



# THE WRONG MESSIAH

**Messianic Expectations and a New Exodus**

PRESENTED BY

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# Introduction

Objectives, Overview, Resources

# Objectives

01

What exactly  
is the Gospel?

02

Why did Israel  
need a Messiah?

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Why did Judaism  
miss the Messiah?

04

How do we  
misunderstand  
Messiah today?

05

Better understanding  
the themes of exile,  
exodus, and kingdom

06

Understand Yeshua's  
fulfillment of the  
Messianic vocation

# Resources

- *Exile: A Conversation with NT Wright* (Scott)
- *Isaiah's New Exodus in Mark* (Watts)
- *Acts and the Isaianic New Exodus* (Pao)
- *Getting Saved* (Talbert and Whitlark)
- *The Root of the Vine* (Fridrichsen)
- *Simply Jesus* (NT Wright)
- *New Testament and the People of God* (NT Wright)
- *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist* (Pitre)
- *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*
- *Dictionary of Paul's Letters*
- *From Maccabees to Mishnah* (Cohen)
- *Are You the One to Come?* (Bird)
- *Jesus the Messiah* (Bateman, Bock, Johnston)

Yeshua proclaimed:

The **time is fulfilled**, and the  
kingdom of God is at hand;  
repent and believe the Good  
News!

Mark  
1:15

John preached:

Repent, for the **kingdom of heaven** is at hand.

For Isaiah spoke of him:

A voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare **the way** of the Lord; make straight his paths

Matthew  
3:2-3

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, **waiting for the consolation of Israel**, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah

Luke  
2:25-26



The background is a warm, textured surface in shades of orange, yellow, and red, resembling a close-up of a stone or a piece of aged parchment. A solid teal rectangle is positioned in the upper center. A large, dark grey rectangular overlay covers the middle section of the image, serving as a backdrop for the title and subtitle.

# What is the Gospel?

Connecting Culture and Scriptural Context



## Paul's Distorted Gospel

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of **the gospel that I**  
**proclaimed to you**, which you in turn received, in which also you stand,  
through which also **you are being saved**, if you hold firmly to the  
message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that  
**Christ died for our sins** in accordance with the  
scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

1 Cor 15:1-5  
Distorted

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of **the gospel that I proclaimed to you**, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, **through which also you are being saved**, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that **Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures**, and that **he was buried**, and that **he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures**, and that **he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve**.

1 Corinthians

15:1-5

# What is the Gospel?

- Four pictures of the concept of Gospel
  - Gospel in the early Hebrew Bible
    - 1 Samuel 31:9
  - Isaiah's Gospel
    - 40:9
    - 52:7
    - 60
    - 61:1-4
  - Caesar's Gospel
    - Marc Antony
  - Gospel preached to Abraham
    - Galatians 3:7-9



# Why a Messiah?

Why was Israel Waiting for a Messianic Figure?

# Messiah?

- Was Jesus from a family of Christs?
- What does “Messiah” mean to a first-century Jewish audience?
- Why is there no explicit mention of a messianic hope in the Torah?
- Why does this hope begin in Babylon?
- Why does this hope blossom in the first century?
- Was Yeshua the first “messiah”?



# Messianic Titles

- Servant of the Lord
- The Righteous One
- Son of David
- The Prophet
- Chosen One
- Son of Man
- Son of God
- The Branch
- Coming One
- Elect One
- Scepter
- Prince
- Ruler
- King
- Star
- Root
- Rod



An aerial photograph of ancient Jerusalem, showing the Temple Mount and surrounding city walls. A semi-transparent dark grey rectangle is overlaid in the center, containing the title and subtitle. A solid teal rectangle is positioned above the title.

# Exile and Kingdom

The Story of Exile and the Kingdom of God

# Exile: The Bible's Story

- Creation and Exile
  - Exile from the Garden
  - “surely dying” = exile
  - Traveling eastward
- Patriarchs and Exile
  - Abraham in Egypt
  - Jacob in Haran
- Egyptian Exile
  - Exile as a means of salvation
  - What you intended for evil...

