

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

1 Peter 1:10-12
Lesson #6
Bright Light
09/13/2020

Does Christianity make sense only if it will
bring heaven to earth?

1. Change my life now - **personal peace**
2. Make my world just - **cultural peace**

Must Christian theology ultimately be reduced to
experience (inner / psychological change)
or ethics (socio-political action steps)?

1

Christianity that
does not start with
the individual,
does not start.

Christianity
that ends with
the individual,
ends.



This order



Not this order

2



1 Peter

Operations Manual for Alien Ambassadors in a fallen world

This is who we
are "in Christ"

This is how we should
express our identity

	Indicative	Imperative				
"chosen"	Salvation	Sanctification	In the church		Shepherding	
Introduction	"Salt & Light"	In the world				Conclusion
"aliens"						
			Submission	Suffering		
1:1-2	1:3-12	1:13-2:10	2:11-3:12	3:13-4:19	5:1-11	5:12-14

Christians are called out of the world — and then sent back into the world.

3

Matthew 5

"13 You are the **salt of the earth**; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty again? It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.

14 You are **the light of the world**. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do men light a lamp, and put it under the peck-measure, but on the lampstand; and it gives light to all who are in the house.



16 Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

4



1 Peter

Operations Manual for Alien Ambassadors in a broken world

As Chosen Aliens:

Keep your Saltiness.
Keep your Light Shining.

5



1 Peter

Operations Manual for
Alien Ambassadors
in a broken world

Don't dim the light:

1. The Light **sought** in the O.T.
2. The Light **surfaced** in Christ
3. The Light **sensed** after Pentecost

6

1 Peter 1

“¹⁰ As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the **grace** that would come to you made careful search and inquiry,

¹¹ seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted **the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.**

¹² It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who **preached the gospel** to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look.”

7

1 Peter 1

“¹⁰ As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the **grace** that would come to you made careful search and inquiry,

*The light of the Gospel
Sought.*

- What did the Jewish leaders expect the “**End Times**” to be like?
- What did the Jewish leaders expect the **Messiah** to be like?

8

What “good news” did the O.T. anticipate?

1. **ingathering** of the Jewish exiles;
2. **conversion of all Gentiles** to Judaism;
3. restoration of respect for and enforcement of **Mosaic Law**;
4. an **end of wickedness**, sin and heresy;
5. rewards to the righteous;
6. rebuilding of **Jerusalem**;
7. restoration of the **line of King David**;
8. restoration of **Temple service.**

It offered an incomplete picture.

9



Israel's understanding of “**Messiah**” took many forms.

- **Elijah** - a herald of the end times. *Matt. 11:14*
- **Son of Joseph** - a suffering messiah. *Acts 8:32-35*
- **Son of David** - a ruling messiah. *Matt. 12:23*
- **Melchizedek** - a priestly messiah. *Heb. 5:10*
- **Judah** - a teaching messiah. *Gen. 49:8-12*

Zech 1:20 Babylonian Talmud Suk. 52b

NOTE: Throughout history there have been many “messianic figures” - Cyrus (a Persian King) . . . Donald J. Trump

There were many who claimed to be “a messiah” at the time of Jesus.



11

Isaiah 53

“4 Surely our **griefs** He Himself bore, and our **sorrows** He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, **smitten** of God, and **afflicted**. 5 But He was **pierced through** for our transgressions, He was **crushed** for our iniquities; the **chastening** for our well-being *fell* upon Him, and by His **scourging** we are healed.” (Acts 8:25-35)

Luke 7:19

“And summoning two of his disciples, John (the Baptist) sent them to the Lord, saying, “**Are You the Expected One, or do we look for someone else?**””

Matthew 11:14

“And if you are willing to accept it, **John himself is Elijah who was to come.**”

12

Implications

The light of the Gospel Sought.

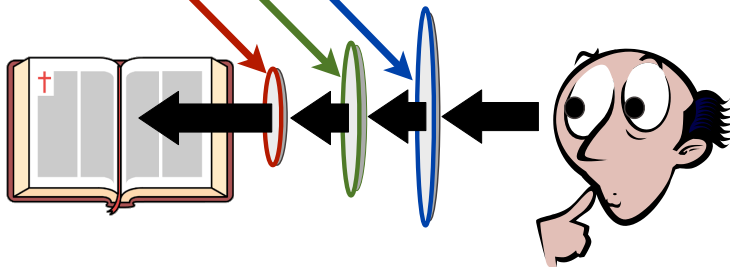
- Much of the O.T. may be written FOR us **but not ABOUT or TO us.**
- Read the O.T. **through the lens of the N.T.**
- The O.T. Gospel, when taken at face value, **can distort the Gospel of the N.T.**
 - Law over Grace
 - Material over Spiritual
 - This life over the next

13

Old Testament

Gospels

Epistles



We must interpret the Scriptures through lenses.

