

**Christ in All the Scriptures - Part 2:
It Was Necessary ...
(Luke 24: 26, 27)**

By a show of hands,
how many of you like math problems 수학문제?
How many of you hate 수학문제?

I think we hate 수학문제
because they are difficult to solve.
They entail going through many complicated steps.

When we go through the steps of the math problem and
finally get to the answer,
– we often expect our answer to be right,
but when we look at the answer key.
more often than not,
our answer is wrong.
Why?
Because we often make a mistake
in one of the many steps.
And then we go in the wrong direction.
And consequently,
we end up with the wrong answer.

But how many of you have ever looked at the answer first
and then try to solve the math problem?
Much easier, right?

I used to peek at the answer first all the time,

The answer actually guided me through the steps so that I
could finally – with confidence -- get to the answer.

**Last week, I gave you an activity.
None of you got the answer.**

**Some of you guessed 4 f's,
Some 5
And some of you couldn't guess at all.
My point
was to show
that even smart people like yourselves
can easily miss things like the F's in our brain teaser,**

**Now,
if I had revealed to you –
before I you began the brain teaser –
that there are 8 f's,
all of you would've easily found all the f's.**

**In the same way,
when you read Scriptures knowing the answer first – that is,
the main theme of the Bible is Christ,
then the lights will turn on,
And your eyes will be opened to Scripture.**

**Beloved, my heart's desire – as your shepherd –
is that you read the Bible –
not in the dark,
but like the 2 disciples
your eyes will open and
your hearts will burn within you.**

So I want to encourage you to read your Bible everyday
with Christ
up front and center and
with this *reading plan I have provided*
so that
**you can read the Bible –
Redemptive-Historically.**

Redemptive history (God's redemptive plan)

- God's acts of redemption climaxing at Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.
- God's overarching purpose that He has realized in Christ. (Ephesians 3:11)
- **Genesis to Revelation is all about God redeeming a people for Himself.**
- **The Bible is one grand story – Christ as the central figure - in which God, through His Son, is reconciling sinful man to Himself.**

So for example,

Do you remember my sermon on the **cleft rock**?

The grumbling Israelites put God on trial – even though they are the guilty.

God, who is the true Judge, says, “I will stand on the rock” signifying that He is the rock.

And so to appease the righteous wrath of the judge – God himself takes the punishment of the guilty – the Israelites. evidenced when Moses strikes the rock and the rock splits in half and water streams out of the rock for the Israelites to drink deep to quench their thirst.

And 1500 years after God stood on the rock, that righteous wrath of the Judge is ultimately appeased by the reality of the type and shadow of the rock – the God-man Jesus Christ fulfilled on the rock of **Golgotha**, where Jesus took the punishment of the Israelites – the Jews – and the Gentiles – us -- so that we all can be saved from the penalty of our sins.
Praise God for his redemptive plan!

Unfortunately,
the Jews did not read the Bible with Christ as the answer.

**As a result,
they elevated the types and shadows
to the actualities –
thereby missing the point.**

**If you remember the bronze snake,
it only pointed to Christ.
The Jews elevated this type and shadow to the status of the
substance and thus worshipped the bronze snake.
This made God angry.
Thus, Hezekiah was considered righteous for smashing this type
of Christ.**

**Unfortunately, the Jews still today confuse the types
with the substance – the actuality and thus
do not come to Christ.**

**I'm reminded of a religious Jewish friend in
Jerusalem.**

**While we were playing basketball,
we got into a conversation about King David.**

**Hoping to transition into his need for a savior,
I asked him a question,
Was King David was a sinner?
Do you know what he said?**

He said, "No. David was sinless."

**So I asked, "Have you forgotten Bathsheba?
David coveted Bathsheba – breaking the 10th commandment;
he stole Bathsheba from her husband, Uriah the Hittite –
breaking the 8th commandment.
He committed adultery,
breaking the 7th commandment.
He murdered Uriah, breaking the 6th commandment.**

**And throughout this narrative,
David acted deceptively –
thereby breaking the 9th commandment.**

**In one occasion,
one sin led to the breaking of all 10 commandments.**

**“How could he be righteous
if he is clearly a coveter,
an adulterer, a thief, a murderer, a liar, etc., etc.?”**

My friend stumbles for an answer.
He tries to explain away David’s sin.
Like a clever lawyer,
he looks for loopholes.

