

Sabbath Brothers

Apostolic Fathers

“Apostolic” emphasizes the direct engagement with the Apostles of Jesus which equates to Spiritual Authority & Religious Succession

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>GENRE OF LITERATURE</u>
Didache	c. 100	Syria	Church Order
Barnabas	97/135?	Alexandria(?)	Letter-treatise
1 Clement	96?	Rome	Letter-treatise
2 Clement	100/150	Corinth(?)	Sermon
Hermas	100–155	Rome	Apocalypse
Ignatius	d. c. 117	Antioch of Syria	Letters
Polycarp	115/135	Smyrna	Letter(s)
Papias	c. 130	Hierapolis	Explanations

Early Church Apologists

“Apologists” Defend Beliefs That Are Being Examined & Questioned

<u>Names</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Emperors</u>
(1) Those known by fragments: - Quadratus, Preaching of Peter, and Aristo of Pella - Miltiades, Apollinaris of Hierapolis, and Melito of Sardis		Hadrian (117–38) Marcus Aurelius (161–80)
(2) Epistle to Diognetus		Date uncertain
(3) Aristides	Athens	Hadrian or Antoninus Pius (138–61)
(4) Justin Martyr	Rome	Antoninus Pius and Marcus Aurelius
(5) Tatian	Syria	Marcus Aurelius
(6) Athenagoras	Athens	Marcus Aurelius
(7) Theophilus	Antioch	Commodus (180–92)
(8) Minucius Felix Carthage?		Between Marcus Aurelius and Septimius Severus (193–211)

Early Secular Historians Who Documented Jesus

Flavius Josephus (c. 37–100 AD)

- A Jewish historian who wrote *Antiquities of the Jews* (~93–94 AD).
- Testimonium Flavianum (Book 18, Chapter 3):
 - Mentions Jesus as a wise teacher who was crucified by Pontius Pilate.
- Though some scholars debate whether portions were later modified by Christian scribes, a core reference to Jesus is widely accepted.
- Also mentions James, “*the brother of Jesus, who was called Christ*” (Book 20, Chapter 9).

Tacitus (c. 56–120 AD)

- A Roman historian who wrote *Annals* (~116 AD).
- Refers to “*Christus*” (Christ), who was executed under Pontius Pilate during the reign of Emperor Tiberius.
- Describes Nero blaming Christians for the Great Fire of Rome in 64 AD, confirming the existence of early Christian communities.

Pliny the Younger (c. 61–113 AD)

- A Roman governor who wrote to Emperor Trajan (~111 AD).
- Describes early Christians worshipping Christ as a god and refusing to worship Roman gods.

Suetonius (c. 69–122 AD)

- A Roman historian who wrote *Lives of the Twelve Caesars* (~121 AD).
- Mentions that Emperor Claudius expelled Jews from Rome due to disturbances “*caused by Chrestus*,” likely a reference to Jesus or early Christians.

Lucian of Samosata (c. 125–180 AD)

- A Greek satirist who mocked early Christians for worshipping a crucified man, referring indirectly to Jesus.

Mara bar Serapion (late 1st–3rd century AD)

- A Syrian philosopher who mentions the execution of a “*wise king*” of the Jews, often interpreted as a reference to Jesus.

Accounts of Martyrdom

<u>Documents</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
Letters of Churches		
Martyrdom of Polycarp	156?	Smyrna
Letter of the Churches of Vienne and Lyons	177	Lyons
Passions		
Martyrdom of Ptolemy and Lucius (in Justin, 2 Apology)	c. 150–60	Rome
Passion of Perpetua and Felicitas	203	Carthage
Acts		
Acts of Justin and his Companions	167	Rome
Acts of the Pergamene Saints	c. 165–70	Pergamum
Acts of the Martyrs of Scilli	180	Carthage
Acts of Apollonius	c. 184	Rome

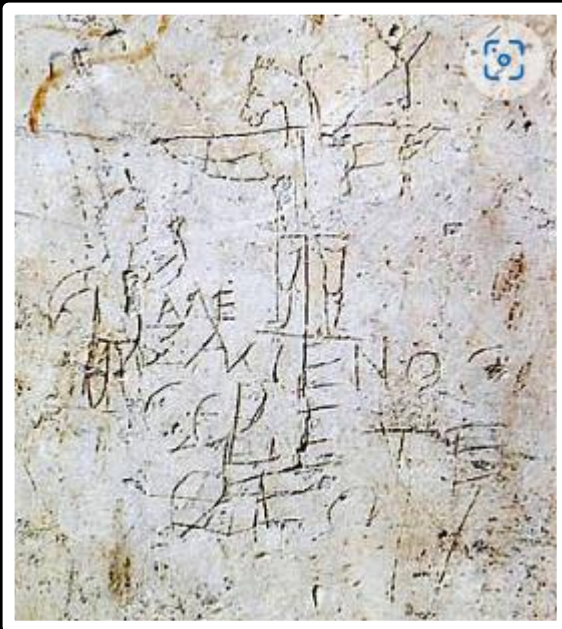
Early Authentic Accounts of 2nd Century Martyrdom in Three Literary Forms:

- “Letters” by churches that describe the accompanying events and the martyrdoms of those in their number,
- “Passions” that narrate the last days and death of the martyrs
- “Acts” that recount their trials before the authorities.

Matthew 27:54
Mark 15:39
Luke 23:47

Earliest Known Depiction of Christ

(*Alexamenos Graffiti*)



The earliest known depiction of Christ comes from Roman graffiti (circa 200AD) scratched in plaster on the wall of a room near the Palatine Hill in Rome, Italy

The graffiti mocks an early Christian ("Alexamenos") for worshipping Christ while depicting Christ with the head of a donkey



The Greek inscription states "*Alexamenos worships God*"

"*Alexamenos*" possibly represents a young Roman soldier raising his hand in a salute or worship

This graffiti demonstrates that the earliest Christians believed that Jesus was God...and they were publicly mocked for it

At the archeological site, in the next chamber, another inscription in different handwriting reads "*Alexamenos fidelis*" which is Latin for "*Alexamenos the faithful*"

Time to Read Scripture

(76 Hours 13 Minutes)

Old Testament 57.65 Hours*

New Testament 18.57 Hours**

Estimated Time to Read	
The Law/Pentateuch/Torah	13.5 Hours
1. Genesis	3.5 Hours
2. Exodus	3 Hours
3. Leviticus	2 Hours
4. Numbers	3 Hours
5. Deuteronomy	2.5 Hours

Estimated Time to Read	
The Books of History	18.67 Hours
6. Joshua	1.75 Hours
7. Judges	1.75 Hours
8. Ruth	15 Minutes
9. 1 Samuel	2.25 Hours
10. 2 Samuel	1.75 Hours
11. 1 Kings	2 Hours
12. 2 Kings	2.25 Hours
13. 1 Chronicles	2 Hours
14. 2 Chronicles	2.5 Hours
15. Ezra	40 Minutes
16. Nehemiah	1 Hour
17. Esther	30 Minutes

Estimated Time to Read	
The Books of Poetry	9.33 Hours
18. Job	1.75 Hours
19. Psalms	5 Hours
20. Proverbs	1.75 Hours
21. Ecclesiastes	30 Minutes
22. Song of Solomon	20 Minutes

Estimated Time to Read	
The Major Prophets	13.08 Hours
23. Isaiah	3.75 Hours
24. Jeremiah	4 Hours
25. Lamentations	20 Minutes
26. Ezekiel	3.75 Hours
27. Daniel	1.25 Hours

Estimated Time to Read	
The Minor Prophets	3.07 Hours
28. Hosea	30 Minutes
29. Joel	12 Minutes
30. Amos	25 Minutes
31. Obadiah	4 Minutes
32. Jonah	8 Minutes
33. Micah	20 Minutes
34. Nahum	8 Minutes
35. Habakkuk	9 Minutes
36. Zephaniah	10 Minutes
37. Haggai	7 Minutes
38. Zechariah	40 Minutes
39. Malachi	11 Minutes

Estimated Time to Read	
The Gospels	8.5 Hours
40. Matthew	2.5 Hours
41. Mark	1.5 Hours
42. Luke	2.5 Hours
43. John	2 Hours

Estimated Time to Read	
Establishment of the Church	2.25 Hours
44. Acts	2.25 Hours

Estimated Time to Read	
Paul's Public Epistles	4.1 Hours
45. Romans	1 Hour
46. 1 Corinthians	1 Hour
47. 2 Corinthians	40 Minutes
48. Galatians	20 Minutes
49. Ephesians	20 Minutes
50. Philippians	14 Minutes
51. Colossians	13 Minutes
52. 1 Thessalonians	12 Minutes
53. 2 Thessalonians	7 Minutes

Estimated Time to Read	
Paul's Private/Pastoral Epistles	34 Minutes
54. 1 Timothy	16 Minutes
55. 2 Timothy	11 Minutes
56. Titus	7 Minutes

Estimated Time to Read	
General Epistles	1.9 Hours
57. Philemon	3 Minutes
58. Hebrews	45 Minutes
59. James	16 Minutes
60. 1 Peter	16 Minutes
61. 2 Peter	10 Minutes
62. 1 John	16 Minutes
63. 2 John	2 Minutes
64. 3 John	2 Minutes
65. Jude	4 Minutes

Estimated Time to Read	
End Times Prophecy	1.25 Hours
66. Revelation	1.25 Hours

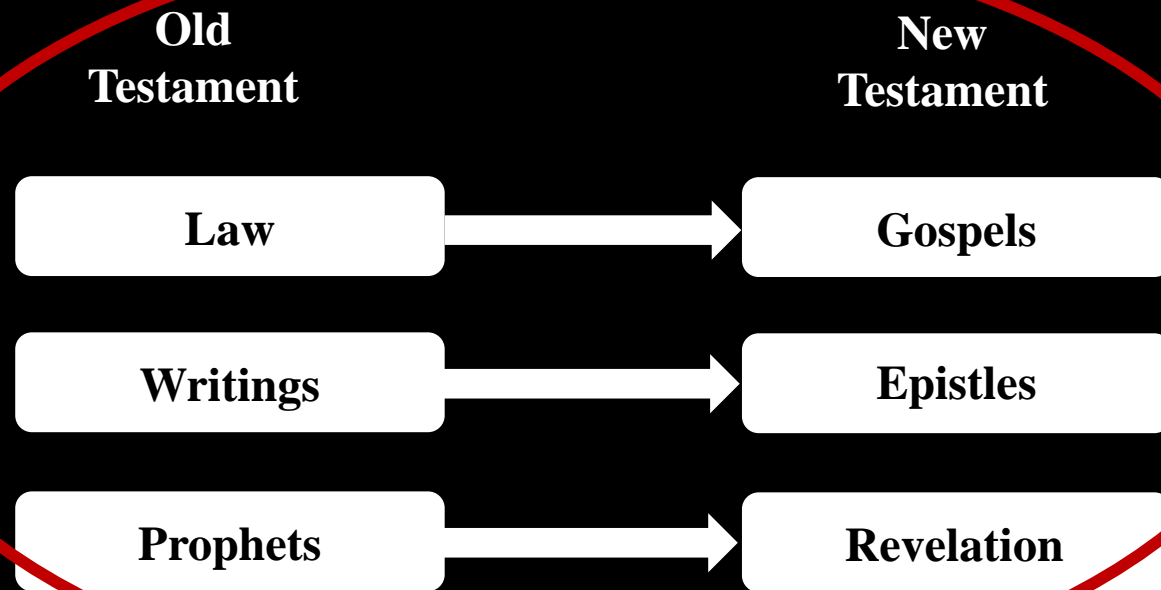
*Old Testament 57 Hours 39 Minutes

**New Testament 18 Hours 34 Minutes

New Testament (JEREMIAH 31:31-34) → New Covenant

“The New Testament is in the Old Testament Concealed/Contained”

“The Old Testament is in the New Testament Revealed/Explained”



The Old Testament time period lasted until the coming of John the Baptist (Luke 16:16)

Matthew quotes more from Old Testament than all other Gospels combined.

- Matthew: 37 to 100 A.D.
- Mark: 40 to 73 A.D.
- Luke: 50 to 100 A.D.
- John: 65 to 100 A.D.

Matthew
Mark
Luke

Synoptic
“see together”



I
CAN DO
ALL THINGS
THROUGH
Christ
WHO
STRENGTHENS
ME
PHILIPPIANS 4:13



English Bible Translations

7th Century

Venerable Bede

Aldhelm

Toward the end of the seventh century, the Venerable Bede began a translation of Scripture into Old English (also called Anglo-Saxon).

Aldhelm (AD 640–709), likewise, translated the complete Book of Psalms and large portions of other scriptures into Old English.

English Bible Translations

7th Century

Venerable Bede
Aldhelm

1000AD

Abbot Ælfric

In the 11th century, Abbot
Ælfric (Aelfric of
Abingdon/Aelfric of Wessex)
translated much of the Old
Testament into Old English.

English Bible Translations

7th Century

Venerable Bede
Aldhelm

1000AD

Abbot Ælfric

1384 AD

John Wycliff

Wycliff's English Translation from Latin to English was the chief cause of the Lollard movement - a pre-Reformation movement that rejected many of the distinctive teachings of the Roman Catholic Church

English Bible Translations

7th Century

Venerable Bede
Aldhelm

William Tyndale made the first English Translation from Greek.

1000AD

Abbot Ælfric

Tyndale did not have copies of "original" Hebrew texts. In fact, the quality of the Hebrew documents was poor, since no original Hebrew sources earlier than the 10th century had survived.

1384 AD

John Wycliff

For the New Testament, he was able to use recent scholarly editions of the Greek text. He did not hesitate to consult the Vulgate and other translations, e.g., into German. Tyndale may be considered the father of the King James Version (KJV) since much of his work was transferred to the KJV.

1530 AD

William Tyndale

English Bible Translations

7th Century

Venerable Bede
Aldhelm

The Great Bible (named because of its large size) was the first authorized edition of the Bible in English

1539 AD

The Cromwell, Cranmer,
or Great Bible

1000AD

Abbot Ælfric

It was authorized by King Henry VIII of England to be read aloud in the church services of the Church of England.

1384 AD

John Wycliff

The Great Bible was prepared by Myles Coverdale, working under commission of Sir Thomas Cromwell. It includes, with very slight revision, the New Testament and the Old Testament portions that had been translated by William Tyndale.

1530 AD

William Tyndale

English Bible Translations

7th Century

Venerable Bede
Aldhelm

1000AD

Abbot Ælfric

1384 AD

John Wycliff

1530 AD

William Tyndale

The Geneva Bible is notable for being the first Bible divided into verses.

Authored by English Protestant leaders who fled Queen Mary I (Roman Catholic)

Established an English-speaking Protestant colony at Geneva.

1539 AD

The Cromwell, Cranmer, or Great Bible

1560 AD

Geneva Bible

English Bible Translations

7th Century

Venerable Bede
Aldhelm

1000 AD

Abbot Ælfric

1384 AD

John Wycliff

1530 AD

William Tyndale

Different editions of the King James Version were produced in 1611, 1629, 1638, 1762, and 1769 (the 1769 edition being the most commonly cited as the King James Version).

The New Testament was translated from the Textus Receptus (Received Text) edition of the Greek texts, so called because most extant texts of the time were in agreement with it.

The Old Testament was translated from the Masoretic Hebrew text.

1539 AD

The Cromwell, Cranmer, or Great Bible

1560 AD

Geneva Bible

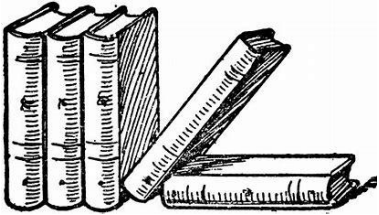
1611 AD

King James Version

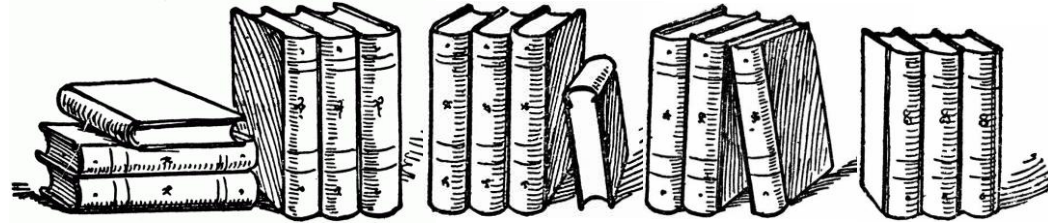
3 PART TESTAMENT STRUCTURES

OLD TESTAMENT

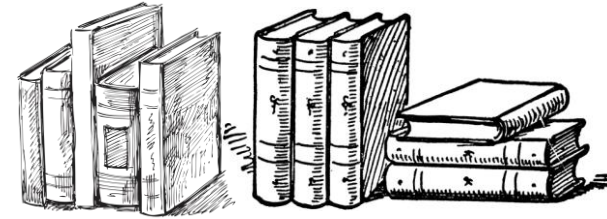
Torah/Pentateuch



History/Poetry



Prophets



(Israel)

Foundation

FOUNDACTION

God's People

GOD'S PEOPLE

Prophetical

PROPHETICAL

(Church)



Gospels



Epistles



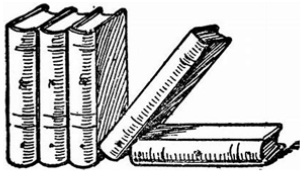
Revelation

NEW TESTAMENT

THE "HOPE" OF GOD'S PEOPLE

OLD TESTAMENT

Torah/Pentateuch



History/Poetry



Prophets



AWAITING
THE MESSIAH
THE 1ST
INCARNATION
OF JESUS

Foundation
FOUNDACTION

(Israel)

God's People

ГОДЪСЪ ЛЮДЕ

Prophetical
ПРОФЕТИСА

(Church)



Gospels



Epistles



Revelation

AWAITING
THE MESSIAH
THE 2ND
COMING OF
JESUS

NEW TESTAMENT

New Testament (JEREMIAH 31:31-34) New Covenant

“The New Testament is in the Old Testament Concealed/Contained”

“The Old Testament is in the New Testament Revealed/Explained”

**Follows Order of Throne of God in Isaiah 6, Ezekiel 1:4-10, 10:14, Rev 4:6-7
(as well as Layout for Tribes in Numbers 2)**

Gospel	Audience	View of Christ	Symbol	Example
Matthew	Jew Reference of OT	What He Said	Messiah (Lion) Zechariah 9:9	- Genealogy through Royal Line (Descending) - Sin Offering
Mark	Gentile/Roman Haste/Action	What He Did	Servant (Ox) Isaiah 42:1	- No Genealogy - Trespass Offering – affects/deeds
Luke	Gentile/Greek Philosophical	What He Felt	Son of Man (Man) Zechariah 6:12	- Genealogy through Blood Line (Ascending) - Peace Offering
John	Church	Who He Was	Son of God (Eagle) Isaiah 40:9	- Genealogy of Pre-existent One - Burnt Offering - Dedication

**Matthew
Mark
Luke**

**Synoptic
“see together”**

**Matthew's Forty Person Genealogy before Christ is a continuation of Genesis 10-11
(Matthew 1:2-16)**

1.	Abraham	"Father of many nations"
2.	Isaac	"To Laugh"
3.	Jacob	"Take by the heel, Supplant"
4.	Judah	"Praise God"
5.	Perez	"Breach, Break Through"
6.	Hezron	"Surrounded by a Wall"
7.	Aram	"Palace, Citadel"
8.	Aminadab	"One of the Prince's People"
9.	Nahshon	"Diviner, Enchanter"
10.	Salmon	"Covering, Garment"
11.	Boaz	"By Strength"
12.	Obed	"Work, Serve"
13.	Jesse	"Gift"
14.	David	
15.	Solomon	
16.	Rehoboam	
17.	Abijah	
18.	Asa	
19.	Jehoshaphat	
20.	Joram	
21.	Uzziah	
22.	Jotham	
23.	Ahaz	"Possessor"
24.	Hezekiah	"God Strengthens"
25.	Manasseh	"Causing to Forget"
26.	Amon	"The Hidden One"
27.	Josiah	"God Supports"
28.	Jecooniah	"Whom God Establishes"
29.	Salathiel	"I Have Asked of God"
30.	Zerubbabel	"Born at Babel"
31.	Abiud	"Father of Praise"
32.	Eliakim	"God Rises"
33.	Azor	"A Helper"
34.	Zadok	"Righteous"
35.	Achim	"He will Establish"
36.	Eliud	"God is Grandeur"
37.	Eleazar	"My God has Helped"
38.	Matthan	"Gift"
39.	Jacob	"Supplanter, Usurper"
40.	Joseph	"He will Add"

**Matthew
("Gift from God")**

*The Father of many nations
joyfully
takes by the heel and displaces.
Praise God
as He penetrates
the confinement
of the stronghold,
for one of the royal subjects
who is a spiritual one
to cover
with strength
and serve
in the gift
of His beloved
peace.
As He enlarges His people
with Him as the Father
And healer
God has judged
And exalted
by His power
and righteousness.
God is the possessor
Who strengthens
and causes to forget
the buried one
As God supports
Who He establishes
His people have asked
Although they were born in this world
that the Father of Praise
would rise
and help
the righteous
that He establishes
in His grandeur.
God has helped
with a gift
to supplant
and He will continue to add*

Jesus Christ

Forty represents a time of testing (as Israel waited for the Messiah),
and after the testing, Jesus Christ was born.

- **Matthew's genealogy is a continuation of an earlier genealogy found in Genesis 10-11. This can be compared to Mary's genealogy (Luke 3) and the Divine genealogy (John 1).**
- **Five women are listed in Matthew's genealogy; four of the women of "questionable" character:**
 - **Tamar**
(acted as prostitute – Genesis 38);
 - **Rahab**
(owner of brothel – Judges 2);
 - **Ruth**
(Moabite – Ruth 1);
 - **Uriah's Wife**
(Bathsheba's adultery – 2 Sam 11).
 - **The fifth woman, Mary**
(a faithful virgin)
- **Jecooniah was cut off from the King's genealogy (Jeremiah 22:28-30), Mary's genealogy though King David conveyed Jesus' rights (Num 27, 36; Joshua 17; Luke 3:23-38).**

Hanukkah

The Festival of Lights (Hanukkah/Chanukah), means "dedication" & commemorates the victory of a small group of Jewish rebels (led by Judah Maccabee) over the armies of Syria in 165 B.C.

In rededicating the Temple, a single day of oil burned in the menorah for eight days while pure, ritual oil was retrieved.

For centuries, Latke has been eaten at Hanukkah to celebrate the miracle of the lasting provision of oil...

Latke

Poor people could always find a potato. The oil came from the goose & "foie gras" industry where geese were slaughtered every December (around Christmas time).

The Jews would store the goose oil to be used all year which meant that they would have an abundance of oil at Hanukkah.



An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in dreams three times (Matthew 1:20; 2:13; 2:19)

Announcement to Joseph (Matthew 1:18-25)

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹ Then **Joseph her husband, being a just man**, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

²⁰ But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is **conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.**

²¹ And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

²² So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying:

²³ "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name **Immanuel,**" which is translated, "**God with us.**"

²⁴ Then **Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded** him and took to him his wife,

²⁵ and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.



IMMANUEL
↙ "God Is With Us"

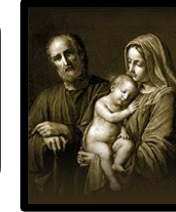


The Holy Spirit is engaged in the act of new life (Genesis 1:2).

God did not reveal His plan before Joseph endured the testing of the difficulty.

Joseph may have been older than Mary in that he is not mentioned during the adulthood of Jesus.

Joseph demonstrated mercy and chose to divorce Mary secretly before ever knowing how she had gotten pregnant (Deuteronomy 24:1).



Joseph was counted as righteous and did not punish Mary for pregnancy outside of marriage (Deuteronomy 22:20-21).

Jesus had at least six siblings (Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3). Jesus was the first fruit making seven in their family.

In those days, a marriage betrothal was more binding than modern engagement. During the betrothal, they would refer to each other as husband and wife, so it would take a divorce to annul the engagement.

It would have been difficult to initiate a divorce secretly because a divorce included a written declaration in front of 2-3 witnesses.

The Greek term for "righteous" (dikaios δίκαιος) is used in the phrase "the righteous will live by faith" (Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38)

Joseph is the only person in Matthew (other than Jesus) to be called the Son of David emphasizing the royal lineage.

The first use of "Don't be afraid" in the New Testament is in regards to a man (Joseph) getting married.

Seven hundred years before Christ, Isaiah foretold His virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14). Jesus was fully deity and man; the name "Immanuel" means "God with us" (Isaiah 8:8, 10); the book of Matthew concludes with this same thought (Mt 28:20).

Joseph (Matthew 1:18-25)

Joseph is the only person in Matthew (other than Jesus) to be called the “Son of David”

During the time of betrothal, the man would prepare the home for his fiancé. A time frame of a year was set for Jewish couples to ensure that the woman was pure and not pregnant. *“Mary was found to be pregnant...”*

- In those days, a marriage betrothal was more binding than modern engagement. During the betrothal, they would refer to each other as husband and wife, so it would take a divorce to annul the engagement.
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Jesus was fully deity and man; the name “Immanuel” means “God with us” (Isaiah 8:8, 10)

Joseph was directed to name the child “Jesus” which means “God will save” or “Deliverer.” Joseph was told beforehand (one of the first) that Jesus was the Messiah.

“Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
Matthew 28:30

The Account of the Wise Men is only in Matthew

¹ Now after **Jesus was born in Bethlehem** of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, **wise men from the East** came to Jerusalem,

² saying, “Where is He who has been born **King of the Jews**? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”

³ **When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.**

⁴ And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

⁵ So they said to him, “**In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:**

⁶ ‘But you, Bethlehem, *in* the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’ ”

⁷ **Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared.**

⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found *Him*, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.”



The Magi (Matthew 2:1-12)

In the Old Testament, the coming Messiah was said to come from Bethlehem (Micah 5:2), Egypt (Hosea 11:1), Nazareth (Jeremiah 31:15), Jesus met all of these criteria.

Bethlehem was the location where Ruth and Boaz married (Ruth 1:1-2, 19, 22; 2:4; 4:11). David, the great grandson of Ruth and Boaz, would continue to live and shepherd in the fields of Bethlehem (1 Samuel 16:1, 4, 18; 17:12, 15, 58; 20:6)

The term “wise men” were actually “magi” (magoi μάγοι) from Persia in the east (modern day Iran). The men of the east (Babylonians and Persians) were well-versed in astronomy and struggled with astral worship of the heavenlies; these Magi must have been familiar with the ancient text “*A star will come from Jacob, and a scepter will arise from Israel.*” (Numbers 24:17).

These wise men followed either Judaism or Zoroastrianism which have several similar characteristics. There was a large Jewish population in that region from the exiles, and tradition taught that Daniel started this group of “wise men.” The historian Herodotus documented that these men were in the “Median Priest” class that grew out of the Chaldeans.

Herod the Idumean/Edomite had been appointed by Rome as King, so Herod was unnerved by wise men seeking the King of the Jews (Matthew 27:37). Herod the Great is only mentioned in Matthew (not the other Gospels).

The chief priests and scribes under Herod clearly understood Micah’s prophecy (Micah 5:2) to be clear about the location of the Messiah’s birth. Micah was a contemporary of Isaiah seven centuries before Jesus was born. It does not appear that Herod’s chief priests and scribes joined the Magi in seeking the coming king although they understood Scripture foretold His coming.



The Wise Men (Matthew 2:1-2)

“Magi” (magoi μάγοι) from Persia in the east (modern day Iran)

In the Old Testament, the coming Messiah was said to come from:

- Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)
- Egypt (Hosea 11:1)
- Nazareth (Jeremiah 31:15)

“A star will come from Jacob, and a scepter will arise from Israel.”

Numbers 24:17

Jesus is the “Light of the World”

John 8:12; 1 John 1:7

The Only Account of the Wise Men

- Bethlehem means (“House of Bread”)
- Bethlehem was so small that Judah did not even draft soldiers from this town (Micah 5:2).
- Bethlehem was the location where Ruth and Boaz married (Ruth 1:1-2, 19, 22; 2:4; 4:11).
- David, the great grandson of Ruth and Boaz, would continue to live and shepherd in the fields of Bethlehem (1 Samuel 16:1, 4, 18; 17:12, 15, 58; 20:6)

“Those who are wise will shine like the bright expanse of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.” Daniel 12:3

King Herod (Matthew 2:3)

The “Herodian” Line

Herod the Great	Matthew 2:16-18	An Idumean known for his construction and paranoia. He began the construction of the Temple that took 46 years to build; he also massacred infants in Bethlehem.
Herod Archelaus (the Ethnarch)	Matthew 2:13-23	Controlled Judah when Herod the Great died, so Joseph returned from Egypt to Nazareth.
Herod Antipas (the Tetrarch)	Matthew 14:6-10	Ordered John the Baptist to be beheaded
Herod Philip I	Mark 6:17	The husband of Herodias and father of Salome, who left him for his half-brother Herod Antipas.
Herod Philip II	Luke 3:1	He married his younger relative, Salome, whose dance led to John’s beheading.
Herod Agrippa I	Acts 12:21-23	Martyred James, and death as he was eaten by worms in Tyre
Herod Agrippa 2	Acts 25:13	The Trial of Paul who was married to Berenice

- Herod killed the seventy members of the ruling Jewish council and three hundred court officials.
- Power hungry Herod had also killed his beloved wife (Mariamne) and several sons (Antipater, Alexander, Aristobulus) over the power to be “King of the Jews.”