14

God's gift of grace to us is freedom from Fear, Guilt, & Bitterness



15

1 Peter 1

“11 seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted **the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.**”

The light of the Gospel Surfaced.

John 1

“4 In Him was life, and **the life was the light of men.** 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. . . . 9 There was the true light which, coming into the world, **enlightens every man.** . . . 17 For the Law was given through Moses; **grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.**

16

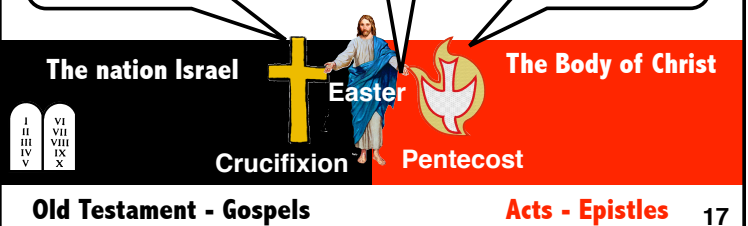
Hebrews 12:2

“fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who **for the joy set before Him endured the cross**, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Cross is the root of the Light.

Resurrection is the assured hope of the Light.

Pentecost is the experience of the Light.



17

The emphasis of the Four Gospels

Jesus' teaching and deeds



18

Jesus' 3 year ministry

The Death & Resurrection

birth, teaching, miracles, deeds of Jesus

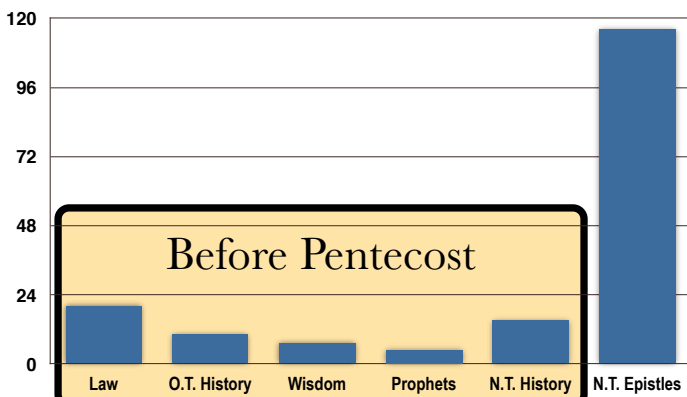
The emphasis of the Epistles

NOTE: Jesus is quoted only in 1 Cor. 11:23-26 and there is no mention of his miracles or ethical teaching.

Epistles

19

Distribution of references to the word "grace" in the various divisions of the Scripture



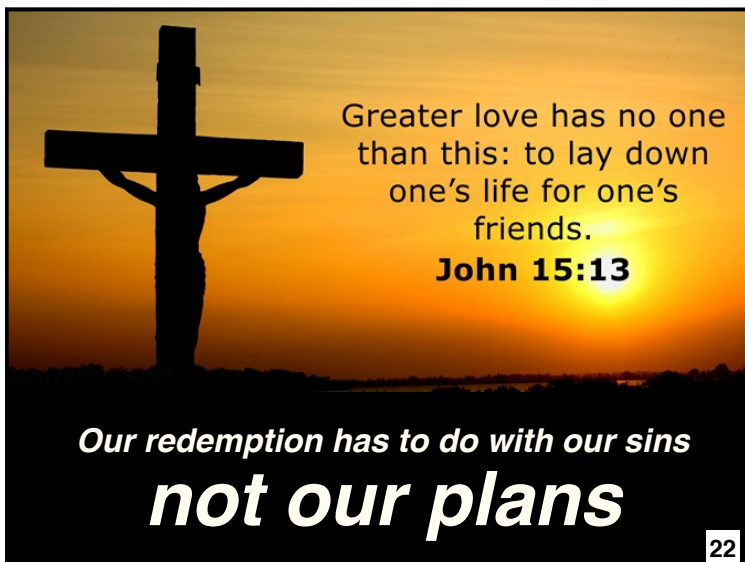
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Implications

The light of the Gospel Surfaced.

