

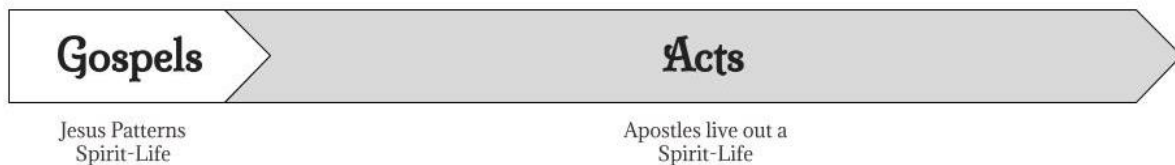
The Uncommon Gaze of Yahweh Pt II

Academics are important. Education night.
Will have a lot of information, but that is
okay, and in fact necessary.

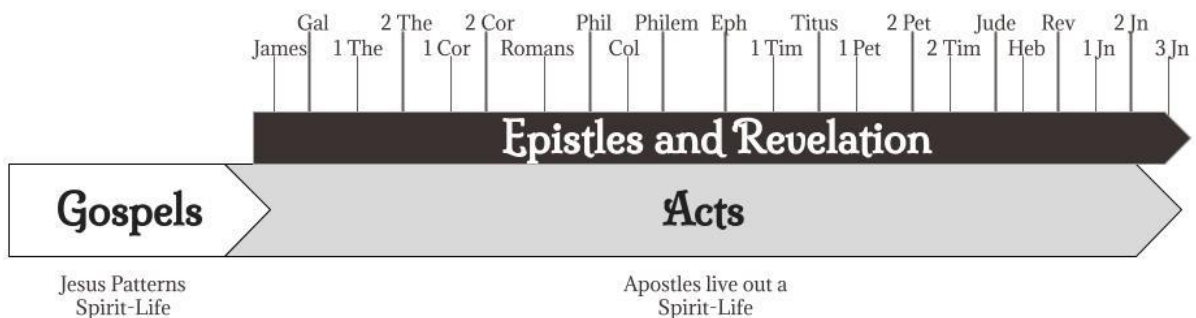
New Testament Format

Gospels	Historical	Epistles		Prophetic
Matthew Mark Luke John	Acts	Paul's Epistles	General Epistles	Revelation
		Romans 1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Phillipians Colossians 1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians 1 Timothy 2 Timothy Titus Philemon	Hebrews(?) James 1 Peter 2 Peter 1 John 2 John 3 John Jude	

New Testament Timeline



Epistles and Revelation added



Definitions

Divine-

theíos (thi'-os) Adjective. What is **uniquely** God's and that which **proceeds** from him.
An attribute of God such as His power. Not His essence.

"Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man."

Acts 17:29

Glory-

In the New Testament: *doxa* noun. From the root word, *dokéō*, meaning to think, imagine, or consider. Therefore, *doxa*, Glory, is **opinions** or **thoughts**. The glory (opinion and thoughts) of a man are shifty and uncertain.

- When speaking about God's Glory is His **unchanging** essence. It is His fixed **thoughts**, opinions, plans, and desires.

*"for all have sinned and fall short of the **glory** of God"*

Romans 3:23

- At one point, we all had the wrong form and were not as Abba created us to be. We lacked a proper perspective of his **image** and **character**. We are growing into his *Doxa*, his opinions, thoughts, and plans for us.

Mirror translation states- *Mankind's... distorted behavior is proof of a lost blueprint.*

In the Old Testament, Glory (*kabowd*), refers to the revelation of God's **person**, **nature**, and **presence** to mankind.

Definitions

Holy-

Qodesh noun. Consecrated. Set aside for sacred use.

- Holy originates from God, as He is **other**, unique. None like Him.
- When God made something Holy by consecrating it, it WAS NOT TO BE USED FOR **COMMON USE**.

(If used in a common way, it would be considered **profane**.)

Abide-

Meno verb. To remain, **dwelt**, live.

- Relation in which one stands with another. To **remain** in or with someone.
- To be and remain **united** with Yahweh in **heart**, mind, and will.

