

THE CRUCIFIXION



Part 4:
"In Accordance with the
Scriptures:" The Old
Testament and the Gospels

OPENING DISCUSSION

- We are half way through the course.
- What have you been learning about the crucifixion of Jesus?
- What new insights have you gleaned?
- What questions still remain?



THE BIBLICAL PARADIGM

- The goal: Renewed human vocation in the image of God within God's new creation
- The problem: Idolatry, leading to human slavery to Sin and Death and the brokenness of God's good Creation
- The solution: The Messiah, the representative of Israel, which was the representative of humanity, enters into the depth of the human condition to deliver humanity and Creation from slavery to Sin and Death so that their vocation can be renewed



IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCRIPTURES

- The story of the Bible is the story of how the Creator God rescues his people from slavery to Sin and Death so that they might be renewed in his image and reengage their vocation as a royal priesthood
- The story of the Bible is the story of God's covenant to bring this rescue plan to reality through Israel and through Israel's ultimate representative and King



IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCRIPTURES

- When we give our worship and allegiance to the crucified King, we are released from slavery to Sin and Death—the powers he defeated on the cross and in the resurrection
- We begin to become the people we were created to be—both now and in the future



"Then Jesus said to them, 'You foolish people! Your dull minds keep you from believing all that the prophets talked about. Wasn't it necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then he interpreted for them the things written about himself in all the scriptures, starting with Moses and going through the Prophets."

Luke 24:25-27



“Jesus said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the Law from Moses to the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures.”

Luke 24:44-45



THE “SCRIPTURES”

- The Scriptures to which Jesus refers are the books of the Torah and the Prophets (known to us as the “Old Testament”)
- The New Testament writers understood the death and resurrection of Jesus through the lens of the Old Testament, and vice versa



HOW DID JESUS UNDERSTAND HIS OWN DEATH AND RESURRECTION?

- Israel’s representative
- Humanity’s representative
- God’s representative
- It is in Jesus, fully human and divine, that God’s ultimate rescue plan comes to fulfillment for the sake of humanity and creation



THE STORY OF ISRAEL

- Abraham
- Moses
- David
- The Prophets
- The Messiah



ADAM

- A failure of vocation: idolatry
- Enslavement to Sin and Death
- Expulsion and exile from the Garden and the Tree of Life



GENESIS 4-11

- Humanity enslaved to Sin, Evil, and Death
- "The Lord saw that humanity had become thoroughly evil on the earth and that every idea their minds thought up was always completely evil" (Genesis 6:5)
- Noah - rebooting the project, starting over
- Genesis 11 - Babel - "Let us make a name for ourselves"



ABRAHAM

- A new "Adam" with a renewed vocation (Genesis 12:1-3)
- "All the families of the earth will be blessed because of you."
- Covenant: People and Land



ABRAHAM AND COVENANT

- People: A new representative family, renewal of vocation
- Land: A new Eden - the people of God dwelling in the place of God in the presence of God
- As representative people, however, Abraham's family will be enslaved (Genesis 15:13-16), then God will "punish the nation they serve" and they will leave it "with great wealth"



JOSEPH STORY

- A typology of slavery
- Forgiveness - release from servitude
- Genesis 50:20 - God overturns intention of evil and saves his people



EXODUS

- 1:7 - fulfilling creational mandate
- God's representative nation enslaved in Egypt
- God chooses a deliverer - Moses
- God fights the false gods of Egypt, including the enslaving power of Pharaoh - plagues
- Last plague - death of the first born



PASSOVER - RITUAL OF FREEDOM

- Slavery and redemption rehearsed in detail
- Perpetual ritual, looking backward and forward
- Those who participate become part of the story
- Two key themes:
 - Rescue from death
 - Deliverance from slavery



THE PASSOVER LAMB

- Not an offering for sin, but God's ordained means of preserving people from death
- Blood = life
- Blood shed so that Israel's life blood would be preserved



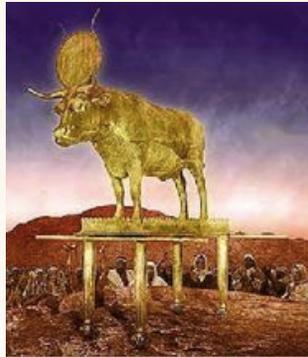
THE EXODUS

- Deliverance from slavery through the sea
- Into the desert, where God forms a covenant people around the Law (setting their vocation) - "a royal priesthood" (Exodus 19)
- Promised Land - new Eden, new creation
- God dwells with his people in tabernacle - a microcosm of Creation story



THE PROBLEM: GETTING EGYPT OUT OF ISRAEL

- Though free from slavery, people long to return to the familiar bonds
- Misplaced worship leads to wandering/exile
- Law becomes a burden because it defines the slavery of sin—challenges their identity



