

The Gospel – To the Jew First, parts 5 & 6

These lessons are designed to aid the believer in understanding how the Gospel is presented in the Hebrew Scriptures. The purpose is to demonstrate to Jews first that Jesus is the promised Messianic Hope and that forgiveness and righteousness are provided by Jesus as a gift.

It is important to understand that the promise of Messiah and the gift of God are not complete without the revelation of the One who is promised. The first problem the Jews had was they did not recognize their Messiah. The second problem was they believed that they obtained approval through their works — they did not understand the righteousness of God.

What we have seen so far in the Hebrew Scriptures:

1. YHWH Provides His Righteousness to those who Believe in Him
2. Forgiveness is Appointed by YHWH to those who Believe in Him
3. Genesis 3:15 Provides the Blueprint to God's Provision – The Promise of Messiah

What we will see now are the two functions of Messiah. The first one is what most Messianic Jews understand and believe are the rightful signs of Messiah. The second one is the atoning death of Messiah that most Messianic Jews reject. What this lesson will demonstrate is that the two main points about Messiah are His successes and His sacrifice.

It is important to understand that there are a few branches in Judaism that think differently about the Scriptures and Messiah. Orthodox (Traditional), Conservative (Historical), Reformed (Liberal), Reconstructionist (Religious Civilization), Hasidic (Ultra-Orthodox), Zionist (Political/Nationalist).

Isaiah 2:1-4, 11:1-4; 32:15-18, 60:15-18; Jeremiah 31:33-34; Amos 9:13-15; Micah 4:1-4; Zephaniah 3:9; Zechariah 8:20-23, 14:9-11 – What we see is that the prophecies they point to are typically national promises. Even those who believe that Messiah is an individual still are looking for the national promises. They are either unaware or choose to ignore that these promises revolve around a Person. This Messiah would resolve the sin dilemma thereby bringing reconciliation to God.

Of these, only the Orthodox Jews believe in a Messianic individual. But they still don't believe He has a spiritual function, only that He'll rule a worldwide Jewish Kingdom. The others (except Hasidic) believe the Messianic promises are national promises and Israel as a nation brings forth a Messianic age. Hasidic views

vary and most have a particular Rabbi that they follow. Their Messiah is often either the rabbi or one who their rabbi points to.

In order to demonstrate the two natures of Messiah, we go to Isaiah 52 and 53.

Isaiah 52:13 details the victory of Messiah. There are four verbs in verse that are here with “My servant.”

1. He Will Prosper – “שָׁכַח *sākhal*” – To Succeed, To Be Full of Insight, To Have Wise Action
2. He Will Be High – “רָוַם *rûm*” – Figurative: To Show Oneself As Powerful; To Have Authority
3. He Will Be Lifted Up – “נִשְׂאָה *nāsā*” – Passive or Reflexive – This may indicate that He will be shown to be lifted meaning that He will not exalt Himself but God will exalt Him. Or this can mean to carry off (reflexive) —He Himself will carry off. This may refer to Leviticus 16:22. The scapegoat himself will carry off the sins of the people (possible/probable).
4. He Will Be Exalted – “גָּבַהּ *gāvahh*” – With the adverb for greatly. To be Prominent. Similar to “רָוַם *rûm*.” This indicates to be lifted up in Stature, not in Authority.

This verse fits very well as a victorious overture going into verse 14 and 15 and Chapter 53. Most Messianic Jews agree that Messiah would be victorious, reign forever, restore Israel, and bring peace to the Earth. But what they miss is the obvious references to the suffering. Isaiah 52:13-53:12 sets the scenario that the Servant will be victorious but will also endure hardship. Verse 14 indicates that the Servant will be disfigured more than any man. This is incongruent with the victory, but we know that before the glory, suffering must take place.

Verse 15 — “He will sprinkle” (נָזַח *nāzāh*) — This word is used 23 times, 20 of which occur in the Torah, and 13 in Leviticus. This is absolutely a reference to the blood atonement consecrating those sprinkled (Exodus 29:21; Leviticus 16:14-19). Notice that this passage in Leviticus ends with verse 22, the scapegoat reference from Isaiah 52:13. This “sprinkling” will be on the nations, not just Israel.