*“**Abide** in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you **abide** in Me.”*

John 15:4

- Francois Du Toit shares- *Meno means to continue to be present in a seamless **union**. More than a geographic location or physical address. This word locates us in the place Yahweh restored us to- the bosom of the **Father**. Just as Christ is in the Father, so are we in **Him** and **He** in us.*

Giving a lot of context. Importance of context. Saving woman from river.
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Recap

Throughout human history, Yahweh continually sought after the **heart** of man. He desired **union** with His creation. He chose the nation of Israel to be an example of covenant relationship. They were to act as a forerunner for the rest of mankind. Yet, generation after generation **sinned** against Yahweh.

What was Israel's Sin?

- They treated Holy things as **common**.
- They disregarded the Holy, **Divine** call into Yahweh's Glory.
- They continued to put other **lovers** before their Holy relationship with Yahweh.
- They refused to make each **household** a place that carried Yahweh's Presence.
- They made the beautiful, Holy, Divine **invitation** into face-to-face lifestyle, a common thing.

Nothing can be brought up to Yahweh's level. However, when His divine call or instruction is brought down to **human** level, that is idolatry. Israel failed to **recognize** the weight of Yahweh's invitation. This led to them placing other gods before him.

Israel's history begins with Abraham. The last we see of Israel in the Old Testament is several decades after they return to Jerusalem after a season of exile. This is when the prophet Malachi wrote.

Malachi

Yahweh confronts Israel. Their actions show- the exile did not work. This is the final words of Yahweh before 400 years of silence. Here, Yahweh speaks to His people as a **Father, Lover, and Friend**.

Abba cries out His children- come back to my presence. Restore intimate, proper worship.

Jesus cries out to his bride- I won't divorce you. Come back home and leave the foreign idols. Restore our marriage covenant.

Holy Spirit cries out to his friends- stop robbing me. If you will only partner with me, the nations will call you blessed.

Malachi is one final petition to the chosen people of Yahweh.

What was the response of the people?

Recap

- *They sneer at the Name of the Lord 1:13*
- *“Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, And He delights in them,” and, “Where is the God of justice?” 2:17*
- *It is useless to serve God; What profit is it that we have kept His ordinance, And that we have walked as mourners Before the LORD of hosts? So now we call the proud blessed, For those who do wickedness are raised up; They even tempt God and go free.” 3:14-15*

The Children, Brides, and Friends of Yahweh mock His appeals.

The Prophetic Ending

So... He turns His attention to the future

3:4- **“Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb (Sinai) for all Israel, *With the* statutes and judgments.**

Yes, this spoke of keeping the Law. But, Yahweh had invited all of Israel to be a Kingdom of **priests**. He wanted them **close** to Him, so he could **speak** to them. (Exodus 19)

3:5- **Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.**

What did Elijah do while on earth? He **fathered** the next generation. And, he prepared the way so that the next generation could fulfill their **destiny**. (2 Kings)

Elisha called him father. The next generation did more than he did.

3:6- **And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”**

The spirit of Elijah will not only make fathers love and care for their children, but fathers will bring the presence of the Yahweh back to the **homes**. Remember Joshua’s commission (Josh. 24)- each household must choose. If each **generation** does not properly steward the divine invitation to encounter Yahweh’s glory, and bring the next generation with them, then all of humanity will be in the same place as Israel. Then, the Lord will have to strike the earth.

God's people had rejected the call of God into intimate union.

Recap

A Hopeful Future

Despite the state Israel was in, Malachi joined the prophets who went before him and prophesied- The future is to be driven by a personal **relationship** with Yahweh.

Ezekiel declared- A new spirit I will put in them, I will remove the heart of stone and give them a heart of **flesh**.

Jeremiah exclaimed- I will put my law within them. I will write it on their **hearts**. I will be their God and they will be my people.

Even in the midst of the heartbreak Yahweh received from the unfaithfulness of Israel, He promised a future and a **hope**, where **union** would be the standard!

Intertestamental Period

After Malachi, there was roughly 400 years of silence. God stopped speaking to humanity. During this time, much change took place in both Jewish history and world history. These changes would set the scene for the Messiah to come and **finish** His Father's work.

Reason for history. For context, jn 3:16- what was the world that he came to save?

This history lesson will show the true depraved world of the NT

A Brief History

Persian Rule

The Persians ruled over Israel from 532–330ish BC. The Persians allowed the Jews to practice their religion with **little** interference. They were even allowed to rebuild and worship at the temple (2 Chronicles 36:22–23; Ezra 1:1–4). Malachi was written during this time period.

