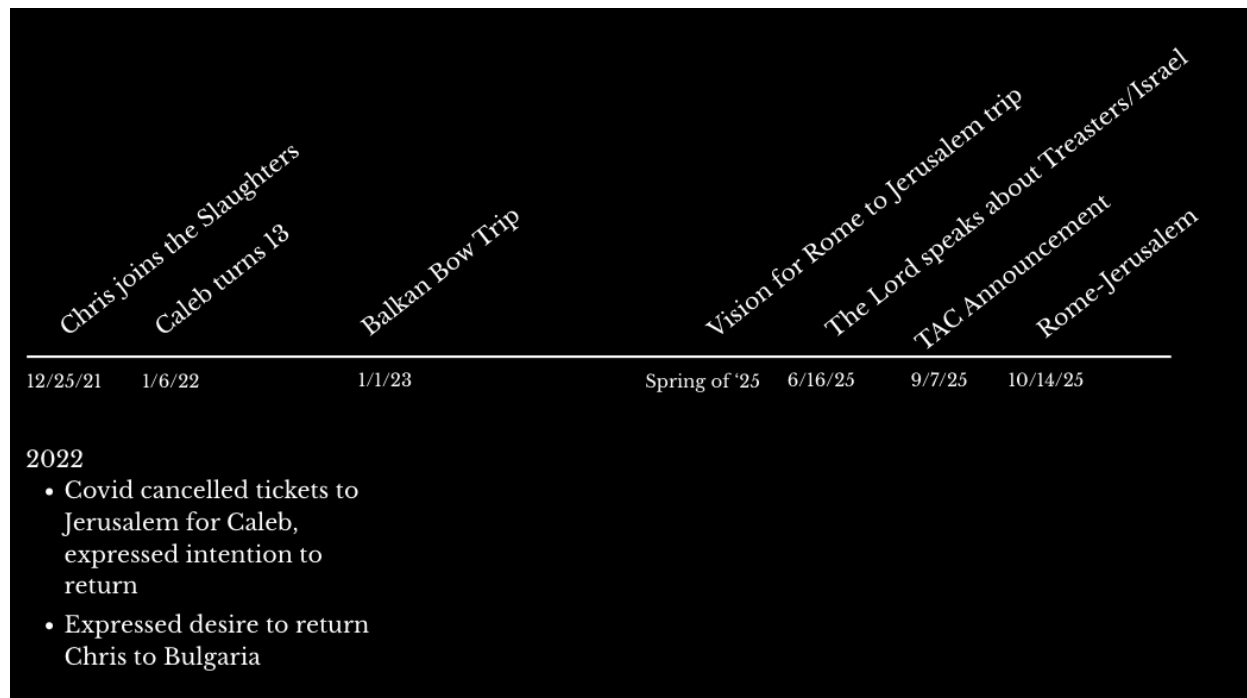


Good Morning Arising Church, it is so good to be back with you all again! Today will be a day filled with testimonies, encouragement about where the Lord is leading us and insight into the Word of God for our body.

Psalm 37:23-24 NIV

The Lord makes firm the steps
of the one who delights in him;
24 though he may stumble, he will not fall,
for the Lord upholds him with his hand.

I want to walk you guys through a timeline of events that have unfolded over the last 5 years.



Through a series of events, Erjan or Chris as we all know him came to join our family on 12/25/2021. At the same time, Covid cancelled tickets we had purchased to bring Caleb to Jerusalem to be there on his 13th birthday.

During the spring in 2022, it became clear to me that I was supposed to make sure that Chris was able to return to Bulgaria to one day be reunited with the family he had there that he had been separated from.

A year after Chris became part of our family, in January of 2023, these men went on a trip across the balkans.



Remarkable men! During that trip the Lord gave them a vision of what He was doing and they plotted it down on a map.



The Lord spoke to the brothers about a bow that the Lord was forming connecting Bergamo, Italy with Dezhnev or Cluj Romani and Albania that would fire sons into the middle east who would bring the gospel all the way back from Rome to Jerusalem. They took this map and shared it with the churches.

Earlier this year in the spring the Lord began to speak to me about a trip that would not only return Chris to see his family in Bulgaria, but one where my sons would see first hand the battles they would face as they learned about the church.