# Exile: The Punishment for Sin

- Curse of the Law
  - Deuteronomy 4:26-30
  - Deuteronomy 28:15-68
  - Deuteronomy 29:25-28
  - Leviticus 26:15-21

# Babylonian Exile and Beyond

- 70 Years of Exile
  - Jeremiah 28:8-11
  - 2 Chronicles 36:11-12, 17, 20-21
  - Zechariah 1:7-12, 7:1-7
  - Daniel 9:1-2
  - Mishnah Yadayim 4.4
- Ongoing Exile
  - Daniel 9:1-2, 20-24
  - Nehemiah 9:36
  - Ezra 9:8-9
  - 2 Maccabees 7:18-19
  - Baruch 1:18-20, 3:8
    - Written 150-50 BCE
  - Psalms of Solomon
  - Mishnah Yadayim 4.4

# Forgiveness of Sins Ends Exile

- Israel is in exile due to sin, therefore she needs forgiveness
  - 1 Kings 8:34-36, 50
  - Isaiah 65:7
  - Leviticus 26:40-42
  - Deuteronomy 30:1-6
  - Jeremiah 31:34
  - Isaiah 40:2
  - Daniel 9 prayer

# Exodus Ends Exile

- Frequent Exodus motif in Scripture
- New/Greater Exodus foretold
  - Deuteronomy 30:1-5
  - Jeremiah 16:13-15
  - Jeremiah 23:7-8
  - Jeremiah 32:37-39
  - Ezekiel 34:13-14
  - Ezekiel 36:24-27
  - Isaiah 11:11-12
  - Isaiah 40-66



# 8 Themes of the Exodus

- Wicked Tyrant
- Chosen Leader
- Victory of God
  - Exodus 15:18
- Rescue by Sacrifice
- New vocation and new way of life
  - Marriage at Mt. Sinai – Marriage of the Lamb
- Presence of God
- Promised/inherited land
- Free to worship God



# First Century Jewish Messianic Expectations

What is it Supposed to Look Like When God is King?

# Maccabean Mistake

- Jews never revolted against their rulers until 160BCE
- Some saw the Maccabees as messianic figure
- Maccabean victory in 164BCE
- 155BCE Brother of Judah M. Appointed high priest by a relation of Antiochus Epiphanes!
- By the 140's and 130's the Seleucids accept independence of the Maccabean state.
- Many Jews opposed Maccabean rule during the reign of John Hyrcanus (135-104) and Alexander Jannaeus (103-76).
- Jerusalem turned over to the Roman General Pompey in 63 BCE by both sides of a growing conflict
- In the Great Jewish war of 67-70AD, Jews killed each other more than they killed Romans.
- In 115-117, the Jews of Egypt, Cyprus, and Cyrenaica (Libya) rebelled against Rome.
- Bar Kokhba revolt of 132-135 AD

# Jewish Sects

- The basic problem that confronted all Jews of antiquity was how to preserve Jewish identity while living within Hellenistic culture (Cohen, *From Maccabees to Mishnah*)
- Messianism was only one way of telling Israel's hope for the future. For many Jews, collaboration with the Romans was the sensible way forward for the nation.
  - Cf. Herodians, Sadducees, Alexandrians, etc.
- Sinners
  - 1 Maccabees 1:11
- Pharisees, Sadducees, Sicarii, Zealots, Essenes.

# Psalms of Solomon 17-18

- Kingdom of God
- Davidic King
- Punishment because of sins
- Lawless stranger as the enemy
- Nobody practiced righteousness and justice
- Son of David raised up by YHWH as king.
- Drive out the sinners
- Tribes back in their lands
- King is “Lord Messiah”
- The Lord himself is king
- Messiah is powerful in the holy spirit
- Expose officials and drive out sinners
- Shepherd of the Lord’s flock
- Cleanse Israel

# The Age to Come

- Olam haZeh, Olam haBa
- Ending the Occupation
  - Prophet like Moses
  - Waiting on Elijah
  - Kingdom of God
- Return of YHWH to Zion
  - Isaiah 52:8
  - Purifying/rebuilding the temple (cf. Ezra 3:10-13)
  - Purifying temple worship
- Gathering the Exiles
  - Moses and David both gathered the 12 tribes