At the crucifixion of Jesus, these would be the exact words over Jesus on the cross as ‘*King of the Jews*’ (John 19:19)

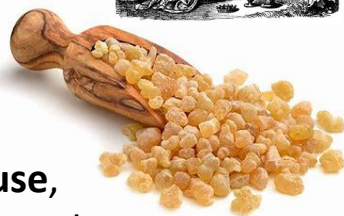
**The Only
Account of
“Herod the
Great”**

The Gifts of the Magi (Matthew 2:9-15)

⁹ When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, **the star which they had seen in the East went before them**, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.



¹⁰ **When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.**



¹¹ And when they had come into **the house**, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and **fell down and worshiped Him**. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: **gold, frankincense, and myrrh.**



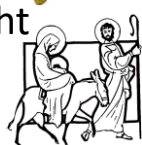
¹² Then, being **divinely warned in a dream** that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.



¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, **an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream**, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."



¹⁴ When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, ¹⁵ and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "**Out of Egypt I called My Son.**"



The wise men did not follow the King's directions to Bethlehem, but instead followed the star once again. The star must have disappeared during the inquiry of Jerusalem, but now the star (symbolizing spiritual enlightenment) was joyfully re-established.

The house (Mt 2:11) could have been in Nazareth (Lk 2:39), but other passages support Joseph had moved his family from Nazareth to Bethlehem (Mt 2:13-16, 22).

The gifts of the wise men were threefold (Isaiah 60:6): 1. Gold (royalty - King) 2. Frankincense (deity - Priest) 3. Myrrh (burial - Prophet). These gifts financially enabled a poor carpenter (Joseph) to flee to Egypt for several years. The Greek word for "child/toddler" is "paidion" (παιδίον) which is used in Mt 2:9.

Frankincense & Myrrh are resins that become aromatic when heated. Frankincense is a white resin extracted from the Boswellia tree while Myrrh resin is reddish-brown and comes from a small thorny tree.

The dreams from God were immediately obeyed by both the wise men as well as Joseph.

1,300 Miles from Bethlehem to Persia



350 miles from Bethlehem to Egypt

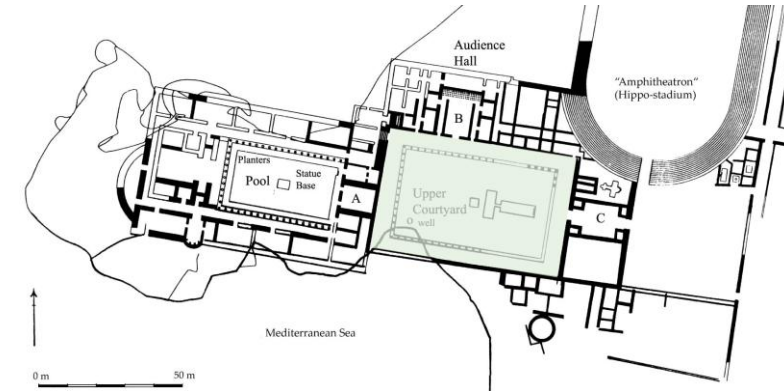


Matthew references Hosea (Hosea 11:1) who was a contemporary of Isaiah. The night often represents the darkness of life when difficulties arise, but the Lord provides escape.

The Wise Men Meet The King (Matthew 2:9-12)

- The house (Mt 2:11) could have been in Nazareth (Lk 2:39), but other passages support the idea that Joseph had moved his family from Nazareth to Bethlehem (Mt 2:13-16, 22).
- The Greek word for “child” is “paidion” (παιδίον) which is the word for toddler instead of baby (brephos βρέφος) or infant (népios νηπίοις)

Herod's Palace in Caesarea



The gifts of the wise men were threefold:

1. Gold (Royalty - King)
2. Frankincense (Deity - Priest)
3. Myrrh (Burial - Prophet)

These gifts financially enabled a poor carpenter (Joseph) to flee to Egypt for several years.



Wise Men will visit the King in the Millennium again...

*“Caravans of camels will cover your land; young camels of Midian and Ephah; all of them will come from Sheba. **They will carry gold and frankincense and proclaim the praises of the LORD.**”*

Isaiah 60:6

Herod Died in the Spring of 4BC

The Return from Egypt (Matthew 2:16-23)

¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.



¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more."



¹⁹ Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰ saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead."

²¹ Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee.



²³ And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."



Herod's slaughter of Jewish baby boys is similar to Pharaoh's cruelty (Ex 1:16). The age shows that the wise men had been following the star for less than two years (Jesus was probably just several months old); two also represents "witness" as in "witness to the atrocity."

Rachel was the mother of two primary tribes (Joseph and Benjamin) that included the city Jerusalem, and Rachel's burial tomb was in Bethlehem (Gen 35:19, 48:7). Ramah was located approximately five miles north of Jerusalem. During the exile of Israel by Assyria, the captives were assembled in Ramah prior to being deported to other lands.

The point of reference in Matthew 2:20 was Jesus' mother as it was infinitely more important than the relationship of being Joseph's wife. Every person is eternally defined by their relationship to Jesus.

Archelaus (a son of Herod and a Samaritan woman) was known to be a tyrant; the complaints against Archelaus resulted in him being deposed in 6AD and banished to Vienne.

The land of Israel west of the Jordan was divided into three provinces:
1. Northern Israel - Galilee 2. Central Israel - Samaria 3. Southern Israel - Judea

Galilee was under the rule of Archelaus' brother, Herod Antipas. After Antipas' involvement in the deaths of John the Baptist and Jesus, Antipas was also banished to Gaul.

In the Old Testament, the Messiah (Jesus) is called the Branch or "Netzer" (Isaiah 11:1, 53:3; Jeremiah 23:5, 33:15; Zechariah 3:8, 6:12).

A "Netzer" relates to being a Nazarene. Jesus was raised in Nazareth and based His ministry in Capernaum; both locations were in the poor Galilee region of Israel while the wealthier upper class lived in the southern region of Judea.

Jesus Raised In Nazareth (Matthew 2:23)

- A “Netzer” is correlated to being a Nazarene.
- Jesus was raised in Nazareth and based His ministry in Capernaum
- Both locations were in the poor Galilee region of Israel while the wealthier upper class lived in the southern region of Judea.

“He humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future, He will bring honor to the Way of the Sea, to the land east of the Jordan, and to Galilee of the nations.” (Isaiah 9:1)

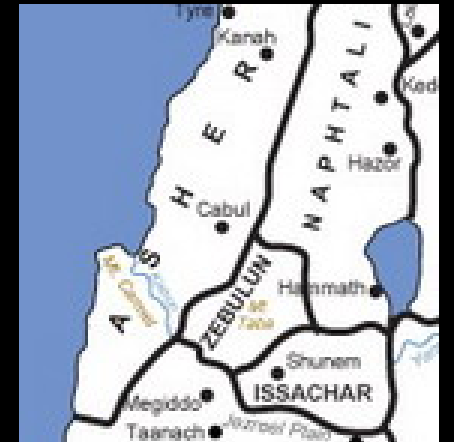
- Zebulun and Naphtali had been the very first tribal allotments exiled by Assyria in 722BC.
- Not only had Micah accurately foretold the birthplace being Bethlehem (Micah 5:2), but Isaiah had also accurately foretold the location of Jesus’ ministry.

In the Old Testament, the Messiah (Jesus) is called the Branch or “Netzer”

Isaiah 11:1, 53:3

Jeremiah 23:5, 33:15

Zechariah 3:8, 6:12



Baptism originated with Jewish ceremonial cleansing (Ex 30:20; Num 19:20-22; Lev 15:13)

The Ministry of John the Baptist (Matthew 3:1-6)

¹ In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,

² and saying, **“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”**

³ For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying:

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.’ ”

⁴ Now John himself was **clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.**

⁵ Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him

⁶ and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.



Israel’s wilderness wandering during the time of the Exodus developed a close walk with the Lord as they relied on His provision and prepared for a new life in the Promised Land.

The covenantal name of “Yahweh” is reflected in the Old Testament by “LORD” being spelled in all capital letters; “LORD” is applied to Jesus in the New Testament to affirm Christ’s deity.

As a camel will store his own water, so the wealthy tend to rely on their own efforts. The garment would not be camel skin, but instead a garment woven from the hair of the camel. The poor would have worn these garments.

The Jordan literally means “out of Dan” as Dan was the northern most tribe, and one that was cursed for having introduced idolatry (1 Kings 12:25-32; 2 Kings 10:29). As the water came out of Dan, so too, were the Israelites repenting and coming out of their old fleshly pursuits as they confessed their sins (Rom 6:4; Eph 4:5; Col 2:12; 1 Peter 3:21).

In Scripture, a “wilderness” often reflects spiritual “dryness” (a land without water or spiritual truths) where the wild beasts (evil spirits – Mark 1:12-13) inhabit freely.

A “Kingdom” requires a “King” to whom His subjects submit; God is the King of believers as they submit and follow His laws while pleasing and praising Him.

A straight path infers one without distractions that enables a more direct route to the destination; the Old Testament reference were the Babylonian exiles returning to the Promised Land (Isaiah 40:3).

Wild honey represented pleasures while locusts represented plague & condemnation; John eradicated worldly pleasures & judgment.

The Book of Matthew was directed primarily towards the Jewish community who refrained from using the term “God”, so the “Kingdom of God” was referenced as the “Kingdom of Heaven.”

Although Jews were expecting an earthly kingdom, the “Kingdom of Heaven” emphasizes the spiritual kingdom of God.

The first word by John the Baptist in scripture is “repent.”

Repentance is more than turning away from sin; it includes turning towards the Lord. Repentance is a change of the mind/heart that is followed by a change of lifestyle.

Leather comes from spilled blood (salvation) as the belt (Eph 6:14; Is 11:5) bound together the covering. The clothing of John the Baptist is an allusion to the clothing of Elijah (2 Kings 1:8).

The Mosaic Law allowed the eating of locusts (Leviticus 11:22).

Jews required proselytes to Judaism to be baptized; the Talmud (collection of writings of civil and religious law) defines this baptism as a total immersion. It may have been embarrassing and humbling for Jews to be baptized because the practice was meant for proselyte Gentiles.

John the Baptist (Matthew 3:3)

“Prepare the way for the Lord; make His paths straight!”

- A “straight path” infers one without distractions and obstacles that enables a more direct route to the destination; the Old Testament reference were the Babylonian exiles returning to the Promised Land (Is 40:3).
- This was also a way of proclaiming a royal visit of the coming King; heralds might walk before the royalty as they shouted to clear the way of his progression (Isaiah 57:14; Malachi 3:1)
- The covenantal name of Yahweh is used in the Old Testament (as shown by the word “LORD” being in all capital letters) while being applied to Jesus in the New Testament to affirm Christ’s deity.



The first word by John the Baptist in scripture is “Repent.”

The Word of God represents the
laver used in cleansing God's people.
(psalm 119:9; Ephesians 5:26)

Cleansing of Religious Leaders (Matthew 3:7-12)

⁷ But when he saw many of the **Pharisees** and **Sadducees** coming to his baptism, he said to them, "**Brood of vipers!** Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"



⁸ Therefore **bear fruits worthy of repentance,**

⁹ and **do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.'** For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.



¹⁰ And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore **every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.**

¹¹ I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but **He who is coming after me is mightier than I,** whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.**



¹² His winnowing fan *is* in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but **He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.**"



As the serpent was the most cunning of creature, this "brood of vipers" represents the religious leaders misleading mankind (Genesis 3:15).



This is the first of three times that the expression "brood of vipers" is used in Matthew's account (Mt 12:34; 23:33; Lk 3:7). The teachings of the religious leaders were deadly and empowered by the "old serpent" Satan. (Genesis 3:1; Revelation 12:9; 20:2)

Many Pharisees and Sadducees came out of curiosity, but there was no sincere repentance in their hearts. These religious leaders followed rituals without a relationship with God. (Deuteronomy 10:12, 16; Romans 2:28-29)

Pharisees ("the separated ones") evolved during the Maccabean period and held to the whole Old Testament law as well as oral conditions (Talmud) of purity.

The Sadducees were powerful aristocrats that primarily held to the Pentateuch and were more focused on ethics than theology. The Sadducees were the elites who controlled the priesthood and the Temple.

The fruit (effects/consequences) of one's life gives insight into one's spiritual walk (Gal 5:22-23; Matthew 7:15-20).

It is thought that John the Baptist baptized where Joshua had crossed the Jordan and made a stone memorial (Joshua 4:3).

The lowest servants would assist with the removal of sandals, carry them to a storage bin, and then wash the feet. Symbolically, this world pollutes the feet with which it interacts more than any other part of the body.

John's warning is to have a first-hand walk with God instead of relying on worldly affiliations (e.g., church, parents, Abraham) to somehow substantiate that relationship. (John 8:33-40)

The Holy Spirit is the refining fire in every Believer that continually convicts of sin and impurities (Exodus 3:2; Ezekiel 22:18-21; Acts 2:1-4; 1 Peter 1:6-7; 1 Corinthians 3:12-15).

The Threshing (Matthew 3:12)

¹² *“His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but **He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.**”*

The sown tare was literally “darnel” which closely resembles wheat as a false Christian might resemble a young believer; let them mature together and God’s judgment will discern between them (Matthew 13:24-30; Luke 3:17).

Wheat (valuable) and tares (valueless) cannot be differentiated until they are fully grown (Matthew 13:24-30). The difference then is that the wheat, heavy with good fruit, bows its head as if in humility. The tare, a lightweight, keeps its head rigidly raised. Humility is the difference between wheat and tares.

The metaphor of the wheat and the chaff involves the grains being crushed by animals pulling a weighted flat sled to separate out the kernels from the husks; the remaining husks would be thrown into the air with the light chaff to be blown away while the heavier grain fell back down. (Luke 3:16-17)

The fire (hell) will be eternal
(Matthew 18:8; 24:41; Mark 9:48; Jude 1:7).



ETERNAL FIRE

Pharisees & Sadducees (Matthew 3:7-12)

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Sadducees

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Baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:13-17)

The Trinity was Active at the Baptism of Jesus

- The Son of God was baptized
- The Spirit of God descended on Him
- God the Father spoke about His delight in His Son.

“Bath Kol” (“Daughter of the Voice”)

Jewish Scribes believed that God would speak at times without physical representation.

Examples include:

- Words of God to Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4:31)
- The Transfiguration (Matthew 17:5; Mark 9:7; Luke 9:35)
- The Garden of Gethsemane (John 12:28)
- The conversion of Paul (Acts 9:4, 22:7, 26:14)
- Instruction to Peter about clean & unclean (Acts 10:13, 15).

Royalty

*“I will declare the Lord’s decree:
He said to Me, ‘You are My Son.’”*

Psalm 2:3

Suffering Servant

*“This is My Servant; I strengthen Him;
this is My Chosen One; I delight in Him.
I have put My Spirit on Him*

Isaiah 42:1

*“There came a voice from heaven:
This is My beloved Son. I take delight in Him!”* Matthew 3:17

Jesus purposefully came to be baptized by His cousin, John

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.

¹⁴ And John *tried* to prevent Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?”

¹⁵ But Jesus answered and said to him, “Permit *it to be so* now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed Him.

¹⁶ When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

¹⁷ And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”



Multiple Accounts of Jesus' Baptism: Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:29-34



John the Baptist (Matthew 3:13-16)

Jesus was raised in Nazareth of Galilee (Matthew 2:23; Mark 1:9), and He was coming to begin a ministry of suffering (Mark 10:38; Luke 12:50).

Upon understanding Who Jesus Christ is, sinful man is motivated to die to self and sin while being born again as a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).

John demonstrates obedience without understanding while Jesus obeyed the Father's will in complete righteousness. The phrase (Mt 3:15) “for us to fulfill” demonstrates that John was invited to join Jesus in the way of righteousness.

The movement of the Spirit begins every ministry of God. God's Spirit was the identifying factor that Jesus would baptize by the Holy Spirit (John 1:33) as He was now anointed with the power of God (Acts 10:38).

After salvation, believers are changed with a desire to follow the example of being baptized (Mt 28:19), not for salvation (Lk 23:42-43), but in obedience.

God the Father declares His love for His Son, Jesus. God declared a similar phrase at the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:5; Mark 9:7; Luke 9:35).

John the Baptist witnessed the Spirit descend on Jesus as He was departing the water (Mark 1:10).

The trinity was active at the baptism of Jesus. The Son of God was baptized; the Spirit of God descended on Him; God the Father spoke about His delight in His Son.



To the Rabbi's the symbol of Israel was a dove, and Jesus symbolized the ideal Israelite. The dove is repeatedly a symbol of the Spirit (Psalms 55:6, 68:13; Jn 1:32-33)

This statement of love affirmed Jesus to those around Him (“This is My Son” – John 1:33-34) as well as encouraging Jesus (“You are My Son” – Mark 1:11; Luke 3:22)

God's statement seems to link a Royal Davidic Psalm (Psalm 2:7) with the Suffering Servant (Isaiah 42:1); Jesus is the Lord and Christ; He is divine and man. (Matthew 17:5)

Man relates to Christ in the baptismal symbolism of dying to one's self and raising again in Christ; the baptism of Jesus relates to the death as a man before overpowering death with life.

Temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4:1-4)

- The Greek word for “Devil” (diabolou διαβόλου) consists of two roots:
 - “Dia” means “through,”
 - “Ballo” means “to throw”
- The concept is to “throw across” as a slanderer; to sling an accusation.

Three Categories of Sin		
<u>1 John 2:16</u>	<u>Temptation</u>	<u>Offense</u>
1. Lust of the Flesh	Stone to Bread (Mt 4:3-4; Lk 4:3-4)	Indulgence
2. Lust of the Eyes	Kingdoms of the World (Mt 4:8-10; 4:5-8)	Position
3. Pride of Life	Influence over Angels (Mt 4:5-6; Lk 4:9-12)	Power

The devil is identified as “the tempter” (Hebrews 2:18, 4:15).

Jesus was tempted in every way, but remained perfect without sin (Hebrews 4:15)

Jesus would quote from Deuteronomy to challenge each of the Devil’s temptations.

The three individuals at the Mt. of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:3) each endured 40 (testing) days .

- Moses was on Mt Sinai 40 days (Exodus 34:28; Deuteronomy 9:9)
- Elijah was in the cave 40 days (1 Kings 19:8).

- The Spirit “drove” Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted (Mark 1:12)
- The Devil that tempted Jesus – not God the Father or the Spirit because they do not tempt anyone (James 1:13).
- The Lord’s prayer asks God not to “lead us into temptation” (Matthew 6:13);

The Devil’s View of Scripture



- **The Devil used Scripture as he understood it to be inspired Truth.**
- **The Devil never argued after Jesus quoted Scripture.**

Temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4:5-11)

Pinnacle of Temple

- The “holy city” was Jerusalem as explicitly stated in Luke’s account (Luke 4:9).
- The Temple had two “wings” (Matthew 4:5; Luke 4:9); the southeastern corner was over 300 feet (~28 stories) above the Kidron Valley.
- James, the brother of Jesus (Matthew 13:55), was thrown to his death (according to Clement and Hegesippus).



“Jesus told him, ‘Go away, Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve only Him.’”

The act of “service” is often related to providing food (Matthew 8:15; 25:44; 27:55; Acts 6:2)



A Very High Mountain

- In Scripture, “mountains” represent earthly authorities and governments.
- This high mountain would be a spiritual location (to see all of the kingdoms of the earth) to tempt Jesus with worldly authority.
- The entire world is under the wicked power of “the evil one.” (Luke 4:6)
- *“We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.”* (1 John 5:19)

Capernaum (Matthew 4:12-17)

- Jesus left Nazareth because of their unbelief. (Luke 4:16-21)
- Jesus ministry was headquartered in Capernaum (“Village of Nahum”) fulfilling prophecy (Gen 49:13, 21).
 - Nahum condemned Nineveh for their downfall one century after Jonah; they had the opportunity to hear follow the one, true God, but they had not.
 - Nahum’s judgment on Nineveh was similar to Jesus’ condemnation of Israel.
 - Both Nineveh and Israel fell ~40 years of these condemning sermons.
- Jesus left Nazareth because of their unbelief. (Luke 4:16-21)
- Zebulun (Genesis 49:13) and Naphtali (Genesis 49:21) were on the western/northern coasts of Galilee.
- Every disciple was a native of Zebulun except Judas (Iscariot means “from Kerioth” in Judea).

Jesus’ message was the exact same thrust as John the Baptist:
“*Repent because the Kingdom of God has come near!*” (Matthew 3:2; 20:28).

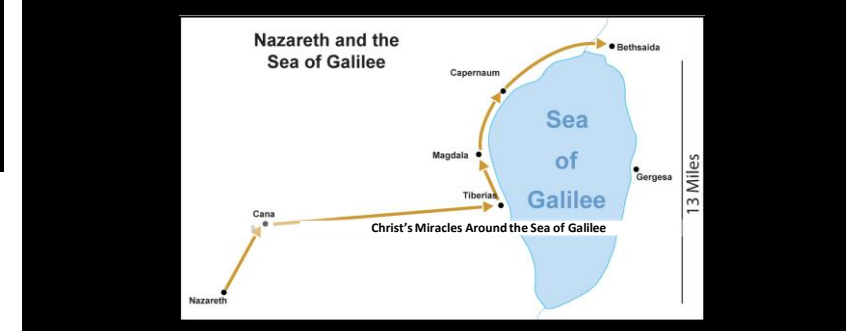
The phrase
“Galilee of the Nations”
means that there were
mostly Gentiles
domiciled in that area.
(Isaiah 9:1-2)

- In Scripture, the word “light” is usually associated with “enlightenment.” Jesus brought spiritual enlightenment to even the Gentiles (John 8:12, 9:5).
- The term “shadowland of death” means that their safety and security is challenged; they live in great danger (Psalm 22:4).

Over 15 times in Matthew, OT Scripture is fulfilled with Jesus as the Messiah. 8 are associated with Isaiah

The First Calling of Jesus' Disciples (Matthew 4:18-22)

A more protracted account shows that they had met prior (John 1:35-42), and that Jesus had encouraged Peter to cast his net for fish (Luke 5:1-11).

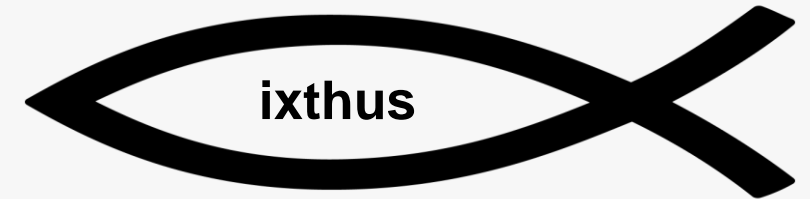


The Four Lists of the Twelve Apostles

	Matthew 10:2-4	Mark 3:16-19	Luke 6:12-19	Acts 1:13
1.	Simon	Simon	Simon	Peter
2.	Andrew	James	Andrew	James
3.	James	John	James	John
4.	John	Andrew	John	Andrew
5.	Philip	Philip	Philip	Philip
6.	Bartholomew	Bartholomew	Bartholomew	Thomas
7.	Thomas	Matthew	Matthew	Bartholomew
8.	Matthew	Thomas	Thomas	Matthew
9.	James (son of Alpheus)	James (son of Alpheus)	James (son of Alpheus)	James (son of Alpheus)
10.	Thaddeus	Thaddeus	Simon (the Zealot)	Simon (the Zealot)
11.	Simon (the Zealot)	Simon (the Zealot)	Judas (son of James)	Judas (son of James)
12.	Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot	

Scripture references the Sea of Galilee by several other names including:

- “Sea of Chinnereth” (Numbers 34:11)
- “Lake Gennesaret” (Luke 5:1)
- “Sea of Tiberias” (John 6:1)



Those God calls are expected to:

- Be willing to leave everything
- Obey immediately

The Galilean Ministry of Jesus (Matthew 4:23-25)

Jesus' Threefold Galilean Ministry

(Matthew 4:23)

1. Teaching in their synagogues
2. Preaching the good news of the Kingdom
3. Healing every disease and sickness

The Teaching in Jewish Synagogues may have been Lessons from the Tanakh (Jewish Old Testament) while the Good News may have been Preached in Public

Jesus Healed All Types of Illness

(Matthew 4:24)

- | | | |
|----|----------------------|--|
| 1. | All the sick | Mt 8:13, 9:29-30, 20:34; Mk 2:30, 8:23-25, 10:51-52;
Lk 8:51-55, 13:11-13; Jn 9:7 |
| 2. | Afflicted by disease | Mt 8:3; Lk 17:12-14 |
| 3. | Afflicted by pain | Mt 9:20-22; 12:13 |
| 4. | Oppressed by Demons | Mt 8:16, 9:32; Mk 1:23; Lk 9:37 |
| 5. | Epileptics | Mt 17:15-18 |
| 6. | Paralytics | Mt 8:6, 9:2; Jn 5:8-9 |

It may have felt unsafe for the crowds to gather with all of the different ailments and demon possession, but the crowds continued to grow.

The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)

The Sermon on the Mount is the longest Sermon in the Gospels (Matthew 5-7).

Need for a Savior

Just as the Mosaic Law was meant to reveal man's sinfulness and need for a Savior (Galatians 3:19-26; Romans 3:19-26), the ideal is unreachable by weak human efforts, so Christ is needed.

**No man is "good enough;"
there is no moral unbeliever.**

Spiritual Reality

As with Zechariah's eight visions (Zechariah 1-6), the Sermon on the Mount reveals a spiritual world that is truer than the physical world.

Heart/Attitudes/Motives

The sermon moves the focus from the literal law to the attitude and motive of the individual.

The sermon condemns an individual who adheres to religious rituals through rote activities, but has no relationship with God.

The Sermon on the Mount may have been a type of "ordination" for the twelve disciples (Luke 6:12-42).

The act of ordination is the process of setting someone apart (consecrating, dedicating) for a ministry.

The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-2)

”He went up on the mountain, and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. Then He began to teach them...”

- The custom of Jewish synagogues was to stand to read the scriptures & sit to preach.
- The act of sitting down was the demarcation between Scripture being read and the Rabbi’s teaching.
- Scripture was written on scrolls rather than in codex form (a book).
- Scrolls were handwritten on parchment or vellum (specially prepared animal skin) which were very expensive to produce.
- Scrolls would have been more easily handled while standing
- The word codex comes from the Latin term “caudex” which means “trunk of a tree.”
- The Codex was invented around the time of Jesus Christ’s birth (3BC-4BC) out of necessity for less expensive scrolls.
- Pergamum had been the capital of the Roman province of Asia for two centuries while being a juggernaut of cultural and intellectual life of the “Hellenistic” world.
- The libraries in Pergamum and Alexandria competed to publish scrolls, so Egypt suspended papyrus exports for scroll production.
- Pergamum began making parchment from sheepskin (vellum) which was much more expensive to produce, so Pergamum utilized both sides of the page.
- Scripture refers to Pergamum as “Satan’s throne” (Revelation 2:12-13)



The Beatitudes/Those Who Are Blessed (Matthew 5:3-12)

The Beatitudes				
Verse	Blessed are...	Because...	Gift	Jesus
Mt 5:3	The poor in spirit <i>(Impoverished)</i>	They will receive the Kingdom of God	Deprived given joys of empire	Humility (Hebrews 2:9; Philippians 2:5-8)
Mt 5:4	Those who mourn <i>(Sad)</i>	They will be comforted	Need satisfied (Grief)	Sorrow (Isaiah 53:3; Luke 19:41; John 11:35)
Mt 5:5	The gentle <i>(Tender)</i>	They will inherit the earth	Plunder without conquest	Gentleness (Matthew 11:29; 2 Corinthians 10:1)
Mt 5:6	Those who hunger & thirst for righteousness <i>(Virtuous)</i>	They will be filled	Need satisfied (Yearning appetite)	Righteousness (Romans 5:17; 2 Peter 1:1; 1 John 2:1)
Mt 5:7	The merciful <i>(Forgiving)</i>	They will be shown mercy	Identical reward	Merciful (Jude 1:21)
Mt 5:8	The pure in heart <i>(Clean)</i>	They will see God	Glorious reward	Pure; Holy (Acts 4:27, 30)
Mt 5:9	The peacemakers <i>(Peaceful)</i>	They will be called Sons of God	Reputation & identity of God's gift of peace	Peace (Philippians 4:7; 1 Peter 5:14)
Mt 5:10	Those who are persecuted <i>(Mistreated)</i>	They will receive the Kingdom of God	Molested given joys of empire	Persecuted (Isaiah 52:13-53:12; John 5:16)

The Greek term for Blessed (makarios μακάριος) means "Happy."