Hellenism

Alexander the Great conquered Persia around 330 BC. Alexander allowed the Jewish people to freely **practice** their religion. However, he brought the **Greek** culture, to the Jewish people.

The political, **moral**, religious, and humanistic ideologies had a profound **impact** on the Jewish people. In the end, Hellenism would cause a major **division** in the Jewish religion.

Intertestamental Period

Maccabean Revolt

After the death of Alexander Israel in 323 BC Israel was ruled by a number of different rulers. The worst of these rulers was Antiochus Epiphanes, (God Manifest, yet, the people called him Antiochus Epimanes- the madman). In **167 BC**, Antiochus entered Jerusalem and murdered thousands of people. He **outlawed** Judaism. He made circumcision, the study of Torah, and the keeping the Jewish dietary laws illegal.

He thought he was Zeus

In the Holy Temple, he over threw the **priesthood**, built a statue of Zeus, and made the temple a place of **pagan** worship. To spite the Jewish people, he slaughtered a **pig** on the altar. He stole the gold, sacred vessels, the seven-branched golden menorah, and more. He brought in prostitutes and made the temple a place of carnal pleasure.

This led to the Maccabean Revolt. The Jewish people fought to restore the rightful priests and rescued the temple. This resulted in a time of quasi-independence. Although the Jewish people were able to fend off the foreigners from eradicating their **heritage**, the revolt had a negative lasting impact on the people. A **political** and **religious** divide had become apparent within the Jewish culture. This divide would continue until the time of Jesus.

Roman Rule

Pompey of Rome conquered Israel around **63 BC**. This placed all of Israel under control of the Roman rule. Eventually, Herod would be made King of Judea by the Roman emperor and senate. The Jewish people had survived for centuries, outlasting many different rulers and nations. By the time of the birth of Christ, **Roman**, **Greek**, and **Hebrew** cultures were now mixed together in Israel.

Intertestamental Period

Jewish Religion

It is important to know what happened to the Jewish people when they denied the uncommon gaze of God.

At the end the Old Testament, there was a unified religious ideology among the Jewish people. The influence of Hellenism caused a **division** in Judaism, with some allowing the Hellenistic culture to **mix** with their own culture. While, others passionately **opposed** the mixture of the cultures.

This division became even more evident during the Maccabean Revolt, with some of the Jewish people fighting to have **political** freedom, and some fighting for **religious** freedom. This fracture never healed. By the time of Christ, the Jewish culture and religion had shattered into many different factions.

Jewish Sects

Pharisees

The name Pharisee probably means **separatists**. They were against the **mixture** of cultures. They morally separate, but also culturally separate as well. During the Maccabean revolt and afterwards, they **opposed** the Hellenization. They fought to have political independence.

Beliefs-

- The **entire** Old Testament, the Law and the Prophets, was God's word.
- The oral tradition was as important as the Word of God
- The Word of God was the **path** to God
- Were prevalent in the synagogues
- They **believed** in angels, demons, life after death, and a resurrection.

This is why they followed the law so strongly. Why they were mad at Jesus when he challenged their laws.

In the New Testament, they were middle-class people, yet they were an elite class. They did not look to **overthrow** the Roman government, but expected God, in His sovereignty, to overthrow Rome. Pharisees believed that faith in the **laws** was the utmost important. Therefore, they followed the law carefully, and tried to apply it to everyday situations. Breaking the law meant **dishonoring** God.

This is why some of the disciples looked for Jesus to overthrow Rome

Intertestamental Period

Sadducees Name means, “members of the council.” They were invested in the secular world, and were in **favor** of the Hellenistic influence. They formed during the Maccabean Revolt, as they **opposed** the rebellion and sided with the Greek rulership.

Beliefs-

- Only the **Torah**, Genesis-Deuteronomy, was God’s word.
- Rejected oral tradition
- The **temple** was the path to God
- Controlled the temple, but not the synagogues
- **Did not** believe in angels, demons, life after death, and a resurrection.

This is why they were mad at Jesus when he said the temple would fall and be rebuilt. Or when he said he was the spotless lamb

In the New Testament, they were wealthy aristocrats. They became **wealthy** because of the Roman government, and therefore **supported** the Romans. They believed that the temple and the temple rituals were of utmost importance. Disrupting the religious practices, meant dishonoring God.

Essenes

They traced their origin back to the Maccabean Revolt. They **rejected** the corruption of the priests and the religious leaders. They became an **isolated** group.