# Isaianic New Exodus

- The Way – Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
  - Cf. Exodus 13:21-22, 23:20 – symbolizes the presence of God in Israel's story
  - Malachi 3:1 interprets Isaiah 40:3
  - Baruch 5:7
  - Qumran and “the way”
- Isaiah 42:14-16
- Isaiah 43:3-7, 14-21
- Isaiah 44:21-23
- Isaiah 49:5-6, 8-12, 21-22
- Isaiah 60:1-4

# Messianic Views

- Earthly warrior (1QM War Scroll; Pss. Sol. 17-18)
- Preexisting and transcendent figure (1 Enoch; 4 Ezra, Melchizedek Scroll)
- Servant of the Lord (Isaiah, royal, priestly, and prophetic traits)
- Two Messiahs
  - Messiahs of Aaron and Israel (1QS 9:11; CD 12:22-23, 13:20-22; 14:18-19; 19:23-20:1)
    - Cf. Aaron-Moses, Joshua-Zerubbabel, and Eleazor-Kosiba/Kohkba
  - No evidence of Messiah ben David, Messiah ben Joseph.

# Qumran Messianism

- He executes judgment against oppressors of God's people at the time of punishment and subdues the Kittim (= Romans) and nations (CD 19.10–11; 1QSb 5.20–29; 1QM 11.6–13).
- He leads a new exodus (1QM 11.9–12).
- He is from the Davidic line (4Q161, 4Q174, 4Q252, 4Q285).
- He/they shall preside over an eschatological banquet for the congregation of the renewed covenant (1QSa 2.11–22).
- The restoration of the Davidic dynasty is related to the deliverance of Israel (4Q174 3.6–12).

# Qumran Messianism

- He reigns over Israel, gives dominion to Israel, and establishes the covenant and kingdom (4Q252 5.1–5).
- He is the firstborn, prince, and ruler of the inhabited world (4Q369 2.1–11).
- He keeps the law with the congregation (4Q252 5.5).
- He is endowed with special insight in order to achieve God's deliverance (4Q381 15.1–10).
- His coming will be indicated with signs from God relating to healing, preaching good news, leading the poor, and raising the dead (4Q521 2.1–14).

# Shemoneh Esreh

- The Messiah will be Israel's king.
- He will be a Son of David.
- He will defeat the Gentiles and Israel's enemies.
- He will restore Jerusalem and the temple service.
- He will inaugurate a period of proper law observance.
- He will come during a time of trial or tribulation.
- His coming will mark a return from the Diaspora, a regathering of the Jewish tribes.

# Summary by NT Wright

- Expectation focused primarily on the nation, not on a particular individual.
- This expectation could, under certain circumstances, become focused on a particular individual (present or expected to arrive soon).
- When this individual appeared, expectations molded around him (thus not always Davidic descent and even 2 messiahs)
- The main task of Messiah was to liberate Israel and reinstate her as the true people of God. Military action required. Temple restored
- The Messiah would be the agent of Israel's God.
- No expectation of a suffering Messiah. Nation yes, messiah, no.



# Messianic Claimants

- Only Yeshua and Simon bar Kosiba/Kohkba ever referred to as “messiah”
- Implicit messianic figures not called “messiah”
  - Judas the Galilean
  - Simon the servant of Herod
  - Athronges
    - Declared “king” of the Jews and put a diadem on his head
  - Menahem
    - Descendant of Judas the Galilean and leader of the Sicarii
  - Simon ben Gora
    - Led the war in 69CE with some success. Name means “son of a proselyte”
    - Proclaimed liberty for the slaves and rewards for the free



