



THE COMING KING

LESSON 2

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VERSE FOR THE JOURNEY

- **1 Thessalonians 4:15-18** For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be **caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.
- Caught up: *harpazo* (Greek) *rapturo* (Latin)

WHO THE JEWS EXPECTED

- Messiah: Hebrew *Mashiach*: anointed one
Christ: Greek: *Christos*: anointed one
- The Law called for the anointing of priests, prophets, and kings; the anointing was with oil but represented the spiritual anointing of God on the office/purpose
- The Messiah is to carry a special anointing “above His fellows.”
- **Psalm 45:7** You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of joy above Your fellows.
- The rabbis believed that the Messiah had this position because he was fulfilling three offices: prophet, priest, and king
- Jesus didn't fulfill all three at His first coming

THE BEGINNING

- To understand the need for a Messiah, we have to go back to the garden of Eden and original sin
- Adam and Eve sinned by eating fruit from the forbidden tree of the knowledge of good and evil
- But their sin was different: Adam's sin was considered "intentional" under the Law that was to be given later; Eve's sin was one of deception, which was classified as a "sin of ignorance."
- **1 Timothy 2:14** "*it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.*
- **Hebrews 9:6-7** Now when these things have been so prepared, the priests are continually entering the outer tabernacle performing the divine worship, but into the second, only the high priest *enters* once a year, not without *taking* blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins of the people committed in ignorance.

IN THE GARDEN AND LATER

- **THERE ARE TWO TIMES WHEN I BELIEVE THAT SATAN THOUGHT HE HAD WON:**
 1. When Adam took a bite of the forbidden fruit
 2. When Jesus said, "it is finished" and died
- **Genesis 3:15** I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel."
- **Enmity:** *eba*: hostility
- God's word to Satan was more fully developed by the prophets in the Old Testament and Satan's final destination is revealed in the New Testament
- **Revelation 20:10** And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

JEWISH EXPECTATIONS

- Our first trip to Israel was the first time that I realized that many Jews in Israel don't believe that the Messiah will be God
- Many believe that first century Israelites had no messianic expectation
- In reality, many first century expectations were of a purely natural, human, political leader who would make Israel a strong nation, respected in the world; this leader would take them out from under the control of other nations
- Who were they expecting?
- What would the scriptures have led them to expect?
- Then what went wrong?

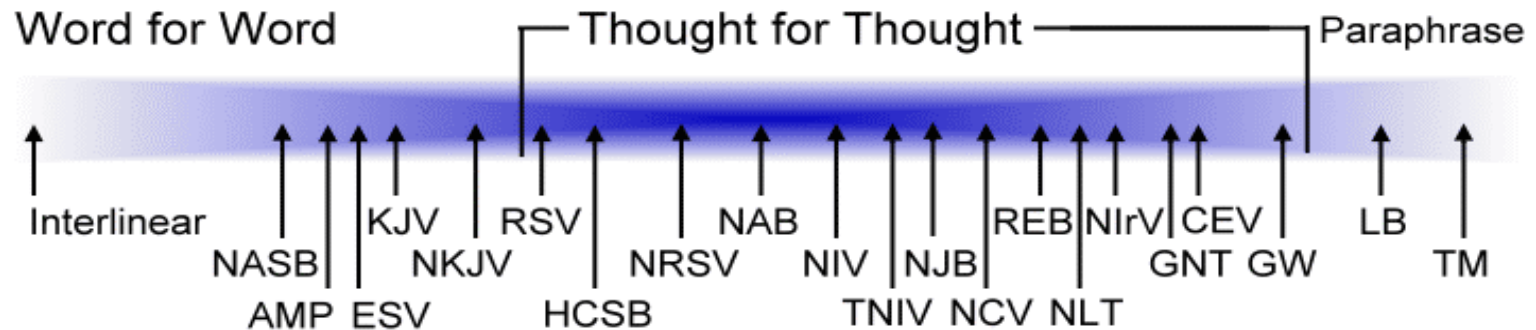
TRANSLATION MATTERS

- **LITERAL FROM HEBREW:** Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called wonderful counselor, mighty God, everlasting father, prince of peace.
- **LXX** (At best a paraphrase, Hebrew to Greek): Isaiah 9:6 For a child is born to us and a son is given to us whose government is upon his shoulder: and his name is called the messenger/angel of the great council
- **TARGUM** (Hebrew to Aramaic) Isaiah 9:5,6 The prophet announced to the house of David that: 'a boy has been born unto us, a son has been given unto us, who has taken the Torah upon himself to guard it; and his name has been called by the one who gives wonderful counsel, the mighty God, He who lives forever, "Messiah" in whose day peace shall abound for us.

INTERPRETATION MATTERS

- **John 5:39-40** "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life."

English Bible Translation Comparison



- The Jewish interpretation minimized original sin, and a sin nature; it is difficult to find Jewish teachings on the topic
- So why would they be looking for a Messiah who would die to save them from sin?

KING AND DELIVERER

- **Acts 13:26-27** "Brethren, sons of Abraham's family, and those among you who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent. For those who live in Jerusalem, and their rulers, recognizing neither Him nor the utterances of the prophets which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled *these* by condemning *Him*.
- **Romans 2:17-21** But if you bear the name "Jew" and rely upon the Law and boast in God, and know *His* will and approve the things that are essential, being instructed out of the Law, and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of the immature, having in the Law the embodiment of knowledge and of the truth, you, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one shall not steal, do you steal?

UNFORGIVABLE?

- **Romans 3:23-26** ...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. *This was* to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; for the demonstration, *I say*, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.
- **Acts 3:17** "And now, brethren, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers did also."
- **1 Peter 1:14** As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts *which were yours* in your ignorance...
- Jewish rabbis called certain sins, such as intentionally committed blasphemy, "unforgivable"

A DIFFICULT INTERPRETATION

- **Daniel 9:24-26** "Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy *place*. So you are to know and discern *that* from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince *there will be* seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress. Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end *will come* with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined."

SOME JEWS UNDERSTOOD

- Much of the early New Testament story takes place in Israel and moved out from there
- Jesus was Jewish from the tribe of Judah
- The disciples were all Jews; except for Judas, who committed suicide, and John, whose martyrdom failed, the other disciples were all martyred for their faith
- The 3,000 that came to faith on the Jewish holiday of Pentecost, were almost certainly mostly Jews
- They took the Gospel around the world
- But many saw Jesus as a usurper – and a threat to the relationship that Jewish leaders had built with Rome; this mindset continued as Christianity began to fall out of favor with Rome