ENTERING THE LAND

- Persistence of idolatry
- Judges 21:25 - "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in their own eyes."
- Prophets, Priests, and Kings



THE TEMPLE

- God's dwelling with God's people
- Maintained by priests
- A representative of Eden - where heaven and earth meet
- Place of sacrifice and atonement for sins



ATONEMENT AND SACRIFICE

- Sacrificial system reminds us that sin costs something
- The life of the sacrificed animal in the shedding of blood represents this payment (Hebrews 9:22)
- Blood - sprinkled on the altar to make atonement for the people's uncleanness
- But the sacrificial system was inadequate because it did not release the person from slavery to Sin - sacrifice had to be made again and again
- Temple sacrifices pointed to a much greater one that was needed



THE MONARCHY - A PROTOTYPE OF REPRESENTATIVE LEADERSHIP

- God's promise to David - to build him a dynasty (2 Samuel 7)
- One of David's offspring will sit on the throne forever
- King as Israel's true representative



EXILE

- Israel continues to be enslaved to idolatry, which leads to literal slavery and exile under foreign powers
- God's glory departs the Temple (Ezekiel)
- Israel exiled to Babylon for 70 years
- Daniel's prophesy - 70 x 70 years (490 years)
- Israel exiled due to sins
- Return from exile = forgiveness of sins



THE MESSIAH

- Prophets - looking for David's true descendant and Israel's true King
- Representative of Israel (but not a divine figure)
- Isaiah 40-55 - The Suffering Servant - Israel's redemption accomplished through the suffering of her representative



LOOKING FOR A NEW EXODUS AND NEW CREATION

- Return from exile
- Freedom from slavery and foreign oppression
- Forgiveness of sins
- God's initiative (Isaiah 57:10)



THE BOTTOM LINE

- Israel's story is representative of the whole human race
- It is through Israel that God seeks to redeem the whole world bound in slavery to Sin and Death
- It is through Israel's true representative and King that God's redemption will be accomplished
- But it will be accomplished through suffering



WHY DOESN'T GOD JUST FORGIVE SIN AND BE DONE WITH IT?

- Question dismisses the depth of the problem - slavery requires redemption, which comes at a steep price
- The enslaving powers of Sin and Death must be defeated, not merely circumvented or appeased
- It will take a new Exodus and new Passover to set people free
- They must be taken on by one who is not enslaved to Sin and Death, but who freely identifies with slaves to set them free.



THE GOSPELS

THE GOSPELS

- The writers read this story through the lens of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, without which there is no story!
- The writers see Jesus as the representative and fulfillment of Israel's representative mission, but also as God's representative—to do for Israel and the world what we could not do for ourselves
- Namely, to take on the enslaving powers through his own sacrificial suffering and death on our behalf



GOSPEL MOTIFS

- Matthew - A "Jewish" Gospel - portrays Jesus as the new Moses, leading people to freedom and the new Promised Land of God's Kingdom
- Mark - Gentile audience - Jesus as triumphant victor over the forces of Evil
- Luke - Revelation of the plan of God to bring peace and justice to the world through Christ and how God continues that mission through his disciples
- John - Jesus as Word become Flesh, who gives life and enables us to be God's children



MESSIANIC MISSION STATEMENTS

- Matthew 4:17
- Mark 1:14-15
- Luke 4:18-19
- John 10:10



THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS

- Training disciples in the way of the kingdom of God
- Reengaging vocation as stewards of God's creation - a royal priesthood
- Predictions of death - ransom, redemption, taking on the powers
- Challenging false conceptions of God's redemptive plan
- Proclaiming "forgiveness of sins" - return from exile



HEALING AND EXORCISMS

- Setting people free from slavery to Evil, Sin, and Death
- Signs of what happens when sins are forgiven - new life and vocation made possible
- Points to the promise of new creation and resurrection



THE PASSION NARRATIVES

- Putting Jesus' death in perspective
- Identifies with the depth of human slavery to Sin and Death
- Gathers up all the Old Testament motifs
- New Exodus and New Passover



NOT A "THEORY" OF ATONEMENT

- To understand his death, Jesus did not give his disciples a theory—he gave them a meal
- Ritual enacting the new Exodus and new Passover accomplished in his death
- A new covenant in his blood - given for the life of the world
- Once for all sacrifice to set people free
- "Do this" - enacting the Eucharist points to past, present, and future - a meal reminding us we have been set free



RESURRECTION

- The ultimate defeat of the forces of Sin and Death
- The beginning of God's new creation
- Prototype of our future in Christ
- Release from slavery - invitation to live in the Promised Land of God's new Creation



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QUESTIONS?