Eight Beatitudes

- 1-4 being Private
- 5-8 being Public

The Model of the 10 Commandments

The Salt of the Earth (Matthew 5:13)

Characteristics of Salt Represent the Believer's Responsibility

(Matthew 5:13)

Flavor	Col 4:6; Mk 9:49; Job 6:6; Jn 10:10	Impact; extracts the essence of life's savor (abundant life).
Preservative	Ps 86:2, 121:7; Jer 50:20; 2 Tim 4:18; Jude 1:1	Extends the life and usefulness of the Believer
Antiseptic; Disinfectant	Ez 16:4; 2 Ki 2:20-21	Heals and restores the broken and hurting
Causes Thirst for Water	Jn 4:13-14	Intensifies the desire for living water (Jesus and His Word)
Additive to Sacrifices	Lev 2:13; Ezra 7:20-22; Ezekiel 43:24; Rom 12:1	Pleasing in God's Sight
Sanction of Covenants	Num 18:19; 2 Chron 13:5	Incorruptible, imperishable and unchanging commitment.
Currency Medium; Value of Exchange	Ez 7:22; Mt 10:31; 12:12; 1 Cor 6:20, 7:23	The Latin word for salt and the Latin word for salary are the same word; salt was used as value and payment as in "worth your salt"

- The word **"salary"** originated during the Roman times when soldiers were frequently **paid with handfuls of salt.**
- The use of **salt as a form of payment** spread across the Roman Empire which was one of the reasons that Romans constructed their networks of roads.
- To Collect Salt - pour sea water into pits. **As the water evaporated, a residue of salt would be left.**
- Sometimes the salt was mixed with sand which diminished the qualities of salt.
- The expression "worth its weight in salt" infers value.

Jesus Came To Fulfill The Law (Matthew 5:17-20)

“Until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or one stroke of a letter will pass from the law until all things are accomplished.”

Matthew 5:18

A Hebrew “Yod” is the smallest Hebrew letter



“Yod” is translated as “Jot” in Greek

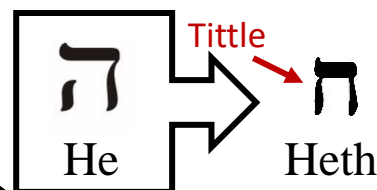
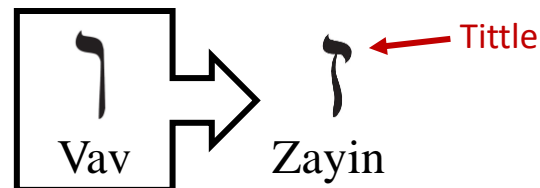
Six times Jesus Stated:

“You Have Heard It Said...But I Tell You...”

(Mt 5:21, 27, 31, 33, 38, 43)

1.	Murder	Matthew 5:21-26
2.	Adultery/Intent	Matthew 5:27-30
3.	Divorce	Matthew 5:31-32
4.	Honesty	Matthew 5:33-37
5.	Revenge/Charity	Matthew 5:38-42
6.	Love	Matthew 5:43-47

A “Tittle” is the minute detail between alphabet characters



“Unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:20

“Be perfect, therefore, as your Heavenly Father is perfect.”

Matthew 5:48

God First...Then Others (Matthew 6)

Three Representative Acts Performed Ostentatiously with the Wrong Motive

Alms Giving

Matthew 6:1-4

Prayer

Matthew 6:5-13

Fasting

Matthew 6:16-18

“For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:20

God First...Then Others (Matthew 6:1)

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of people, to be seen by them. Otherwise, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 6:1

Areas Where the New Testament Warns to “Beware” (Prosechete Προσέχετε)

Matthew 6:1	<i>“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of people, to be seen by them.”</i>	← Your Righteousness
Matthew 7:15	<i>“Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravaging wolves.”</i>	← False Prophets
Matthew 10:17	<i>“Because people will hand you over to Sanhedrin and flog you in their synagogues, beware of them.”</i>	← Friends of Sanhedrin
Matthew 16:6	<i>“Jesus told them, “Watch out and beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”</i>	← Yeast of Pharisees/Sanhedrin
Matthew 16:11	<i>“Why is it you don’t understand that when I told you, ‘Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees,’ it wasn’t about bread?”</i>	← Yeast of Pharisees/Sanhedrin
Luke 12:1	<i>“Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.”</i>	← Pharisees
Luke 17:3	<i>“Be on your guard. If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him.”</i>	← When Brother Sins
Luke 20:46	<i>“Beware of the scribes, who want to go around in long robes and who love greetings in the marketplaces, the front seats in the synagogues, and the places of honor at banquets.”</i>	← Scribes
Luke 21:34	<i>“Be on your guard, so that your minds are not dulled from carousing, drunkenness, and worries of life, or that day will come on you unexpectedly.”</i>	← Minds are not dulled
Acts 5:34-35	<i>“A Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law who was respected by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered the men to be taken outside for a little while. He said to them, “Men of Israel, be careful about what you’re going to do to these men.”</i>	← Friends of Sanhedrin
Acts 20:28	<i>“Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock that the Holy Spirit has appointed you to as overseers, to shepherd the church of God, which He purchased with His own blood.”</i>	← For Yourselves & Your Flock

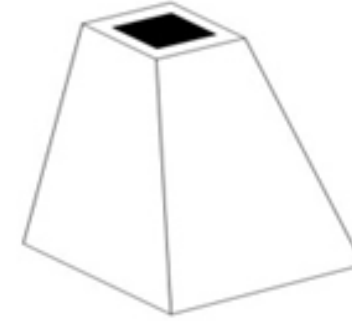
Give For God (Matthew 6:2-4)

- The Jews esteemed “alms giving” to such an importance that the act was called “doing righteousness.”
- Some Rabbi’s taught that alms giving was a prerequisite for heaven.
- The phrase “to be seen by others” (theathēnai θεαθῆναι) is used twice in Scripture to warn about performing good works pretentiously and ostentatiously (Matthew 6:1, 23:5)

Collection Boxes of the Temple

Wide Bottom
with a
Narrow Top

Shaped like a
Trumpet



In the women’s court of the Temple, there were 13 collection boxes for offerings. When a large number of coins were dropped in the collection box, it was referred to as “Sounding the Trumpet” (Mk 12:41-44)

This is similar to the adage “*Don’t toot your own horn.*”



- This is the first use of the term “hypocrite” in the New Testament, and this term was only used by Jesus in the New Testament.
- The Greek term for “hypocrite” (hypokritai ὑποκριταὶ) continues the theatrical theme of not doing good works to be seen by men.
- In the 1st century BC, actors were called hypocrites.
- The root of the word “hypocrite” is a compound noun based on two Greek words: hypo (“under”) and krínō (judge). In ancient times, actors wore masks, so the intent is to judge the person under the mask.

Pray with God in Mind (Matthew 6:5-8)

- The standard Jewish prayer was standing with hands and head lifted to the heavens.
- Jesus is not criticizing the position.

“I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling.”

1 Timothy 2:8



The focus of praying should be the Lord before anything else

- Jesus is reproaching the desire to stand in a public place when the hour of prayer arrives, so others can watch you pray.
- The Jews had scheduled a morning (9:00am) and evening (3:00pm) sacrifice where a lamb was sacrificed in the Temple.
- The Jews also added noon (12:00pm), so at those three times, the Jews would turn and face the Temple to pray.
- The ostentatious individuals would ensure that they were in a public place (i.e., marketplace) at those three places, so everyone could witness their praying.

- Prayers should not be meaningless babbling or repeated chants (1 Kings 8:26; Acts 19:34).
- Instead, prayers should be a meaningful time of sharing one's heart with the Lord.

Believers do not need to elaborate and explain the situation to God because God already understands the needs of His people before they realize their own needs.

Most conversations seem to work best when statements are brief and frequent.

The Model Prayer (Matthew 6:9-3)

Seven Step Prayer

(Matthew 6:9-13)

1. **Our** Father, Who art in Heaven
2. Hallowed be Thy Name
3. Thy Kingdom Come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
4. Give **us** this day **our** daily bread
5. Forgive **our** debts as **we** forgive **our** debtors
6. Lead **us** not into temptation, but deliver **us** from evil
7. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever

The Outline of the Lord's Prayer follows the structure of the 10 Commandments from a focus on God, His provision of needs, and treatment of others (Exodus 20:1-17; Deuteronomy 5:1-21)

- This “Lord’s Prayer” was a model for the disciples (unlike the “Lord’s Prayer” of John 17).
- Although the Lord’s prayer begins and ends with praise, thanksgiving isn’t explicitly mentioned due to the fact that gratitude should be perpetual (1 Thessalonians 5:18; Eph 5:20).

The community is emphasized by the words “our” and “us.”

The Model Prayer (Matthew 6:9-3)

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Holy

The term “Father” (Greek: Pater Πάτερ) highlights an intimacy of care and provision; the term “Father” was also used in the Old Testament (Isaiah 63:16; Psalm 103:13; Malachi 3:17).

God’s will in our hearts; His Reign in the Millennium

God’s Daily Provision & the bread can represent the daily time with Him in His Word (John 6:27 -51; Isaiah 55:2)

“Your Kingdom Come...”

Past	Present	Future
Luke 13:28	Luke 17:21 Matthew 4:17, 12:28	Matthew 6:10 Luke 11:2 John 18:36

“Jesus then said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’”

John 6:32-33

The Model Prayer (Matthew 6:9-3)

Seven Step Prayer

(Matthew 6:9-13)

1. Our Father, Who art in Heaven
2. Hallowed be Thy Name
3. Thy Kingdom Come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
4. Give us this day our daily bread
5. Forgive our debts as we forgive our debtors
6. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil
7. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever

Rabbi's treated the word "debt" (opheilēmata ὀφειλήματα) and "sin" (hamartias ἁμαρτίας) as synonymous.

King

Omnipotent

Magnificent

Without End

Fasting (Correctly) (Matthew 6:16-18)

¹⁶ “And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, say to you, they have received their reward.

¹⁷ But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face,

¹⁸ that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

- Throughout Old Testament times, once a year Israel fasted together as a nation on Yom Kippur (Leviticus 23:27-32).
- The Rabbi’s multiplied the fast to two times each week; the first fast was on Thursday when they believe that Moses ascended Mt Sinai, and then on Monday when they believed Moses descended from Mt Sinai.
- Most Rabbis (especially Pharisees) would make a noticeable exhibition of these fast days.
- Rabbi’s wouldn’t comb their hair or beards on these days, and some wore make-up to appear haggard.



“Isn’t the fast I choose to break the chains of wickedness, to untie the ropes of the yoke, to set the oppressed free, and to tear off every yoke?”

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, to bring the poor and homeless into your house, to clothe the naked when you see him, and not to ignore your own flesh and blood?”

Isaiah 58:6-7

The Treasure to Collect (Matthew 6:19-21)

Temporal Nature of Three Major Forms of Ancient Wealth (Matthew 6:19)	
Clothing (including ornamental/festival clothes)	Moths
Storehouses of Grains/Harvests/Food	Consumption/Spoilage (Rats/Mildew)
Metals or Gems/Jewels	Thieves steal

The Greek term translated “rust” (brōsis βρῶσις) is actually used for the consumption or spoilage of food. (John 6:55; Romans 14:17)

*For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also.*
Matthew 6:21

- Materialism, greed and covetousness are idolatry (Colossians 3:5; Ephesians 5:5).
- Man cannot be ruled by the desire for money while having the desire for God (Matthew 6:24).
- There is nothing wrong intrinsically with wealth and possessions; however, the desire for money and underlying attitude to gain more can lead to many sins (1 Timothy 6:10)
- The Greeks referred to thieves as “mud-diggers” (toichoruchos υμῶν) because the houses/huts were made of mud walls and sun-dried bricks where the thief could dig through.

Do Not Let Money Command You (Matthew 6:24)

- The Greek word for “riches” or “money” is mamónas (μαμωνᾶς) which has a root of “that which is leaned on” which evolved into “that which is trusted in.”
- Believers should trust in God instead of wealth & riches.

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon...”

Matthew 6:24

A man will either rely on God to meet his needs or the man will proudly pursue self-effort and self-support.

“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

1 Timothy 6:10



Correct Yourself First (Matthew 7:1-6)

- The Sermon on the Mount censures the Pharisaical practice of hypocritically holding others to a higher standard than they themselves can attain (Romans 2:1).

- Judgment should not be according to one's own standard or outward appearances (John 7:24), but instead according to Scripture (Lk 12:57-59; 1 Cor 5:12).

- The Greek term for “judge” (krinete κρίνετε) is the root word for “criticize” and “critique”; this Scripture discourages a critical spirit. (Luke 6:36-38, 41-42)

Is it Criticism or Correction?

Praise makes you feel better... Correction makes you better

**Why do you not
judge for yourselves
what is right?**

Luke 12:57

**For what have I to do
with judging outsiders?**

**Is it not those inside
the church whom you
are to judge?**

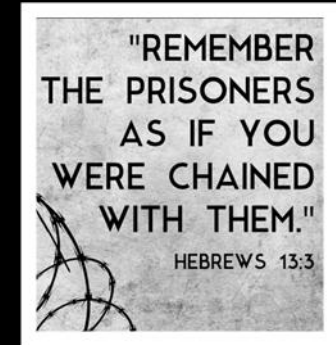
1 Cor 5:12

The Narrow Gate (Matthew 7:12-14)

“Whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.” Matthew 7:12 | *The “Golden Rule”*

Those who find the narrow gate are few...

- Although salvation is completely free (Ephesians 2:8-9), the following sanctification will cost all of the old nature (Matthew 16:24, 25:31-46; Mark 8:34).
- Man can come to God “just as I am”; however, they cannot remain just as they are. Man cannot come to God by works, but man does not grow in God without works (James 2:14-26). It has been said that coming to the Lord is more than just “decision”, it is also “discipleship.”
- The Greek word for “difficult/hard” (tethlimmenē τεθλιμμένη) is associated with the Greek word (thlibomenoi θλιβόμενοι) defined as “afflicted” (2 Corinthians 4:8; 7:5; Hebrews 11:37; 1 Thessalonians 3:4; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-7; 1 Timothy 5:10).
- It is normal for believers to suffer (1 Peter 7:12-19; 2 Timothy 1:8, 2:3, 4:5; Philippians 1:29; 1 Thessalonians 3:3-4; Matthew 24:9)



Scripture encourages individuals to count the cost prior to coming to the Lord (Luke 14:28-30).

“Depart From Me” ... (Matthew 7:21-23)

**Spiritual Works Performed in
Jesus’ Name, But He Is Not “Known”
(Matthew 7:22)**

Prophecy in His Name

Drive Out Demons in His Name

Performed Many Miracles in His Name

The Greek word for “Lord” is “Kyrie” (Κύριε), and the repetition of the calling represents excitement and intensity in the calling.

The Greek term for “never” (Ουδεποτε Ουδέποτε) is also used to say that the animal sacrifices could never take away sins, but Christ did (Hebrews 10:11-12).

Love never fails (1 Corinthians 13:8).

- God *“desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”* (1 Timothy 2:4)
- God is *“not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”* 2 Peter 3:9;
- *“It is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.”* Matthew 18:14

“And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

John 6:39-40

The Will of God is to receive the Gospel & walk with Jesus

Jesus Heals Leper (Matthew 8:1-4)

Judgment on the Unclean

“The leprous person who has the disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head hang loose, and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, ‘Unclean, unclean.’”

Leviticus 13:45

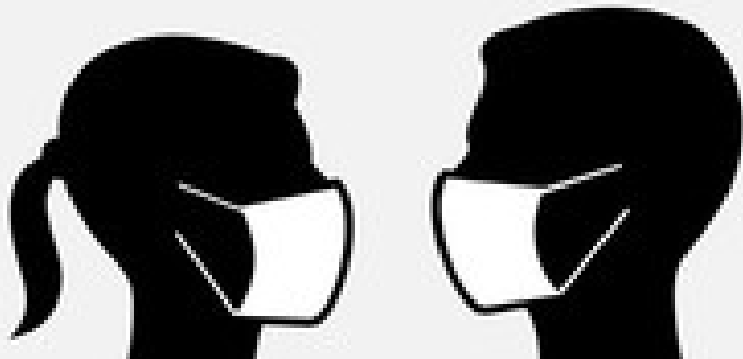
Scripture Utilizes Leprosy to Represent Sin:

- Begins small
- Loss of feeling
- Separated from Relationships
- Often Hereditary

“Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, ‘I will; be clean.’ And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.”

Adhere to the Mosaic Law Requirements
(Leviticus 14:2)

This witness would have testified of Jesus’ power to the priests. As Jesus taught in synagogues, this would have added credibility to the ministry of Jesus.



**COVID
Or
Leprosy/Sin**
(A Worldwide Rebuke)

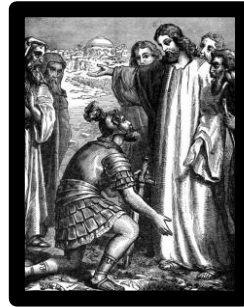
Same Centurion Account
in Luke 17:1-10

The Centurion's Faith (Matthew 8:5-13)

⁵ Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, ⁶ saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented."

⁷ And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."

FAITH



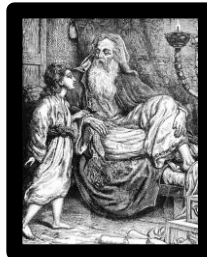
⁸ The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed."

⁹ For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this *one*, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does *it*."



¹⁰ When Jesus heard *it*, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!"

¹¹ And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.



¹² But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

¹³ Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour.



After being born in Bethlehem, Jesus was raised in Nazareth before relocating to Capernaum as the headquarters of His ministry His ministry (Matthew 4:13; Mark 2:1)

Capernaum ("city of repentance") was thought to be the city of Nahum, the prophet. Just as Jonah had preached salvation to Nineveh, Nahum preached damnation upon them. In the same vein, Capernaum would also reject the teaching of the Lord to their destruction (Lk 10:15-16)

While many were simply referring to Jesus as "Rabbi" (Teacher – Mt 26-25), this centurion recognizes Jesus as "Lord." Jesus is more than simply a "good man," He is God incarnate.

Without consideration or assessment of the disease, Jesus is readily willing to go and heal. While some sinners consider their sin to be beyond forgiveness, Jesus will eagerly heal them from their sin (Mark 2:17; James 5:16; 1 Pet 2:24).

Throughout the miraculous ministry of Jesus, it was only faith that amazed Him (Lk 7:9). Jesus was amazed at the faith of the Gentiles, but He was also amazed at the lack of faith from the Jews (Mk 6:6).

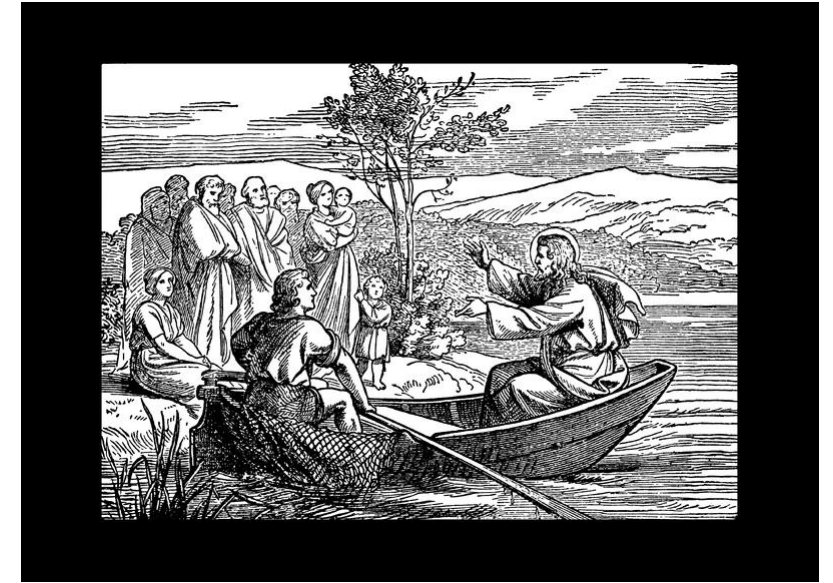
Beyond Israelites, Gentiles from all over the world (Lk 13:29) will come to Christ as the spiritual offspring of the Jewish forefathers (Gen 15:5; Lk 19:9; Rom 9:8; Gal 3:28).

Many in the physical lineage of Abraham will be denied because of their rejection of Christ's gospel (John 8:40; Rom 11:25). The Jews believed that they would attend the Messianic banquet because they were descendants of Abraham (Matthew 3:9).

God requires an acceptance of Jesus as our Savior as we recognize our sinful state and repent. The centurion's desire was satisfied because He believed in the power of Jesus.

The Cost of Following Jesus (Matthew 8:18-22)

- Scribes were experts in the oral (Mishnah) and written (Tanakh) laws; interpreters and copyists of God's law
- The scribe recognized Jesus as a "Rabbi" (a teacher") which is always an understatement of who Jesus is.
 - He is more than simply a "good" man that mankind can learn from or emulate. Jesus is Lord of all; He is divine.
- Believers must be ready to deny themselves the things of this world for His purpose. (Matthew 16:24-26)



First New Testament Use

- This is the first use in the New Testament of the "Son of Man".
- The term "Son of Man" references the humanity of the Messiah as He became part of mankind.

Final New Testament Use

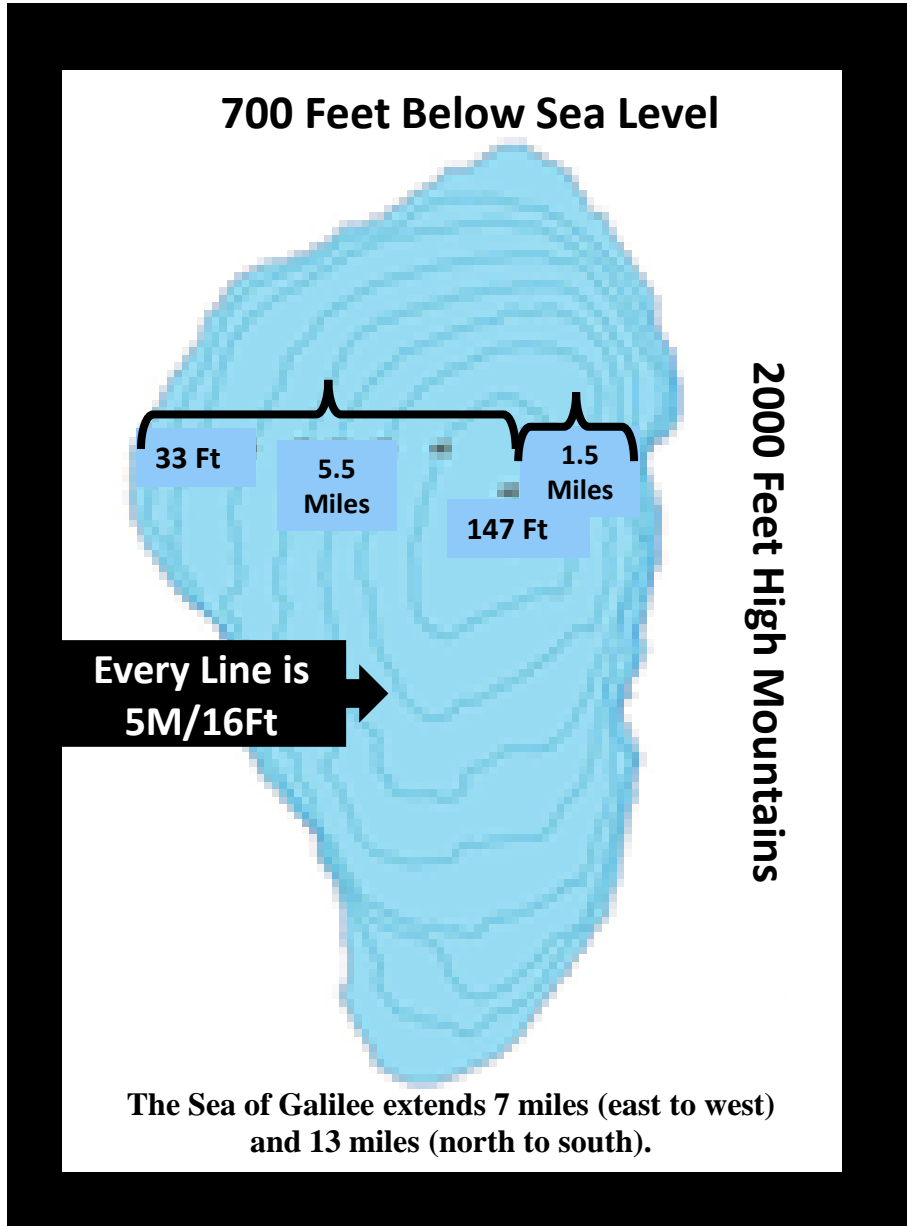
"There was a white cloud, and One like the Son of Man was seated on the cloud, with a gold crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand."

Revelation 14:14

"Let me go and bury my father" was a common expression to say that a commitment could not be made immediately, but it was possible at some point in the future.

Believers often use "family" as an excuse not to do something for God

Jesus Calms A Storm (Matthew 8:23-27)



The Bible doesn't record the disciples asking Jesus where they were going, what they were doing or how long they would be there. The disciples followed Jesus by faith.



The Sea of Galilee has an average depth is 84 feet with the deepest part measuring 147 feet.

Storms on the Sea of Galilee result primarily from the difference in temperatures from the 2000 feet high mountains on the east where the winds descend crashing into the waters 700 feet below sea level.

The Greek term for "save" (sōson σωσον) is used in Scripture seven times to mean rescue.

Matthew 8:25; 14:30; 27:40

Mark 15:30

Luke 23:37, 39

John 12:27

*"You rule the raging sea;
when its waves surge,
You still them."*

Psalm 89:9

*"He stilled
the storm to a murmur,
and the waves of
the sea were hushed."*

Psalm 107:29

Jesus Calls Matthew as a Disciple (Matthew 9:9-13)

Tax burden >40% of what was earned



- Matthew was positioned between Capernaum and the Sea of Galilee
- Matthew may have been collecting on the trade from Herod Philip's area northeast of the Sea of Galilee into the area ruled by Herod Antipas on the west side of the Sea of Galilee.

- The Beyond the Jewish Tax used to maintain the Temple, Jews also paid taxes to the Romans (often collected by harsh tactics).
- The Roman tax was comprised of income tax and customs / duties tax (paid in order to do commerce). The customs/duties included a percent of trade as well as tolls to use roads.

- Roman Tax Collectors consisted of independent contractors who had bid for the contract.
- Collectors were Jewish collaborators allied with the Romans - who paid a "franchise fee" to collect taxes in the name of Rome.
- Anything above Rome's agreed return was the collector's profit.
- The Tax Collector could assess the value arbitrarily without any recourse or appeals process for the one being taxed.
- Tax Collectors would also manufacture black market and smuggling charges and then threaten to go to the Roman government with the false accusations.

Gentile Woman Healed as Jesus Resurrects Jewish Girl (Matthew 9:18-26)

Scripture Records that Jesus Raised Three from the Dead (beyond Himself)

Luke 7:11-17	Widow of Nain's Son
Luke 8:49-56	Jairus Daughter
John 11:1-44	Lazarus



- The bleeding woman must be a Gentile because an Israelite woman would have been an outcast, and would not have been permitted admittance into the general population (Leviticus 15:19-33).
- The Gentile woman touched Jesus as He went to minister to the Jewish girl (Mk 5:22) who was exactly the same age as the Gentile lady's malady (12yrs)
- Gentiles reached out for Jesus' righteousness (hem/wing) while He was ministering to the Jews.
- The woman had spent all she had on doctors only to get worse (Mark 5:26); Matthew nor Luke mentioned this (possibly because Luke was a doctor).

- The hem of the robe was called the "wing" and represented authority and righteousness.
- This woman was coming under the "wing" of the Lord (Ruth 3:9; 1 Samuel 24:4-5).
- The tassels of the tallit were meant to be a reminder not to follow one's own "dreams," but instead to follow God's law (Deuteronomy 22:12; Numbers 15:38-39).

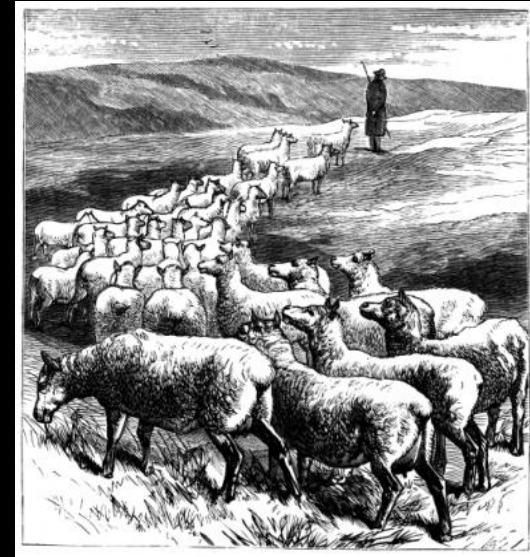
The Mishnah (oral law) states that even the poorest in Israel must not furnish less than two flute players and at least one woman as a wailer.

Jesus Recognizes Israel's Need for a Shepherd (Matthew 9:35-38)

Jesus had a threefold ministry:

1. Teaching the Scriptures 2. Preaching the Gospel 3. Healing/Redeeming

- Many live meandering lives of exhaustion without clear direction from the great Shepherd (Heb 13:20). The Lord had called the religious leaders to shepherd His people (Numbers 27:17; 1 Kings 22:17)
- Jesus had compassion on the fatigued people as if they wandered like sheep without a shepherd (Mt 10:6).
- This is closely related to the Lord taking over as Shepherd at the failure of the Shepherds in Ezekiel 34. *“For this is what the Lord God says: See, I Myself will search for My flock and look for them. As a shepherd looks for his sheep on the day he is among his scattered flock, so I will look for My flock. I will rescue them.”* (Ezekiel 34:11-12)



“The harvest is abundant but the workers are few. Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

Matthew 9:37

The Commission of Jesus' Apostles (Matthew 10:1-4)

- The Greek term for “apostles” (apostolōn ἀποστόλων) means to “to send with official authority.”
- Christians continue to be Christ’s representatives; the word “Christian” was first used in the church in Antioch to mean “Little Christ.” (Acts 11:26, 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16)
- Jesus gave legal authority (exousian ἐξουσίαν) over both the demons and disease.