Beliefs-

- There was a need to separate from the corruption.
- Believed in a **complete** adherence to the Torah
- They were the chosen to prepare the way for the **Kingdom** of God

This was a reclusive community that had a very intense set of rules. They lived in **isolated** communities. They shared property, meals, and every other aspect of daily life.

They worried less about the political or current religious standards. They focused on the ancient **tradition** of God and His people. John the Baptist may have been an Essene.

Intertestamental Period

Zealots

Name means, “Zealous.” The Zealots took this name in honor of those who fought in the Maccabean Revolt. They not only disapproved of the Hellenistic Roman culture, they desired to **forcefully** remove the Romans from their Holy Land like the Maccabean leaders had done before.

Beliefs-

- Same as the Pharisees, except only **God** could rule, not man.
- Hated Roman rule
- It was required to be violent and physical to preserve the Land of God.

These were extremists who would assassinate **Jewish** leaders who symphonized with Roman Rule. For them, there could be no mixture of Hellenism and Jewish culture. The only answer was a violent force.

Scribes

This was not a different sect, but the Jewish leaders who studied and interpreted the **Law**. When scribes interpreted the Law, it became a new **rule** for the people. This was called oral tradition. Therefore, Scribe’s added to the Law of Moses and eventually considered their own laws more **important** than God’s law. The scribes added **hundreds** of laws to the Jewish religion during the intertestamental period.

In Malachi, Yahweh called His people to return to Him. They refused. Over the next few centuries, left to their own devices, the Jewish people turned relationship with Yahweh into a **religion**. By the time Christ arrived on the scene God’s people, and their religion, was in a **fractured** state. Each sect had a form of godliness, without having a **relationship** with the One they worshipped. Because of this, they all misunderstood the **Messiah**.

Intertestamental Period

Pharisees protected the Word of God, but could not comprehend when the Word became Flesh.

Sadducees protected the temple and its rituals, but could not accept the spotless Lamb of God.

Essenes were passionate for the ancient ways, but did not recognize the ancient of days in their midst.

Zealots misplaced their zeal. A fire burned in them for political freedom. They missed the freedom that the Spirit of the Lord brings.

{Yahweh's covenant people missed the covenant maker, because **relationship** had turned into **religion**.}

These were apart of the "world" in
316 spoke of

Wickedness of the World

When Jesus came to earth the world was in one of its darkest moments: morally, spiritually, and ethically.

Value of Human Life

Brutality

The Roman culture was one of **violence** and **intense** brutality.

Roman physician Galen once advised freemen to not punch their servants in the mouth. Not because it would hurt the servant, or cause humiliation. Galen was concerned that the freeman might cut his knuckles on the servant's teeth. Instead, he advised that the owner should get a stick and thrash the offending servant in a calm and controlled manner.

Murder

In Roman culture, the father had the power of **life** and **death** over their legitimate sons. They had the right to kill any child they saw as a **monster**. When it came to freemen killing freemen, the government was not too concerned about the **act** of murder, or the sanctity of life. They were more concerned with what effected the stability of the republic.

When it came to capital punishment, citizens could be killed by being thrown off a cliff, scourging (a form of whipping), thrown in a river in a bag, burnt to death, sacrificed to a god, being beaten to death by rods, and of course, crucifixion.

Intertestamental Period

Roman Religion and Human Sacrifice

At times they sacrificed humans, both adults and children, to get the optimal **outcome** from their gods. Any **deformed** child was thrown off a cliff as a sacrifice.

Sexual Immorality

Homosexuality was openly **accepted, practiced, and ingrained** into society. There was not one word for homosexuality. There were **ten** words to describe the types of homosexuality. There were no **gender** roles. There was the active and the passive role. It was **criminal** for a Roman citizen to take the passive role.

Pederasty- between man and boy

The most **common** form of homosexuality. It was only to be pleasurable for the **adult**. If the youth did enjoy it, the boy was regarded as **perverted**.

Types of Pederasty:

Prostitution – **Every** level of Roman Society practiced pederasty prostitution

Boys ages 12-20 sold themselves to adult free males as prostitutes. In some cities, boys were abducted for the pleasure of noble men. This was a **religious** and a **secular** thing. Augustine gave boy prostitutes a legal holiday.

Emperors - Nero, Domitian, Commodus all had harems of **300** Boys.

