**SCANDALON**

*“And blessed is he who does not take offense at Me.”*

Matthew 11:6 NASB

*“Then He shall become a sanctuary; But to both the houses of Israel, a stone to strike and a rock to stumble over, And a snare and a trap for the inhabitants of Jerusalem.”*

Isaiah 8:14 NASB

I. What happens when our beliefs of how our life should be don’t match reality?

\* How do we respond to the gap between the ideal and the real?

\* Why do we respond only negatively, why not with wonder?

II. What happens when your go to guy for messianic prophecy is wrong?

A. John the Baptist expected a terrific judge. One forbidding and angry. (Matthew 3:7,10,12)

*7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ... 10 “The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ... 12 “His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”*

B. Jesus comes with love grace forgiveness and no interest in destroying the Romans.

C. John was a fantastic guy but didn’t see the big story.

D. John only had half the messianic prophecies on his chart. He forgot (Isaiah 35:5,6)(Isaiah 61:1, etc.)

[Isa 35:5-6 NASB] *5 Then the eyes of the blind will be opened And the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. 6 Then the lame will leap like a deer, And the tongue of the mute will shout for joy. For waters will break forth in the wilderness And streams in the Arabah.*

[Isa 61:1 NASB] *1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, Because the LORD has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners;*

E. John like everyone else saw no distinction between the first and second coming of the Messiah. So he missed the whole story and falsely expected two messiah’s.

III. Jesus, the little stone Messiah.

\* Jesus is called a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense. (I Peter 2:7,8)

7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” 8 and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message--which is also what they were destined for.

A. He is the saving stone.

B. He is a slighted stone.

C. He is a stumbling stone.

D. He is a smiting stone.

IV. God’s fulfillments are always greater than his promises.