The Four Lists of the Twelve Apostles

	Matthew 10:2-4	Mark 3:16-19	Luke 6:12-19	Acts 1:13
1.	Simon	Simon	Simon	Peter
2.	Andrew	James	Andrew	James
3.	James	John	James	John
4.	John	Andrew	John	Andrew
5.	Philip	Philip	Philip	Philip
6.	Bartholomew	Bartholomew	Bartholomew	Thomas
7.	Thomas	Matthew	Matthew	Bartholomew
8.	Matthew	Thomas	Thomas	Matthew
9.	James (son of Alpheus)	James (son of Alpheus)	James (son of Alpheus)	James (son of Alpheus)
10.	Thaddeus	Thaddeus	Simon (the Zealot)	Simon (the Zealot)
11.	Simon (the Zealot)	Simon (the Zealot)	Judas (son of James)	Judas (son of James)
12.	Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot	

The “Apostles” of Scripture

- Barnabas and Paul were included as apostles (Acts 14:14)
- James - the leader of the Jerusalem church (Galatians 1:19)
- Apollos (1 Corinthians 4:6-9)
- Timothy & Silvanus (1 Thessalonians 1:1, 2:6)
- Andronicus & Junia (Romans 16:7)
- Some believers have been given the spiritual gifts to be apostles (1 Corinthians 12:29; Revelation 18:20)
- Several times the Greek term “apostolōn” is translated as “messengers.”
 - Epaphroditus (Philippians 2:25)
 - Two unnamed apostles (2 Corinthians 8:23)
- Jesus is also called an apostle (Hebrews 3:1)

Preparation For Ministry (Matthew 10:5-10)

FOCUS

- Jesus did not want His apostles distracted; the focus was the Jewish nation instead of the Samaritans who followed their own form of Judaism.

FREE

- These apostles who were sent as the first missionaries were directed to minister without pay and to give the message without a fee for the proclamation of the kingdom (3 John 1:7-8).

FAITH

- Jesus directs the apostles to take one shirt, one pair of sandals, and one walking stick without extra supplies nor back-up.



Four Actions that Confirmed Proclamation of the Kingdom of Heaven

Heal the Sick

Raise the Dead

Cleanse Those with Skin Diseases

Drive Out Demons

- Their seven (complete) word sermons “*The kingdom of God has come near*” (Matthew 6:33) is similar to Jonah’s short calling (Jonah 3:4).
- The kingdom of God denotes submission to the Lord Jesus.
- It is the spiritual reign of God in men’s hearts now, and the physical reign of Jesus over all the earth during the millennium.

Samaritans were considered “despised foreigners.” During the Assyrian exile of the northern kingdom of Israel, Assyria replaced Israelites with Gentiles who had also been exiled from their homelands by Assyria. (2 Kings 17:24-41)

Persecution of Christ's Followers (Matthew 10:16-25)

The purpose for the high-profile trials was to give an opportunity to witness to authority and eventually to all of the nations as the gospel message begins to move to the Gentiles.

“...don't worry about how or what you should speak. For you will be given what to say at that hour, because you are not speaking, but the Spirit of your Father is speaking through you.”

- Sheep have no protection other than their shepherd, so this is an act of faith in the shepherd.
- The flogging of the Jews was not as harsh as the scourging of the Romans. The Jews would strike the recipient 1/3 of the 39 lashes on the front, and 2/3 of the 39 lashes on the back.



Believers Should Anticipate Their Life To Be One Of Persecution

Matthew 5:10-12, 24:9

John 15:15-27

Romans 8:17

Philippians 1:29

2 Timothy 3:12

1 Peter 2:12-19

- The world referred to Jesus as Beelzebul (“Chief of Demons” – Matthew 12:24; Mark 3:22; Luke 11:15), and the world would also deride the followers of Jesus.
- Baalzebub was initially the fertility chief of Ekron (2 Kings 1:3, 6).
 - However, the Jews altered the name to Beelzebul which means “lord of the dung” or “lord of the flies.”
 - The Jews did this to many names to make fun of their enemies, conquerors and their false gods.

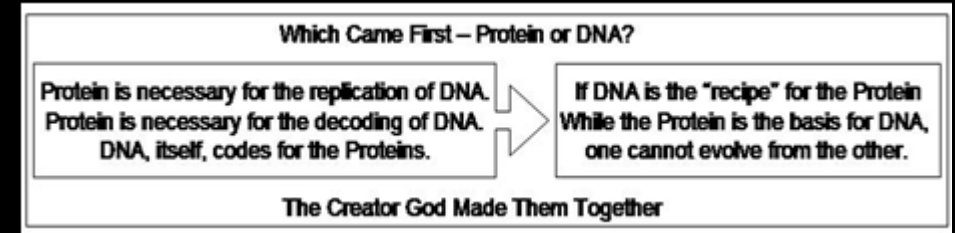
Do Not Fear Men (Matthew 10:26-31)

- Regardless of public persecution of believers (e.g., by the media, peers, pundits), the truth of God's word will continue to spread in this deceitful world. (Luke 12:2-12)
- False accusations will either come to light in this world or at the final judgment (1 Cor 4:5). At the judgment seat, everyone will give an account of the way that they represented and glorified God in a fallen world. (Psalm 56:9, 139:16, Isaiah 65:6, Malachi 3:16)



*“Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.
But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”*

- The Greek term for “hell” (geennan γένναν) referred to the garbage dump south of Jerusalem.
 - As the town trash dump, Gehenna smoldered with fire day and night. (2 Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 14:11)
- Gehenna originates from “Ge” - “valley and “Hinnom.”
- The valley of Hinnom was the location that children sacrifices were made to Molech (Deuteronomy 12:31; Leviticus 20:2-5; 2 Kings 16:3, 17:17, 21:6, 23:10; 2 Chronicles 28:3, 33:6; Jeremiah 7:31, 19:4-5, 32:35; Ezekiel 16:20-21, 20:26, 23:37; Psalm 106:35-38)
- Scripture is abundantly clear that child sacrifices were wrong (Leviticus 18:21; Deuteronomy 18:10)



“Even the hairs of your head are all numbered.”

Number of Hairs can correlate to Hair Color	
Blonde	150,000
Brown	110,000
Black	100,000
Red	90,000

Jesus Elevated Above Every Relationship (Matthew 10:32-39)

The Greek word for “acknowledge” (homologēsei ὁμολογήσει) means “to say the same thing as.” This means that believers should publicly affirm the truth of God’s Word and our relationship in Jesus Christ.

- This speaks to the prioritization and purpose of God above everything else including life itself.
- God desires a more intimate relationship with His people than any other that they can experience in this world.

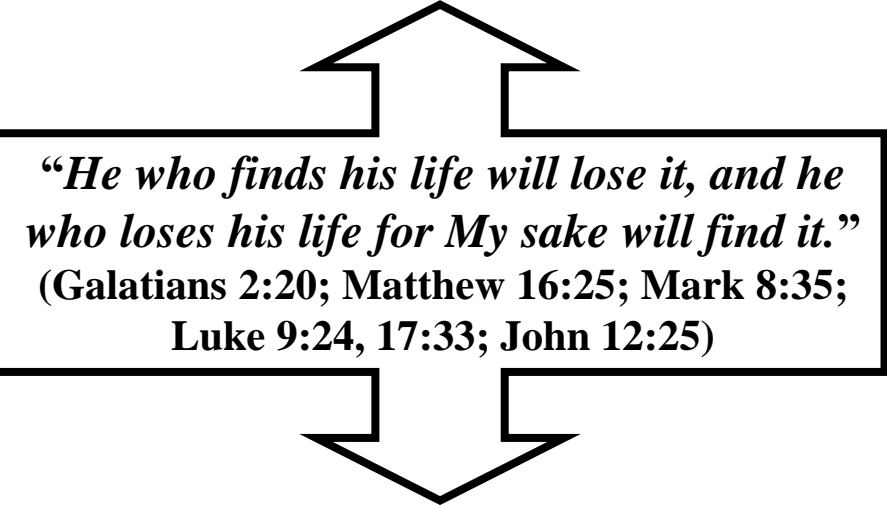
Hebrew Idioms of Comparison

Loves Father/Mother more than Me	Matthew 10:37
Loved Rachel/Hated Leah	Genesis 29:31-33
Loved/Unloved Wives	Deuteronomy 21:15
Loved Jacob / Hates Esau	Malachi 1:2-3
Hates Family/Life	Luke 14:26
Hates His Life	John 12:25
Loved Jacob / Hates Esau	Romans 9:13

This speaks to the prioritization of one over the other.

To Keep Life - Give Life To God

If man lives for himself in this age, man will miss the Kingdom of Heaven in the afterlife; however, if man gives/lives his life to God in this age, he will spend eternity with God.



“He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.”
(Galatians 2:20; Matthew 16:25; Mark 8:35; Luke 9:24, 17:33; John 12:25)

Man cannot enter the Kingdom of God (Heaven) in the afterlife if he has lived in this age as his own king (the kingdom of self).

Jesus Assures John the Baptist (Matthew 11:1-6)



MACHAERUS

Military base to safeguard Transjordan



- John had been incarcerated for criticizing the immorality of Herod taking his brother's wife Herodias (Mark 6:16-29)
- John the Baptist was probably incarcerated in the fortress of Herod Antipas located at Machaerus (east of the Dead Sea).

- John may have been expecting to be released from prison by the new "Ruler/Messiah".
- John was puzzled because he had expected Jesus to come in judgment (Matthew 3:7-12)
- The Greek term for "another" (heteron ἕτερον) means a different kind – probably someone in judgment instead of comfort.
- The answer of Jesus affirmed His position as the Messiah to John's disciples who had been sent.
- "The One Who is to come" may be a Messianic Title (Psalm 118:26; Daniel 7:13; Mark 11:9)

Each Physical Healing Can Represent Spiritual Healing

The Six Ailments of Man were Affected by the Messiah
(Matthew 11:5)

	<u>Hardship</u>	<u>Remedy</u>	<u>Spiritual Effect</u>
1.	Blind	Sight	Spiritual Discernment
2.	Lame	Walk	Righteous Walk
3.	Skin Disease	Healed	Elimination of Sin
4.	Deaf	Hear	Spiritual Sensitivity
5.	Dead	Life	Spiritual Rebirth
6.	Poor	Good News	Gospel

Reversed

Gospel

The fallen world takes offense when identified as sinful and in need of a Savior.

If anyone is not offended by Jesus, that person will be blessed.

Jesus affirmed that John the Baptist was the spiritual fulfillment of Malachi's prophecy concerning Elijah's return (Malachi 4:5)

John Rejects Religious "Games" (Matthew 11:7-19)

⁷ As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?"



⁸ But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft *clothing* are in kings' houses.

⁹ But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and **more than a prophet.**



¹⁰ For this is *he* of whom it is written: 'Behold, I send **My messenger** before Your face, **Who will prepare Your way before You.**'

¹¹ "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.



¹² And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.

¹³ **For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.**

¹⁴ **And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come.**



¹⁵ He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

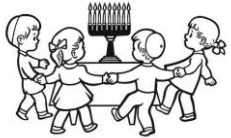
¹⁶ "But to what shall I liken this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their companions,



¹⁷ and saying: 'We played the flute for you, And you did not dance; We mourned to you, And you did not lament.'

¹⁸ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.'

¹⁹ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' But **wisdom is justified by her children.**"



"What did you go out into the wilderness to see?" (Matthew 11:7-9)

1.	A reed swaying in the wind?	A weak vessel that is blown about by the environment?	No	John did not waver.
2.	A man in soft clothes?	A man of comfort and leisure?	No	John was not the servant of a worldly king.
3.	A Prophet?	Foretelling the Messiah and the kingdom of God.	Yes	The prophet John was the fulfillment of the prophecy.

John the Baptist preached repentance (Matthew 3:2) laying the groundwork for the Messiah. Matthew 11:10 may be in reference to Malachi's prophecy (Malachi 3:1).

John the Baptist had been a herald for the coming King. This is similar to a royalty coming into a village with the herald running ahead of them proclaiming that they were coming. (Isaiah 40:7, 57:14, 62:10).

Tale of the Oak and the Reed
 There was a first century fable of a mighty oak and a flimsy reed planted beside a river. While the powerful roots of the great oak braced against the stormy winds, it could have fallen. However, the reed survived any storm by perpetually bending (i.e., compromising)

Of natural man "born of a woman", John the Baptist was the most righteous and worthy, but those in the kingdom of God have come under the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ

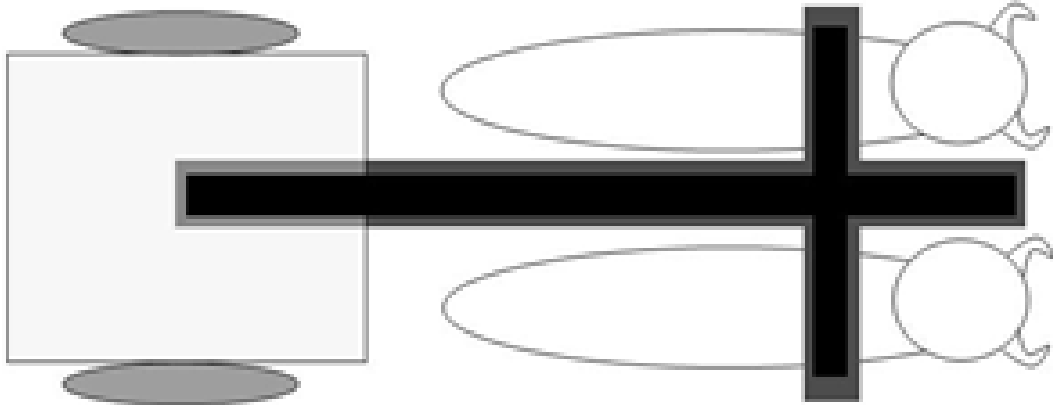
Israel had not understood the spiritual nature of the Messiah King nor of His herald, Elijah. While not Elijah himself, John fulfilled the role of the prophesied Elijah (John 1:21), but Elijah himself also arrived at the transfiguration of Jesus (Mt 17:3; Mk 9:4; Lk 9:30) and will most likely precede the second coming of Jesus (Rev 11:3-6).

Jewish leaders condemned John of being ascetic while condemning Jesus of being liberal with sinners. The religious leaders expected their followers to adhere to the rules of their manmade religion.



Jesus Blesses the Weak & Needy (Matthew 11:25-30)

The Yoke as the Shape of the Cross



As long as both oxen are moving together in the same direction at the same speed, the cooperation eases any friction that might result from conflict.

“My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”



“Come to Me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

- The “wise” approached God through their education of indoctrination and propaganda with sinful biases and false assumptions/conclusions. (Ezekiel 28:12, 16-17))
- The “little children” had faith in Jesus as their Savior from a dire state of sin. (Matthew 18:1-6)
- The Greek term for “know” (epiginōskei ἐπιγινώσκει) means to fully, relationally know someone intimately.

With Sabbath comes "Peace."
Only the "Lord of the Sabbath
Can Give Lasting Peace"

Lord of the Sabbath (Matthew 12:1-8)

Recordings of Same Account: Mk 2:23-28; Lk 6:1-5

¹ At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. And His disciples were hungry, and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat.

² And when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said to Him, "Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!"

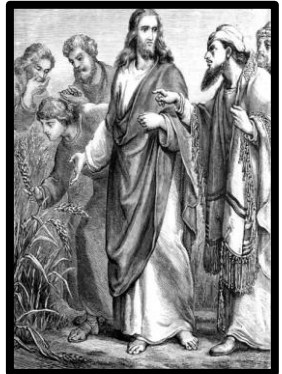
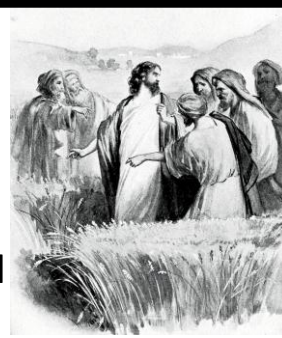
³ But He said to them, "**Have you not read** what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: ⁴ how he entered the house of God and ate the showbread which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests?"

⁵ Or **have you not read** in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless?

⁶ Yet I say to you that in this place there is *One* greater than the temple.

⁷ But if you had known what *this* means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless.

⁸ For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."



The disciples were walking with Jesus (ministering with Him in the fields for the ripe harvests – Mt 9:37), and they satisfied their physical needs. The moral law is more important than ceremony.

The Pharisees (meaning "separated ones) grew out of the Maccabean age

The disciples were not breaking a Scriptural law (Deuteronomy 23:25), but instead man's tradition (interpretation of the Pharisees). Jesus and His followers were found guilty of breaking Jewish oral tradition against harvesting and preparing food on the Sabbath.

Jesus referenced his ancestor David who received showbread from the priests in the city of Nob. (1 Samuel 21:1-6) David (and his colleagues) were hungry, and the priest met their need. The showbread had just been removed from the table; there were twelve loaves of showbread that were approximately a pound each (12 pounds of bread). Priests were the only ones who were allowed to eat the showbread (Leviticus 24:5-9; Exodus 25:30) All followers of Jesus are in the priesthood because of their relationship with Jesus (who gives all believers freedom). (1 Peter 2:5, 9)

God is concerned about man's attitude before God while men are often concerned about ritual (Hosea 6:6). Although ritual and liturgy can be meaningful, they can also grow to be misused. Love and mercy for fellow men are more important than rote religion practices.

In Jesus' day, the Jewish oral traditions had become a heavy burden for the people of Israel. Jewish oral traditions were written down in the Talmud which consists of two sections:

- The Mishnah (circa 200AD) was a written collection of the oral Rabbinical traditions.
- The Gemara (circa 500AD) consisted of Rabbinical commentary of the Mishnah

Jewish oral traditions had become an object of division and separation instead of unity and love. (Isaiah 29:13; Romans 14:17; 1 Corinthians 4:20).

Believers should be less judgmental as they recall God's mercy for themselves.

Love Supersedes Rules

⁹ Now when He had departed from there, He went into their synagogue.



¹⁰ And behold, there was a man who had a withered hand. And they asked Him, saying, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”—that they might accuse Him.

¹¹ Then He said to them, “What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift *it* out?”

¹² Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.”

¹³ Then He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And he stretched *it* out, and it was restored as whole as the other.

¹⁴ Then the Pharisees went out and plotted against Him, how they might destroy Him.

Healing on the Sabbath (Matthew 12:9-14)

Recordings of Same Account: Mk 3:1-6; Lk 6:6-11

As with many of the hurting (who seek God in a house of worship), Jesus finds a distressed man in the synagogue (Mk 1:23, 39). In the same way, many who are hurting can be found in religious institutions (e.g., churches) today.

People have interests in Jesus (and His people) with both good motives and bad intentions. Many people approach the Lord (e.g., read His word; attend church, etc.) with a critical intent revealing their hard hearts. The Pharisees were attempting to trap Jesus (Mark 3:2) by making Him choose between His love for people or prioritizing Mosaic and oral laws.

Jesus continues to emphasize that the Spirit of the Sabbath (love instead of tradition) by asking a “practical question” which was allegorical to His actions. The legalistic Rabbis were far more concerned with their animals and possessions than they were concerned about their fellow man. Jesus showed the hypocrisy of the Pharisees.

Jesus often likened His people to sheep (Mt 25), but humans are more valuable than animals. Evolution has devalued man into a common value of all creation, but man was made in God’s image and worth much more than animals (Mt 10:31).

The hand represents “doing”, so a withered hand reveals that the man’s actions were weak and warped. As the man exposed his activities (hand) to the Lord, the distorted nature was healed. Jesus spoke to the hurting man to stretch out his hand as if to receive a gift from the Lord.

The hardness of the Pharisee hearts caused them to be insensitive to suffering and affliction. It also made them blind to the miraculous power of a healing God. Upon witnessing the work of Jesus in the synagogue, the Pharisees decided to destroy Jesus instead of reflecting on the miraculous grace that they had seen. (Luke 6:11)

Jesus had no intention of hiding His Sabbath healing from His wicked critics.

Jesus is Greater than Jonah & Solomon (Matthew 12:38-42)

Miracles

- The miracles of God are evidence of existing faith; the scribes and Pharisees would have doubted any sign because of their hardened hearts.
- The Pharisees had already seen the miraculous, but they had credited it to demons. (Matthew 12:24)
- In the last days, the demonic will be performing the miraculous as well (Matthew 24:24)



Jonah

The Gentiles (Assyrians) in Nineveh would condemn the Jewish generation who rejected the Messiah.

Solomon

The Gentile (Queen of Sheba) would condemn the Jewish generation who rejected the Messiah.

Although Gentiles had received God's message, the Jews had rejected someone greater.

- The Romans named the Mediterranean Sea because the name in Latin means "Middle of the Earth."
- The Latin word is composed of "medius" (meaning "middle") and "terra" (meaning "earth").

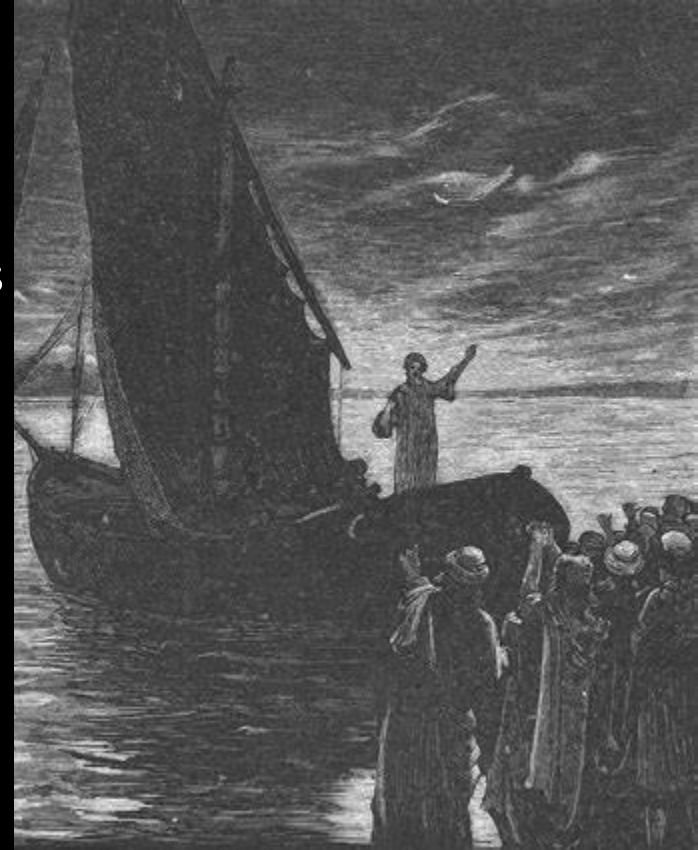
Seven “Kingdom” Parables (Matthew 13)

Seven Parables of the Kingdom (Four Outside; Three Inside)
Seven Parables on the Kingdom
Matthew 13:3-9 Sower with different ground
Mt 13:24-30 Reaping wheat and weeds at harvest
Mt 13:31-32 Large Tree with birds in branches
Mt 13: 33 Should not mix
Mt 13:44 Finds Treasure & Reburies then sells everything for prize in field
Mt 13:45-46 Merchant & Fine Pearls
Mt 13:47-50 Throw out the worthless fish



Jesus Teaches the Crowds (Matthew 13:1-2)

- The crowds would nearly crush Jesus unless he stepped into a small boat offshore (Mark 3:9).
 - The crowds pushed near to Him, so He preached to them from a boat to impose a distance, so that they would listen.
 - Jesus sat in the boat while the crowds stood on the shore.
 - The Rabbi would sit as he was teaching and would stand as He was preaching (proclaim or read Scripture). (Sit to teach; Stand to preach).
 - The adage “I can’t stand anymore” comes from the practice of pupils standing as they heard amounts of teaching that outlasted their ability or desire to stand.
-
- In 1845, George Gabriel Stokes developed “Stoke’s Law of Sound Attenuation” which states that the frictional/drag force is less over water than land.
 - The acoustics for the message would have been better over water. Sound is amplified as the sound waves flow over water for several reasons:
 - The air above the water’s surface is cooler.
 - Objects on the ground (grass, rocks, hills, trees) can become impediments to sound waves which retain their coherence longer over water.



Seed Bears Fruit (Matthew 13:18-23)

“Fruit” Defined by Scripture

Fruit: (καρπος καρπος)

“The Fruit of the Spirit”

Galatians 5:22-23

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, self-control.”

“The Fruit of the Light”

Ephesians 5:8-10

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light— for **the fruit of the light** results in all goodness, righteousness, and truth -- discerning what is pleasing to the Lord.”

“The Fruit of Righteousness”

Philippians 1:10-11

“You can approve the things that are superior and can be pure and blameless in the day of Christ, filled with the **fruit of righteousness** that comes through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God.”

“Fruit in Every Good Work”

Colossians 1:10

“Walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, **bearing fruit in every good work** and growing in the knowledge of God.”

“Fruit of Peace & Righteousness”

Hebrews 12:11

“The fruit of peace and righteousness”

“Fruit of Our Lips”

Hebrews 13:15

“Let us continually offer up to God a sacrifice of praise, that is, the **fruit of our lips** that confess His name.”

Characteristics of “Good” Soil

(Matthew 13:23)

1	Hear	Rom 10:17; Mt 15:10	Make time to hear God
2	Understand	Lk 24:45; 1 Cor 14:20; 2 Tim 2:7; 1 Jn 5:20; Eph 1:18, 3:4, 5:17	Make an effort to consider and reflect on His Word while asking God to enlighten
3	Bear Fruit	Gal 5:22-23; 1 Cor 14:14	Act on Understanding

It is imperative that believers strive for each of these three productive acts.

Parable of the Seed

(Matthew 13:3-9; Luke 8:11-15)

1.	Path	No Growth	No Fruit	Understand
2.	Rocky	Some Growth	No Fruit	Persevere
3.	Fertile Soil	Full Growth	No Mature Fruit	Prioritize
1.	Good Soil	Full Growth	Fruit	Be Productive

The Seed is the Word of God. Each Heart has areas that are hardened or fertile depending on the message.

The Word of God (the good seed) is proactively spread by the Sower (Jesus). A seed has the capacity to reproduce the life form (whether a tree, a human or God Himself) from which it originated if given adequate water (living water, Spirit, Word of God).

Kingdom Parables (Matthew 13:29-33)

Kingdom Parables Advising Believers about the World's Evil

Mt 13:29	Wheat/Tares	Do not judge and condemn the world	Grace
Mt 13:32	Birds on Mustard Plant	Be wary of those roosting in high positions	Prudence
Mt 13:33	Yeast in Dough	Do not mix too closely with the world	Separation

- A seed has the capacity to reproduce the life form (whether a tree, a human or God Himself) from which it originated if given adequate water (living water, Spirit, Word of God).
- The mustard seed was the smallest seed of the Jews (approximately 2 mm in diameter), and mustard plants in the Mideast frequently grow to nine feet high (and can reach 15 feet).
- The seed contains 33-50% of its weight in oil which is extracted by crushing the seed (Lk 17:6). Often the Spirit (oil) is most evident in the trials (crushing) of His people.

Birds Can Symbolize Spiritual Truth or Deceit

“Like a cage full of birds, so their houses are full of deceit.”

Jeremiah 5:27

The Kingdom Parables (Matthew 13:44-50)

This Hidden Treasure is often equated to the Jewish People

- In each of the other parables, Jesus is the man (e.g., sower), and with that consistent interpretation, Jesus paid the price for His followers (1 Cor 6:20, 7:23; Philippians 2:5-8).
- Scripture refers to Israel as the Lord's treasure (Psalm 135:4).
 - Daniel was "treasured" by God (Daniel 10:11, 19).
 - The "fear of the Lord" is Israel's treasure (Isaiah 33:6).

***"For Yahweh has chosen
Jacob for Himself, Israel as
His treasured possession."***

Psalm 135:4

This Priceless Pearl is often equated to the Gentiles

- The pearl is the only gem made by a living organism in response to irritant (trials/pressures). Pearls are formed within oysters which are not "kosher" to Israelites (Lev 11:10-12).
 - The size of the pearl is directly related to the size of the irritant.
- As the pearl is removed from the natural setting, so too will God's people be raptured to Himself (Jn 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:16).

***"The 12 gates are
12 pearls; each
individual gate
was made of a
single pearl."***

Revelation 21:21

*This net is often equated to post-millennial
judgment of those who grew up during the
Millennium where the Lord rules on the earth.*

Those deemed worthy will be given
a pre-established place (container – John 14:2-3)
while others are thrown out (Mt 8:11-12; 25:31).