Now, you may ask
why would my Jewish friend make excuses
when Scripture clearly shows David had sinned?

The reason is that he wants to be consistent
with the traditions of Jewish rabbis,
even at the expense of denying God’s word.

He wants to be in line with the Talmud.

As stated in Shabbat 56a,
"Whoever says David sinned is ... in error."

But to his point, in the Psalms,
Some passages appear to indicate that David is righteous
and blameless.

For example, in Psalm 18: vs. 23,24:

I was blameless before him,
and I kept myself from my guilt.
So the LORD has rewarded me according to my righteous

ness (Psalm 18:23,24)

And in 2 Samuel 22, towards the end of David's life, he writes:

I have kept the ways of the Lord,
And have not acted wickedly ... I was also blameless toward Him, And I kept myself from my iniquity.

2 Samuel 22: 22-24.

How can David say he is blameless and righteous when clearly he sinned?

Is there a contradiction in the Bible?

Well if you believe in the Protestant Reformation doctrine of imputation and if you trust what Jesus says:

“Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms speak of Me!”

then there is no contradiction.

David is merely a type and shadow of the true, righteous one to come – Jesus Christ.

Unfortunately,

my Jewish friend refuses

to even consider that

Jesus could be the fulfillment of David and his Psalms.

Now, I've shared the Gospel with many people – atheist, agnostics, Muslims, Roman Catholics, etc. and sadly –

I would say –

the Jews are the most resistant to the Gospel.

Many of you know,

I have a heart for the Jews.

God has given me a love for them more than any other people –

Kind of like Paul –

I desire for the Jews to come to

saving faith in their Messiah --
Yeshua Hamashiach.

But unfortunately a veil covers their eyes,
they are blinded – much like the Pharisees.

Amazingly, they even fail to see that the Bible actually prophesies that the Jews would reject their Messiah,

In Isaiah 53,

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.
Isaiah 53:3

Daniel prophesies,

The Messiah will be cut off ... and ... the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. Daniel 9:26

“And I will pour out on ... Jerusalem a spirit of grace and ... mercy, so that, when they look on me, ... whom they have **pierced**, they shall mourn ... and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.”
Zechariah 12:10,11

Paul also weighs in,

... a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in ... there will be a great turning of Israel to Jesus her Messiah
Rom. 11: 25,26

**You see, a reason the Jews during Jesus' time,
and the Jews today,
cannot see that Jesus is the Messiah
is that they ignore passages of a suffering Messiah
that would suffer and die.
Instead they underscore the glorious passages of a mighty
messiah
like King David whom they call today –
Ha Mashiach Ben Dah veed --
the Messiah, Son of David.**

**So naturally,
They fail to see
in their own Scriptures
that the Messiah had to suffer
first -- to deal with our sins -- before there could be any glorious
Messiah like King David to come.**

Jesus says,

“O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! It was necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and [then] enter into his glory.” Luke 24: 25,26

**And so throughout Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms,
we see a string of types and shadows of the Messiah and
that it was necessary
for him to suffer.**

**We can only surmise what Jesus told the two disciples because
not all is written,
but most likely He began with Gen. 3:15 --
the 1st mention of the Gospel.**

**God Himself preaches the Good News that
it is necessary
for THE seed of the woman to be bruised,
necessitating suffering.**

But!

**The seed will recover and
ultimately crush the head of the serpent, foreshadowing
the resurrection.**

**Jesus' coming back to life signifies the reversal of the curse –
the restoration of sinners,
the victory over sin and death, culminating
in their inclusion into God's kingdom.**

**What about the clothes God prepared to cover Adam and Eve's
nakedness?**

**It was necessary
for the animal in the garden to be slain and
be skinned in order to cover their sin, their shame in front of a
holy and righteous God –
that slain animal foreshadows the suffering of Jesus.**

What about Abel's sacrifice?

