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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

1 Corinthians 15:50-57

Lesson #16

Israel's Hope

04/21/2019

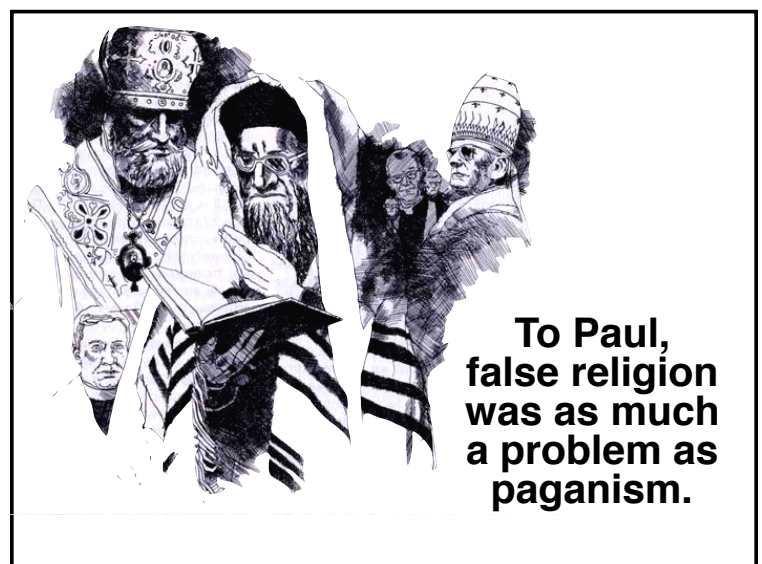
"To create
despair you
need hope."



Bane

Batman's foe in
"The Dark Knight"

**Satan's strategy is to
create hope
in anything
and everything
but the
truth
of the
Gospel.**



Galatians 1

“6 I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for **a different gospel**; 7 **which is really not another**; only there are some who are disturbing you, and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8 But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed.”

James 4 “The Fruit of the Fall”

Unmet longings

“1 What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your **pleasures** that wage war in your members?”

Lust and Envy

“2 You lust and do not have; . . . and you are envious and cannot obtain;

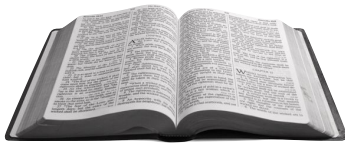
SOCIAL CONFLICTS

so you commit murder. . . . so you fight and quarrel.

Empty religion

You do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.”

How to read the Old Testament



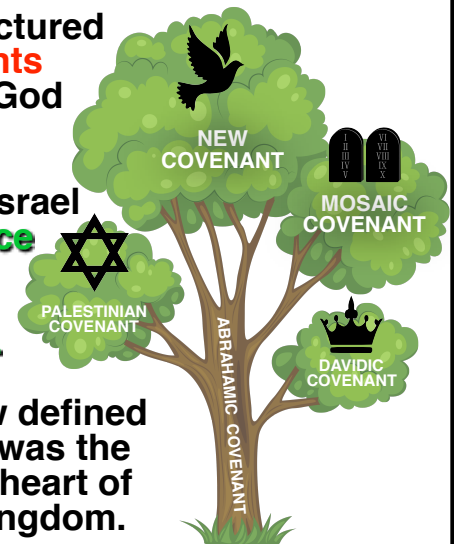
Israel's Hope and ours



The O.T. is structured around **covenants** made between God and Israel.

God promised Israel a kingdom - **place of peace, rest, justice, a King, and abundance.**

The Mosaic Law defined **holiness** which was the gateway to and heart of the promised kingdom.



Contrasting worlds

Old Covenant	New Covenant
HOPE centered in this life	HOPE centered in next life
ORTHOPRAXY (behavior centered)	ORTHODOXY (belief centered)
LAW emphasis	GRACE emphasis
UNION WITH GOD through Israel	UNION WITH GOD through the Body of Christ
STORIES & LAWS	DIDACTIC teaching

Resurrection in the O.T.

- There are three passages in the O.T. that speak of the resurrection of the dead.

Isaiah 26:19

“Your dead will live, there corpses will rise.”

Ezekiel 37:1-14

A prophecy over dead bones that come back to life.

Daniel 12:2

“Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.”

- In O.T. times, Jewish interpreters read these as metaphors for Israel's restoration.

How to read the Old Testament

“Hope” was one of the great
issues in the early church

Acts 15
Romans 9-11
1 Corinthians
Galatians
Hebrews



**The Corinthian church adopted
the material blessings of the O.C**

1 Corinthians 4:8

“You are already filled, you have already become rich, you have become kings without us; and I would indeed that you had become kings so that we also might reign with you.”

and the freedom from the Law of the N.C.

1 Corinthians 5

“1 It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and **immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles**, that someone has his father’s wife. 2 And you have become **arrogant**, and have not mourned instead,”

At the heart of the Christian’s hope is:

Easter’s story

1 Corinthians 15

“**19 If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.** 20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.”

“54 But **when** this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, **then** will come about the saying that is written, “*Death is swallowed up in victory.*”” (Isa.25:8 speaks of Abrahamic Covenant promises.)

1. The resurrection is of **“first importance.”**

1 Corinthians 15:1-5

“Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, . . . For I delivered to you as **of first importance** what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,”

2. It is the foundation of the Gospel as presented in the book of **Acts**.

Acts 4:33

“And with great power the apostles **were giving testimony to the resurrection** of the Lord Jesus,”

3. It is the foundation of the Gospel as presented by **Paul**.

1 Corinthians 15:17

“and **if Christ has not been raised**, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.”

