

Part 2 – Jesus

The Messiah

Who is Jesus

Who is Jesus?

- a first century middle eastern, Palestinian Jew
- prophet, a magician, a healer, a mystic
- disciples
- repentance, God's love & forgiveness, coming judgement
- Son of God – God Himself in the flesh
- spectacular public & private miracles (Lazarus | lepers | withered hand | paralyses)
- power over demon spirits
- power over the natural world (water to wine | walks on water | calms storms)
- challenged the religious Jewish elites calling them hypocrites

Jesus in the Old Testament


End of the story first – shows the glorious nature of God and His power to control events and history.

Jesus before Pontius Pilate as a matter of historical record – being interrogated

 **Matthew 27:11-66**

Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

“You have said so,” Jesus replied.

 ***When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate asked him, “Don’t you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?” But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge - to the great amazement of the governor. Now it was the governor’s custom at the festival to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. At that time they had a well-known prisoner whose name was Jesus Barabbas. So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, “Which one do you want me to release to you: Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?”***

Pe For he knew it was out of self-interest that they had handed Jesus over to him. While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him." But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed. "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor.

Pe "Barabbas," they answered. "What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" Pilate asked. They all answered, "Crucify him!" "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!" When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!" All the people answered, "His blood is on us and on our children!" Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

The Soldiers Mock Jesus

Pe Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

The Crucifixion of Jesus

Pe As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. They came to a place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull"). There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. Above his head they placed the written charge against him: this is Jesus, the king of the Jews.

Pe Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

The Death of Jesus

Pe *From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”) When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.” Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.” And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.*

Pe *The earth shook, the rocks split and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs after Jesus’ resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people. When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, “Surely he was the Son of God!”*

Jesus Has Risen

Pe *Matthew 28:1-20*

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.

Pe *The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”*


Pe *So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”*

The Guards’ Report

Pe *While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came during the night*

and stole him away while we were asleep.’ If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

The Great Commission

 *Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, **“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”***

God’s Great Redemptive Story

God has told this story in history long before it ever happened.

- The culmination of God’s great redemptive story culminates in the Easter Story

As we saw last week all the great religious leaders of the world have one thing in common:

- They died and stayed that way
- **matter of historical record** Jesus died and then rose from the dead

The context is on the whole story of the Scriptures leading up to the death, resurrection, and ascension of the Messiah

Creation Story

The loving creator God speaks life into existence

- Galaxy breathing
- Speaks stars into existence
- Speaks all life into existence
- Speaks baboons | buffalos | bumble-bees into existence, and they exist

He did it all for His glory – He delights in it – it all shouts His praise

- He created His image in the garden
- Makes an agreement, enters into covenant with His image – “this and not this”
- Man choses against God’s command

- He eats from the tree of Good and Evil (in other words “I’ll determine what’s good and evil, what is right and what is wrong” – sounds familiar)
- They became their own God

Satan Identified

God seeks man and woman out:

- They are hiding – shame and guilt
- They try to cover their sin – run from it, hide from it, make it go away
- Why? To blot out our shame and guilt

Adam Blames Eve, Eve Blames the Snake

- Snake was crafty (2 Cor 11)
- Gen 3 God enters into confronting the snake (Satan)

 **Genesis 3:15 (NKJV)**

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.

Getting Crushed

His statement to Satan and he prophesies ‘**this is what’s going to happen**’.

- “You’re going to get your head crushed by her Seed”
- her Seed (not Adam’s)
- unusual talk for that culture
- this is about a man (He) that will be from the woman who will
- crush the head of the serpent.

This **simultaneous action** – a moment in time, it’s a **heel to head wound**.

And so God speaks directly to the cause of the injury to his creation – Satan.

Creation was invaded by the power of **that decision to rebel**:

- sin entered the world – the fall

And this explains it all – it’s where

- brokenness & depravity comes from
- from us – we’re rebels (we love to do our own thing)

- we continue to revolt against the creator
- we organise ourselves into revolutions against His will

We can **see the glory of God** and the light of God and **yet we prefer the darkness.**

- the problem with the human condition

So God Must Deal with Sin

What does God do?

- God is confronted with their sin (with people who have chosen to ignore Him)
- God is Holy and a good judge
- What must a good judge do? Apply judgement.