# Yeshua's New Exodus

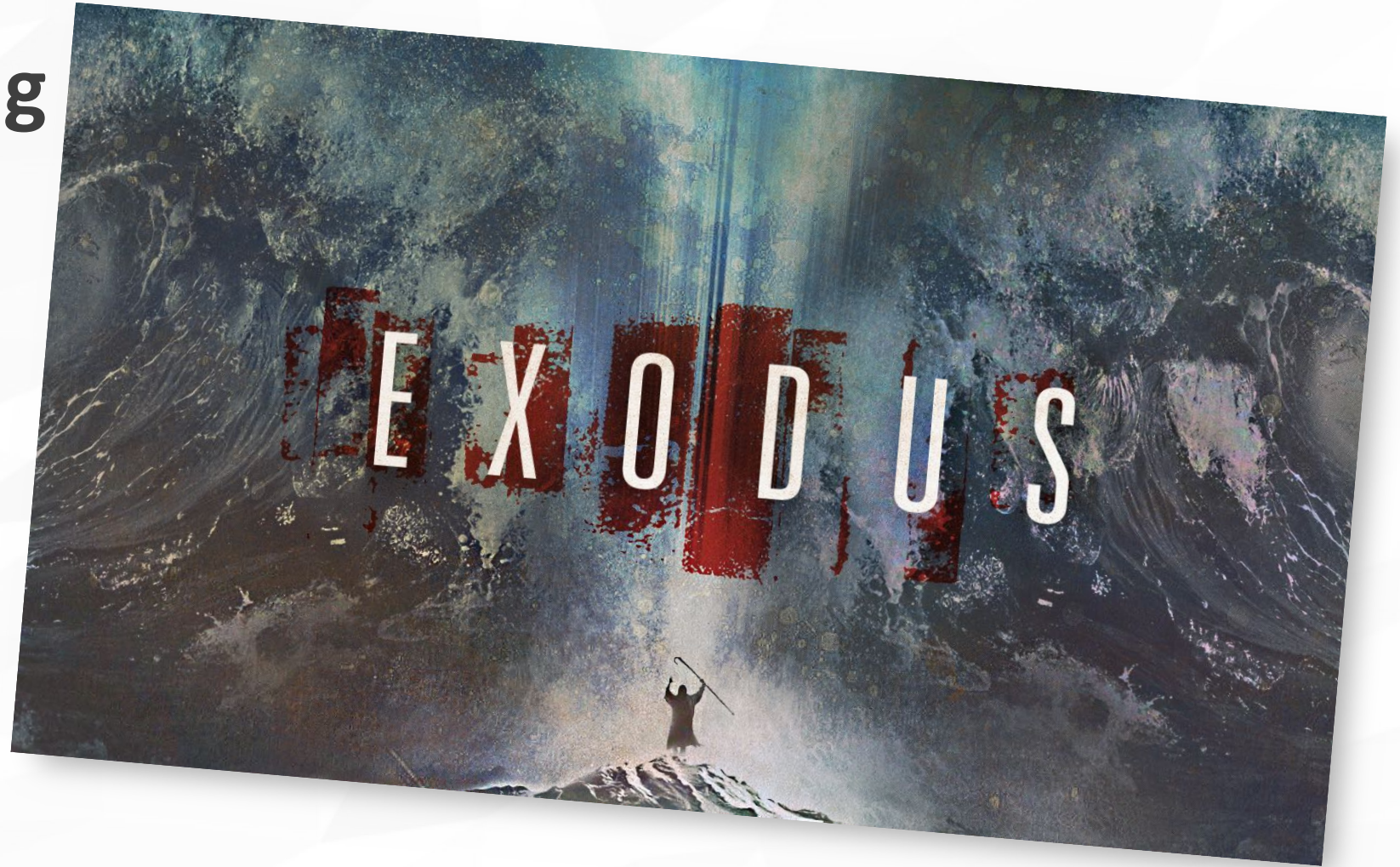
Freeing the Exiles From the True Enemy



Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old.