Military Pederasty-

Pederasty was commonly performed on foes they defeated. Also, pederasty became apart **basic** training. The thought was that homosexual conduct would yield **military** prowess

Slavery-

Since it was common that once a boy became a man, he no longer was subject to being at the mercy of an adult, slaves had a difficult time. Masters would buy young boys, dress them as women, and as they became adults, would have them pluck their beards to remain **youthful**. Many slaves could be castrated to keep youthfulness longer.

Intertestamental Period

Educational Pederasty

The most Common form of Pederasty was found in Education.

The Roman gymnasium was a place of athletic activities, study, and philosophical discussion. These became **focal** points of city life. They had hot-bathes, swimming pools, libraries, and decorated art.

Beyond this, they became places where teachers would watch boys bathe and would choose who they would perform sexual acts with. It was an **expectation** that teachers would have sexual relations with their students.

Adult Homosexuality

Homosexual behavior was widely accepted. But only between different **classes**. A married man could have sex outside marriage if it was with a female prostitute or a male lover. The **higher** class had to be dominant, or he was **shamed**.

Example: NERO

Emperor 54- 68 AD

1. Relationships
 - A. Mother - killed her
 - B. Wife- Poppea Sabina (kicked her to death when she was pregnant)
 - C. Sporus –resembled Poppea Sabina. Was a boy lover. Nero had him castrated, dressed like a woman and married him
 - D. Pythagoras - male, Husband. Nero played the wife.
2. Great Fire/Golden House
 - A. Blamed Christians
 - B. Built Golden House
 - Orgies
 - As an animal mutilates children
 - Burn Christian for light

This the world getting darker? This study is not even scratching the surface. This is the time that Yahweh decided to intervene. Perhaps, it was now or never?

Intertestamental Period

Yahweh's Response?

What was Yahweh to do? His chosen people had become so **religious**, that the ancient call to face-to-face relationship was all but forgotten. And, what was the **answer** to the depths of evil humanity had fallen? It must be that God comes and smites the earth with a curse, right? Deliver the Jewish people and **destroy** the works of wickedness with his rod and staff? As we will see, Yahweh had a different plan.

The Gospel of John

Background

Much like Malachi, John was penned **decades** after the events recorded in the New Testament. This Gospel was most likely written in the 90's AD, some **sixty** years after Christ. The early church had exploded on to the scene disrupting the **religious** system. During this time, several important events had happened in the world.

- Nero had reigned and persecuted Christians
- The temple was destroyed in **70 AD**
- Most, if not all, of the **Apostles** had been martyred.
- Emperor Domitian reigned and persecuted **Christians**
- John had been persecuted, sent to Patmos, and ended up in Ephesus

Who was John? The apostle. All of His friends and brothers had died. He had been through a lot in 60 years. Dipped in oil, Patmos, landed in Ephesus.

Reason

Why did John write? Tradition states that at the end of John's life, his **disciples** asked him to share his perspective on Jesus. The apostle was the last **link** between the first- and second-generation followers of Christ. His work was a final admission from the original apostles.

Considering the wickedness of the world, the persecution **Christians** were facing, and the history of the Jewish people, John could have taken a number of stances. Yet, John focuses on only a **handful** of topics.

Gospel of John

I believe that John's gospel answers three primary questions.

Jesus is the son of God. The word that became flesh.

1. Who was **Jesus**?
2. What was Yahweh's **desire** for humanity?
3. How did he **achieve** His desire?

Yahweh's Uncommon Desires

In the midst of the incredible wickedness of the world, and the religious spirit of the Jewish people, what was Yahweh desire for His **creation**?

1. Union/Abiding

Yahweh still desired one thing- **Union** with his people. From the first verse to the last, we see that union is the **primary** focus of John.

Eternity past

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word **was with** God, and the Word **was** God. He was in the beginning **with** God. All things were made **through** Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. **In** Him was life, and the life was the light of men.*

John 1:1-4

John shares that for all eternity, there was, is, and will be a **divine** circle dance between Abba, Son, and Spirit. A **seamless** and **consistent** union of the Godhead. Jesus came to bring humanity **into** this divine dance. His gospel begins with union.