Now we proceed into Isaiah 53:

- A. 1-3 – Rejected by man – viewed as worthless, unsightly, homely, a Man of sorrows
- B. 4-6 – Bore the sin of man, his rebellion; He took the chastening and the scourging that we deserved
- C. 7-9 – Abused, led to slaughter yet He did not object. He was innocent, but died with the wicked
- D. 10-11 – This death was victory to YHWH; He would be a guilt offering. God will see it and be satisfied
- E. 12 – As a result, He will be rewarded (52:13) because He voluntarily laid down His life and was counted as a sinner because He took on the sins of many

Now, we must reveal Who this was:

- A. Mark 10:32-34 – Mocked, condemned, viewed as a sinner
- B. Matthew 8:17; Hebrews 9:28; 1st Peter 2:24-25
- C. Matthew 26:59-63; 27:11-14; Acts 8:32-35
- D. John 1:29; John 10:14-18; 1st John 2:1-2
- E. Philippians 2:9-11; Mark 15:27-28; 2nd Corinthians 5:20-21

The Chronological Diagram – An Example to Explain the Message: From Origins to Salvation

1. Preparation of your heart (mind) – spiritual growth leads to desire for the lost and a better understanding of the Gospel
 - a. Proverbs 4:20-27
 - b. Grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (2nd Peter 3:18)
 - c. Placing Jesus as primary and special in your minds (1st Peter 3:14-16)
 - d. Take on the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5-7)
 - e. Dedicate yourself to live for the Gospel (1st Corinthians 9:22b-23)
2. Message is more important than method
 - a. If we know the truth, we can explain it and answer questions
 - b. The Chronological Diagram is Biblical
 - i. Luke 24:26-27
 - ii. Acts 7:1-60
 - iii. Acts 13:16-41
 - iv. Acts 17:1-3
 - c. Stick to the basics – it's not our job to convince but to proclaim
 - i. 1st Corinthians 2:1-5
 - ii. 1st Timothy 1:15; 3:16
 - iii. Acts 4:10-12
3. Using the Chronological Method, the Message is:
 - a. Sequential
 - b. Systematic
 - c. In Story Format
 - d. Easy to Explain
 - e. Easy to Understand
 - f. Easy to Remember

4. Four Basics
 - a. Holy God
 - b. Helpless Sinner
 - c. Sufficient Savior
 - d. Only One Requirement – Being Convinced In Him Who Promised

Chronological Method Broken Down Further:

1. Perfect Holy God – Genesis 1:1a; Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:8
2. God Created a Perfect Suitable World for Man – Genesis 1-2
 - a. It Was Very Good
 - b. Designed For God and Man to Be Together
 - c. Only One Rule
3. Man Sinned – Genesis 3
 - a. Guilty and Worthy of Death
 - b. Spiritual Death Immediate/Physical Death Imminent
 - c. Unless God Intervenes, Every Man Is Destined to Spiritual Death (Revelation 20:11-15)
4. How Does a Person Get Right with God?
 - a. Psalm 14; Psalm 143 – Not Good Enough
 - b. Not Sacrifices – Psalm 40
 - c. Isaiah the Prophet Not Good Enough – Isaiah 6
5. Sufficient Savior
 - a. God is the One Who Promised the Resolution (Genesis 3:15)
 - b. The Function of the Savior (Isaiah 53)
 - c. The Savior Identified (John 1:1-5; 14-18; 29)
 - d. The Sacrifice Made (John 19:16-30)
 - e. The Resurrection (John 20:1-10)
 - f. The Ascension (Acts 1:1-11)
6. The One Requirement – Believe (To Be Convinced)
 - a. The Who – Jesus Christ God in the Flesh, Promised Messiah
 - b. The What – Died For Our Sins, Resurrected for Life (Romans 5:6-11)
 - c. The Promise – Salvation is a Gift – Handout

John 3:17-18 - [17] "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. [18] "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 5:24 - "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

John 6:28-29 - [28] Therefore they said to Him, "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?" [29] Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

John 10:28-30 - [28] and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. [29] "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. [30] "I and the Father are one."

John 11:25-26 - [25] Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, [26] and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 20:30-31 - [30] Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; [31] but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

Romans 3:20, 22-24, 28 - [20] because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin. ... [22] even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; [23] for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [24] being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; ... [28] For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.

Romans 4:4-5 - [4] Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. [5] But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,

Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Galatians 2:16 - Nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.

Ephesians 2:4-5, 8-9 - [4] But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, [5] even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ... [8] For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; [9] not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Philippians 3:9 - And may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,

Titus 3:5 - He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

1 John 5:13 - These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.