**Behold, I am doing  
a new thing;**

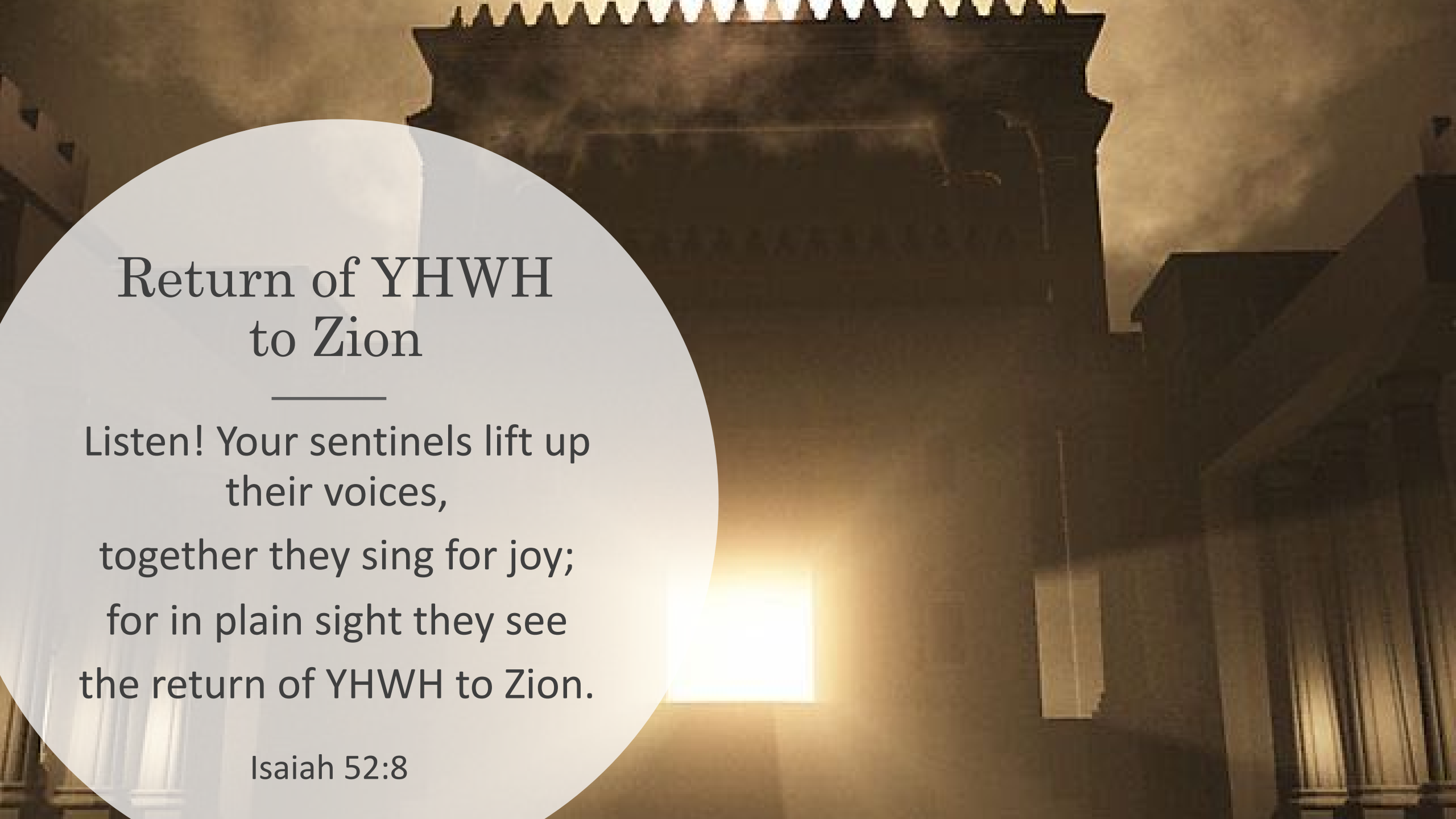
now it springs forth, do  
you not perceive it?  
I will make **a way** in the  
wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.