- Watch your expectations.
 - Jesus was not a political revolutionary nor were his disciples.
 - Overcoming our circumstances may not involve changing them.
 - Suffering injustice, offering forgiveness, & willful suffering may be a cross we are asked to share with Jesus.
- Don't expect the kingdom before its time and without its King.

21



22

1 Peter 1

"¹² It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, **but you**, in these things which now have been announced to you through **those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit** sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look."

The light of the Gospel Sensed.

What is the Gospel Light that alien ambassadors preach?

23

Jesus promised the Apostles that the coming Holy Spirit would bring **more revelation and understanding.**

John 16:13

“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, **He will guide you into all the truth;** . . . and He will disclose to you what is to come.”



Old Testament - Gospels

Paul's Gospel

Acts - Epistles

Old Covenant

24

The Apostles saw the coming of the Holy Spirit as **the beginning of the Gospel community.**

Acts 11:15

“And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as He did upon us **at the beginning.**”



Old Testament - Gospels

Paul's Gospel

Acts - Epistles

Old Covenant

25

Paul understood his Gospel to have been a **mystery until his day.**

Ephesians 3:3-5

“that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, . . . which **in other generations was not made known** to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;”



Old Testament - Gospels

Paul's Gospel

Acts - Epistles

Old Covenant

26

1 Corinthians 15

“¹ Now I make known to you, brethren, **the gospel which I preached to you**, which also you received, in which also you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ **died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was **raised** on the third day according to the Scriptures,”

- **Note what is not said** - deliverance from injustice, suffering, and circumstances.
- **The emphasis** is on forgiveness of sins and resurrection hope.

27

Implications

*The light of the Gospel
Sensed.*

- **The Gospel is a message calling for faith** based on one sign - the resurrection of Christ.
- **Our call is to apply grace to ourselves and others** and let God change things.
- **The implications of this will be seen** in the ethical teachings that follow in 1 Peter.

28

Grace through faith is the Gospel's good news

Ephesians 2:8

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is **the gift of God;**”

Romans 8

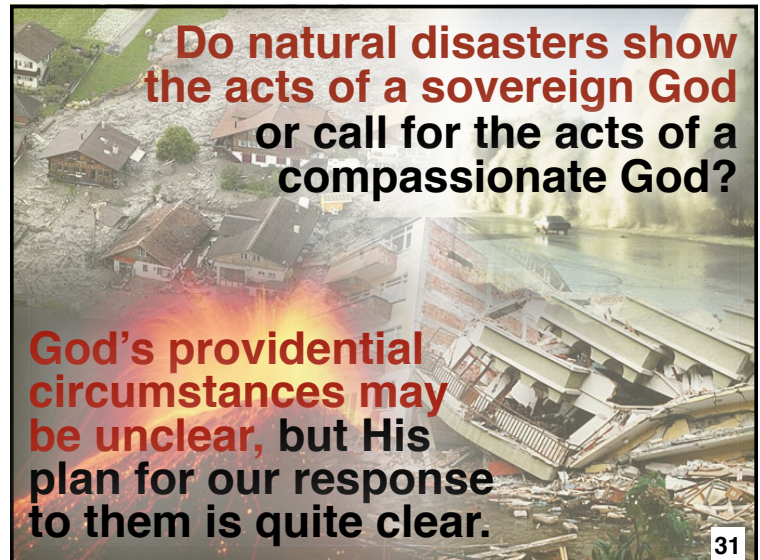
“¹ There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law (**principle of operation**) of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law (**principle of operation**) of sin and of death. ³ For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,”

29

How to keep your light shining:

- **Show** - Act out. The Gospel is a show and tell lifestyle.
 - Respond to life's trials with joy, faith, hope, & love.
 - Empathize with and sacrifice for those who share Christ's suffering.
- **Tell** - Speak up. The Gospel is a message to be proclaimed.
 - Comfort the afflicted, hopeless, & disappointed with the Gospel message.

30



31

1 Cor. 13:4-7

Love is a response to

patient	trials
kind	insults
not jealous	success of others
does not brag	success of self
is not arrogant	power & authority
is not unbecoming	freedom
not self seeking	competition
is not provoked	confrontation
holds no grudges	injustice
does not rejoice	failure of others
rejoices in the truth	gossip & slander
bears all things	losses
believes & hopes all things	discouragement
endures all things	delayed hopes

32

Romans 16

"25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to **my gospel** and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to **the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past**, 26 but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, **has been made known to all the nations**, leading to obedience of faith; 27 to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen."

33



1 Peter

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As Chosen Aliens:
Keep your Salt Tasty.
Keep your Light Shining.

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