**It was necessary
for blood to be shed, for
there is no forgiveness without the shedding of blood.
Abel's bloody sacrifice prefigures the better and more acceptable
sacrifice on the cross.**

What about the ram caught in the thicket offered up by Abraham?

**It was necessary
for this ram to be a substitute for Isaac.
This sacrifice foreshadows Christ's suffering and
his substitutionary death on the cross so that the children of
Isaac,
both Jews and Gentiles can be saved from their sins.**

What about the Passover lamb?

**It was necessary
for this lamb to be slain so that blood could be applied to
the doorframes so that the Lord would pass over the Israelites.
That blood
points forward in time to Jesus's blood that protects us from
God's judgment.**

And what about the Day of Atonement?
It was necessary
for the High Priest to make an offering of two goats.

**Propitiation – satisfying God's righteous wrath and gaining
of His favor.**

Expiation -- cleansing of sin and removal of sin's guilt.

One goat -- the blood sacrifice –
was slain and its blood was sprinkled on the mercy seat –
pointing forward to Jesus' bloody sacrifice on the cross
that satisfies God's righteous wrath – which we call
propitiation.

And the other goat – the "scapegoat" –
was released to the wilderness,
which symbolizes
Jesus' cleansing of sin and
removal of guilt,
which we call expiation

What about the bronze serpent?

**It was necessary
for Moses to mount the bronze serpent on a pole and lift it up to
save sinners who looked upon it.**

**Likewise,
it was necessary
for Jesus to also be mounted and
lifted up on a cross to suffer, as a cursed object of Deuteronomy
21 that hangs on a tree so that**

He could take away our curse and save sinners who look to Christ in faith.

What about the suffering servant of Isaiah 53?

Just as it was necessary for the suffering servant to be ...

- "... despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and ... grief; ... he was despised, and we esteemed him not." (Isaiah 53:3).

Jesus was rejected by the Sanhedrin and today He is still despised by the Jews.

And just as it was necessary for the suffering servant to be ... "... pierced for our transgressions; ... crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that brought us peace, and by his wounds we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5).

It was necessary for Jesus to be flogged and his hands, feet and side had to be pierced on the cross so that we could be healed of our sin by his wounds.

Just as it was necessary for the suffering servant ... " Out of the anguish of his soul, ... make many to be considered righteous, and ... bear their iniquities." (Isaiah 53:11)

It was necessary for Jesus to die a substitutionary death to atone for the sins of the world and to impute His righteousness to us believers so that we can be declared righteous before a holy, righteous God

Praise God that throughout the Old Testament, He saw that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer so that

we can ultimately receive the forgiveness of sins and His righteousness!

I'm reminded of another conversation I had with another orthodox Jew.

One day as I was giving my Dutch friend a tour of Jerusalem, we caught a bus just outside the Dung gate, which is located just South of the temple mount.

Little did we know, we had taken a Mehadrin Bus,
a bus that is usually full of ultra-orthodox Jews - Haredim.
On the bus, I continue to give me friend a tour –
“To our left is the Valley of Ben Hinnom,
this is where the Israelites sacrificed their children to Molech through fire.”
Suddenly, an ultra-orthodox Jewish man
sitting next to me
interrupts me, “Excuse me!
The Israelites sacrificed their children?”

I reply, “It's in your Scriptures – in the Tanakh.”

By God's providence,
I had actually written 3 Bible references of the sacrifices on a piece of paper and put it in a pocket in my knapsack before we had gotten on the bus.
So I opened my knapsack and gave him the passages.
It's mentioned in the Writings – the Ketuvim,
and the Nevi'im, the Prophets
Jeremiah and Isaiah speak of it.

Don't be surprised, I say! The Bible repeatedly states the Israelites refused to believe God's messengers.

He gives me a curious look so I take him through the Old Testament to point him to Christ.