Eternity future

*"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be **one**, as You, Father, are **in** Me, and I **in** You; that they also may be **one in** Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be **one** just as We are **one**: I **in** them, and You **in** Me; that they may be made perfect **in one**, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.*

John 17:20-23

Gospel of John

Some of the last words of Christ before the crucifixion reveal His desire for **union** with **all** people.

Christ did not come to earth to **only** spare us from eternal punishment. He came so that we may have **divine union** with Him. John also refers to this as- **Abiding**.

He could have wanted anything, and he chose union

Abide

The word abide is found over **30** times in John. As mentioned, it means to continue to be present in a seamless union. It is Yahweh **living** in us, and us **living** in Yahweh.

*Soon I will leave this world and they will see me no longer, but you will see me, because I will **live** again, and you will come **alive** too. So when that day comes, you will know that I am **living in** the Father and that you are **one with me**, for I will be **living in** you... And my Father will love you so deeply that we will come to you and make you our **dwelling place**.*

John 14:19-20;23 TPT

***Abide in Me**, and I **in** you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it **abides in** the vine, neither can you, unless you **abide in Me**.*

John 15:4 NKJV

Yahweh's desire was eternal, it never changed. He wants union, to live **in** and **with** His creation. Jesus consistently shares His heart. Can you hear Abba, Jesus, and The Spirit crying out to humanity- "Come to Me. Let us all join in the **circle dance**."

Case in point:

The theme of **union** is so prevalent in John, that even the word **prayer** takes on a unique meaning.

In Matthew and Luke, the disciples ask the Lord how to pray. That word for prayer is proseuchomai (pros-yoo'-khom-ahee), which means to pray, petition, or to make a **wish**.

That word is not found in John. Instead, the word for prayer is, erótaó (er-o-tah'-o). This is the most **delicate** and **tender** expression of prayer. The one asking and the one who is asked are considered **equal**. This is seen in John 14 when Jesus says he will **Ask** the Father for another helper.

Gospel of John

In John, when Jesus instructs us to pray, he uses the word, aitéó (ahee-teh'-o), which means to ask as a **child** to a **father**.

The main point- In the midst of complete wickedness, Yahweh did not desire **destroy** or **punish** the world. No, he desired union, to **abide** with his people. He wanted us to know that we could talk to God like a child speaks to his **Abba**.

Think about that, he wanted union. We all shuttered at the sin of the romans. Jesus wanted union with them.

2. Glory Manifest

Yahweh wanted to invite the **world** into His is Doxa, (unchanging essence. His fixed thoughts, opinions, plans, and desires). The **Glory** of **Heaven** became flesh, so that the humanity could encounter **Him**.

{ The religious group was looking for **condemnation**, Abba was looking for **glorious** union. }

Mentions of Glory

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His **glory**, the **glory** as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14*

*This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and **manifested** His **glory**; and His disciples believed in Him. John 2:11*

*Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the **glory** of God?" John 11:40*

*And now, O Father, **glorify** Me together with Yourself, with the **glory** which I had with You before the world was. John 17:5*

*And the **glory** which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one John 17:22*

*Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My **glory** which You have given Me... John 17:24*

Gospel of John

Mentions of condemnation

Condemn/judge- krinó (kree'-no) To choose by separating. To bring to trial

*For God **did not** send His Son into the world to **condemn** the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. John 3:17*

*For the Father **judges no one**, but has committed all **judgment to the Son** John 5:22*

*I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I **judge**; and My **judgment** is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me. John 5:30*

*You **judge** according to the flesh; I **judge** no one. And yet if I do **judge**, My **judgment** is true; for I am not alone, but I am with the Father who sent Me. John 8:15-16*

*I have many things to say and to **judge** concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him." John 8:26*

*And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not **judge** him; for I did not come to **judge** the world but to save the world. John 12:47*

Jesus was given the power to judge, but only did what abba did. And abba didn't want to condemn the world

It is clear, Yahweh **desires** union, to stare into the eyes of His **beloved**, not condemn the world with vicious judgement! So, what did he come to judge-

*Now is the **judgment** of this world; now the **ruler** of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will **draw all peoples** to Myself. John 12:31-32*

Yahweh desired to bring the world **into** His glory, for the sake of union! To **stare** into His eyes of fire!
We have been invited into an uncommon gaze!

3. Yahweh's Love

Lastly, Yahweh desired to share His eternal Love with the world. Love is mentioned **57** times in John. More than the other three gospels combined. John show that we were **invited** into the divine **romance** of Yahweh. Jesus says-

Divine Love Equation

*As the Father **loved** Me, I also have **loved** you; abide in My **love**. John 15:9*

And

*A new command I give you: **Love** one another. As I have **loved** you, so you must **love** one another. John 13:34*

Gospel of John

The Father (**God**) loved Jesus (**God**), and Jesus (**God**) loves us in the same way. So, God loves us the same way God loves God. Further, we are to love **each other** as Jesus (God) loves us. Therefore, we are to love one another in the **same manner** that God loves God.

We have been **called** into an **uncommon** circle dance with the Trinity that is founded on eternal Love.

Love was and is the **motive** behind everything Yahweh has ever done, or ever will do.

John 3:16 cannot become common to us-

*For God so **loved** the world that He **gave** His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

He came to so that we could all experience and share with one another, the eternal divine love the Trinity shares.

So, what did Yahweh desire?

His love is beyond comprehension. In the midst of the most wicked and perverse generation, and a religious community devoid of divine **relationship**, Yahweh desired **union** with humanity. He looked at the sin of the world and **yearned** to **abide** in His creation, and have His creation **abide** in Him. He sought to bring the world into His glory, and He wanted a **glorious love** affair with each person.

How would he achieve this desire? *He **gave** His only begotten Son...*

I shared a dark insight into the world, but I hope that context shares how great Yahweh's sacrifice and love truly is

Yahweh's Uncommon Sacrifice

When Christ came, the world was covered in sin, hamarita, without proper form. What was He to do? Destroy the world? How could He? He had a covenant with humanity. Beyond this, His loved compelled Him to redeem.

My opinion: I believe when sinned entered the garden, Yahweh looked into the eyes of Adam and Eve and made a commitment that He would get them back. Is it possible, when Jesus was on earth, He saw Adam and Eve every time He looked in the eyes of His creation. Out of a place of incomprehensible love, Yahweh took our place. He took on the sin, the formlessness, of the world.

Gospel of John

How did he bring us into union, glory and love?

How did He get what he desired? He took our place, and died for us. He honored the covenant He made with humanity, and paid the ultimate price. All for the sake of union

In light of what we know about the darkness, lets visit the cross. This isn't the Easter story. This is the gospel.

The Divine Passion

Jesus' death was the most vicious of history. He allowed this to happen for union with me and you.

Timeline of the crucifixion

See this through the lenses of Abba, lover, friend

- **Pretrial**

- Betrayed by one of His closest friends
- Abandoned by all of His closest followers, except John, His mother, and a few women
- Questioned, mocked, and beaten by Jewish leaders
- Presented to Pilate. Took the place of Barabbas

- **Scourging**

- An intense beating. A punishment only for foreigners and slaves
- Stripped naked and tied to a wooden post
- The instrument of torture is a short cluster of whips, perhaps three feet in length. Each strand of leather has a sharp piece of bone or metal attached to the end of it. When struck across the body it would tear off the upper layer of skin in a strip several inches wide, causing pain and profuse bleeding. Quite possible that some of his bones were visible. This treatment is where the phrase "beat within an inch of your life" comes from. The Romans knew from considerable experience how far they could go before the victim would die.
- A robe was placed on His bloody body. A crown of thorns placed deep into His skull. Was blindfolded and struck repeatedly while the guards sneered, "Prophecy, who struck you!"
- Isaiah prophesied that Christ would be beaten beyond recognition.

- **Bearing the cross**

- He was forced to carry His cross, which weigh 80 to 110 pounds
- In physical state of intense pain, he had to walk 650 feet up hill to the Place of the Skull.

Gospel of John

- Was surrounded by people, who, a week before shouted “Hosanna,” now shouted, “Crucify Him!”
- Could not make the trip up, and was helped by Simon of Cyrene, who carried the cross up for Jesus.

