

## The Journey

### Series 05: Cross

#### Week 48: Jesus Appears to Disciples; Returns to Heaven

*\*We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons\**

### BIG Idea

On the very last day of this sermon series, I want you to know something important...

God desires everyone to believe His good news – the gospel.

**2 Peter 3:9 (ESV)** The Lord...is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

The Scriptures tell us that when Christ died on the cross, He paid our sin-debt in full.

It's a joy to know that we don't *have* to die for our own sins. We can be forgiven and have eternal life because of God's love and mercy shown to us through Jesus.

God holds you responsible to believe or reject SALVATION provided through the work of Jesus Christ – His death for sin, burial, and resurrection for new/eternal life.

### Information (What We Need to Know)

*Let's look back at some Old Testament provisions of God saving people...*

**Genesis 3:15 (ESV)** "...he [*Deliverer/Christ*] shall bruise your [*Satan*] head, and you shall bruise his heel [*cross*]."

- God's provision of clothing for Adam and Eve (innocent dying for guilty)

**Genesis 3:21 (ESV)** And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

*Just as God killed animals to provide clothing for Adam and Eve, what did He do to make us acceptable? Sent His Son; punished Him for our sin on the cross.*

**Ephesians 2:8 (ESV)** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9** not a result of works...

- God's provision of one door on the ark to save Noah and his family

**Genesis 6:18 (ESV)** But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. **19** And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you.

**John 14:6 (ESV)** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

- The Passover lamb pointed forward to Jesus, who shed His blood and died as the sacrifice for our sins

**Exodus 12:5 (ESV)** Your lamb shall be without blemish... **12** For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. **13** The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

**1 Peter 1:18 (NLT)** For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. **19** It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.

Just as the Israelites had to apply the blood to their houses so that their firstborn would be saved from death, so we will only be saved from punishment if we apply the death of Jesus personally to ourselves.

Merely knowing that we are sinners and that the Lord Jesus Christ died will not save us. We must believe that He paid the complete payment for our sins, and trust in Him alone as our Savior.

Because Jesus paid to God all that was required, God forgives the sins of those who agree with Him that they are helpless sinners and trust in Jesus and His death for them. To them God gives the gift of everlasting life.

### ***Actions of Jesus Following His Resurrection...***

- Jesus appears to some of His followers (but some still doubted)

**Matthew 28:16 (ESV)** Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. **17** And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted.

- Jesus shares His desire for all to hear the good news

**Matthew 28:18 (ESV)** And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you...”

“Jesus’ commission, applicable to all His followers, involved one command, ‘Make disciples,’ which is accompanied by three action: *going, baptizing, and teaching.*” – Bible Knowledge Commentary

- **Jesus ascends to heaven** (40 days between His resurrection and ascension)  
**Acts 1:9 (ESV)** And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.  
*After commanding the disciples to take the gospel to all, He returned to His Father.*
- **Jesus declares that He would return to earth**  
**Acts 1:10 (ESV)** And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men [*angels in human form*] stood by them in white robes, **11** and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”
- ✓ **His first coming was to be the *Deliverer*** (birth, life, cross, burial, resurrection)
- ✓ **His second coming will be as *Judge***
  - **Judgment of those who reject Christ**  
**Revelation 20:12 (ESV)** I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God’s throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. **13** The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds. **14** Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. **15** And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.
  - **Reward for those who believe in Christ**  
**Revelation 21:1 (ESV)** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. **2** And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. **4** He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and **death shall be no more**, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, **for the former things have passed away.**” **5** And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.”

*The holy city, new Jerusalem.* This is the capital city of heaven, a place of perfect holiness. It is seen “coming down out of heaven” indicating it already existed; but it descends into the new heavens and new earth from its place on high. This is the city where all believers will live. (John MacArthur)

*The dwelling place of God is with man.* The greatest blessing of heaven will be unhindered fellowship with God himself.

By wiping away every tear and eliminating death, mourning, and pain, God will reverse the curse that entered the world through human sin in the Garden of Eden through Adam's sin.

### **Application (What We Need to Do)**

This is God's story.

This is the story of God keeping His promise to send a Deliverer.

This is God's story to offer salvation to all who will trust in Jesus as the Deliverer.

The question is, "Do you believe God's story? Will you put your faith in Jesus as the Deliverer?"

If so, you must not be ashamed...

**Romans 1:16 (ESV)** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes...