

## The Gospel Promise Pt. 2

**Romans 1:1-2 NKJV - "Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God 2 which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures"**

How many of you like word pictures? I mean when you are learning something in class and they put it in a way you understand, en arroz y habichuelas. Like when they explain math to you using fruits or chickens. Or when there's a concept that's kind of out there, so they use something more tangible to understand it.

It can be illustrations, examples, images, anything that helps you comprehend what is being said better. Well God understands that for some of us, pictures and illustrations help a lot. So He's placed pictures of what He's planned for us all throughout the Old Covenant. Once you start reading the words of Jesus in the Gospels, or you start reading the epistles as the apostles came to understand what they meant, you come to realize that, just like God prophesied about the New Covenant all through out the Old Testament, He also placed images, pictures and illustrations through events, people and items found in them.

So last week we took our time going through some of the prophecies regarding the Gospel, the New Covenant, the Cross and the Resurrection. We saw how all the way back in Genesis, the New Covenant, the Gospel, was God's ultimate plan and how it would be achieved through the death and resurrection of Jesus. That was our first point "The Gospel PROPHECIES"

But today, we're going to be looking at the second point "The Gospel PICTURES", and see how God placed all these illustrations, images, pictures and more to show the same thing, so we could realize what His plan was all along.

Now let me be honest, this is a hobby horse for me, so I'm in danger of talking a lot. I'm gonna try to keep it brief, and I'm not gonna get to go through all the pictures. Some are just going to get a rapid fire mention and you can look at it yourself, some I'm gonna be there a while. But I p

## II. The Gospel Pictures

- The First Clothing?! - Genesis 3:21
  - **Genesis 3:21 "Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them."**
    - Adam and Eve had sinned by disobeying God through unbelief and eating of the fruit. Judgment had come, they were cast out of the Garden, and in verse 15 God had given them the promise that from the seed of the Woman, a savior would come to crush the serpent and set things right.
    - Now a few verses down, it says that God made for Adam and Eve tunics of skin and clothed them. You might go "well how does God's fashion sense talk about Jesus?"
    - Well, what do you need to do to make clothing made out of skin? You need to kill something. This is the first recorded death of anything in the Bible. Up to that point NOTHING had died. So because of Adam and Eve's sin, an innocent animal that had done nothing wrong was killed by God, and used to cover their nakedness, which they were only now aware of.
    - See the picture? Mankind now knew of their nakedness and sin, so God had to deal with it, by shedding the blood of the innocent and covering over their shame.
    - In the same way, Jesus, who was innocent, was killed and sacrificed for the guilty, so that we could then be covered in His righteousness. He removed our sin at the cross, and covers us in His righteousness so we no longer have to be ashamed of feel condemned before God.
- Abraham & Isaac - Genesis 22:1-14

- Remember how I warned about this being a hobby horse? Welcome to one of my favorite pictures of the Gospel in all of the Bible!
- Genesis 22:1-14 **"Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>2</sup> Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." <sup>3</sup> So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. <sup>4</sup> Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. <sup>5</sup> And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you." <sup>6</sup> So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. <sup>7</sup> But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" <sup>8</sup> And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together. <sup>9</sup> Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. <sup>10</sup> And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. <sup>11</sup> But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." <sup>12</sup> And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." <sup>13</sup> Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup> And Abraham called the name of the place, The-Lord-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mound of the Lord it shall be provided."**
  - Where do you begin with the pictures?! There's so many:
    - A Father gives His son up His only beloved son as a sacrifice (Isaac was the son of Promise, therefore He was the only son that God acknowledged).
    - They climb to a mountain where the sacrifice will take place, the Son carrying the wood on which he would be sacrificed on his back.
    - Isaac would've been somewhere around 33 years old when this happened.
    - From where they were to Mount Moriah, it was a three day journey, meaning that in Abraham's mind, it was as if Isaac had been dead for three days, and was given back to him alive on the third day.
    - Isaac could've fought off Abraham once he realized what was happening, yet he allowed his father to bind him and place in on the altar for sacrifice, waiting for the plunge of the knife.
    - In Isaac's place, the Lord provided a ram (a male sheep, a male lamb) to die as a substitute.
    - In verse 8, there is a bad translation: **And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together.** In the original language, the word "for" isn't there. It should read as this: **"My son, God will provide Himself the lamb for a burnt offering."** Translated like that, the meaning is much clearer.
    - Geographically, Mount Moriah is in the same exact mountain range location where hundreds of years later, Jesus would climb with a wooden cross, and would willingly be given as the sacrifice, the lamb that took away the sin of the world.
    - In one chapter, the Lord used Abraham & Isaac to paint the events of the cross and resurrection nearly identically.