The Kingdom Parables (Matthew 13:51-53)

Story Line from the Seven Parables of the Kingdom (Matthew 13)

Seven Parables of the Kingdom	Story Line
Mt 13:3-9 Sower with different ground	God's Word Shared to the World
Mt 13:24-30 Reaping wheat and weeds at harvest	Satan works to pollute God's family
Mt 13:31-32 Large Tree with Birds in Branches	Leaders safely perch to consume fruit
Mt 13: 33 Should not mix	Socialization of God's people with polluted world
Mt 13:44 Finds Treasure & Reburies then sells everything for prize in field	Jews purchased
Mt 13:45-46 Merchant & Fine Pearls	Gentiles purchased
Mt 13:47-50 Throw out the worthless fish	Separation of God's people from the worldly

*“Have you understood all these things?”
They said to him, “Yes.” And he said to
them, “Therefore every scribe who has been
trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master
of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is
new and what is old.”*

**Every student of Scripture
 (“Scribe” – Mt 23:34)
 brings the blessings of truth
 from the storeroom of the
 Old and New Testaments.**

Jesus Rejected in Nazareth (Matthew 13:54-58)

Wisdom & Works

- The people of Nazareth were astonished at Jesus' wisdom and miraculous power.
- Believers should continue to walk in "wisdom and works."
- It's not enough to know a lot; believers should actively apply the wisdom that the Lord gives to them.


*Wisdom is the principle thing;
therefore get wisdom* Proverbs 4:7

*You had the seal of perfection,
Full of wisdom* Ezekiel 28:12

The Earthly Family of Jesus

- Mary gave birth to at least seven children. "Adelphos" is the Greek word for "brother" (not "cousin" as some Catholics interpret).
- Two of Jesus' brothers, James and Judas (Jude), penned books of the Bible.
- When people get offended, it typically represents arrogance and pride.
- A frequent defense of the hard-hearted is to attack the messenger without listening to the truth of the message.

"Blessed is any person who does not take offense at Me." Matthew 11:6



**Miraculous works are
a response to faith –
not a mechanism to
induce faith.**

**A Christian adage is
"without Him, I can't...
without me, He won't."**

The Carpenter / The Tecton (Matthew 13:55)

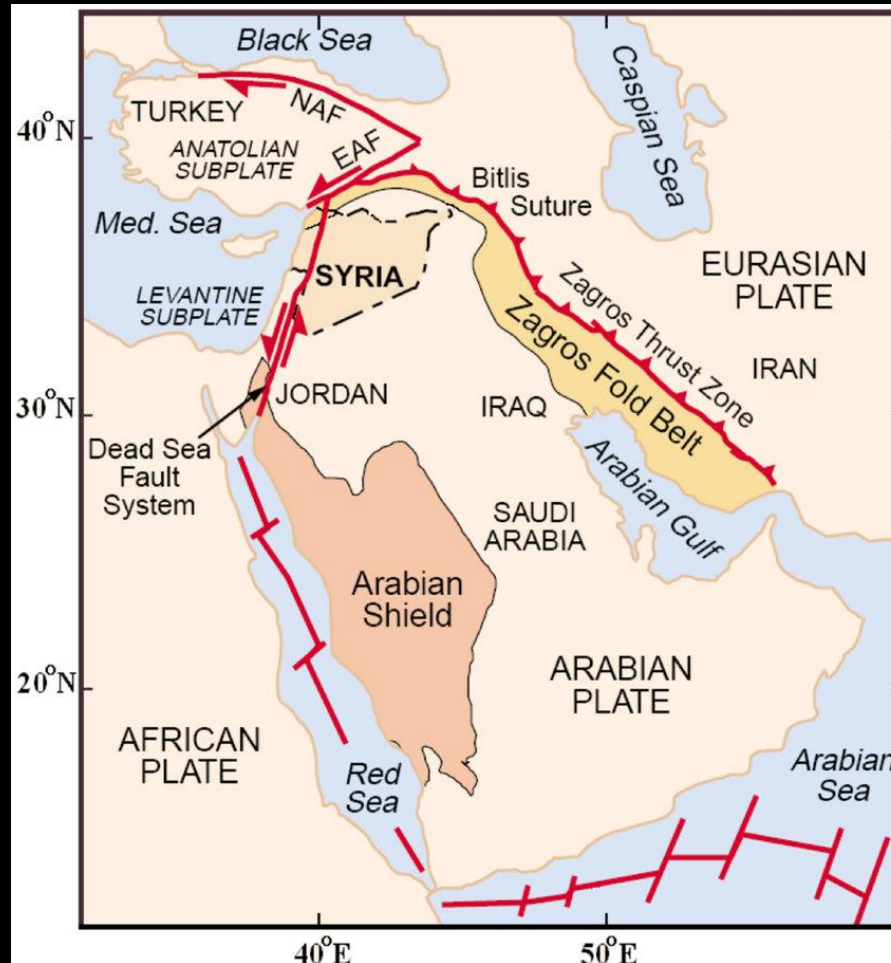
Tektón ΤΕΚΤΩΝ

(carpenter, woodworker, mason, builder, engineer)

**Syrian -
African Rift**
4,500 Miles
in Length

Fossil Fuels

- In the days of Josephus, a Jewish historian, the Dead Sea was called "Lake Asphaltitis."
- Bitumen, which is found around the Dead Sea, is asphalt in its natural state.



Zagros Thrust

The Zagros Mountains run along the Tigris River

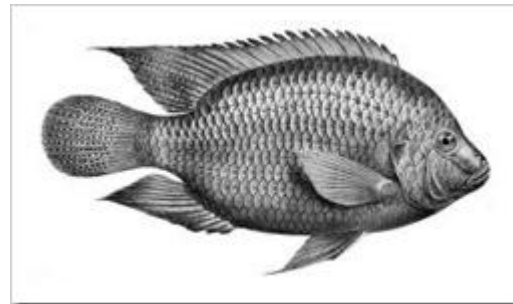


Jesus Feeds 5,000 (Matthew 14:13-21)

- Although Jesus desired to be alone, He ministered to the crowds out of Compassion.
- John the Baptist was killed just before Passover (John 6:4)
- At times, the Jews referenced two “evenings” for a single day. The “early evening” began around 3:00pm (Matthew 14:15) and a later “evening” after sunset (Matthew 14:23).

The traditional fish caught at that time were sardines, barbells, and musht (“St. Peter’s Fish”).

- The crowd needed to obey Jesus by sitting in the grass (stop searching for food, but rely on Jesus) as they sat in groups of 50 to 100 people. (Mark 6:39-40)
- Jesus often offered prayers before eating (Mark 14:22; Luke 24:30).



The largest variety of musht reaches a length of about a foot and a half and weighs some four and a half pounds



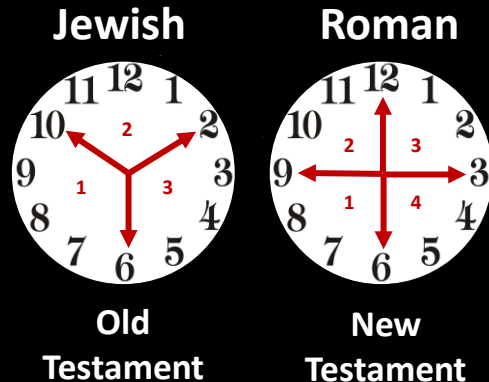
Jesus Walked on Water (Matthew 14:22-33)

Three Statements of Jesus at Greeting (Matthew 14:27)

1. “Be of Good Cheer” or “Take Courage”
2. “It is Me”
3. “Do not be afraid”

“When he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, ‘Lord, save me.’”

- Jesus allowed His people to struggle the entire night (until the fourth watch after 3:00am) before bringing relief from the turbulent conditions.
- The Jews of the Old Testament divided their nights into three watches
- Romans had introduced four watches
- Jesus came walking on the water between 3:00am-6:00am.



The Greek term for “take courage” (Tharseite *Θαρσεῖτε*) is only used three times in Scripture.

This account and the parallel account in Mark 6:50

The other time is in John 16:33 –

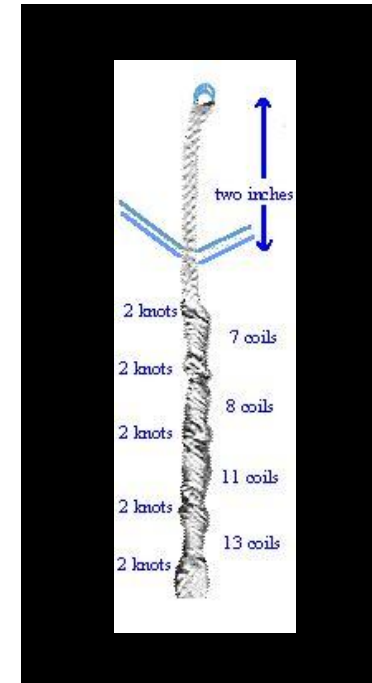
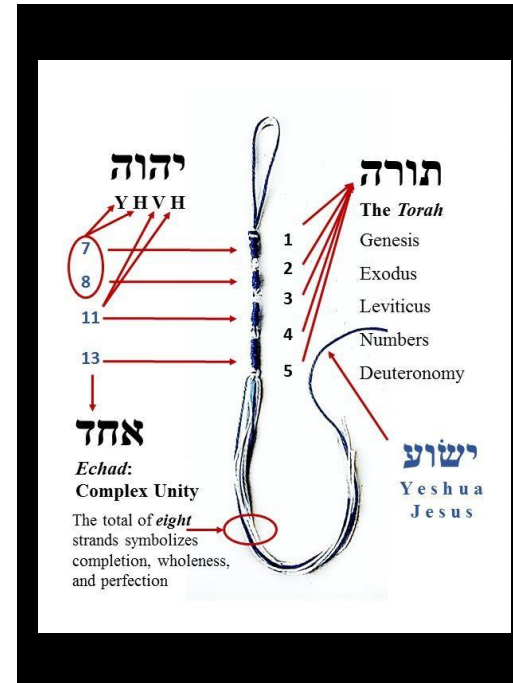
*“I have told you these things so that in Me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. **Be courageous!** I have conquered the world.”*



“Oh you of little faith, why did you doubt?”

Gennesaret Healings (Matthew 14:34-36)

- The tassel represented a man's righteousness and authority, and the hem of his prayer shawl (tallith/tallis) was called his "wing" (Num 15:37-40).
- The term "tallith/tallis" means "tent" as it was a representation of the Temple
 - When the Jewish man pulled the prayer shawl over his head (never covering the face), it symbolized his going to prayer in the tent (Tabernacle).
- Each of the four corners of the tallit contained a tzitzit (צִיצִית) which is literally defined as a "fringe."
- Hebrew is an alphanumeric language where each letter also represents a numerical value.
 - The Hebraic spelling of the word "tzitzit" is 600.
 - Each of the fringes contains 8 threads & 5 knots totaling 13
- There are 613 commandments contained in the Torah/Pentateuch.



"How beautiful are your tents, Jacob, your dwelling places, Israel!" Numbers 24:5

Oral Teachings & Traditions (Matthew 15:1-9)

The Pharisees (meaning “separated ones”) had evolved out of the Maccabean time period and were legalistic by design.

The Pharisees believed all of the Tanakh (Old Testament) as well as the oral traditions that would be codified (written) in the Mishnah between ~70AD-~200AD.

The Scribes (lawyers) were the scholars responsible for interpreting the oral and written traditions into daily life. Most scribes were of the sect of the Pharisees.

Scribes were often paid to find ways around the Mosaic Law

The Pharisees would survive the destruction of Jerusalem while the Sadducees did not.

The Sadducees were abolished in 70AD with the destruction of the Temple.

- The Jews extrapolated laws beyond their intent – if a law was beneficial for a priest, it was good for everyone; if washing hands before a meal was beneficial-extend to after.
- The handwashing traditions had originally begun with the priests washing before they ministered in the Temple (Exodus 30:19; Leviticus 15:11).
- The Jewish custom is to do a lot of hand washing including when they awake as well as before and after they eat (as well as between any courses).
 - An individual must wash his hands after touching a part of the body that is typically covered with clothes.
 - An individual who touches his scalp or scratches his head must wash his hands.
 - Anyone who touches any footwear (excluding shoelaces and clean socks) must also wash
 - If only one hand touches anything unclean, then only that one hand needs to be washed.
- Jewish hygienic traditions kept the Jewish community from being seriously impacted in the 14th century Black Plague that killed 25 million – a third of the European population.

Tanakh
+ Oral Law

Mishnah
+ Gemara

Talmud

Oral Teachings & Traditions (Matthew 15:1-9)

Any Type of Food Can be Kosher: American, Chinese, Indian, Mexican, etc.

- The term “kosher” is utilized to describe food preparation that complies with strict Jewish dietary standards.
- The “Kashrut” (כַּשְׁרוּת) is the Jewish law detailing what foods can/cannot be prepared or eaten. The Kashrut (Jewish dietary law) prohibits mixing milk dishes with meat.

Kosher Food is Divided into Three Categories



Pareve (פרווה) means to be prepared without milk or meat, so “pareve” foods are considered neutral and can be eaten with either milk or meat dishes.

The Kashrut laws extend beyond what to cover the way an animal should be killed, the way it should be checked for defects, which parts are kosher.

A “kosher symbol” verifies that this is a **kosher certified company.**



Kosher symbols are a seal of authenticity that help consumers buy legitimate kosher products.

Defilement is From the Heart (Matthew 15:10-20)

Three-Step Process for Wisdom

1. Come to Jesus
2. Hear His word
3. Understand

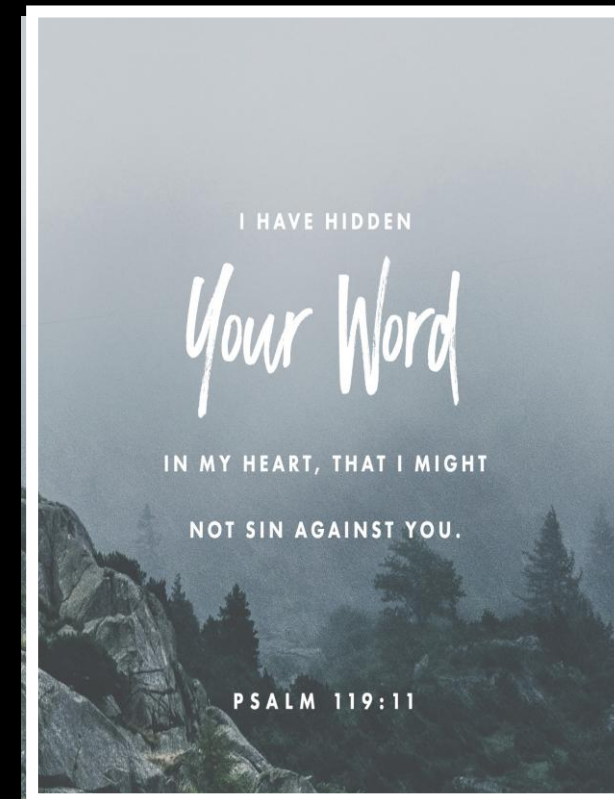
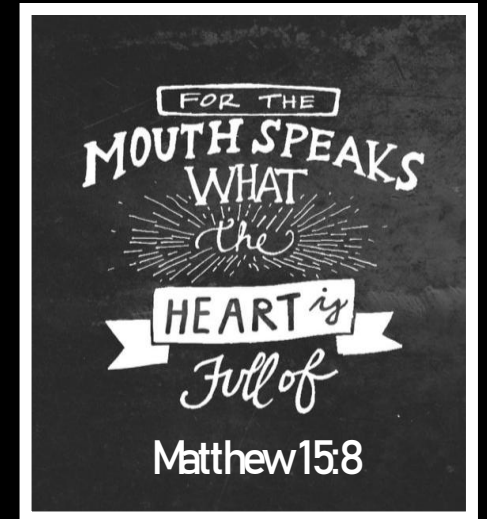
For out of the heart come:

1. evil thoughts,
2. murder,
3. adultery,
4. sexual immorality,
5. theft,
6. false witness,
7. slander.

Men had wrongly considered “things” as evil.

In reality, it is men’s hearts that are evil as God’s good creation is perverted and warped because of sinful hearts.

- The first evil to be listed is “evil thoughts” which lead to other sins.
- The Greek word for “sexual immorality” (porneiai πορνείαι) is the root word for pornography. (Mark 7:21)
- The Greek word for “theft” (klopai κλοπαί) is the root word for kleptomania. (Mark 7:21)
- The Greek word for “slander” or “irreverent” (blasphēmiai βλασφημῖαι) is the root word for blasphemous. (Mark 3:28; 1 Timothy 6:4)



The Gentile Mother From Tyre (Matthew 15:21-28)

- The word “Canaanite” (meaning “trader” or “merchant”) emphasizes Israel’s ancient pagan neighbors. This Greek woman was a “Syrophoenician” meaning an inhabitant of Phoenicia in the province of Syria (Mark 7:24).
- This Gentile from Syria understood
 - Her daughter needed to be freed from an unclean spirit.
 - By referencing Jesus as the “Son of David,” she understood Jesus was the awaited Messiah fulfilling the Davidic covenant (2 Samuel 7:11-13).

***Jesus replied to her,
“Woman, your faith is
great. Let it be done
for you as you want.”
Matthew 15:28***

Matthew 15:24

- Jesus calls the people of Israel “lost sheep” which He was sent to save
- In Mark’s parallel account to the Romans, he left this statement out; however, the Jewish audience of Matthew would have appreciated being the target ministry for Jesus.
- The Jews had a nationalistic bias towards Israel, so if the Gentiles had accepted Jesus, the Jews of Israel may have rejected Him outright because of pride.



- In ancient times before napkins existed, a diner would take a piece of bread from a plate on the table and use their bread to wipe their hands before eating it.
- The wiping of hands on the bread caused crumbs to fall on the floor.
- The first napkin was a lump of dough that the Spartans called “apomagdalie.”

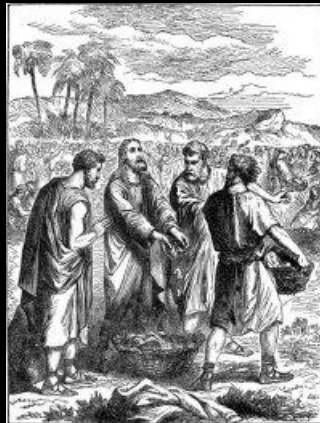
Feeding of 5,000 & 4,000 (Matthew 15:32-39)

Feeding of 5,000

- West Side of Sea of Galilee
- Primarily Jewish Location

KOPHINOUS

“Hand-basket” (kophinous κοφίνους) describes a large, sturdy wicker basket (Matthew 14:20, 16:9; Mark 8:19; John 6:13)



Feeding of 4,000

- East Side of Sea of Galilee
- Predominantly Gentile Location

SPYRIDAS

“Basket” (spyridas σπυρίδας) describes a flat mat (braided platter) with handles. (Matthew 15:37, 16:10; Mark 8:8).



Who is Jesus? (Matthew 16:13-20)

Who did the people say that Jesus was?

- John the Baptist: Herod thought that Jesus was the resurrected “John the Baptist.” (Matthew 14:1-2)
- Elijah: Scripture foretold that Elijah would be coming (Malachi 4:3)
- Jeremiah: The Rabbi’s believed that Jeremiah had hid the Ark of the Covenant on Mount Nebo, and that just before the coming of the Messiah, Jeremiah would return to recover the Ark of the Covenant.
- One of the Prophets: Moses had given a Messianic prophecy of the coming of “the” Prophet after him (Deuteronomy 18:15).

*“Simon Peter replied, ‘You are the Christ, the **Son of the living God.**’”*

Beyond being the Messiah (“Christ”), Jesus was also recognized as Deity as the *“Son of the living God.”*

Matthew 16:18 utilizes two, different Greek words for the term “Stone.”

- Jesus gave the name “Peter” (Petros Πέτρος) which is a masculine word meaning “a piece of rock; a detached stone.”
- The second use of the word “rock” (petra πέτρα) is a feminine form of the word that means “bedrock.”
- Jesus would build His church on the bedrock (petra) of the truth of His identity that had been given by the detached stone (Peter).

- The Greek word for “CHURCH” (ekklēsia ἐκκλησία) means the “called out ones.”
- When the Septuagint translated Hebrew into Greek, the Greek term “ekklēsia” was translated from the Hebrew word “qahal” (קהל) which meant an assembly of people.
- By using the word “ekklēsia,” Jesus is using a word that links the New Testament “people of God” (His church) with the Old Testament “people of God” (Israel).

What Will Not Prevail (Matthew 16:18)

The “gates” (πύλαι πύλαι) could reference multiple attributes of hades:

- **PASSAGE** - Gates were the entry way
- **STRONGHOLD** - Gates were the most reinforced and secured parts of a city
- **AUTHORITY** - Gates were the location that elders and authorities gathered

- The correct interpretation is “Hades” (hadou ᾗδου) instead of “Hell.”
- The term “Hades” (Sheol/Grave in the Old Testament) was considered by the Jews, the holding place for the dead with two divisions:
 - Paradise for God’s people (Luke 16:19-31)
 - Tartarus for those who rebelled against God (2 Peter 2:4).
- Hades is different from Gehenna which refers to hell after the judgment.

Uses of “Prevail Against” in the New Testament

Matthew 16:18	Katischysousin (κατισχύσουσιν)	<i>“I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build My church, and the forces of Hades will not <u>overpower</u> it.”</i>
Luke 23:23	Katischyon (κατίσχυον)	<i>“They kept up the pressure, demanding with loud voices that He be crucified. And their voices <u>won out</u>.”</i>
Luke 21:36	Katischysēte (κατισχύσητε)	<i>“Be alert at all times, praying <u>that you may have strength</u> to escape all these things that are going to take place and to stand before the Son of Man”</i>

The Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-8)

The Inner Circle of Jesus

Mark 5:37; Luke 8:51	Resurrection of Jairus Daughter
Matthew 17:1; Luke 9:28	Mount of Transfiguration
Mark 13:3	Discuss End of Age w/ Jesus
Mark 14:33	Garden of Gethsemane

The "Inner Circle" of Jesus

- Peter
- James
- John

Moses on Mt. Sinai with:

- Aaron
- Nadab
- Abihu

Exodus 24:9

The Touch of Jesus Brings Healing (Matthew 17:7)

The Touch from Jesus in Matthew Brought Healing

Matthew 8:3	Healed serious skin disease
Matthew 8:15	Healed Peter's Mother-in-law
Matthew 9:29	Healed two blind men
Matthew 17:7	Woke them after Transfiguration
Matthew 20:34	Healed two blind men in Jericho

**Other times people touched Jesus to be healed
(Matthew 9:20-21; 14:36)**

Temple Tax (Matthew 17:24-27)

- The didrachma was worth two drachmas or half of a silver shekel which was two days wages
- These coins were not used in commerce, but instead for Temple transactions, so “money changers” were established in the Temple for currency exchange.
- This was a Temple tax (not a Roman political tax – Matthew 22:17)
- The Temple Tax was originated by Moses (atonement money - Exodus 30:12).
- The Temple Tax had increased from a third of a shekel (440 BC) to a half of a shekel (Nehemiah 10:32-33). This tax of half a shekel could purchase two sheep.

Jesus sacrificed His rights in order to “not offend” the religious order.

On one side of the coin was an image of Alexander Balas who claimed to be the son of Antiochus IV Epiphanes.



This is the only miracle that Scripture does not document the explicit miracle; the Bible only states what Jesus said would happen.

On one side, the coins had an image of the Phoenician god Baal which the Jews derided as “Beelzebub.”



The Temple tax was mandated as Tyrian shekels (tetradrachms or tetradrachmas) which were minted in Tyre.



Roman coins were only 80% silver while the shekels of Tyre were more pure silver (greater than 94%).

Guardian Angels (Matthew 18:10)



“See that you do not look down on one of these little ones; for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven...”

Matthew 2:10

“Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to provide service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?”

Hebrews 1:14

“He was in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by Satan; and He was with the wild animals, and the angels were serving Him.”

Mark 1:13 (Luke 22:43)

Wilderness

Gethsemane

“Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me...”

Acts 27:23 (Acts 5:19)

Paul

Peter

The Will of God (Matthew 18:14)

God's will can be categorized into three groups:

- **God's "Intentional" Will:**
 - His ideal desire that His people would reject sin and obey Him

- **God's "Permissive" Will**
 - His allowance for our choices; to sin or not to sin....

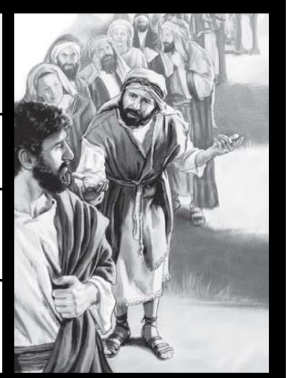
- **God's "Ultimate" Will**
 - His ultimate end (i.e., that sin will be judged; that Satan will be destroyed; that Israel would be a testimony of blessing or judgement.

Dealing with Sin of a Believing Brother (Matthew 18:15-20)

Three Step Process for Intervention in Lifestyle of Sin

(Matthew 18:15-17)

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------|---|
| 1. | Private Discussion | Believers should first engage one-on-one |
| 2. | Witnessed Discussion | The witnesses are to establish the truth of all the facts |
| 3. | Congregational Involvement | The fellowship community is to encourage repentance |



This section of church discipline is in the preceding context of not hurting the weaker believers.

**“In essentials – unity;
In non-essentials – liberty;
In all things – love.”**

- **Whatever is already being permitted will be actualized in the church if they are following the Lord.**
- **As they follow Him, the church will reflect the mind of God in heaven.**
- **God will lead His church to understand His will and what He has ordained already in heaven.**

“Unlimited” Forgiveness (Matthew 18:21-22)

Jewish Rabbi’s taught that an individual only needed to be forgiven three times.

“God certainly does all these things two or three times to a man in order to turn him back from the Pit, so he may shine with the light of life.” Job 33:29-30

“This is what the Lord says: ‘For three offenses of Israel, and for four, I will not revoke its punishment...’” Amos 1:3, 6; 2:6

- The “*seventy times seven*” is a metaphor for unlimited forgiveness.
- Just as God forgives His people every time, they come to Him, believers should forgive every time they are asked to forgive.

Forgive 70 x 7 <small>(Matthew 18:22)</small>	490 years tends to be the span of time between the stages of the Old Testament
From Birth of Abraham	505 years minus 15 years for Ishmael
Exodus	573 years minus 93 for captivity plus 10 for Temple Completion
Temple	560 years minus 70 for Babylon
Nehemiah’s Return	483 years plus Daniel’s “week at the end of time”
Messiah	

The Parable of the Unforgiving Slave (Matthew 18:23-35)

The Debt of the First Slave

- The debt of the slave exceeded \$3 billion.
- Impossible to pay just as it is impossible for a believer to repay his debt to the Lord for His charity of grace.
- To demonstrate the size of the debt, 600 Talents were the annual taxation for Samaria, Judea and Idumea. The size of the annual taxation for Galilee was only 200 Talents.

The Debt of the Second Slave

- The amount of “100 denarii” would be approximately a third of a year’s salary.
- The debt of the fellow slave were thousands of dollars, so it was substantial, but not relative to the debt that had been forgiven by the King.
- This shows that the offence against the servant is legitimate, but it is nothing in comparison to what has been forgiven the servant.

- **Under the stipulations of the Old Testament, debt could be paid by offering to sell oneself as a slave (Lev 25.35-43), but this slave has nothing else to give because everything he owns already belongs to the King.**
- **The lack of forgiveness affected the fellow slaves of the King. Unforgiveness can cause disruption and disunity in the body of God.**

Forgiveness of others is a sign that a person has been forgiven.

(Matthew 5:7; 6:14-15; 7:1-2; 10:8; Luke 6:36; Colossians 3:13; James 2:13; 5:9)

God's Terms for Divorce (Matthew 19:1-9)

Shammai (50BC–30AD)

- Shammai held a strict interpretation of Jewish law.
- Shammai's teaching on divorce was closer to that of Jesus in that infidelity was the only grounds for divorce.

Two schools of thought among Rabbinical leaders

Hillel (110BC–7AD)

- Hillel taught that a man could divorce his wife for any reason.
- This was the more popular teaching, so the Pharisees may have wanted to force Jesus to alienate many of His followers.

Scripture states *“when a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found “some” “indecenty” in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce...”* (Deuteronomy 24:1)

Shammai focused on the word “indecenty” (עֲרֻת *erwat*)

- The two become one (Genesis 2:24) just as the Believer relinquishes control of his life to the Lord (Gal 2:20).
- The Greek word for “joined” (kollēthēsetai κολληθήσεται) means “yoked” together.
- The Hebrew word for “joined” (וַאֲדָבָק וַאֲדָבַק *wəḏāḇāq*) means “glued” together.

Hillel focused on the word “some” (דָּבָר *dāḇār*)

- Gamaliel “the Elder” was a leader of the Sanhedrin during this time. Gamaliel was the son of Simeon ben Hillel and grandson of Hillel “the Elder.”
- Although Saul/Paul was a student under Gamaliel, Saul/Paul seems to have been much more zealous, conservative and inflexible.

The Greek term for “sexual immorality” (porneia πορνεία) is the root word for “pornography.”

God's ideal & man's best interest is one man and one woman for life.

Disciples Say Better Not To Marry (Matthew 19:10-12)

- The response of the disciples reveals that their focus in marriage was themselves instead of the glory of God.
- Marriage is a ministry to each other as the two serve and minister to the world for the glory of God.

Eunuchs were not always castrated, but those who were set aside for a distinct intent in chastity/ celibacy.
(Matthew 19:12)

Origin	Reason
From the womb	Natural
Made by men	Forced
Made themselves for the kingdom of heaven	Self-Control

The church father, Origen, castrated himself in response to this verse, but it was also to remove any hint of scandal as he taught young women their catechism; Origen later came to view his action as ill-advised and not to be taken as an example.



