power, preserve Thou those that are appointed to die... So we Thy people and sheep of Thy pasture will give Thee thanks for ever: we will shew forth Thy praise to all generations!"³⁷

VIII. IN CONCLUSION

In this miracle which Saint Luke records for us here, we have seen many marvelous things to see of our Lord! We have seen that the power of The Lord was among His people, ready to heal them. And so He is among us and ready to heal us even today in His Church! We have seen that these people were blessed with a hungering and thirsting after GOD and His righteousness in saving faith. And so He blesses us with saving faith when we hunger and thirst after GOD and His righteousness even today in His Church! We have seen how JESUS CHRIST, The Word of The LORD Himself, forgave the sins of the afflicted man, that his sins being then forgiven him, The Lord made him whole. And so He forgives our sins and makes us whole in His Church even today!

And we have seen how a grateful forgiven sinner, his friends and the throngs of GOD's people sang out with joy and praise to The LORD for the blessings and miracles which they beheld! And my friends, so should we be gratefully singing out with joy and praise to The LORD in His Church most especially today! For when we are afflicted and suffering, if in faith we cry out to GOD in repentance at The blessed Cross of CHRIST, our Lord shall forgive us our sins and make us whole! In The Hebrew:^{38 39}

בְּרוּךְ הַבֹּא בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה הַמְּשִׁיחַ יֵשׁוּעַ

BARUCH HABA' BESHEM ['ADONAY⁴⁰]⁴¹ – “Blessed be He that cometh in The Name of The LORD,⁴² The Messiah JESUS!⁴³

Let us then pray: O Eternal GOD The Father, Who does create and sustain us; O Glorious GOD The Son, Who does seek and redeem us; O ever present GOD The Spirit, Who does sanctify and lead us! Give us, by Your Grace, the faith needed to come humbly before Your Presence. Convict us to confess and repent of our sins with sackcloth and ashes upon the heads of our souls. Wash us and make us clean of our sin-guilt. Heal us and make us whole according to Your will for us, that we may dwell in Your holy Presence in Your Church on earth and then in Heaven.

³⁷ 2, KJV, PSALM 79:9-13.

³⁸ 5, BHS, PSALM 118:26.

³⁹ 12, HTN, MATTHEW 1:1.

⁴⁰ It is the practice of faithful Jewish people to not pronounce The Name of The LORD - יהוה - “The Tetragrammaton,” out of reverence for Him, but rather in reading The Sacred Scriptures in The Hebrew to substitute - הַשֵּׁם - HASHEM, which means simply “The Name,” or - אֲדֹנָי - ‘ADONAY, which means “The Lord,” a title of JEHOVAH.

⁴¹ In my transliteration of The Hebrew, I represent the letter א aleph = ‘ and the letter ע ayin = “

⁴² 2, KJV, PSALM 118:26.

⁴³ 2, KJV, MATTHEW 1:1.

For now and always, O LORD our GOD, may we ever sing out to You, with all the choirs of angels, as in PSALM 118:24-29, Hosanna to The Son of David! “This is the day which The LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. Save now, I beseech thee, O LORD: ...send now [Thy] prosperity. Blessed be He that cometh in The Name of The LORD... [For only] GOD is The LORD, Which hath shewed us [His marvelous] Light... Thou art my GOD, and I will praise Thee: ... [and] I will exalt Thee. O give thanks unto The LORD; for He is good: for His mercy endureth for ever!”⁴⁴ Praise The LORD, for man, thy sins are forgiven thee at The Cross of CHRIST! In The Name of GOD The Father, Son and Holy Ghost. AMEN.

⁴⁴ 2, KJV, PSALM 118:24-29.

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