**Isaiah 43:18-19**

# The Way

- All four gospels include a report of John preparing the “way”
  - John = Elijah, Matthew 17:11-13
  - Malachi 3:1, 4:5-6
  - John introducing “the way” is vital to understanding Yeshua’s mission
- The Way terminology is a means to identify the “true” people of God as the true heir of the ancient traditions of Israel
  - Cf. Qumran usage.
- The “Way” became an identifier for believers in Yeshua against the other sects of Judaism.
  - Acts 19:9, 23; 22:4; 24:14



# Return of YHWH to Zion

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Listen! Your sentinels lift up  
their voices,  
together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see  
the return of YHWH to Zion.

Isaiah 52:8

In the **beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.** He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

And the **Word became flesh and tabernacled among us,** and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John  
1:1-3, 14

Yeshua answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

The Judeans then said, “It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?”

But He was speaking of the temple of His body.

John  
2:19-21



He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the ekklesia; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

For it was the Father's good pleasure for **all the fullness to dwell in Him**, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

Colossians  
1:17-20a



# Rebuilding the Temple

- Community of believers as the temple
- Focus on moral purity
  - Ephesians 2:19-22
  - 1 Corinthians 3:16-17
  - 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
  - 2 Corinthians 6:16-17
- Qumran and the “Temple of Adam”
- Temple as the “bulwark against chaos and the source of cosmic order”
- Revelation 21 New Jerusalem

# Son of David / Son of Man

- Son of David
  - Original “son of David,” Solomon, was a disappointment. He built the temple with slave labor and was led into idolatry by his wives
  - Matthew 1 genealogy and the focus on exile and kingdom
- Son of Man
  - Matt 16:28 – Son of Man coming in his kingdom
  - Daniel 7:13-14.

# Gathering the 12 Tribes

- How many disciples did Yeshua have?
- Were those the only people he could find, or did he specifically choose that number?
- Were they chosen based upon their tribal affiliation?
- When one was lost, was the number restored based on tribal affiliation?
- Why does Yeshua start his ministry in Galilee of the Gentiles? (Matt 4:12-17)

While He was still speaking to the crowds, behold, His mother and brothers were standing outside, seeking to speak to Him. Someone said to Him, “Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside seeking to speak to You.” But Yeshua answered the one who was telling Him and said, “**Who is My mother and who are My brothers?**” And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, “Behold My mother and My brothers! **For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother.**”

Matthew  
12:46-50

John the Baptist:

“And do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father’; for I say to you that from these stones **God is able to raise up children to Abraham**”

Matthew  
3:9

Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know,  
and a nation that did not know you shall run to you,  
because of the Lord your God, and of the Holy One  
of Israel, for he has glorified you.

For I know their works and their thoughts, and the  
time is coming to gather all nations and tongues.  
And they shall come and shall see my glory

Isaiah  
55:5

Yeshua said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also **sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel**. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name’s sake, will receive a hundredfold and will **inherit eternal life**.

Matthew  
19:28-29

All Israelites have a share in the world to come,

as it is said, Your people also shall be all righteous, **they shall inherit the land forever**; the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified (Is. 60:21).

(Inherit the land = Inheriting the “world to come”)

m. Sanhedrin

10:1



And now I stand here on trial because of my hope in the promise made by God to our fathers, to which **our twelve tribes hope** to attain, as they earnestly worship night and day. And for this hope I am accused by Jews, O king! Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the dead?

Acts  
26:6-8

And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel.

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands

Revelation  
7:4, 9

Come here, I will show you the  
bride, the wife of the Lamb...  
The nations will walk by its light  
and the kings of the earth will  
give their glory to it

Revelation  
21:9-27

# The Time is Fulfilled

- Mark 1:15
- Galatians 1:3-4 – Gave himself for our sins to free us from present age.
- Luke 9:30-31
  - Include the whole imagery of the mount of transfiguration.
- This time it's not just Israel, but all of humanity.

Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to [Yeshua]. They appeared in glory and **were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish** at Jerusalem

Luke  
9:30-31

Suddenly they saw two men,  
Moses and Elijah, talking to  
[Yeshua]. They appeared in  
glory and were speaking of his  
**ἐξοδος**, which he was about  
to accomplish at Jerusalem

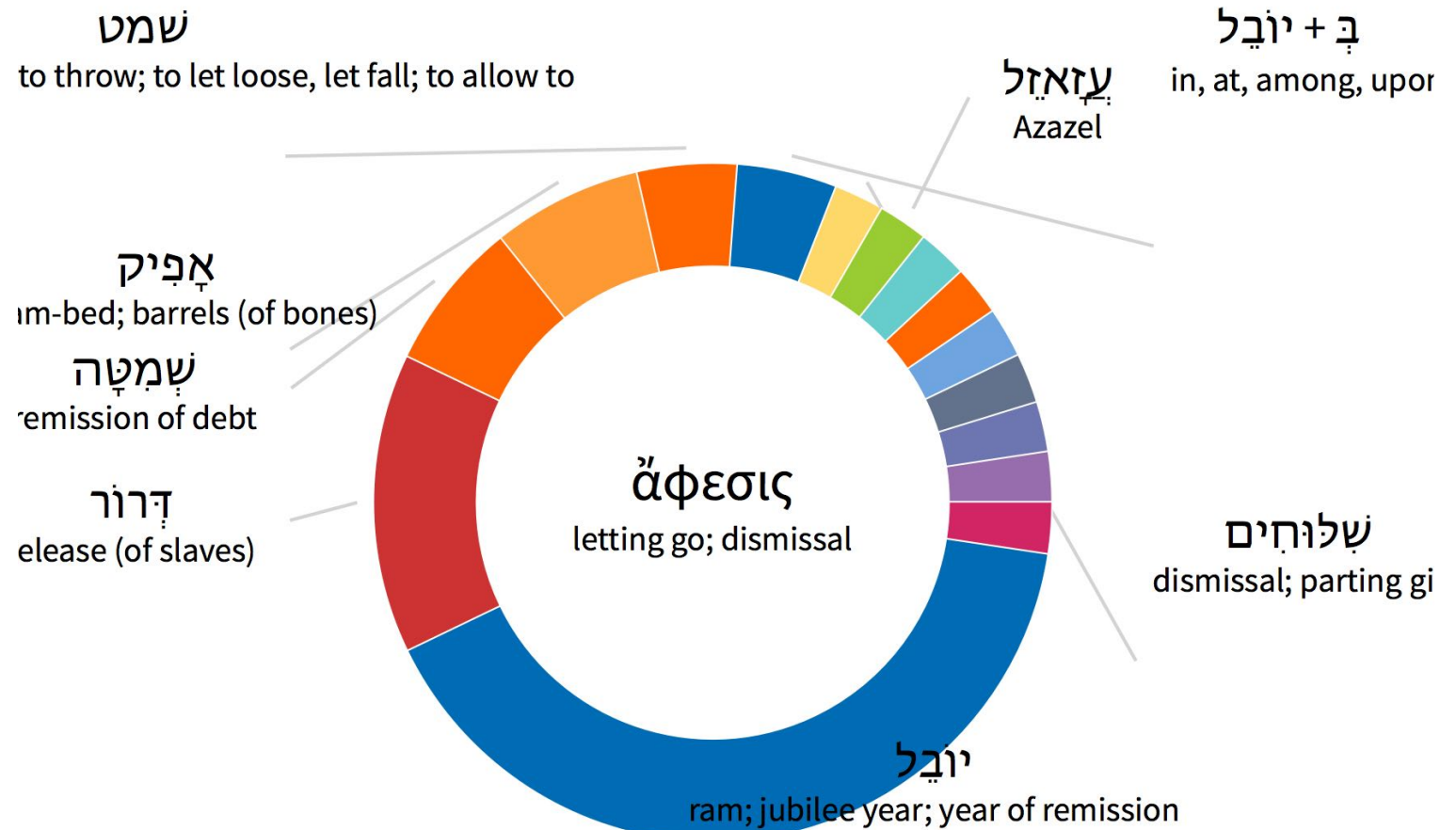
Luke  
9:30-31

# The Cross

- Yeshua **specifically** chooses Passover as the time to provoke the powers to crucify him.
- Passover/Covenantal meal with heavy allusion to Jeremiah 31:31-34
  - Torah on the heart doesn't mean forcing people to keep it...it is teaching Torah kept from the heart
  - Cf. Sermon on the Mount.
- John 12:30-33 – Defeat of the Adversary
- Yeshua as the Passover Lamb – Why? The Passover Lamb was not for forgiveness...