Maria Jane Taylor agreed to accept Hudson Taylor's marriage proposal (1858) only after he confessed that he would never love anyone as much as God, but after that, he would never love anyone as much as his wife.

Whether married or single, one's life is to be dedicated to the Lord while bringing glory to His kingdom.

The Rich Young Ruler (Matthew 19:16-22)

- The question itself – “what must I do” – is self-effort and performance motivated. (Romans 9:30-33)
- His question contradicts itself as he asks what actions he must perform (merit) in order to inherit (which is a gift of identity instead of being earned).
- The man urgently (ran) knelt (submitted) to Jesus, but only recognized Jesus as a “Teacher” instead of the Lord.

Man is only right with God by what He has done, not in what we do.

Jesus lists the commandments that deal with treatment of fellow man, but the “God-focused” commandments are summarized with this statement of Jesus: “*Follow Me*”



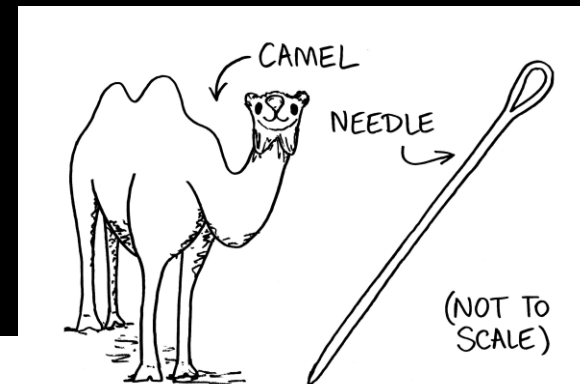
- Since his bar mitzvah (בַּר מִצְוָה) at the age of 13, the ruler had kept the law.
- Jewish girls come to age at age 12 in the bas mitzvah (בֵּית מִצְוָה).
- Prior to a bar mitzvah, the parents would have been accountable for the child’s actions
- After a bar mitzvah, the Jewish youth is responsible for his own actions and can participate in additional Jewish community activities.

Jesus must be more than a “Rabbi” if only God is good, and he is acknowledging that Jesus is perfectly good.

Wealth Makes It Difficult to Enter the Kingdom of God (Matthew 19:23-30)

WORLDLY POSSESSIONS CAN UNDERMINE FAITH IN GOD ALONE.

- Oral tradition claimed that there was a small gate in the protective wall of Jerusalem used for nighttime traffic after the main gates were closed.
- This gate was called “the needle’s eye” where a camel could barely pass through as long as all of the baggage that the camel had been carrying had been eliminated
 - This would speak to the concept that man must also remove all of his possessions that are weighing him down.
 - The camel lives primarily in desert regions and carries its own watery fat, but to fit through the needle, the water hump must be flat (as one relies on Jesus for the living water).
- The miraculous intervention of Jesus can enable a camel (one of the larger animals in that society exceeding seven feet in height) to pass through the eye of a sewing needle (one of the smallest openings; the needle itself can range from .6mm to 1.2mm in diameter).



“With men it is impossible, but not with God, because all things are possible with God”

Philippians 4:13

- The “eye of the needle” is literally the hole in a sewing/surgeon’s needle.
- The Greek term for “camel” (kamhlon) is similar to the Greek term for “rope” (kamilon).

The Parable of the Vineyard Workers (Matthew 20:1-16)

Most Faith Translates into First Rewards

(Matthew 19:30-20:19)

	<u>Called</u>	<u>Time of Calling</u>	<u>Rewarded</u>
1. (Mt 20:2)	Understood Agreement	~6:00am	Last
2. (Mt 20:4)	Promise of Rightful Recompense	9:00am, Noon, 3:00pm	Second
3. (Mt 20:7)	Obedience	5:00pm	First

In this parable, everyone that Jesus called to His vineyard obediently went to serve Him.

In this parable, the owner of the vineyard never had too many workers; there was always space for more.

The workers who had first been engaged watched the payment to the other workers, who came later, which changed their expectations.

The landowner followed the Mosaic Law that encouraged the pay at the end of the day.

- *“Pay them their wages each day before sunset, because they are poor and are counting on it. Otherwise, they may cry to the LORD against you, and you will be guilty of sin.”* (Deuteronomy 24:15)
- *“You shall not oppress your neighbor, nor rob him. The wages of a hired worker are not to remain with you all night until morning.”* (Leviticus 19:13)

While the value of equal pay is prevalent, the sequence in which the workers are paid is also important because the first workers had to wait until the last were already rewarded

The First Will Be Last & The Last Will Be First (Matthew 20:16)

“Then Peter responded to Him, ‘Look, we have left everything and followed You. So what will there be for us?’” Matthew 19:27

First Last - Last First
Matthew 19:30



Last First – First Last
Matthew 20:16

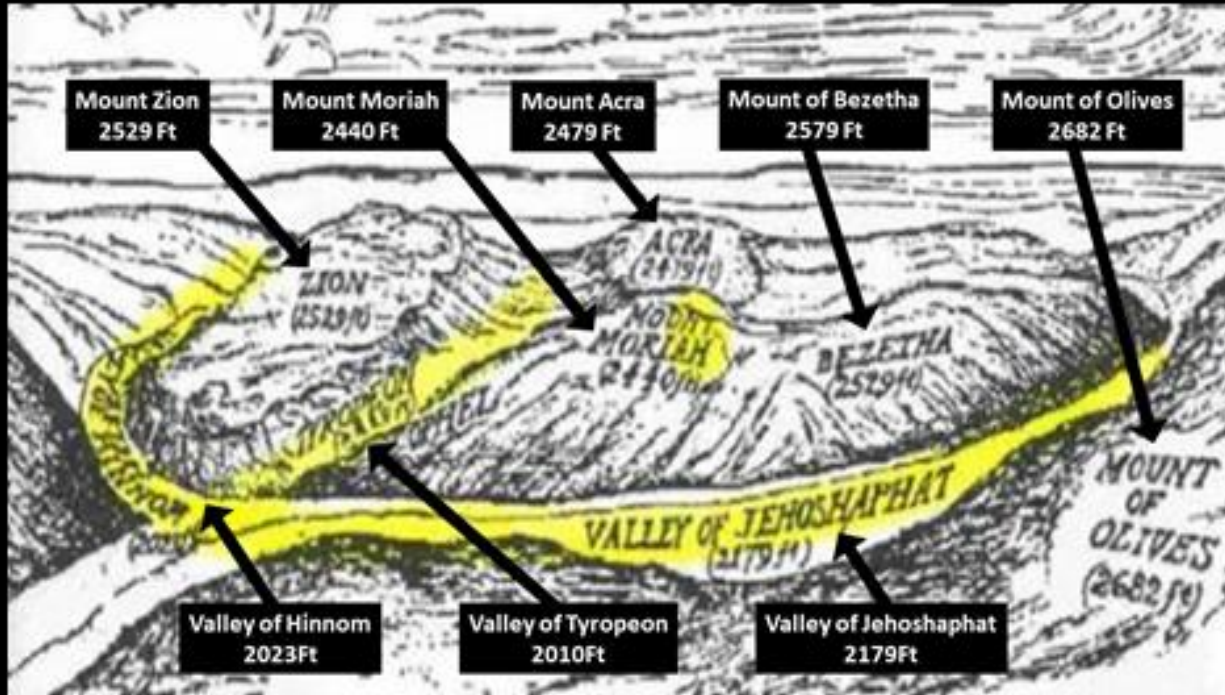
Works Are Rewarded

- *“Now the one who plants and the one who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor.”* (1 Corinthians 3:8)
- Scripture encourages those who are persecuted that their reward in heaven is great. (Matthew 5:12; Luke 6:23)
- God will reward every man according to how he has applied his faith in Christ Jesus (Matthew 16:27; 25:14-30; Luke 19:11-27; 1 Corinthians 3:11-55; 2 Corinthians 9:6; Revelation 22:12)
- Heavenly rewards can decline. (Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18; Romans 2:5-6; 2 John 1:4-10).
- Believers should purposefully invest in heavenly rewards (Matthew 6:20).
- Religious rituals should not be misconstrued as works of faith; the Lord desires a relationship with His people. (Matthew 15:8)

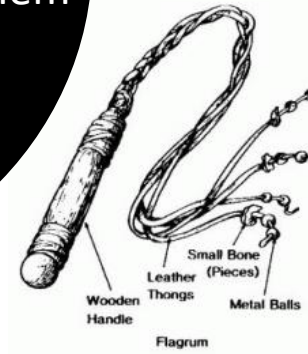
Works Are Rewarded

- Early church fathers interpreted this parable to speak of the Jews and Gentiles. This parable would reveal to Peter that there would be later followers of Christ – the Gentiles and the later Jews (even into the Tribulation) that would also receive rewards for their work although they followed Christ much later.
- This parable could also apply to the disciples as Peter, Andrew, James and John were called before any of the others much less the followers of God beyond the disciples (Matthew 18:1; 20:20-21).
- Believers should not list worldly credentials and accomplishments above a faithful walk with the Lord. (Mark 10:31)

Jesus Foretells His Resurrection for the Third Time (Matthew 20:17-19)



Although surrounded by higher mountains, Scripture always speaks of “going up” to Jerusalem and never “going down.”



The Sanhedrin

- The “chief priests and scribes” is a shortened version of the “elders, chief priests, and scribes” which is used to identify the Sanhedrin (Matthew 16:21).
- The Sanhedrin consisted of seventy men who were the ruling council of the Jews both politically and spiritually.
- Although limited in power by the occupation of Rome, the Sanhedrin were the highest court that a Jew could make a plea.

The Roman Flagellum

- A “Roman flagellum” (or “flagrum”) was a whip with 2-3 long leather strips attached to a short wooden handle.
- Metal, rock or bone was knotted at the ends of the leather strips which were long enough to wrap completely around the body.
- If the Roman scourge contained a hook at the end, the whip was called the “scorpion.”

Jesus Foretells His Resurrection for the Third Time (Matthew 20:17-19)

Paul would later state that Christ's resurrection could be found in the Old Testament (1 Corinthians 15:4) as Jesus claims the sign of Jonah (Matthew 12:38-40).



“He will revive us after two days; He will raise us up on the third day, that we may live before Him.” (Hosea 6:2)

- In the Old Testament, the ultimate humiliation was to have the corpse of the dead person impaled on a tree after they died (Deuteronomy 21:23).
- Jews believed that anyone who was hung on a tree was cursed by God. When Paul accepted Christ, he understood that the sinner's curse was taken upon Jesus Christ at the cross. (Galatians 3:10-13)



In the Jewish mind, any “part of a day” was counted as “a day.”

1

The Jewish day began at 6:00pm, and on Friday, Jesus died at 3:00pm. If Jesus was put in the grave prior to 6:00pm on Friday, it was counted as a day.

2

From 6:00pm on Friday until 6:00pm on Saturday was the second day.

3

From 6:00pm until the next morning was counted as the third Jewish day.

The World's Maltreatment of Jesus

(Mt 20:18-19)

1.	Jews	Condemn Him	Old Testament Israel
2.	Gentiles	Belittle/Disparage Him	New Testament Church Age
3.	Resurrection	Life after Death	Second Coming & Millennial Reign

The Greatest in the Kingdom (Matthew 20:20-28)

James and John may have been the Cousins of Jesus

Matthew 27:56 *“Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and **the mother of Zebedee’s sons.**”*

Mark 15:40 *“There were also women looking on from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and **Salome.**”*

John 19:25 *“Standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother, **His mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.**”*

Mary Magdalene	Mary the mother of James and Joseph	The Mother of Zebedee’s Sons
Mary Magdalene	Mary the mother of James and Joseph	Salome
Mary Magdalene	Mary the mother of Jesus	His mother’s sister, Mary, the wife of Clopas,

James was the second born from Mary, and Joseph was the third born of Mary. (Mt 13:55)

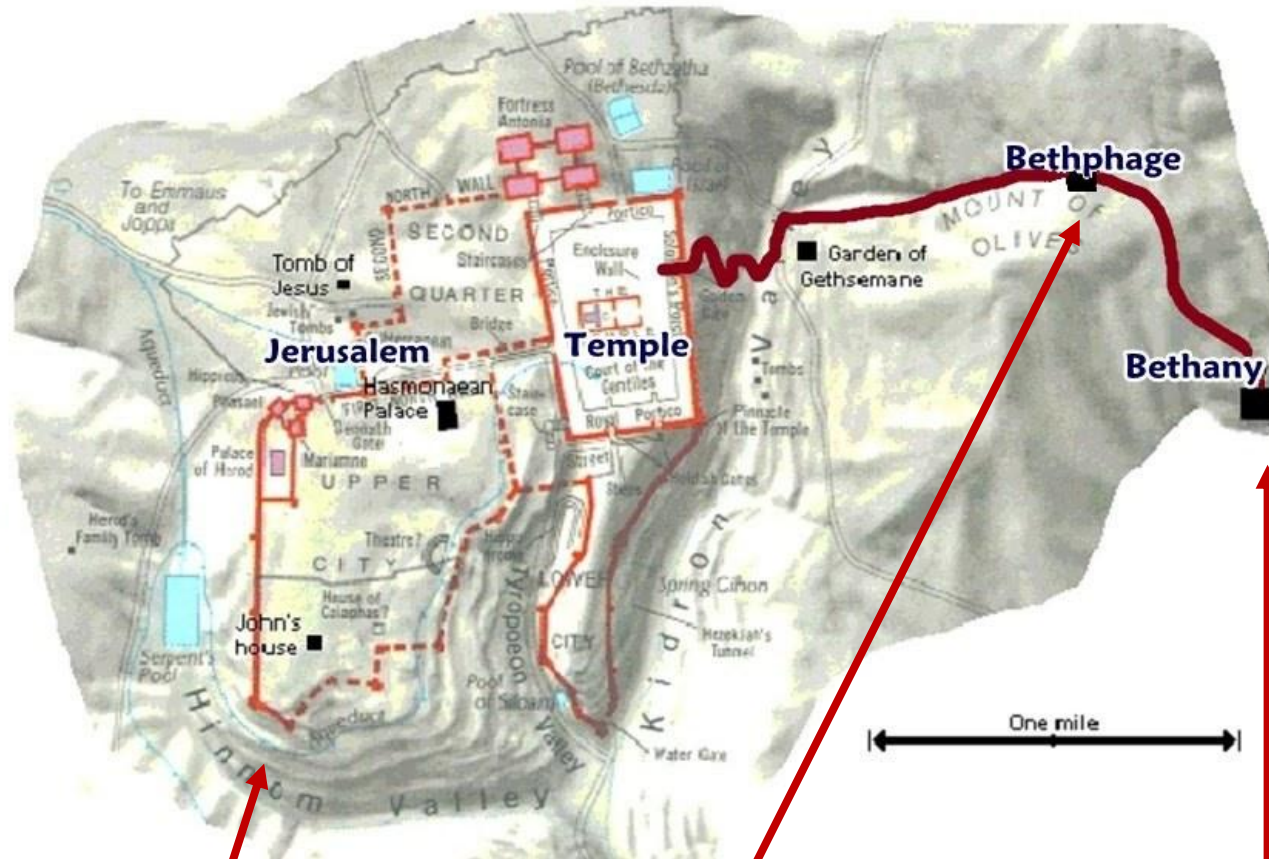
The Term “Cup” Is Used in the Old Testament as Life Experiences (Blessing & Judgment)

Judgment	Blessing
Psalm 75:8; Isaiah 51:17-23; Jeremiah 25:15-28; 49:12; 51:7; Lamentations 4:21-22; Ezekiel 23:31-34; Habakkuk 2:16; Zechariah 12:2; Revelation 14:10; 16:10; 17:4; 18:6	Psalm 16:5; 23:5; 116:13; Jeremiah 16:7

In ancient Ugaritic texts, the term “Cup” means “Destiny.”

The Ugaritic texts are a collection of ancient cuneiform texts discovered since 1928 in Syria. They are written in Ugaritic which is a northwest Semitic language dating back to the 12th century BC.

The Retrieval of a Colt (Matthew 21:1-5)



- Jericho was approximately 17 miles away and a steep incline of approximately 3,000 feet.
- This was a Roman military road where the parable of the Good Samaritan was placed; it was a dangerous road with periodic guards along the way.
- Pilgrims often traveled in groups for additional protection.

Jerusalem
"City of Peace"

Bethphage
"House of Unripe Figs"
Fruitless fig trees represent fruitless Israel (w/o ripe figs) who did not recognize Jesus (Lk 13:6-9; Is 5:7).

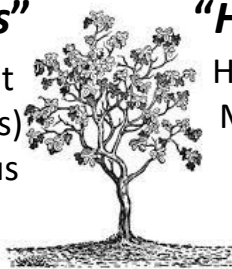
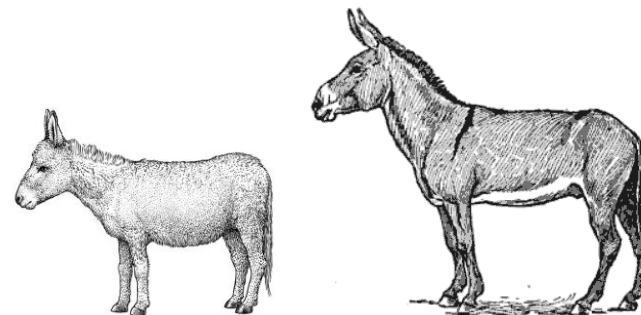


FIG TREE

Bethany
"House of Figs"
Home of Lazarus, Mary and Martha (Jn 11:1, 18; 12:1).



A "Royal Mount"

- The King would have his own donkey as a symbol of royalty which only the King could ride.
- A donkey represents the old unruly nature
- The rider (Jesus) can tame that disposition (old nature) and utilize the strength of the donkey for his purpose.
- The mature donkey is representative of Israel who rejected Jesus while the new donkey (the colt) is likened to the Gentiles who submit to Him.

The Triumphal Entry (Matthew 21:6-11)

- Laying cloaks down before an important arrival is similar to “rolling out the red carpet.”
- As a child might toss rose petals before the coming of the bride at a wedding ceremony, the people laid palm leaves before the colt of the Messiah.
- During the feast days, Jerusalem would swell to three times the normal population. The Roman guard would bring in additional soldiers in the Fortress Antonio overlooking the Temple to ensure peace.

The Nazarene

- The Nazarene portrayed Jesus as the branch (netzer) foretelling the Messiah in the Old Testament (Isaiah 4:2, 11:1; Jeremiah 23:5, 33:15; Zechariah 3:8, 6:12)
- This was also His identity referenced after the resurrection (Mark 14:67, 16:6).
- Nazareth was an uncultivated, disreputable place (John 1:46) that may have been named after the hill behind it (Lk 4:29)
 - The hill “Notserah” means “one guarding/watching.”

Messiah ← **Hosanna** to the son of David:
Blessed is he that cometh in
the name of the Lord;

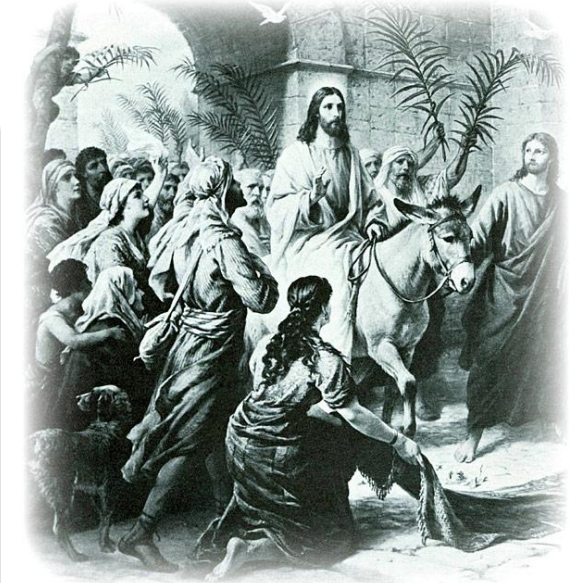
God the Father ← **Hosanna** in the highest.
(Matthew 21:9)

הלל

Hallel

Quoting
(Psalm 118:26-27)

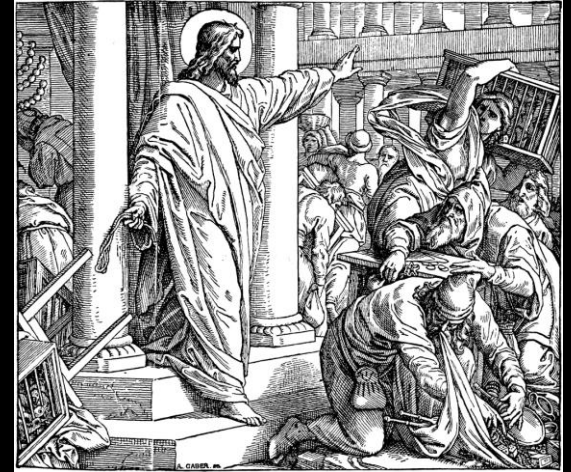
The Last Hallel (“Praise”)
Psalm (113-118)



“Hosanna” literally
means “save us”

The Money Changers of the Temple (Matthew 21:12-13)

- Just as Jesus had “cast out” the unclean spirits, He now “cast out” the religious leaders because they profited by the sale of overpriced sacrifices to the impoverished Jews.
- Scripture records a separate account of Jesus performing the same cleansing of the Temple earlier in His ministry (John 2:15).



Money Changers

- The money changers provided the service of currency exchange for travelers and foreigners at a profit.
- The money changers would also sell sacrificial animals to those who traveled distances.
- Priests would find blemishes from the local sacrifices, so that even the local Jews were forced to buy sacrifices at the Temple for much more money.
- Those in poverty could not afford a sheep, so the Lord allowed dove sacrifices for the impoverished. The money changers were even taking advantage of society’s poorest.
- The money changers were set up in the Court of the Gentiles which was the location of outreach to foreigners wanting to know God.

Missionary To Monetary

Prayer shows the relationship with the Lord, His provision and a focus on the divine.

Commerce shows the relationship with the world and self-effort.

The religious leaders had turned the House of Prayer (Isaiah 56:7) into a Den of Thieves (Jeremiah 7:11).

Isaiah 56 leads into a new section of the Book of Isaiah that reveals a new Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 7 is called “Jeremiah’s Temple Sermon” where he preached at the gate of the Temple in the same way as Jesus seven centuries later.

The Failures of the Religious Leaders (Matthew 21-23)

The Failures of the Religious Leaders

Matthew 21:12-17	The Cleansing of the Temple
Matthew 21:18-22	The Cursing of the Fig Tree
Matthew 21:28-32	The Parable of the Two Sons
Matthew 21:33-46	The Parable of the Wicked Tenants
Matthew 22:1-14	The Parable of the Wedding

“REMEZ”

In Jesus’ day, rabbis used a technique called “Remez” that inferred greater truths that the segment a Scripture passage that was being quoted, assuming that their audience's knowledge of the Bible would allow them to deduce for themselves the fuller meaning. Jesus used this method often...

EXAMPLE:

Children shouted "*Hosanna*" to Jesus in the temple and the chief priests and teachers of the law became indignant (Matthew 21:15).

Jesus responded by quoting Psalm 8:2: "*From the lips of children and infants, you have ordained praise.*" The religious leaders became fiercely upset because this inferred the rest of Psalm 8:2 states "*Because of Your enemies, that You may silence the enemy and the avenger.*"

According to Psalm 8:2, children offer praise, because the enemies of God would be silenced. The religious leaders realized the implication of Jesus that they were God's enemies.

REMEZ

Micah 6:8

"He has told you men what is good and what it is the LORD requires of you..."

- ***Do Right***
- ***Love Others***
- ***Obey God***

*Only to act justly,
to love faithfulness,
and to walk humbly with your God."*

The Children Praise the Messiah (Matthew 21:14-17)

- Jesus cleansed the Temple (1 Corinthians 3:16-17) before healing at the Temple (Matthew 9:2-6).
- Individuals who were cripple or physically disabled could not offer a sacrifice in the Temple. (Leviticus 21:16-24) While these hurting people were rejected at the Temple, Jesus received them to heal them.
- The reference to the “Son of David” expressed the right of kingly authority as the Messiah (2 Sam 7:16).
- These children may have been at the triumphal entry of Jesus (Matthew 21:9) and had heard these shouts of the Hallel Psalm (118:26-27).

The Sanhedrin

- The “chief priests and scribes” (Matthew 20:18) is a shortened version of the “elders, chief priests, and scribes” which is used to identify the Sanhedrin (Matthew 16:21).
- The Sanhedrin consisted of seventy men who were the ruling council of the Jews both politically and spiritually.
- Although limited in power by the occupation of Rome, the Sanhedrin were the highest court that a Jew could make a plea.

In Matthew 21:16, Jesus
Quotes a section of Psalm 8:2

Because of Your adversaries,
You have established strength

***from the mouths of
children and nursing infants***

to silence the enemy and the avenger.

Jesus Curses the Fruitless Fig Tree (Matthew 21:18-22)

- The Mosaic Law allowed by-passers to eat fruit sparingly (Deuteronomy 23:24-25). This was not to harvest and carry away, but it was only to satisfy immediate hunger.
- This fig tree had leaves. The fig tree is unique in that it often bears fruit prior to growing its leaves, so when the leaves appear, the fruit should have already been produced (Jeremiah 8:13).
- This was not the season for the tree to bear figs (Mark 11:13).

The fig tree represented Israel during this age of the church; the tree was fruitless, so Jesus cursed it.

Galatians 5:22-23;
Matthew 3:10, 7:19;
Luke 3:9

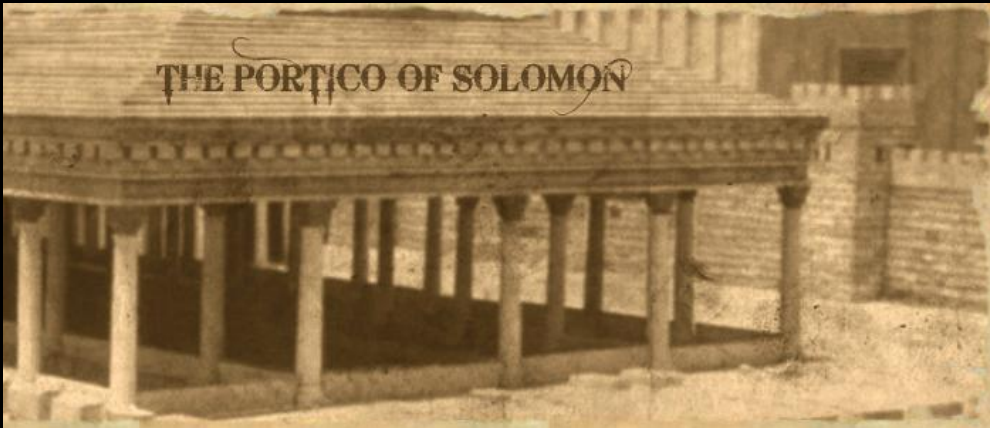
Conditions of Prayer	
God Centered Focus	
1 John 5:14-15; Isaiah 55:8	According to the will of God
1 Corinthians 10:31; Ephesians 3:20	It brings glory to God
The Consequences on the Individual	
Psalm 91:10; 121:7; Romans 8:28; Jeremiah 29:11	It will benefit & not harm you
The Prayer	
James 1:6; Matthew 21:22; Mark 11:24; Hebrews 11:6	Pray in Faith
James 4:6, 10; 1 Peter 5:6; Proverbs 29:23	Pray humbly
Matthew 6:5	Pray privately
1 Thessalonians 5:17-18; Luke 18:1	Pray continually
The Heart	
James 4:3; Proverbs 16:2	Right Motives
Psalm 66:18; Isaiah 59:2; John 9:31; 1 Peter 3:12	Confessed Sin
Proverbs 21:13	Helping the Needy
John 15:7	Fellowship with the Lord
Matthew 6:14; Mark 11:25-26	Forgiving others
1 Peter 3:7	Treating spouse with love & respect

*“If you believe,
you will receive...
whatever you ask
for in prayer.”*

Matthew 21:22

The Authority of Jesus (Matthew 21:23-27)

- It was understood that authority is bestowed by another authority, and the religious organization had not condoned nor promoted the teaching of Jesus.
- Jesus had recently accused the religious leaders of price gouging and exploiting the needs of the congregation (Mt 21:12-13).
- This delegation of the Sanhedrin questioned the credentials of Jesus. They had attributed His miracles to Beelzebub. (Matthew 12:22-32)
- In order to become a rabbi in modern times, an individual must pass a test in certain difficult areas of Jewish law; the individual will then receive a Semicha (Rabbinical ordination) from the testing rabbi.



Jesus was probably teaching in the covered (porches) portico's of Solomon that surrounded the Gentile courtyard.

The Chief Priests & Elders did not want Jesus to undermine their social structure from the pulpit (Amos 7:10-15).

Truth & Consequences

- The religious leaders cared more about public opinion than God.
- The religious leaders actually considered the consequences instead of the truth.
- Believers as well as unbelievers should judge the truth on its own merit instead of determining truth by the consequences on a lifestyle.
- The religious leaders (like many today) align "truth" with their sinful lifestyles.

“S’Mikhah”

Jesus was believed to have “s’mikhah,” the authority to make new interpretations of the Torah. Most rabbis of the law could only teach accepted interpretations; however, teachers with authority (s’mikhah) could make new interpretations and pass legal judgments.

Crowds were amazed because Jesus taught with authority (Matt. 7:28-29), and some people questioned his authority (Matt. 21:23-27).

JEWISH EDUCATION


5-10 Years Old
“Bet Sepher”
Memorize
Written Torah

10-14 Years Old
“Bet Talmud”
Memorize Rest
of Tanakh

5-10 Year Discipleship
“Talmid”
Accepted by
Rabbi

Administer the Law
“Talmid Chakham”
Scholar of the
Torah

Ordination to be Rabbi
40 Years Old (Numbers 27:18)
Rabbi Lays Hand on Talmid Chakam

Torah
“Written Law” of Moses

God-given interpretation
of the Law of Moses
“Oral Law”

Disciple
In Hebrew, the word
“talmid” refers to
a disciple or student

Talmidim (Plural)
Talmud: A written record
of the “oral Torah”

Teacher
Rabbis have mastered
both written & oral Torah
to teach next generation
To become a Rabbi,
complete schooling
(Yeshiva) consisting of
4 year study, 1 year in
Palestine & oral exam

Laying on of Hands
(Genesis 48; Acts 8:17-19
1 Timothy 5:22)

Rabbi’s can have disciples

Jesus had S’Mikhah by
the authority of God

The Parable of the Two Sons (Matthew 21:28-32)

First Son

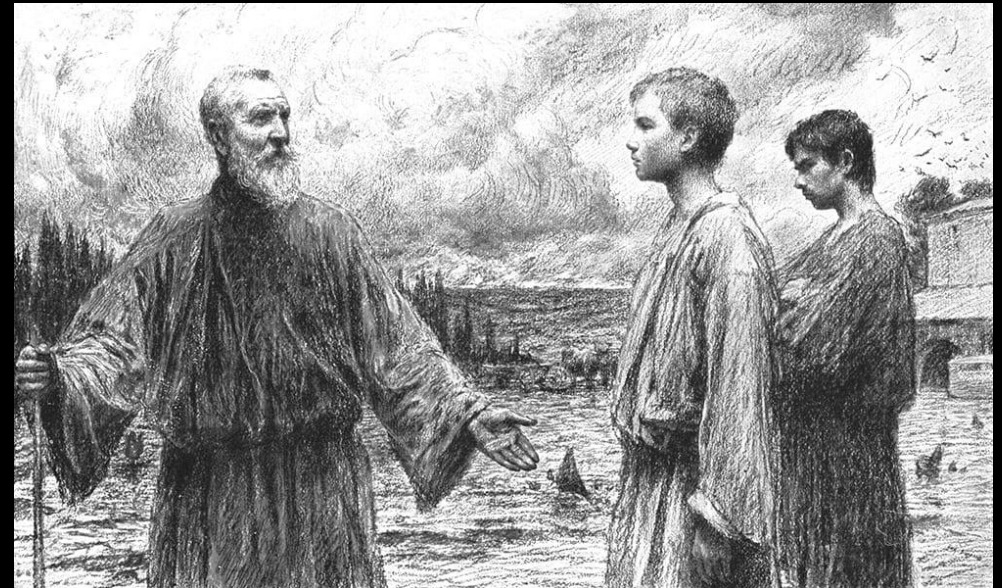
- The father told the son to go work the vineyard; it was not a request but a directive.
- The Father made the deadline as today (Heb 4:7); the work in the fields was not to be put off until tomorrow.
- The first son denied the father by voicing the son's selfish desires, but he repented

Second Son

- The second son respectfully addressed his father as "sir" before unfaithfully breaking his word.
- Politeness is NOT always the same as obedience
- In the same way, the Jewish religious leaders publicly pretended to submit to the will of God, but in reality, they rebelled against the Father's will.

Sinners Repented, but Religious Didn't

- The two worst categories of sinners accepted John's message of repentance and changed.
- Prostitutes (preying on man's lust for illicit pleasure) and tax collectors (unfair business/political practices promoting greed)
- Both possess pride from the power that they wield over sinful man; however, these sinners were repenting and submitting the Father's will.



The Rejection of God's Call (Matthew 21-22)

Parables Reveal the Growing Rejection of God's Message



Scripture	Parables	Rejection
Matthew 21:32	Two Sons	The Prophets
Matthew 21:33-46	Vineyard Workers	The Son, Jesus
Matthew 22:1-14	Wedding Feast	God, the Father

Parables

- In Scripture, the Greek word for “Parables” (parabolais παραβολαῖς) is mentioned twelve times.
- The root of the word parable is a compound noun consisting of “para” (meaning “alongside”) and “bole” (which means “to cast”).
- The application is “to cast alongside” a spiritual truth, a cultural picture of daily life that illumines the underlying spiritual truth

Vineyard Workers Mistreat & Kill Owner's Messengers (Matthew 21:33-39)

*“For the vineyard of the LORD of armies is the house of Israel,
And the people of Judah are His delightful plant....”*

Isaiah 5:7

**The persecution of God's
messengers became
increasingly severe**

A Prepared Vineyard

1. Planted vineyard
2. Built fence
3. Dug winepress
4. Built watchtower
5. Leased land
6. Went away
7. Sent Messengers/Son



The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

(Matthew 22:1-10)

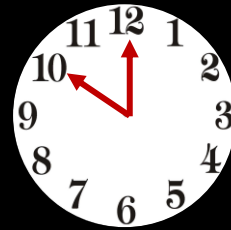
- Parallel Account of the Wedding Banquet: Mt 22:1-14; Lk 14:15-24
- Matthew and Luke may be two different accounts
- Matthew 22:1-14 may consist of two different parables:
 - Matthew 22:1-9
 - Matthew 22:10-14
- The plural term for “parables” in Matthew 22:1 might infer that Matthew 22:1-14 consists of two parables (Matthew 22:1-9; 10-14).



In ancient Mideastern weddings, individuals would be invited to a wedding feast for a general timeframe, and later (at a separate time), the call would go out that it was time to come to the actual event.

The Greek term for “dinner” (ariston ἄριστόν) usually infers an earlier meal (lunch or brunch) instead of an evening meal ((Luke 14:12).

In those days, the Jewish community tended to eat two meals each day with this earlier meal being between 10:00am-noon.



For the ceremony, women traditionally wear attire that covers their shoulders and men wear Kippahs or Yarmulkas to cover their heads. As a Christian removes his hat as he walks into church, so Judaism sought to differentiate itself by requiring adherents to cover their heads when entering a synagogue. 1 Corinthians 11:4



The wedding day is considered a day of forgiveness, and as such, some couples choose to fast the day of their wedding, just as they would on Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement). The couple's fast will last until their first meal together after the wedding ceremony.

Politics (Matthew 22:15-22)

The History of the Herodians

- The Leadership of the Jewish State transitioned from Seleucid Empire (Antiochus Epiphanes (IV)) to a family of Priests – the Maccabean Family (165BC). The head of the family was Judas Maccabeus (called “The Hammer”).
- Israel remained a vassal of the Seleucids and a military ally of the Roman Republic. The Hasmonean Dynasty began with John Hyrcanus as High Priest and Prince. Hyrcanus forced the Idumeans to convert to Judaism (King Herod’s family).
- Circa 60BC, Rome made the Hyrcanus’ descendants only responsible for religious leadership as High Priest. Antipater I the Idumean (died 43BC) had assisted Rome during several civil revolts, so Rome granted Antipater I the Idumean power over Israel.
- Antipater I the Idumean was the father of Herod the Great who came into power upon his father’s death. The Herodians were political supporters of Herod’s dynasty, and they are only mentioned three times in Scripture (Matthew 22:16; Mark 3:6, 12:13).
- The Herodians were a political party and not a religious party. The Herodians wanted to support the status quo because they felt that a reign of Herod’s family was better than a reign of Rome who had no idea of the Jewish history and culture.

Heavy Taxation (Matthew 22:15-22)

Taxes During the Time of Jesus >40%

Religious Tax	Temple Tax (Due Annually for Males over 20 years old) – Half Shekel
Roman Tax	Census Tax (due Annually) – This was the tax in Matthew 22 and the tax for Joseph & Mary at the nativity
Herodian Tax	Land Tax Import/Export Tax Crop Tax Income Tax (1% Annual) Road Use tax Transportation Tax City Entrance Tax Salt Tax Sales Tax Emergency Tax (if taxes couldn't cover expenses)

The people were heavily taxed, so these individuals wanted to pull Jesus into the political discussion concerning taxes. The political topic of taxes was rife with emotion and bias.

“The Denarius of the Emperor Tiberius” (The Tribute Penny)

- A denarius always had the bust of the reigning ruler embossed on the coin.
- The denarius was pay for a day's worth of work (Matthew 20:2).
- The name was derived from the value at its origin; when it was introduced (two centuries prior to Christ), the “denarius” coin was worth ten (“den”) donkeys.
- The denarius was a silver coin. The family of Herod was allowed to make copper coins but not silver coins which were often used to pay Roman soldiers.



Livia, mother of Tiberius and wife of Augustus. She is holding a scepter and an olive branch, the symbol of peace.

Sadducees Educated on the Resurrection (Matthew 22:23-33)

The Two Primary Sects of Judaism in Jesus Day

Pharisees	Sadducees
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believed in the Tanakh (OT) • Created an Oral Law • Taught the concept of purgatory for the righteous • Controlled the Synagogues • Highly respected by Jewish Community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believed in the Torah (Pentateuch) • Rejected Oral Law • Did not believe in angels, demons, eternal punishment, resurrection of the dead or God's interaction in lives • Controlled the Sanhedrin & the Temple • Aristocrats who were politically collaborative with Rome
<i>Continued after 70AD as Rabbi's</i>	<i>Destroyed in 70AD with the Fall of the Temple in Jerusalem</i>

- Every religion has conservative/fundamental and liberal divisions as well as a number of moderate denominations that temper certain extremes.
- In Judaism, the Pharisees were the conservatives while the Sadducees were the liberal progressives.

The Latin word "levir" means "brother-in-law"

Law of Levirate Marriage

- The purpose of the Law of Levirate Marriage was to keep the hereditary land passed within a family in provision for the mother as well (Deuteronomy 25:5).
- If a husband dies without children, the wife would have a child with the brother of the dead husband in order to preserve the dead man's name in Israel in order to keep the tribal allotments under that name.
- The Sadducees did not mention the caveat that this command related to brothers living on the same property nor did they understand the "spirit of the law"

The Greatest Commandments (Matthew 22:34-40)

The 10 Commandments Covered by 2 Commandments About "Love"

(Exodus 20:2-17 & Deuteronomy 5:6-21)

1. You shall have no other gods before God.	<i>"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."</i> Deuteronomy 6:5
2. You shall not make or worship graven images.	
3. You shall not take God's name in vain.	
4. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.	

5. Honor your father and mother.	<i>"Love your neighbor as yourself."</i> Leviticus 19:18
6. You shall not murder.	
7. You shall not commit adultery.	
8. You shall not steal.	
9. You shall not bear false witness (lie).	
10. You shall not covet.	

Shema Israel (Sh'ma Yisrael יְשׁוּעָה יִשְׂרָאֵל) means "Hear, O Israel" which is a Jewish prayer used each morning and evening Jewish prayer service. The Shema is often the first Scripture learned by the Jewish child; "Hear, Oh Israel; the LORD is our God; the LORD is one" (Deuteronomy 6:4).

- The focus of man should be towards their Creator God.
- No humanitarian effort is worthwhile outside of the Lord's will.
- Obedience precedes service.

- The Jews revered 613 laws from the Torah (248 were positive commandments while 365 were negative).
- Jews believed that 613 laws reflected the requirement to be wholeheartedly committed to God (Deuteronomy 18:13).

Judaism teaches that the body consists of 248 physical parts (limbs and organs) and 365 nerves and sinews. The calendar also changed from 360 days in the Babylonian calendar to 365 days in the Julian calendar. **Jews believe that the 613 laws drive the individual to worship God with all of their being (248 limbs & organs) all of the time (365 days of the year).**

Lifestyle Sins of Religious Leaders (Matthew 23:1-7)

- The “chair of Moses” (“Moses Seat”) was the seated position of authority while teaching Jewish Scripture.
- The Jewish Teacher sat while the students stood.
- The chair was place of authority:
 - Catholics say that the pope speaks “ex cathedra” which is Latin for the phrase “from the chair.”
 - The individual presiding over a meeting is called “the chair”
 - The tenured university professor might also “chair” an area of studies.

- The religious leaders were hypocrites, but the believers were told to obey their teaching without emulating the lifestyles.
- “Do as they say, but not as they do...”
Matthew 23:3

- God is not pleased with religious exhibitionists.
- A phylactery was a leather box worn on the left arm and head during certain Jewish services; inside the phylactery were inscribed strips of parchment segmented into four selections of Scripture.
- The length of the tassels (“tzitzit”) represented the righteousness of that individual. Jewish men would lengthen their tassels as they were self-righteous.

Six Wrongdoings of the Religious Leaders

(Matthew 23:5-7)

1.	Scriptural Knowledge (Phylactery)	<i>Phylacteries symbolized knowledge and adherence to law</i>
2.	Self-righteousness (Tassels)	<i>Long robes inferred righteous living</i>
3.	Places of Honor during Worldly Events	<i>Banquets represented gorging on the things of this world</i>
4.	Noticeable Places during Worship	<i>Front Seats were utilized to be seen</i>
5.	Popularity/Recognition	<i>Marketplaces stressed worldly commerce</i>
6.	Honorary Titles/Degrees	<i>Being Respected and Admired as a Teacher</i>

Leading Others to Hell (Matthew 23:13-15)

- Scribes and Pharisees preached liturgies and religious rituals.
- Instead of a relationship with the Lord, Scribes and Pharisees reduced religion to a list of “do’s and don’ts.”
- Believers should be wary of religious leaders who do not encourage the congregation to read Scripture for themselves (Acts 17:11).
- Believers are called to lives of radical submission to the Lord, and religious leaders should not dilute that calling to pacify congregants or build self-serving church organizations.
- Religious leaders should be careful not to become barriers instead of bridges.



Two Categories of Proselytes to Judaism

“Proselytes of the Gates”

Those who were circumcised, baptized themselves with two witnesses and offered a sacrifice. They were allowed to enter beyond the Court of the Gentiles.

“God Fearers”

Gentiles who had joined local synagogues for preaching and giving of alms.

The Greek term for “pit” (geennan γέενναν) referred to the garbage dump south of Jerusalem.

Gehenna originates from “Ge” - “valley and “Hinnom.” The valley of Hinnom was the location that children sacrifices were made to Molech

Jesus Grieves Jerusalem's Rejection of Salvation (Matthew 23:37-39)

Summary of the Old Testament

(Matthew 23:37-39)

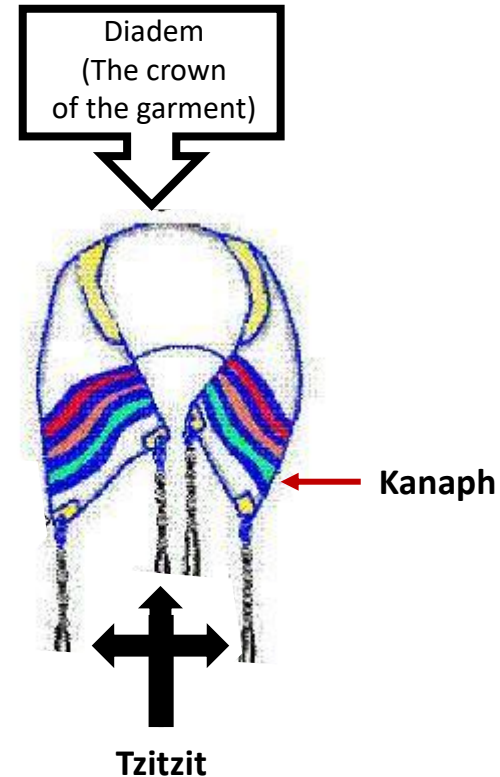
Matthew 23:37	Purpose
Matthew 23:38	Tragedy
Matthew 23:39	Triumph

- Jesus cries out time and again to Jerusalem. The “wings” were the hem the of prayer shawl (tallit) or robe (Ruth 2:12; Mark 13:2).
- The corner is “Kanaph” in Hebrew meaning wings (Mal 4:2; Mt 23:27; Lk 13:34).

**The Power of
Choice is Shown**

“You were not willing.”

As many as touched the hem of Jesus' garment (Jesus' authority and righteousness) were healed (Mk 6:56).



The Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24-25)

- The Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24-25; Mark 13; Luke 21) is known as the “Little Apocalypse” because of its apocalyptic language.
- This narrative on the Mount of Olives was Jesus’ last public teaching prior to His arrest and crucifixion.
- The teaching probably occurred on Tuesday afternoon of the Passion week (prior to Passover).
- His topic was the end times, and His audience was Israel. His sermon concerns the future of the nation of Israel.
- The prophesied events included the destruction of the Temple in 70AD and His second coming at the conclusion of the Tribulation.

“The Olivet Discourse”

Matthew 24, 25	Mark 13, 14	Luke 21, 22
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John does not have the Olivet Discourse
because the book of John was written to the Gentiles



Mount of Olives



Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives

Jesus Foretells the Destruction of the Temple (Matthew 24:1-2)

The Jews had confused the Temple and Religious Rituals with a Spiritual Walk with the Lord

God would Destroy the Distraction in 70AD

As Jesus left the Temple, He was symbolically withdrawing the presence of God from the “House of God” just as the Shekinah Glory left centuries before (Ezekiel 10-11)

The followers of Jesus should focus on spiritual truths instead of the worldly accomplishments of man.



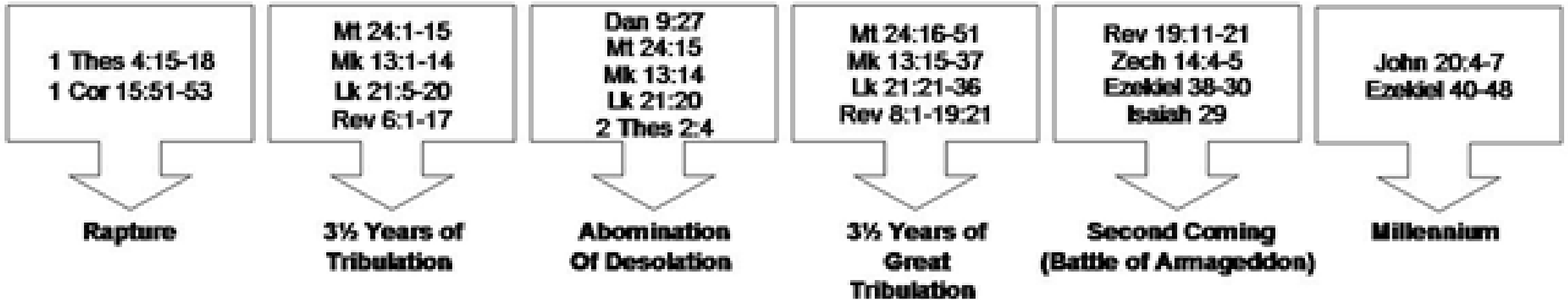
- As an Idumean, Herod constructed the Temple to placate the conservative Jews.
- This (Herod's) Temple structure was in the midst of being built as the construction lasted from 20BC until 63AD.
- The Temple was constructed of either polished limestone or a native stone (mezzah). This was a bright white structure that was trimmed in gold.
- Josephus documented that the stones were 25 cubits x 8 cubits x 12 cubits. An average cubit was 18 inches, so the stones were 37½ feet x 12 feet x 18 feet.

The Tribulation (Matthew 24)

Three Groupings of Mankind

Christians	Raptured before the Tribulation	1 Cor 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
Jews	Witness Jesus Save Israel	Rev 19:11; Mt 24:29-30
Gentiles	Judgment	Rev 20:12-15

End Times



Obstacles to Tribulation Flight

Matthew 24:17	Leisure
Matthew 24:18	Labor
Matthew 24:19	Attachments (ailments; responsibilities)
Matthew 24:20	Nature and Spiritual

The same obstacles challenge salvation

The Parables of the Ten Virgins (Matthew 25:1-13)

Customs of First Century Jewish Weddings

- Jewish children were available for marriage any time after the boys bar-mitzvah (13 years old) and the girl's bat-mitzvah (12 years old). Sometimes these were arranged marriages while they were still children, but they would need to wait to come of age.
- The individuals would become engaged for at least a year. In order to break an engagement, a divorce was required. If either the bride or groom died during that time, the survivor was called a "widow."
- During this time, the groom would often construct a residence for he and his bride. This residence would frequently be a built-on addition to his Father's house. The Father would then inspect the completed construction of the son prior to releasing the son to go and retrieve his bride.
- After a year, the groom would lead a progression (parade) to retrieve the bride from her house and take her to his house for an open seven-day party. Sometimes, grooms would attempt to surprise their brides by coming at odd hours – even after midnight.



The Parables of the Ten Virgins (Matthew 25:1-13)

Personal “Yom Kippur”

- According to Jewish Tradition, many couples fast on the day of their wedding.
- This is considered their own personal Yom Kippur, a day of atonement.
- It is a day that the bride and groom can pray for forgiveness for any past sin and move forward into their newlywed life with a clean, sin-free state.



Private “Yichud Room”

- The “chuppah” is the stage of a Jewish marriage where the couple stands under the canopy along with the rabbi who weds them
- Immediately after the chuppah, the bride and groom are escorted by their parents to the “ yichud (seclusion) room,” where they spend a few minutes alone.
- Most have never been in a room alone with anyone from the opposite gender
- The “Yichud Room” typically is furnished with food for the couple who has fasted.



“Mikve Bath”

- Jewish married couples do not have sexual intercourse during the menstrual cycle
- After the Jewish woman’s menstruation, she is immersed in a Mikve bath for the purpose of ritual purity.



The Returning Lord (Matthew 25)

“Late, Late, so Late” by Alfred Lord Tennyson

Late, late, so late! and dark the night and chill!
Late, late, so late! but we can enter still.
Too late, too late! ye cannot enter now.

No light had we: for that we do repent;
And learning this, the bridegroom will relent.
Too late, too late! ye cannot enter now.

No light: so late! and dark and chill the night!
O, let us in, that we may find the light!
Too late, too late: ye cannot enter now.

Have we not heard the bridegroom is so sweet?
O, let us in, tho' late, to kiss his feet!
No, no, too late! ye cannot enter now."

The Lesson from the Parable of the Ten Virgins is to “be spiritually prepared” when the Groom comes.

The Return of Jesus	
Scripture Emphasizes	Believers Response
The Exact Time is Uncertain, But the Event is Certain	Be Prayerful
The General Time Is Given, But Not the Specific Time	Be Ready at All Times
The Event Will Occur Suddenly & Unexpectedly	Be Faithful to God’s Calling

The Lesson from the Parable of the Talents is to “be involved in ministry,” so that the returning Master will find His servants being about His business.

Ruinous Practices of the Bad Servant <small>(Matthew 25:18)</small>		
1. Went Off	Looked for a place to hide	Pursue Good
2. Dug a Hole in the Ground	Focused on this world	Work for the Lord
3. Hid His Master’s Money	Buried the value to hide the gift	Don’t Hide His Gifts

The Sheep/Goat Judgment is an earthly judgment depending on whether the nation supported or rejected the nation of Israel during their greatest time of need in the Tribulation.

*“Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things.
Enter into the joy of your lord” (Matthew 24:47)*

The Sheep & The Goats (Matthew 25:31-46)

Nature Offers Truths About God Such As The Contrasts between Sheep and Goats

Natural Fact	Spiritual Application
Goats naturally have horns while many breeds of sheep are naturally hornless. Goat horns are narrower, upright, and less curved than sheep horns. Sheep tend to curl their horns in loops on the sides of their heads.	In the Bible, horns represent authority/power. All goats (sinners) would carry their own authority (self-made) while most sheep have no power. Crooked is never a good attribute in the Bible, but sheep horns are wrapped around their ears (power in hearing) versus out into the world.
Most goats have hair coats that do not require shearing or combing. Most sheep grow wool and need to be sheared annually. While goats (being good dairy animals) produce four times as much milk as sheep, sheep produce wool which keeps people warm.	Considering the annual visit by the high priest to the holy of holies and the annual shearing of most sheep to prune/cleanse the sheep, goats are self-possessed and are never trimmed or manicured.
Goats are natural browsers, preferring to eat leaves, twigs, vines, and shrubs. They are very agile and will stand on their hind legs to eat vegetation. Sheep are grazers, preferring to eat short, tender grass and clover. They like weeds and can graze very close to the soil surface.	Sheep almost always have their heads bowed, in a humble posture. Goats like to keep their heads upright when they eat, so that the other goats can't attack them from behind. Sheep are humble, goats are not.
A goat's tail will go up (unless the goat is frightened, sick, or in distress). Sheep tails hang down and are often docked (cut off) for health and sanitary reasons.	From head to tail, first-to-last, prominent-to-insignificant, goats are prideful. Wheat and tares cannot be differentiated until they are fully grown. The difference then is that the wheat, heavy with good fruit, bows its head as if in humility. The tare, a lightweight, keeps its head raised stiff and erect. The differentiating factor between the wheat and tares is humility.
Goats have more of an odor than sheep. Male goats have glands beneath their tail and are especially odorous during mating season. Sheep have "scent" glands between the hooves.	This disagreeable smell might represent boasting and self-glorification with the key driver of the unredeemed being sexually while the sheep is influenced by interaction with the world (dust).
Goats have horizontal slit-shaped pupils, an adaptation which increases peripheral depth perception. Because goats' irises are usually pale, the pupils are much more visible than in animals with horizontal pupils but very dark irises, such as sheep.	It is easily noticeable that the unredeemed are intent on the world (horizontal focus) looking all around at the periphery.
Goats are curious/inquisitive and more independent while sheep have a strong "flock mentality." A sheep will become very agitated if it is separated from the rest of the flock, and it is this flocking behavior that provides their best defense against predators. Sheep are fearful and loyal while goats are open and curious. Sheep know the voice of their master, but if a stranger comes around, they run away. Goats on the other hand are very welcoming of strangers.	This is a world of tolerance with the thought "don't knock it until you try it" but God wants His people to be naïve in the terms of sin and wise in spirituality (1 Cor 14:20)
Goats are innovative in escaping their confines by jumping over fences or finding clever ways to open the gates that hold them in. On the other hand, sheep tend to stay put, so they do not appear as smart as goats, but sheep are smart enough to cluster together when danger (e.g., dogs, wolves) are around. This makes them easy to herd. Another attribute that makes sheep appear "dumb" is that they blindly follow each other while goats also follow each other, but they are independent minded, and little sub groups keep splitting off and rejoining the main group.	Goats meander following their own wills (not adhering to regulations) instead of the will of the master.
Goats are natural browsers, preferring to eat leaves, twigs, vines, and shrubs. They are very agile and will stand on their hind legs to eat vegetation. Sheep are grazers, preferring to eat short, tender grass and clover. They like weeds and can graze very close to the soil surface.	Sheep almost always have their heads bowed, in a humble posture. Goats like to keep their heads upright when they eat, so that the other goats can't attack them from behind. Sheep are humble, goats are not.
Sheep and goats both have the same gestation period, of 145-155 days (about 5 months), but sheep give birth in the dead of winter, three months before goats start giving birth in spring.	God's people always seem to thrive in harsh times while unredeemed enjoy the world's comforts and life conditions.
Sheep (Ovis Aries) have 54 chromosomes, while goats (Capra Hircus) have 60; they are two distinct species and genus. Fertile sheep-goat hybrids are rare. Hybrids made in the laboratory are called chimeras.	It is rare indeed that a Christian and non-Christian can be "equally yoked" in any capacity with any success.
Both genders of goat have horns, but male goats have beards. The "goatee" relates to the goat.	Beard represents outer wisdom, and unbelievers are the "wise" of this world.
Sheep have face or tear glands beneath the eyes.	This world is not the believer's home. John 11:35

*“Then the King will say to those on His right,
‘Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the kingdom
prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’”*
(Matthew 25:34)

“Before the Foundation of the World” (pro katabolēs kosmou - πρὸ καταβολῆς κόσμου)

John 17:24	The Father Loved the Son
Ephesians 1:4	God's People were Chosen in Him
1 Peter 1:20	Jesus Christ was Ordained to be the Sacrifice

*“The King will answer them, ‘I assure you: Whatever you did
for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.’”*
(Matthew 25:40)

Believers should meet the Physical and Spiritual needs of the World (Matthew 25:42-43)

1.	Hungry	“peinao”	Bread of Life	(Jn 6:35, 48)
2.	Thirsty	“dipsao”	Living Water	(Jn 4:10, 7:38)
3.	Stranger	“xenos”	Family of God	(Eph 2:19-20; Gal 6:10)
4.	Naked	“gumnos”	Covering of the Lord	(Is 61:10; Zech 3:4)
5.	Sick	“astheneo”	Touch of the Great Physician	(Mk 2:17)
6.	Imprisoned	“phulake”	Set Free from Sin	(Rom 8:21; Gal 5:1)

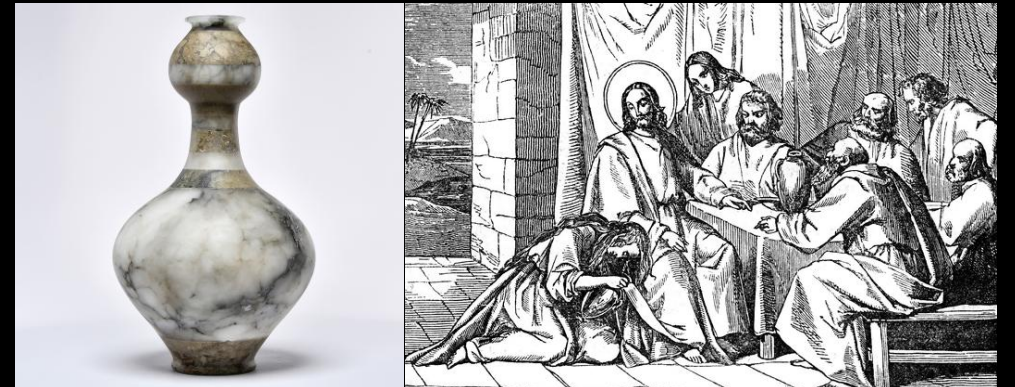
Attitudes Towards Money & Jesus (Matthew 26)

Mary Anoints Jesus (Matthew 26:6-13)

- The alabaster (white) jar represents the life that is broken before the Lord as all that is in it is offered to Him.
- The Greek name “alabastrites” was derived from a town in Egypt where the soft stone resembling marble was quarried called Alabastron.
- Alabaster jars usually had long “necks” to restrict the amount to be poured, so that none would be wasted. The neck was often broken to enable pouring.
- The oil is called “nard” which is made from the stems of an expensive Indian herb; the value of this oil was comparable to an average man’s annual salary.
- John documents that Mary poured a pound of oil and anointed the feet of Jesus; a pound is a great deal of ointment that was used on his head and feet. (John 12:3).
- The disciples prioritized the worldly humanitarian needs above the spiritual.
- The ultimate purpose of creation is to bring glory to God.
- The woman who rightfully honors and serves Jesus is accosted by the disciples who should also be serving Him. Believers should continue following the Lord in spite of the maltreatment of fellow believers.
- Anointings are associated with the preparation of an individual for a specific task (e.g., King, Priest, and Prophet). While the disciples struggled with the concept of the Messiah’s death, Mary seems to act upon a clearer understanding (John 12:3).

