

RUSSELL SANDERS

8-14-2023

THE AXE IS LAID TO THE ROOT

In Matthew 3:10a, the prophet John the Baptist said, ***“And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees.”*** Let us look at the deeper meaning of this prophetic word relating to the Messiah, Jesus, shortly before John baptized Jesus.

A root is the foundation of a tree. What trees does John speak of? To see this in context, we look at verse 9.

The Jews (Pharisees) say in verse 9, ***“We have Abraham to (as) our father.”*** This indicates that they put their faith for salvation in two things: 1. God’s covenant with Abraham, and 2. The Mosaic Law.

Speaking of themselves as being Abraham’s children, verse 9 John continues with, ***“...God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.”***

Speaking of the Mosaic law, it can only convict one of sin because it is impossible to keep that law perfectly. The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross which brought the grace of God unto salvation is the axe that has hewn down these two trees at their very root. One who trusts only in being the seed of Abraham or trusting in a legalistic law of “do or don’t do” will be ***“cast into the fire”*** (of hell). (vs. 10b.)

If being a child descended of Abraham’s seed were to give the Jews salvation, then Israel’s surrounding nations of Muslims would also receive salvation because they also descended from Abraham’s seed, being children of Ishmael and Jacob’s brother, Esau.

If the Mosaic Law could save them, then any legalistic church of today would also save us by their traditions, but it will not work. Works never will save anyone.

We are Abraham’s seed, being children of faith through Jesus Christ. We are the stone of verse 10 that God raised up. 1 Peter 2:5 says, ***“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house...by Jesus Christ.”***

Do not entangle yourself with legalism. Galatians 5:1 says, ***“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”***