• Crucifixion

- It is the most painful death ever invented by man and is where we get our term “excruciating.”
- Jesus refused the anesthetic wine which was offered to Him by the Roman soldiers
- Jesus was stripped naked and His clothing divided by the Roman guards.
- Once he was nailed to the cross, Jesus knees were flexed at about 45 degrees, and He was forced to bear His weight with the muscles of His thigh, which is not a position which is possible to maintain for more than a few minutes without severe cramp in the muscles of the thigh and calf.
- Jesus’ weight was borne on His feet, with nails driven through them. As the strength of the muscles of Jesus’ lower limbs tired, the weight of His body had to be transferred to His wrists, His arms, and His shoulders.
- Within a few minutes of being placed on the Cross, Jesus’ shoulders were dislocated. Minutes after that, Jesus’ elbows and wrists became dislocated. The result of these upper limb dislocations is that His arms were 9 inches longer than normal.
- After Jesus’ wrists, elbows, and shoulders were dislocated, the weight of His body on his upper limbs caused His rib cage to be pulled upwards and outwards, in a most unnatural state. His chest wall was permanently in a position so that, in order to exhale, Jesus was physically required to force His body.
- In order to breathe out, Jesus had to push down on the nails in His feet to raise His body, and allow His rib cage to move downwards and inwards to expire air from His lungs. This process caused excruciating pain in His wrist, His feet, and His dislocated elbows and shoulders. This was mixed with the absolute terror of suffocating.
- As the six hours of the Crucifixion wore on, Jesus was less and less able to bear His weight on His legs, as His thigh and calf muscles became increasingly exhausted.

Gospel of John

- The pain from His two shattered nerves in His wrists exploded with every movement.
- Throughout all this He was completely naked. His beloved creation -the leaders of the Jews, the crowds, and the thieves on both sides of Him were jeering, swearing and laughing at Him.
- His blood oxygen level began to fall, the levels of carbon dioxide (CO₂) level began to rise in his blood. This made His heart to beat faster in order to increase the delivery of oxygen. Jesus' brain sent urgent messages to his lungs to breathe faster, and Jesus began to pant. He involuntarily moved up and down the Cross much faster, despite the excruciating pain.
- The twin forces of too little oxygen and too much CO₂ caused His heart to beat faster and faster, and His pulse rate was probably about 220 beats/ minute, the maximum normally sustainable. Jesus was very dehydrated, and His blood pressure fell alarmingly. His blood pressure was probably about 80/50.
- By about noon Jesus' heart probably began to fail. Jesus' lungs probably began to fill up with fluid. Jesus was in heart failure and respiratory failure. Jesus could not breathe properly and was slowly suffocating to death.
- At three o'clock in the afternoon Jesus said, "Tetelastai," meaning, "It is finished."
- The fluid around His heart prevented Jesus' heart from beating properly . Jesus probably eventually sustained cardiac rupture. **His heart literally burst.** This was probably the cause of His death.

How can we comprehend this Uncommon Divine Love?

He allowed himself to go through the most terrible, brutal death, so that He could get His beloved creation back. In the Old Testament, the Jewish people had an uncommon call to gaze upon the Lord. They had a history of miracles, signs, and wonders. They had the cloud by day and fire by night. They had the Law and a special relationship with Yahweh. They had Elijah, Elisha, and the prophets; who delivered the Word of God to them. But, they never had Yahweh in the flesh.

Gospel of John

The saints of old had a history with the Words of God, but we history with the Word who became flesh. We have a divine lineage that those in the old covenant never had. Yahweh himself came to us, not merely His Words.

The Apostle Paul's words still ring true-

*⁷ But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, **which glory was passing away**, ⁸ how will the ministry of the Spirit not be **more glorious**? ⁹ For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory. ¹⁰ For even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels. ¹¹ For if what is passing away was glorious, what remains is much more glorious.*

2 Corinthians 3:7-11

If Israel had an uncommon call to gaze into the Eyes of Yahweh, and they never had God in flesh die for them. How much more Holy is the call that we have? We do not have the ancestry of Abraham, we have something greater- we have the ancestry of Yahweh.

In a time when religion reigned and humanity was in its darkest sin-

The **Son**, The King of Kings, laid down His life for His adulterous, lost bride. Can you hear Him saying to His bride today, the church, stop putting the idol of performance ahead of Me. I died for you to live an uncommon Holy Life.

The **Spirit** watched His eternal friend sacrifice it all, so that he could dwell in each and every person. Can you hear the Spirit say, partner with Me? Let's enter into, and extend the My Glory, until I cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

Perhaps most sobering, can you hear the **Father's** cry? He watched his only Son go through an excruciating death so he could have union with you. He so loved the world, that he **gave** His only Son so that we could have eternal life union with Yahweh. Today, not when we die

We have been called to the most uncommon Gaze of Yahweh. Will we live a life that honors that call?