Judas Betrays Jesus (Matthew 26:14-16)

- Judas was one of the twelve disciples, but he betrayed the Lord (Mt 13:30, 49-50, 22:12-14, 25:11, 30).
- Judas was the treasurer of the disciples and was focused on personal profit (John 12:6).
- The term “Iscariot” means “from Kerioth” which was a town in Judea. The other disciples were from Galilee while Judas was the only disciple from Judea.
- Jesus was valued at the cost of a gored slave (Exodus 21:32); this scanty price had been paid to Zechariah for his prophecy which was not accepted and acted upon (Zechariah 11:12-13).
- Although the 30 pieces of silver is viewed as the cost of Christ, in reality, the 30 pieces bought Judas who now began to look for an opportune occasion to sin.
- The betrayal was a gradual, premeditated plan (Prov 14:22).



The Last Supper (Matthew 26:20-35)

Judas Betrays Jesus (Matthew 26:20-25)

- Jesus declared that one would betray Him, and each of the disciples distrusted his own heart (Jeremiah 17:9).
- Each of the disciples calls Jesus “Lord” (Mt 26:22); however, Judas refers to Jesus as “Rabbi” (just a teacher).
- Jesus gave bread to everyone (Mk 14:22); however, the one taking his own bread would betray Jesus (Matthew 26:22).
- In the Mideast, the height of treasonous action was to betray someone who was eating with you.
- Even the wicked are utilized to bring about God’s plan to their own detriment (Proverbs 16:4). Jesus Christ was the suffering Messiah who would be crucified (Genesis 3:15; Psalm 22; Isaiah 53).

Peter Denies Jesus (Matthew 26:31-35)

- The disciples would be reminded of Jesus’ prophecy on resurrection morning (Mark 16:7).
- Peter boasts in self-confidence without understanding his personal weakness and fallen nature.
- Just as the “cocky” rooster crows before daybreak, Peter would deny Jesus Christ three times, but the Lord would bring light and love to Peter again (John 21:15-19).
- Each of the disciples believed their estimation of themselves instead of Jesus’ word about them.

“...Saith the Lord of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered” (Zechariah 13:7)

“He was wounded for our transgressions; he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.” (Psalm 53:5).



Jesus Uses Their Words: “Thou Hast Said”

Matthew 26:25	Judas asks if he is the betrayer
Matthew 26:64	The High Priest asks if Jesus was the Messiah & Son of God
Mark 15:2; Luke 23:3	Pilate asks if Jesus is King of the Jews

“Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.” (Psalm 41:9)

The Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46)

The Garden

- Gethsemane (“oil press”) was a garden at the base of the Mount of Olives
- Just as sin entered the world through the Garden of Eden (Gen 2:8), now sin would begin to be dealt with in this garden.
- At that time, the city of Jerusalem would not allow gardens within the city because the manure used to fertilize the plants was considered unclean.
- Wealthy individuals often owned gardens outside of the city walls.
- This garden was a common place for Jesus to visit (Judas knew the exact location)
- The disciples may have bivouacked in this location during the last Passover week or stayed at Lazarus’ house in Bethany
- The trusted inner circle was to join Jesus in prayer support

Self-centered man sinfully says,
“not what you want, God,
but what I want”
while the selfless Christ says,
“not what I want, Father,
but what You want.”



Prayer with the Lord

- Believers should pursue lives which are attentive to the Spirit
- The disciples were weary from their grief and sorrow (Lk 22:45)
- Believers should also stay alert in prayer (Mt 25:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:4-6) and not fall into sleep (mediocrity) spiritually.
- Although all three of the disciples were sleeping, Jesus calls out Peter (“the pebble”), but He references him as Simon (“to hear/obey”).
- Peter would be tempted three times, and Peter would deny Christ three times this very night (Luke 22:54-62; John 18:15-27). Peter should have been praying that he would not fall into temptation.
- Prayer impedes temptation. “*The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.*”
- Just as Satan had tempted Jesus three times to take an easier way to be glorified (Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-14; Mark 1:11-13), Jesus would now go to God the Father three times in requests to let this destiny pass from Him.
- Jesus commands three actions from the spiritual sleepers: 1.Arise 2.Follow Him 3.See (perceive the truth). (Mt 26:46)

The Arrest & Trials of Jesus (Matthew 26:47-56)

- The mob was led by their religious leaders including the chief priests, captains of the Temple and the elders (Luke 22:52).
- The betrayer (Judas) was insincere and dishonest to the very end. Judas formulates a sign (feigning love and respect) that would identify Jesus for arrest. When someone is greeting a superior (teacher, king, Pope, etc.) they often kiss their hand. A European custom is to greet with a kiss on both cheeks.
- Jesus refers to Judas as “friend” and then asks Judas a rhetorical question on the reason Judas had come. The Lord is loving as He brings sin to light.
- Peter cuts off Malchus’ (meaning “king” or “counselor”) ear (Jn 18:10-11) making him unfit for service (Lev 21:18-21); this is also representative of wielding the sword (Word of God) in such a way that it removes the way for unbelievers to hear the message (loss of ear).
- Malchus (John 18:10) was the servant of the high priest (Mark 14:47; Luke 22:50).
- Twelve Legions were at Jesus’ disposal (Mt 26:53). A Legion consisted of 6000 soldiers, so 12 Legions equates to 72,000 troops. The common practice was for each Legion to have a back-up which would bring the total number for Jesus to call being 144,000 (Rev 7:4).

Six Statements Against Christ		
1.	Mt 26:61; Lk 14:56-58	False Witnesses
2.	Mt 26:62; Lk 14:60	High Priest
3.	Mt 26:63; Lk 14:61	High Priest
4.	Mt 26:65; Lk 14:63	High Priest
5.	Mt 26:66; Lk 14:63	Sanhedrin
6.	Mt 26:68; Lk 14:65	Sanhedrin

- The High Priest was so irate that he tore his robe which broke the law (Lev 21:10).
- This worldly high priest was being replaced by Jesus, the new high priest (Heb 7:26-8:1 & 9:11); the robe of the high priest Jesus was kept intact (Jn 19:23-24).
- The robe of Jesus (given by tetrarch Herod Antipas in Luke 23:11) ended in Gentile (Roman) hands just as Jesus’ robe (covering) of righteousness (Isaiah 61:10) ended with the Gentiles in the age of the church.



Judaism’s Laws Concerning Court

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1. | No Capital Trial at Night |
| 2. | No Trial & Punishment on Same Day |
| 3. | No Trial on Feast Day or Eve of Feast Day |
| 4. | The Morning was the Time of the Phylacteries Prayer |
| 5. | Gifts were to be Offered to the Temple on the Morning before Passover (Ex 23:15) |

The Arrest & Trial of Jesus (Matthew 26:54, 56-65)

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3.	Mt 26:63; Lk 14:61	High Priest
4.	Mt 26:65; Lk 14:63	High Priest
5.	Mt 26:66; Lk 14:63	Sanhedrin
6.	Mt 26:68; Lk 14:65	Sanhedrin

"Do you think that I cannot call on My Father, and He will provide Me at once with more than 12 legions of angels?"
Matthew 26:53

6,000 Soldiers (in a Legion)
X 12 Legions

 72,000 Soldiers (Front Line Troops)
X 2 Front Line As Well As Back-up

 144,000 Soldiers (Total Roman Troops)

144,000 Jewish Witnesses: Revelation 7:4



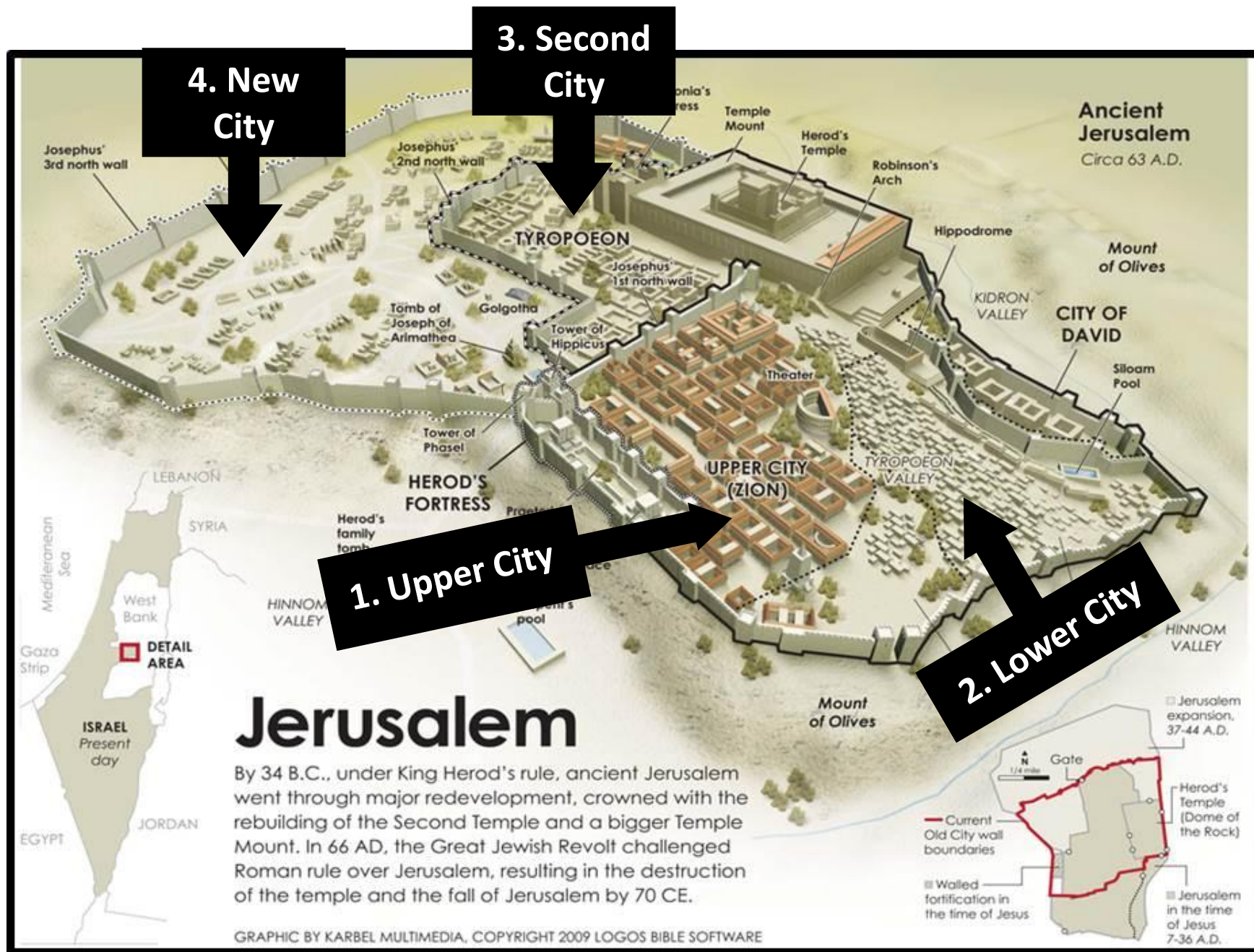
Each Legion has a Back-up

The Robe of the High Priest

- The High Priest was so irate that he tore his robe which broke the law (Lev 21:10).
- This worldly high priest was being replaced by Jesus, the new high priest (Heb 7:26-8:1 & 9:11)
- The robe of the high priest Jesus was kept intact (Jn 19:23-24).
- The robe of Jesus (given by tetrarch Herod Antipas in Luke 23:11) ended in Gentile (Roman) hands just as Jesus' robe (covering) of righteousness (Isaiah 61:10) ended with the Gentiles in the age of the church.

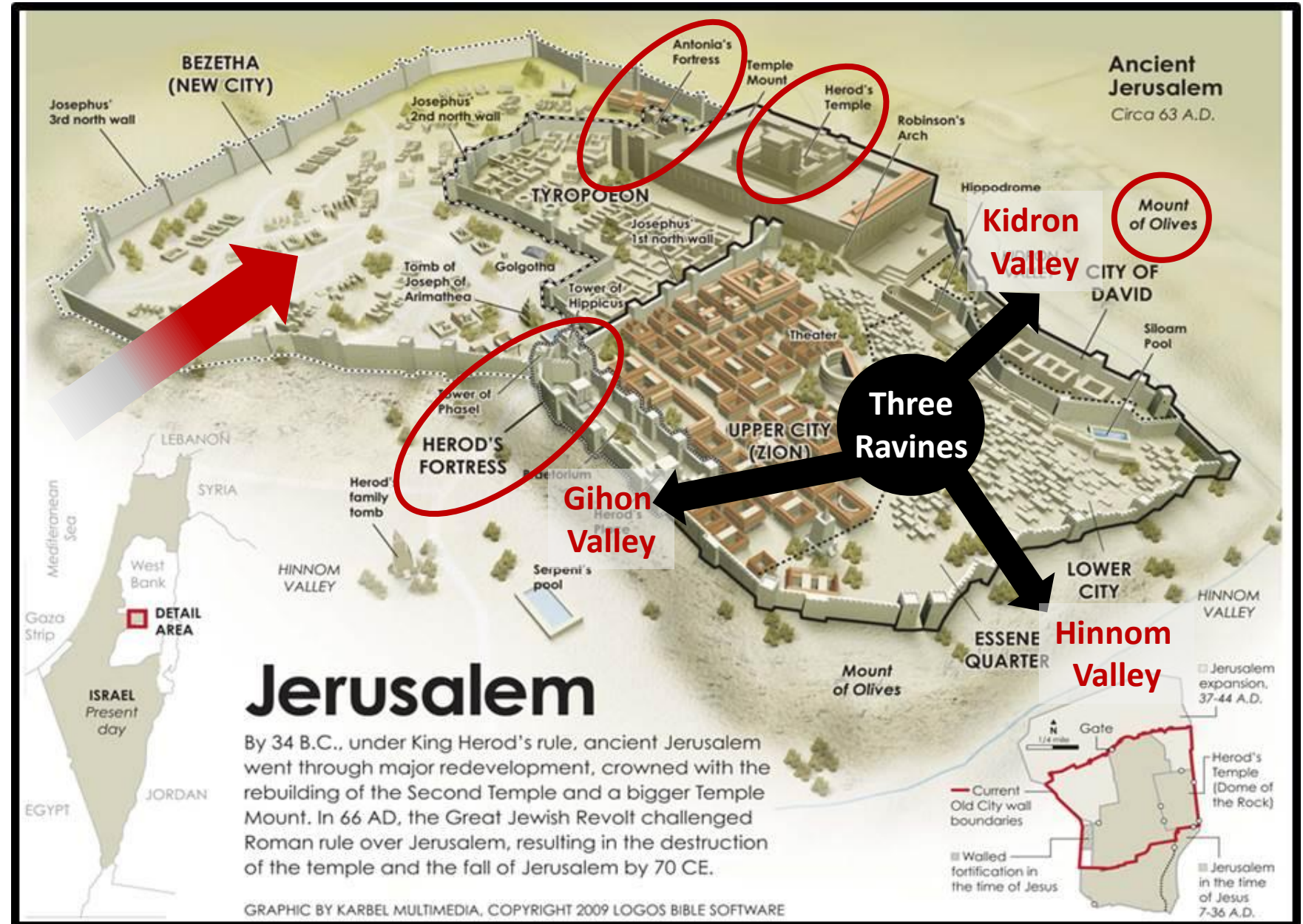
Jerusalem

- The Jerusalem Campaign began in the Spring of 70AD and lasted for 5 months (April – September)
- Troops are estimated to number between 50k-60k soldiers
- The invading Roman Forces came from Alexandria Egypt and were led by the Roman General Titus
- The Romans breached the wall from the northwest,
- Jews dug tunnels under Antonia's Fortress to attack the Roman siege ramps.
- The Romans failed to dislodge Antonia's Fortress, but during the night the ground imploded and the foundation of the Fortress collapsed



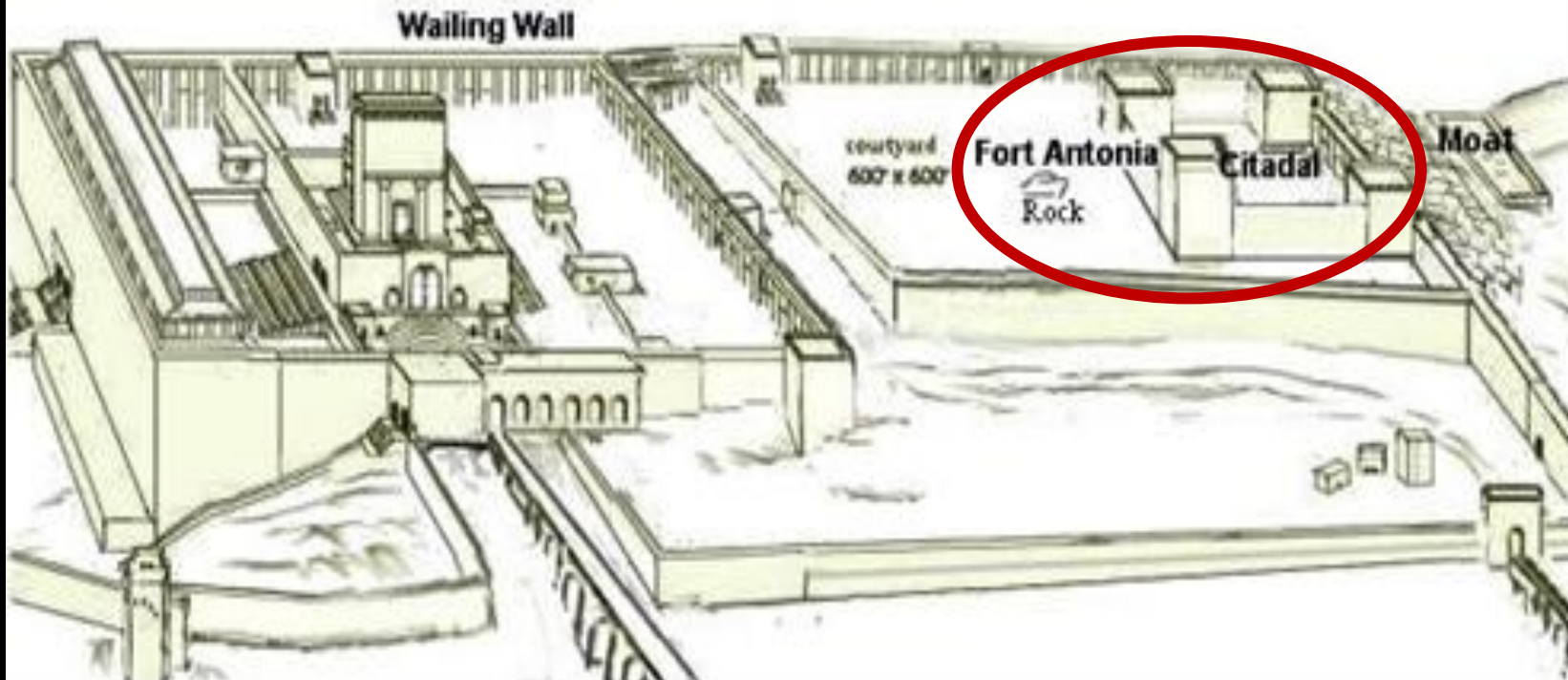
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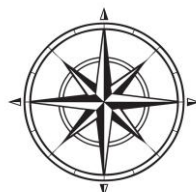
Fort Antonia (Matthew 27:1-2)

Herod's Temple and Fort Antonia



- Pilate was probably located in the Antonia Fortress because the “Bema” (Matthew 27:19) and the “Praetorium” (Matthew 27:27; John 18:28, 33; 19:3) were both located in the Antonia Fortress which was 115 feet high and overlooked the Temple.
- The Antonia Fortress was constructed in 35BC in honor of Herod’s Roman friend, Mark Antony, who had requested the Roman Senate confirm Herod as King of Judea.
- Six hundred Roman soldiers were garrisoned in the Antonia Fortress in order to preserve order from Jewish riots (Acts 21:37).
- The Priestly ceremonial robes were kept in a guard tower of the Antonia Fortress and were worn only on Jewish feast days.
- In 70AD, the Antonia Fortress was destroyed along with the Temple while Titus spared the Herodian Fortress.

WEST



SOUTH

NORTH

EAST

To Mount of Olives

- Pontius Pilate was the fifth Roman Prefect (Governor) of Judea who served under Emperor Tiberius from 26AD to 36AD.
- Pilate had the right to appoint the Jewish High Priest, and Pilate chose to retain the same high priest (Caiaphas) for his entire term; when Pilate was removed from the governorship, Caiaphas was also removed.
- Pilate was recalled to Rome in 36AD after slaughtering a group of Samaritans near Mount Gerizim. The historian, Eusebius, documented that Pilate committed suicide after being recalled to Rome.

Joseph of Arimathea (Matthew 27:57-61)

- The wealthy Joseph (“increase”) had been a timid, secret (Jn 19:38) disciple of Jesus (Mt 27:57; Jn 19:38).
- The word “Arimathea” is translated “a lion dead to the Lord” which is what Joseph had been prior to the crucifixion.
- As a prominent leader (Is 53:9) of the seventy ruling judges (the Sanhedrin), it is a question as to his participation in the condemnation of Jesus Christ (Mk 14:64).

“They made His grave with the wicked and with a rich man at His death.” Isaiah 53:9

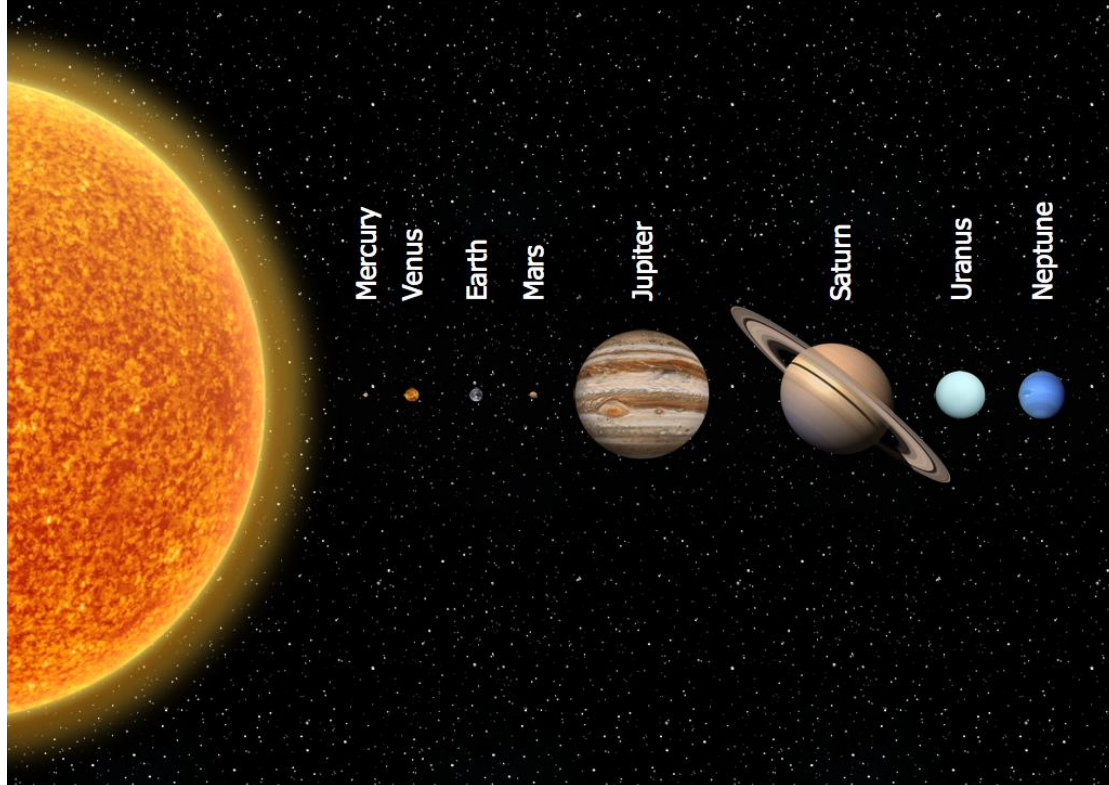
Joseph of Arimathea Described in the Gospels

Matthew 27:57	Wealthy Disciple of Jesus
Mark 15:43	Member of the Sanhedrin Seeking the Kingdom of God
Luke 23:50	Member of the Council A Good and Upright Man
John 19:38	A Secret Disciple

- This took place shortly before the Passover began at 6:00pm, so Joseph of Arimathea ceded being ceremonially clean for the Passover.
- The acts of entering the house of the Gentile Pilate and then touching the corpse of Jesus would result in Joseph being ceremonially unclean.
- Because Joseph requested the body of Jesus, this would publicly reveal His relationship with Christ and place him under suspicion by the Romans and the Sanhedrin.
- Pilate was amazed that Jesus had died after approximately 6 hours instead of passing over 2-3 days. When Pilate confirmed the death of Jesus with the centurion, Pilate gave the corpse to Joseph of Arimathea. (Mark 15:44-45)

Pilate Secures the Tomb (Matthew 27:62-66)

- Jesus was the truth incarnate (Jn 14:6), but these wicked leaders judged Him as a deceiver. However, although they did not believe Jesus, these men had listened to the prophecy of the Lord.
- The Greek term for “deceiver” (planos πλάνος) originates from the same root as planets. Ancient astronomers would track the movement of the stars; however, some heavenly bodies would not travel as the other heavenly bodies because they were planets.
 - This was the same term (“deceiver” or “wanderer”) that was later used to describe the Antichrist. (2 John 1:7).



- It is ironic that the disciples were not expecting the resurrection, but the Sanhedrin were (Matthew 12:40).
- To set the seal, there were probably two spots of wax with the Roman seal – one on the stone and one on the bedrock of the cave with a cord suspended between the two.



Resurrection Morning (Matthew 28:1-4)

Jews Number the Days of the Week

Sunday	ראשון	Rishon (meaning "First")
Monday	שני	Sheni (meaning "Second")
Tuesday	שלישי	Shlishi (meaning "Third")
Wednesday	רביעי	Revi'I (meaning "Fourth")
Thursday	חמישי	Chamishi (meaning "Fifth")
Friday	שישי	Shishi (meaning "Sixth")
Saturday	שבת	Shabbat (meaning "Peace")

English Days of the Week Named After Roman Deities

Sunday	Sol (Sun)
Monday	Luna (Moon)
Tuesday	Mars (Tiw)
Wednesday	Mercury (Woden)
Thursday	Jupiter (Thor)
Friday	Venus (Frigg)
Saturday	Saturn

- The descent of an angel of the Lord caused this second earthquake which occurred during the time of crucifixion (Matthew 27:51); another earthquake will come at the second coming of Jesus (Zechariah 15:1-5) as even the cursed ground (Genesis 3:17) trembles before Him (Romans 8:19-22).
- It is thought that the stone would have been approximately 5-6 feet in diameter and a foot thick (possibly weighing nearly two tons).
- Upon the excavation of the grave (room), the stone would have been positioned in a track beside the door.
- The mighty guards were incapacitated with fear as if dead when they saw Jesus, and indeed, they were spiritually dead (Rom 8:10; Eph 2:1).
- This is ironic that those who were alive appeared as dead, and the One who was supposed to be dead was very much alive.