I start with Genesis –

Remember, Joseph's brothers, who you know are the sons of Israel? They hated and rejected Joseph and his message so they tried to kill him. They put him in Sheol – a pit – and sold him to Egypt.

Long story short, Joseph saves the Gentiles and Israel.

At the end of Genesis, we see that Joseph forgives his brothers:

“... you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to save many people.” Genesis 50:20

I then bring him to Exodus,

The Israelites grumbled against Moses for 40 years in the desert.

Why 40 years?

Because they refused to believe – Shama – Joshua.

Joshua and Caleb deliver a good report (Good News).

But the 1st Generation of Israelites refuse to believe the good news.

Oh by the way, when I share the Gospel with orthodox Jews, I try not to use the word – Jesus – because the name unfortunately offends Jews.

So instead I use -- Joshua or Yeshua – because it is the same word as Jesus in Hebrew.

Yeshua means – Savior – The Lord Saves – and does anyone know what Caleb means?

Dog.

You put the 2 names together and

you get God saves Dogs – God saves dirty, filthy Gentiles.

The Jewish guy is amazed,

“Woah! What is this?” he says.

I continue,
the 1st generation of Israelites all die in the desert because they did not believe the good report given by Yeshua;
He, however, saves the 2nd generation, who believed Joshua.
True to his name, Yeshua delivers the Israelites into the Promised Land, all because they trusted in the good news of Yeshua.

I then take new Jewish friend to the Prophets,

Remember Jeremiah?

Like Joseph, he **was rejected by** the sons of Israel – and they too also put him in a pit.

The Jews plotted against Jeremiah –

And like a lamb led to the slaughter,

Jeremiah suffered much,

In his book of suffering – Lamentations --

we also see him lamenting over Jerusalem: Oh Jerusalem! Oh Jerusalem!

Isaiah speaks of the suffering servant.

In Isaiah 53, the Messiah would be rejected and would suffer and

would die a substitutionary death to

atone for the sins of the world and

He would impute His righteousness to sinners so that they would be declared righteous before God.

And that is why “by His stripes we are healed.”

The Jewish guy is amazed.

It's like his eyes are open for the first time.

He's thinking, Who is this Gentile, this stranger? This Goyii m? opening up my Scriptures?

He wants me to continue ... but all of a sudden, my Dutch friend grabs my arm.

“Joshua, we got to get off the bus.

It's our stop!”

The Jewish guy is like “wait! Rega! Rega!
I want to thank you!
You taught me so much. Toda rava!
I can tell from his face, his smile,
that his heart was burning within him.

And as my Dutch friend pulls my arm so that we can get off the bus on time,
I have this 아쉬은 느낌
feeling of unfinished business. I really wish I had just one more minute on the bus to get his contact information because I knew he wanted to hear more. I felt he was ready for the Messiah.

But it was almost as if God was telling me,
Not yet, Joshua. Not yet.

I don't know, ...
but I personally believe in my heart that the Jews will one day repent en masse and come to believe in the suffering Messiah as prophesied in Zechariah.

In Ephesians it says,

He [made] the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile them **both** in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.” Eph. 2:15,16

And in the next vs., also found in Isaiah

“Peace, peace to them who were far away [that is us, the Gentiles] and to those who were near [the Jews],” Says the Lord, “and I will heal them.”
Isaiah 57: 19; Eph. 2:17

And so I encourage you to pray for the Jews that they will repent and be reconciled with us in one body to God through the Messiah, Yeshua Ha Mashiach.

Let us pray!

Father,

We come to you knowing that we Gentile dogs do not deserve your salvation, but by the torn body and spilt blood of Jesus, we who were once far away have been saved. You have sent to us Emmanuel, God with us – the true light to the nations -- so that by His wounds, through his sufferings, we are healed of our sin. We thank you again for the gospel, the power of God unto salvation to all who believe: first to Jews, then to Gentiles. We pray for the peace of Jerusalem – that the Jews will come to repentance and faith in Yeshua Ha Mashiach so that we can both be reconciled in one body to God through the cross, through his sufferings, may we have peace.

Amen.