# The Forgiveness of Sins

- Matthew 26:28 – Blood of the Covenant
- Mark 1:4 – Baptism of Repentance
- Mark 2:10 - Authority to forgive sins
- Luke 1:76-77 – Prepare the way for forgiveness of sins
- Acts 5:30-31 – Exalted to the right hand to grant forgiveness of sins
- Hebrews 9:22 – Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins







# Messianic Fulfilment

A Kingdom Not of This World Order

# A Prophet Like Moses

- Evil king trying to kill all male children
- Baptism in river Jordan (cf. crossing the Red Sea)
- 40 days of temptation
- Sermon on the Mount
- Transforming water into wine like Moses transforming water into blood
- Comes down from the mount of transfiguration to find faithless disciples.
- More?

# Kingdom Parables

- Shifting the perspective
  - What it looks like when God is king.
- **The Sower** (Matt 13:3-23) – Not all of Israel will get it. Idolatry!
- **Wheat and the Tares** (Mt 13:24-30) – Leave the tares alone!!!
- **Mustard seed and hidden leaven** (Mt 13:31-33) – starts very small, grows huge
- **The king and the unforgiving servant** (Mt 18:23-35)
- **The vinedressers** (Matt 21:33-46) – vineyard producing fruit but the vinedressers are keeping it to themselves!
- **The pearl of great price** (Matt 13:45-46) – You have to be all in!

# Divine Warrior

- Freeing Israel from the power of idolatry
  - Cf. Matt. 13 accusation of idolatry
  - Isaiah 65:3, 11 LXX – Idols are now “demons”
- Luke 11:20 – Demons cast out means receiving the kingdom
- Casting out Legion into pigs that then go over a cliff into water
- Healing physical effects of idolatry (including death)
- Battling social stigma for women, sinners, tax collectors, and others
- Touching the unclean
- Battling the storm

## Not of this World Order

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Yeshua, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

Yeshua answered, “**My kingdom is not from this kosmos**. If my kingdom were from this kosmos, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.”

John 18:33, 36

[The mother of the sons of Zebedee asks her sons be granted position]

Yeshua called them to him and said, “**You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you;** but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Matthew  
20:25-28

# Love and Forgiveness

It was a way of love of enemies instead of their destruction, a way of unconditional forgiveness instead of retaliation, a way of readiness to suffer instead of using force, a way of blessing for peacemakers instead of hymns of hate and revenge.

— Hans Kung (from Goheen's *The Story of the Bible*)

# Restoring the Image of God

For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. **For to this you have been called, because Messiah also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps...When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly.**



He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, **If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.** For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.

Mark  
8:34-35

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven,  
proclaiming,

“Now have come the salvation and the  
power and the kingdom of our God and the  
authority of his Messiah, for the accuser of  
our comrades has been thrown down, who  
accuses them day and night before our God.

**But they have conquered him by the blood  
of the Lamb and by the word of their  
testimony, for they did not cling to life even  
in the face of death.**

Revelation  
12:10-11

# Israel's Vocation Restored

- Isaiah 42:6, 49:6, 51:4, 60:3 – A light to the nations
  - John 12:35-36
  - Matt 5:14 – Light of the world
  - Acts 13:42-48 – Vocation underway
  - Ephesians 5:8-9
  - Philippians 2:15
  - Revelation 21:24 – Nations walk in the light.
- Gen 12:3



# Summary

What Does This Mean Today?

# Summary

- Are we circling the wrong city?
  - New Jerusalem, a city of light.
  - Isaiah 49:6 – a light to the nations
- If God wiped out all the wicked people, would we honestly be better replacements to run His world?
  - God doesn't make us perfect magically, He empowers us to grow into His image through His Spirit.
- Love our Jewish brothers, but don't look to them for messianic criterion.



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