

CLEMENT TO THE CORINTHIANS

Lesson Six (1 Clement 28-34)

Clement had seen the blessed apostles and conversed with them, their teaching was still ringing in his ears. (Irenaeus)

1 Clement 28: Can't Hide from God

The coming judgments. The travails that will accompany the coming of the Messiah and the final judgment.

What world will receive? Jewish mysticism speaks of four worlds: Atzilut (Emanation); Beriah (Creation); Yetzirah (Formation); Asiyah (Action).

Where shall I go ... there is your Spirit. Psalm 139:7-10.

Him who embraces the universe. The LORD encompasses all time and space.

1 Clement 29: The LORD's Portion

Pure and Undeiled Hands. A posture of prayer. Ps 24:4; 1 Timothy 2:8

Made us his chosen portion. Deuteronomy 32:8: "When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, When He separated the sons of man, He set the boundaries of the peoples According to the number of the sons of Israel. For the LORD'S portion is His people. Jacob is the allotment of His inheritance."

Behold, the LORD takes for himself a nation out of the midst of the nations, as a man takes the firstfruits of his threshing floor; and the holy of holies will come forth from that nation. Source unknown. Cf. Numbers 18:27.

1 Clement 30: Holiness and Humility

Disgusting and impure embraces. Forbidden sexual unions.

God rests the proud. Proverbs 3:34; James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5

Justified by works and not by words. Cf. James 2:21-26.

He who speaks much ... Zophar the Naamathit in Job 11:2-3

God hates those who praise themselves. Cf. Proverbs 27:2

1 Clement 31: Examples from Genesis

Let us study the records of the things that have happened from the beginning. Literally, "Let us unroll the things" i.e., unroll the scroll of Genesis.

Attained Righteousness and Truth through Faith. Gen 15:6

Willingly Led to Sacrifice. Midrash on the Binding of

Isaac insists Isaac went willingly to the altar:

"Can one bind a thirty-seven year old man

without his consent?" (*Genesis Rabbah* 56:8)

Isaac said, "Do not feel distressed, father.

Fulfill your Creator's will through me! May my

blood provide atonement for the future Jewish

people!" (*Midrash Aggadah*)

Jacob with humility departed. The inclusion of Jacob rounds out the three patriarchs.

1 Clement 32: Greatness of Jacob

Magnificence of the Gifts. The twelve tribes, including Levi (the priesthood) and Judah (the monarchy and Messiah).

According to the flesh. I.e. physically: "A descendant of David according to the flesh" (Romans 1:3)

As the stars of heaven. Genesis 15:5.

Through faith. Clement affirms the message of attaining righteousness by faith, insisting that "all who have existed from the beginning (i.e. Bereishit)" were justified the same way.

To whom be the glory. Second doxology.

1 Clement 33: The Work of Righteousness

What then shall we do? Pauline introduction of a false premise.

Let us hasten with earnestness and zeal to accomplish every good work. Clement's response to the message of justification by faith is a call to greater alacrity. Cf. Genesis 22, "Abraham rose early in the morning."

The Creator ... rejoices in his works. Clement reiterates the creation narrative, comparing God's works of creation to our own capacity for good works.

All the Righteous have been adorned with good works. Clement warns us not to be deceived into thinking of justification and righteousness as a merely spiritual status.

Adorned himself with good works. "And God saw all that he had made, and behold it was very good" (Genesis 1:31).

1 Clement 34: Reward of the Righteous

The good worker ... A proverbial saying?

Zealous to do good. Cf. Acts 21:20; Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 3:13; Revelation 3:19.

Not to be idle or careless about any good work. Cf. Matthew 5:19.

Consider the whole host of angels. Daniel 7:10; Isaiah 6:3.

Cry out to him earnestly with one mouth. An allusion to the liturgical prayers.

Great and Glorious Promises. The kingdom and world to come.

Eye has not seen.... i.e. the world to come. Cf. 1 Corinthians 2:9, Isaiah 64:4.