**The Resurrection is the basis
for the Christian faith and hope.**

1 Peter 3:15

“but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always **being ready to make a defense** to everyone who asks you to give an account for the **hope** that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence,”

Christian faith exists

The disciple's belief in Jesus' resurrection is the best explanation for the Christian faith.

The empty tomb and eyewitnesses to Jesus are the best explanations for the disciple's belief.

Jesus' resurrection is the best explanation for the empty tomb and his appearances.



Only a resurrection body is fit for God's Kingdom.

1 Corinthians 15

"⁵⁰ Now I say this, brethren, that **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.** . . . ⁵⁴ But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "*Death is swallowed up in victory.*" ⁵⁵ "*O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?*" ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; ⁵⁷ but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory **through our Lord Jesus Christ.**"

- At our resurrection we will have a body but it will not be the one we have now.

The material temple (Jerusalem) would be displaced by God's Spirit in every believer.

John 4

"²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, **an hour is coming when neither in this mountain, nor in Jerusalem,** shall you worship the Father. . . .²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵ The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "**I who speak to you am He.**"

There is no mention of or concern for Israel's holy sites and holidays in the N.T. Epistles.

The Apostles explain that the Gospel hope was not fully understood by Israel.

Colossians 1

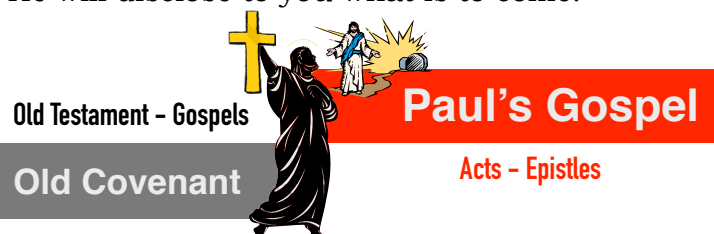
"²⁵ ... that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God, ²⁶ that is, the mystery which has been **hidden from the past ages and generations; but has now been manifested to His saints,** ²⁷ to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.**"

There was a Gospel (good news) preached to Abraham but its true meaning was hidden from his generation.

Jesus promised his disciples 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."



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

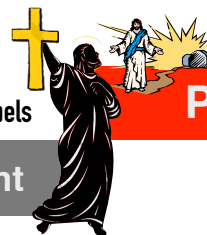
Old Covenant

Acts - Epistles

The Apostles saw Pentecost as **the beginning of the Gospel community (the Body of Christ - the church).**

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

Old Covenant

Acts - Epistles

Jesus recognized that his calling and purpose were centered on his **passion & resurrection.**

John 2:4, 19

“My hour has not yet come.”
“Destroy this temple (**his body**), and in three days I will raise it up.”



Old Testament - Gospels

Paul's Gospel

Old Covenant

Acts - Epistles

The dwelling place of God among men.



Old Testament - Gospels

Body of Christ

Land / Temple

Acts - Epistles

The Gospels' emphasis

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

The Passion and Resurrection

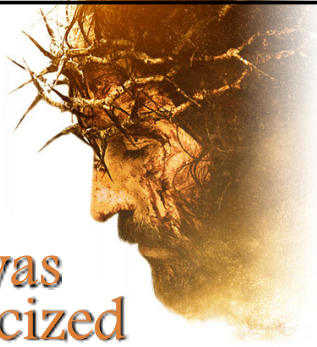
The Epistles' emphasis

birth, teaching, miracles, deeds of Jesus

The Passion and Resurrection

Epistles

THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST



The film was unjustly criticized for putting so much emphasis on the last days of Jesus' life.

In this life we also must prepare to bear a cross.

1 Peter 4

“¹² Beloved, **do not be surprised** at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, **as though some strange thing were happening to you**; ¹³ but to the degree that you **share the sufferings of Christ**, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.”

In this life we also must prepare to bear a cross.

1 Corinthians 15:19

“If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.”

Romans 8:18

“For I consider that the **sufferings of this present time** are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

1 Peter 2:21

“For you have been **called for this purpose**, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to **follow in His steps**.”

The “abundant Christian life” of Paul

A thorn in the flesh, misunderstanding, prison, forsaken by man, rejected ministry, persecution

and yet a gracious life, persistent joy, energetic love, persevering faith, and a grateful heart.



Our inheritance lies beyond this life.

1 Peter 1:4

“to obtain an **inheritance** which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, **reserved in heaven** for you.”

Hebrews 9:15

“Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the **promised eternal inheritance**,”

Romans 8:17

“and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and **fellow heirs with Christ**,”

Colossians 1:12

“giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in **the inheritance of the saints in Light**.”

Our inheritance is secured for us “in Christ”.

Ephesians 1

“¹¹ also we have obtained an **inheritance**, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, . . . ¹³ In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation — having also believed, you were **sealed** in Him with the Holy Spirit of **promise**, ¹⁴ who is given as a **pledge** of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.”

What should we learn here?

- ✓ **Unrealistic expectations** set us up for confusion at best and shipwreck at worst.
- ✓ **Take our baptism seriously** because God expects us to be on call for service with our hope in the right place.
- ✓ **Preparing to respond** to surprises (both good and bad) is a wise investment in our personal peace and social impact.
- ✓ **Listen to Anger & Anxiety** as the canaries in the coal mine of our soul's hope, telling us to renew our faith, hope, and love.

What are the blessings of our hope "in Christ" for this life?

- ✓ **Death has lost its sting** giving us freedom and boldness to offer our lives as living sacrifices in following Christ.
- ✓ **Suffering becomes bearable** know what lies ahead for us is more than worth it.
- ✓ **The power to trust, love, and hope** as lights in a broken world can be ours.
- ✓ **Experiencing a peace** the world can't give or take away, can be ours.