

EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS BELIEF

(John 9, 10)

As He passed along, He noticed a man blind from his birth. His disciples asked Him, Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents that he should be born blind? (John 9:1,2).

What is so significant about this question? It refers to the visitation of iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children, to the third and fourth generation (Exodus 34:7b). Diseases are connected with sin. From the time the first couple sinned, mental and physical sufferings entered the world as a result. But that was not the case in this blind man's life, as YAHSHUA answered the question, It was not that this man or his parents sinned, but he was blind in order that the workings of God should be manifested in him (vs.3). On the contrary, this man was chosen to fulfill God's purpose in point and time of his life, "in order that God's workings be manifested in him." All the years of his existence he survived through begging. In those days nothing was made easy for a blind person to live a normal life in society, as it is available today. Today a blind person can go to special schools to learn how to read and write through a method called braille and how to live a normal life and be part of the society's work force. Although still in visual darkness, knowledge lights up his understanding of his surroundings and beyond. His success depends on his willingness to face the world with what it offers him.

This blind man encounter with YAHSHUA was by divine appointment. The point in time of his life had come when God was going to manifest His glory for the purpose to show the nation the evidence that demanded their belief that YAHSHUA was their Messiah. The spiritual eyes of many Jews were opened that day, although the religious authorities remained spiritually veiled even in light of the evidence that YAHSHUA was the Son of God, the Messiah as YAHSHUA so confirmed: If you were blind, you would have no sin; but because you now claim to have sight your sin remains (vs. 41). On noticing the blind man and approaching him, YAHSHUA spat on the ground and made clay with His saliva, and He spread it on the man's eyes (v.6). We wonder why YAHSHUA used this method instead of just speaking a word. The interesting thing about saliva is that it is 98% water and contains substances of great importance to the body, including electrolyte, mucus, antibacterial compounds and various enzymes. In those days, Romans and Jewish Rabbis considered saliva to be of great value in treating blindness. Who knows why, but that action led to the fact of the original creation of man (Gen. 2:7). Man was created from dust. YAHSHUA'S action was in harmony with the original creation of men. In that combination of saliva and dust, there were the elements needed to bring light into the eyes of that man. We read in Genesis 2:7 the following: Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath or spirit of life, and man became a living being. After spreading mud on the man's eyes, YAHSHUA sent him to wash in the pool of Siloam. Siloam was in the past the only perennial fountain of Jerusalem symbolic of God's protection and sustaining power (Isaiah 8:6). But Israel refused and despised the waters of Siloam. This man portraying

the nation of Israel, was sent to the water which had been rejected and despised by his nation. Had he rejected it, his healing would not have happened. But he did exactly what he was told to do and he "Came back seeing."

YAHSHUA is the fountain of living water, Who Israel has rejected and despised. But Israel must come to Him for healing of her spiritual blindness to be saved.

The healing of this blind man caused doubt and disbelief among his neighbors and those who knew him as a blind beggar: Is not this the man who used to sit and beg? Some said, It is he, others said No, but he looks very much like him. But he said, Yes, I am the man. Because the miracle happened on a Sabbath, the Pharisees confronted him with repeated questions. Without accepting his answer, they summoned his parents to ask them the same questions. In their blindness of unbelief they caused fear on his parents who simply answered: "This is our son, he was born blind, but as to how he can now see, we do not know; or who has opened his eyes, we do not know. He is of age. Ask him; let him speak for himself and give his own account of it. (vs. 8-21).

His parents said he was of age, we only know that much. That was important enough for the leaders of the nation to believe that the miracle indeed had happened. He had been blind, but then he could see. That was the pillar of the testimony that held the truth about YAHSHUA being their Messiah. The now seeing blind man had a testimony for those Pharisees the second time they summoned him: In his testimony, refuting the Pharisees' words of accusation, denial and unbelief in the miracle, he said, I do not know whether He is a sinner and wicked or not. But one thing I do know, that whereas I was blind before, Now I see... we know that God does not listen to sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and a worshiper of Him and does His will, He listens to him. Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this Man were not from God, He would not be able to do anything like this. So they cast him out the synagogue (John 9: 25-34).

The second encounter happened when YAHSHUA heard that he was put out. Meeting with him the second time, YAHSHUA introduced Himself to him by asking him: Do you believe in the Son of Man? He answered, Who is He, Sir? Tell me, that I may believe in Him. YAHSHUA said to him, You have seen Him; He is talking to you right now. The blind man called out, Lord, I believe! And he worshiped Him. (Vs.35-38). How beautiful and prophetic this story is, as it speaks of the future of the nation of Israel, when their eyes will finally be opened and they will acknowledge their Messiah! (namely the tribe of Judah). The Prophet Zachariah, whose name means "the Lord has remembered," prophesized about this many years ago. He said, And it shall be in that day that I will make it My aim to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour out upon the house of David and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication. And they shall look upon Me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him as one who is in bitterness for Him as one who is in bitterness for his firstborn. In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of the Hadadrimmon in the Valley of Megiddo and the land shall mourn, every family apart: the family of the house of David, apart and their wives

apart; the family of the house of Nathan [David's son] apart and their wives apart; the family of the house of Levi apart and their wives apart; the family of Shimei apart and their wives apart; all the families that are left, each by itself, and their wives by themselves [each over having blindly rejected their unrecognized Messiah] (Zachariah 12: 9-14).

For now, the nation still remains blinded in unbelief as in the days when Messiah lived among them. They seemly wanted to know but when given evidences that YAHSHUA was the Messiah, they flatly refused to accept Him. So, when approached by the Jews with the question, How long are You going to keep us in doubt and suspense? If You are really the Christ, tell us so plainly and openly, YAHSHUA simply answered them by saying, I have told you so, yet you do not believe Me. The very works that I do by the power of My Father and in My Father's name bear witness concerning Me. But you do not believe Me because you do not belong to My fold (John 10:25-26). In those days the presence and the performances of miracles and signs evidenced that YAHSHUA was the Messiah, as well as the Torah, which pointed Him out as the Messiah through its prophetic words. YAHSHUA fulfilled all the prophecies written in their book, including those found in Psalm 22 and Isaiah 52 and 53. But again, they refuse to believe and accept Him. So the evidence remains demanding their belief, but it will not happen until when that which is prophesized about them will take place in the end of times at their tribulation.

The Gentile nations will also be found without excuse for their rejection of the evidence that demands belief in YAHSHUA. They too have the complete written word of God with all that they need to live a life of holiness. **"For God so loved the world that He gave His Only Son for whosoever believe in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). My friend, embrace the evidence that YAHSHUA is the Savior of the world and accept Him as your Savior.**