• *The Bronze Serpent - Numbers 21:4-9*

- Numbers 21:4-9 - "Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way. 5 And the people spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread." 6 So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died. 7 Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. 8 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live." 9 So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived."
  - Jesus took sin to the cross, and offers us healing. The same way some likely refused to look at the serpent, some today refuse to look to Jesus. The way it was built would've looked like a snake on a cross, and bronze is the metal of judgement. Sin judged at the CROSS!
  - John 3:14-15 - "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."
- The Passover Lamb - Exodus 12:46, Numbers 9:12
  - Exodus 12:46 "In one house it shall be eaten; you shall not carry any of the flesh outside the house, nor shall you break one of its bones."
  - Numbers 9:12 "They shall leave none of it until morning, nor break one of its bones."
    - This is why there was an emphasis on Jesus' bones not been broken. It was a picture!
    - Not only that, but the way the lamb would be prepared it would be stretched out over the fire on a cross beam, looking like it was crucified over fire.
    - 1 Corinthians 5:7 - Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us."
- The Scape Goat - Leviticus 16
  - Leviticus 16:5-10 - "And he shall take from the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats as a sin offering, and one ram as a burnt offering. Aaron shall offer the bull as a sin offering, which is for himself, and make atonement for himself and for his house. 7 He shall take the two goats and present them before the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. 8 Then Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats: one lot for the LORD and the other lot for the scapegoat. 9 And Aaron shall bring the goat on which the LORD's lot fell, and offer it as a sin offering. 10 But the goat on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make atonement upon it, and to let it go as the scapegoat into the wilderness."
  - Leviticus 16:15-16 - "Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering, which is for the people, bring its blood inside the veil, do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and before the mercy seat. 16 So he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions, for all their sins; and so he shall do for the tabernacle of meeting which remains among them in the midst of their uncleanness."
  - Leviticus 16:20-22 - "20 "And when he has made an end of atoning for the Holy Place, the tabernacle of meeting, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat. 21 Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, confess over it all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions, concerning all their sins, putting them on the head of the goat, and shall send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a suitable man. 22 The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to an uninhabited land; and he shall release the goat in the wilderness."

- Once a year, on the day of Atonement, the High Priest would do a special sacrifice where a scapegoat was chosen. After sacrificing the other goat and bulls and going through the steps to atone for the tabernacle and himself through the sacrifice, he'd put his hands on the living goat, confess all the sins of Israel, and then send the goat out into the wild.
  - The idea is that for that year, that goat would carry away the sins of the people into the wilderness to not be seen again. But this had to be repeated year after year.
  - Jesus takes our sins and takes them away from us never to be seen again.
  - But the goat that was sacrificed was also like Jesus, in that the goat was spotless, was from the people of Israel, was chosen by God, and the goat's blood was taken to the Holy Place to provide atonement. The sacrifice was killed outside the veil, so Jesus was killed outside the city.
  - Hebrews 13:10-12 allude to this sacrifice when speaking of Jesus.
    - **Hebrews 13:10-12 - "We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. 11 For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. 12 Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate."**
- The Life of Joseph - Genesis 37-49
  - If you study the life of Joseph, there are dozens parallels between him and Jesus.
    - He was presented to his brothers and they betrayed him.
    - He was sold by his own as a slave, and Jesus was betrayed for the price of a slave.
    - He was cast into prison though he was innocent.
    - He was revealed to them the second time he appeared before them in glory.
    - He rescued them from death and brought them into blessing and favor.
- Moses - Exodus - Deuteronomy (Specifically Deuteronomy 18:15 make it clear)
  - Moses also has many parallels with Jesus. Especially because he prophesied the following statement.
    - **Deuteronomy 18:15 - "The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear"**
    - Both had kings who tried to kill them as infants.
    - Both were at first rejected by their own.
    - Moses delivered Israel from Egypt as Jesus delivers sinners from the world.
    - Moses was royalty in Egypt but left it and identified with his people. Jesus left the glories of Heaven to identify with us.
    - God gave the first covenant through Moses, but the second through Jesus.
    - In the same way, there are ways in which Moses is an anti-type of Jesus. For through Moses came the law, but through Jesus came grace and truth.
    - Nevertheless, Moses is often a picture of Jesus!
- Joshua - Book of Joshua
  - Joshua brought the people into the promised land. But it as Jesus who truly led them in. Jesus' Hebrew name is Joshua, and so the greater than Joshua is the one who leads us into our promised land, the New Covenant life where God dwells in you!
- David - 1 Samuel 17
  - To many people teach 1 Samuel 17 incorrectly. Many people teach is as you are David and by God's strength you can defeat Goliath. But that's wrong. The picture is of Jesus delivering His people. David is a picture of Jesus defeating the enemy and liberating the people from the oppression they faced. Jesus is the giant slayer. Jesus is the great deliverer and warrior who vanquishes the enemy. We are like the soldiers who rejoice at his victory.
- Jonah - Matthew 12:40
  - Jesus Himself pointed this on out in Matthew
    - **Matthew 12:38-41 - "Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You. "But He answered and said to them, "An**

**evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here."**

- This is why we know Jonah's story really happened. Because Jesus said it happened. Jonah, despite his fame as the reluctant, angry prophet who really did struggle with racial hatred towards Assyria, is in some parts a picture of Jesus.
  - When the sailing ship is about to go down, Jonah tells them to cast him into the sea so they can be saved and spared. Jesus was cast into the wrath of God so we could be spared and be saved.
  - Jonah died, some people think he literally died and not just symbolically, in the belly of the fish for three days. On the third day he was brought out (and revived if he did die in there!). Jesus died as was in the tomb, and resurrected on the third day.
  - Jonah preached to a nation of gentiles to repent and turn to God (though he didn't want them to!), but Jesus is preached to the whole world to repent from unbelief and turn to Him! And He wants them to!
- We looked at 10 different pictures in the Old Testament that teach us about the Gospel and about Jesus' death and resurrection. You can clearly see that the Gospel was PROMISED very clearly across the entire Old Testament. The Old Covenant was a place holder set up till it was time for the NEW COVENANT.
- Jesus declared in **John 5:39 - "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me."**
- It's always pointed to Jesus, He's always been the promise!
- So now you have to choose if you'll believe the promise! Will you receive the promise of the New Covenant, the promise of the finished work of Christ where you'll find true rest and fulfillment.
- If you aren't a Christian here today will you choose to believe the Gospel promise?
- If you are a Christian who has believed by faith, are you letting this strengthen your faith and bring you to worship? To see that He always had it all figured out, out of love for all mankind.