A faulty judge would ignore sin:

- Imagine all the court cases being dismissed regardless of the evil done
- Liars, cheats, bullies, thieves, drug kings, kidnappers, gangsters, murderers, rapists
- A bad judge would set them all free

God covers their sin & shame

- Adam & Eve are naked (they should have stayed naked)
- ashamed and exposed before God
- God takes animal, sheds its blood, provides a cover for man and woman

Don't miss this – an innocent animal is killed by God,

- it pays the price for those who have sinned (the rebels)

So, this is the exchange:

- an innocent life (animal)
- they receive covering and release from their shame

Cursed is the ground

 **Genesis 3:17 (NIV)**

*“Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce **thorns and thistles** for you...”*

Story is picking up

Development of being justified by faith

- Gen 15:6 – Abram (Abraham) is justified by His faith
- “Abram believed God and it was attributed to him as righteousness”

More Prophecies Start Firing

Jacob prophecies

Gen 49:10

*“a scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the rulers staff ... until **He comes** and the obedience to the nations is His.”*

There’s talk of someone coming!

Egypt & Israel

Now we get a graphic picture of our lives

- The people of God are enslaved to the Pharoah
- He will not let them go
- His penalty is to suffer plagues
 - frogs (Heqet – frog-headed goddess)
 - blood (Apis – God of the Nile)
 - gnats (Set – the God of the desert)
- death of the firstborn

Moses commands the Jews (Exodus 12)

- Take a perfect lamb
- no spot or blemish
- kill it and apply its blood to the top and sides of the doorposts to your homes

- v.46 “don’t break it’s bones”

God will pass over that house – because of the **blood of the lamb** that has been painted on the door posts as the sign of the cross.

- An innocent lamb is slaughtered
- provides the ‘passing over’ of judgement on our lives

Temple and Sacrifice Installed

Temple is erected – areas partitioned off.

- Priest is installed
- animal sacrifices now demanded
- innocent pay for the guilty

Blood must be shed, someone has to pay for sin

- The crazy thing is that blood of bulls and goats don’t take away sin

If as noble as it sounds, if I tried to offer my life for you ... then there’s no way that my blood would atone for your sins. None of the figures on the bible would cut it either:

- Moses is a murderer
- David is an adulterer
- Abraham is a liar
- Solomon is whacked – (didn’t walk out his own wisdom’s sayings)

Only a **pure man** – an **innocent man** – can ever **atone** | ever **pay** for the sins of another.

Now Even More Prophecies Start Firing

- Dan 7:13-14 “.. one like the Son of Man .. given authority, glory and power”
- Micah 5 – birth identified as from Bethlehem
- Isaiah 7 – born of a virgin
- Isaiah 9 – For to us, a child is born, a son is given ..
- Zechariah 9 – riding on a donkey

God is teaching us about the Messiah

The Crucifixion on Display

Resurrection Sunday should pop for you today

- 1000 years before Christ
- Hymn book of the Jews

 **Psalm 22:1**

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish?”

 **Psalm 22:6-8**

But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. “He trusts in the LORD,” they say, “let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.”

 **Psalm 22:9-13**

*Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you, even at my mother’s breast. From birth I was cast on you; from my mother’s womb you have been my God. Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help. Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me. Roaring lions that tear their prey open their mouths wide against me. I am poured out like water, and all **my bones are out of joint***

 **Psalm 22:14-18**

*My heart has turned to wax; it has melted within me. My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the **dust of death**. Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; **they pierce my hands and my feet**. All my **bones** are on display; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my clothes among them and **cast lots for my garment**.*


This was written before crucifixion was invented.

What did John the Baptist say when he saw Jesus, “Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world”

God’s Punishment was on Jesus

 **Isaiah 53:2-6**

He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

 **Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was **pierced for our transgressions**, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. **6**We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

You never see this in the bible – you never see the sins of people being laid on the one person. First identification of a person taking sin on them – it's always on innocence.

 **Isaiah 53:7**

He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

Pilot – fight back Jesus! Fight back!

Stricken for the transgression of my people.

 **Isaiah 53:8-9**

By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was **cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished. He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any **deceit in his mouth**.**

Who killed Jesus?

God killed him.

He gave us Jesus for our salvation.

- Judas betrayed him
- The Romans were complicit
- Jews exposed him
- Pilot was a coward

 **Isaiah 53:10-11**

Yet it was the **Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand. After he has suffered, he will **see the light of life and be satisfied**; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and **he will bear their iniquities**.**

He says to Pilot:

- You don't have any power except what was given you by God
- It was the will of the Lord to crush Him.
- You and I sit here as redeemed people – but we don't deserve it.

Look at the contrasts

- Nakedness of Adam & Jesus
- Thorns – the curse from the fall; was placed on Jesus head
- His head is carrying the very symbol of the fall
- Both beauty and pain wrapped up in this symbolism – its glorious!

The Love of God

How is that this God:

- who I have offended by my sin
- would send His sin
- choose to crush him for me?
- He would be please to crush Him for my redemption.

.The cross **megaphones** the love of God

- graphic nature of the crucifixion reveals how much love he has for sinners
- amplifies the message of the love of God

He is risen!

Let's pray

Thanks go to Jeff Durbin (Apologia Church) for his message, upon which this is based..