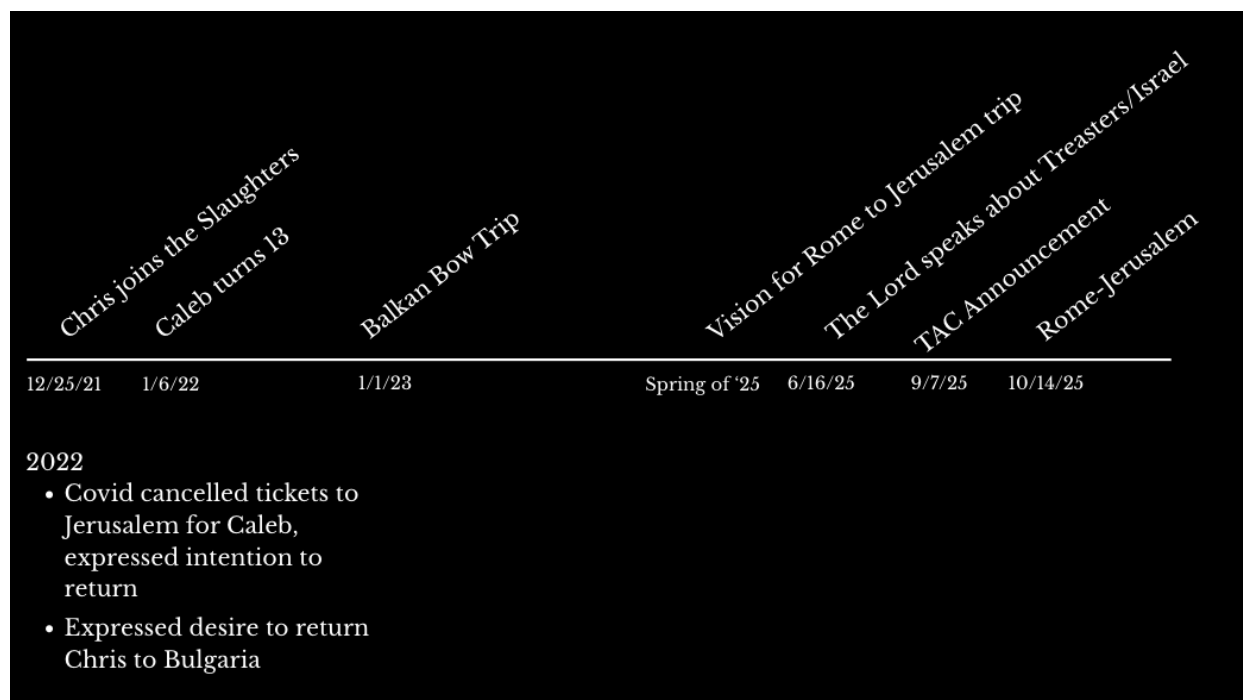
We would begin the trip in Rome and then go to see the Masi's.

From there we would travel to see our brothers at Called Out Ministries in Dezhnev or Cluj Romania.

We then would travel to the 7 churches of Revelation in Turkey.

We then went back to Bulgaria to see Chris' family for the first time in 9 years.

From there we would travel to Jerusalem to see Israel.



On June 16 this year the Lord spoke to me about joining Pastor Justin Treaster to support and serve him in Israel.

After sharing this with my team and the pastors of the One Association, I shared this in a message called Slave, Soldier, Son on September 7, and on October 14 we left for this trip to return Chris to Bulgaria and bring both sons to Jerusalem.

I want to share with you not only the testimonies of what the Lord did along the way, I want to share more encouragement about the role of Gentiles in our ministry to the Jews.

The message is titled: Rome to Jerusalem



Our first stop in Rome was the heart of Catholicism.
There are 1.4 billion people claimed by the catholic church.



The obelisk you're looking at was originally built in Egypt and later brought to Rome by Caligula, who placed it in what was then known as a circus. This area would later become Nero's Circus—where public games and executions were held—and is now known as Vatican Hill.

I didn't have much to say to my sons about Rome or Catholicism beyond what stands plainly before the eye. The statues encircling St. Peter's Square are carved images of saints—figures revered and prayed to by the Catholic faithful. Call it what you want, it's idolatry.

There have certainly been Catholics throughout history who have done great things for the Lord, and I'm grateful for that and I'm glad that just recently the current pope made it clear that Mary is not a coredemptrix with Christ. Here are my sons standing on the ruins of the building where they declared Mary to be the mother of God in Turkey.



As an institution, the Catholic Church has become a thriving business and a circus. Its boast of embracing the world has proven, time and again, to be a disastrous pursuit.

I will move on from here with the words of James 4:4

You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

You can understand then how refreshing it was for us to immediately go from there to see the Masi's in Bergamo at Betlemme Church!



We went from billions of dollars worth religious buildings and statues of saints to actual saints in a living room.

We left thirsty people from around the world trapped in dead religion to find people who had found the spring in the desert in the Masi family.

Families that the Lord had brought to the Masi's doing a bible study late into the night.

I want yall to see the sweetness of this video so you can feel what we felt.

Masi's worship living room.MOV

<<WhatsApp Video 2025-11-08 at 14.20.35_4aca9abd.mp4>>

We spent a few days there getting into the Word with all the people that that the Masi's are making disciples out of. (ELABORATE)





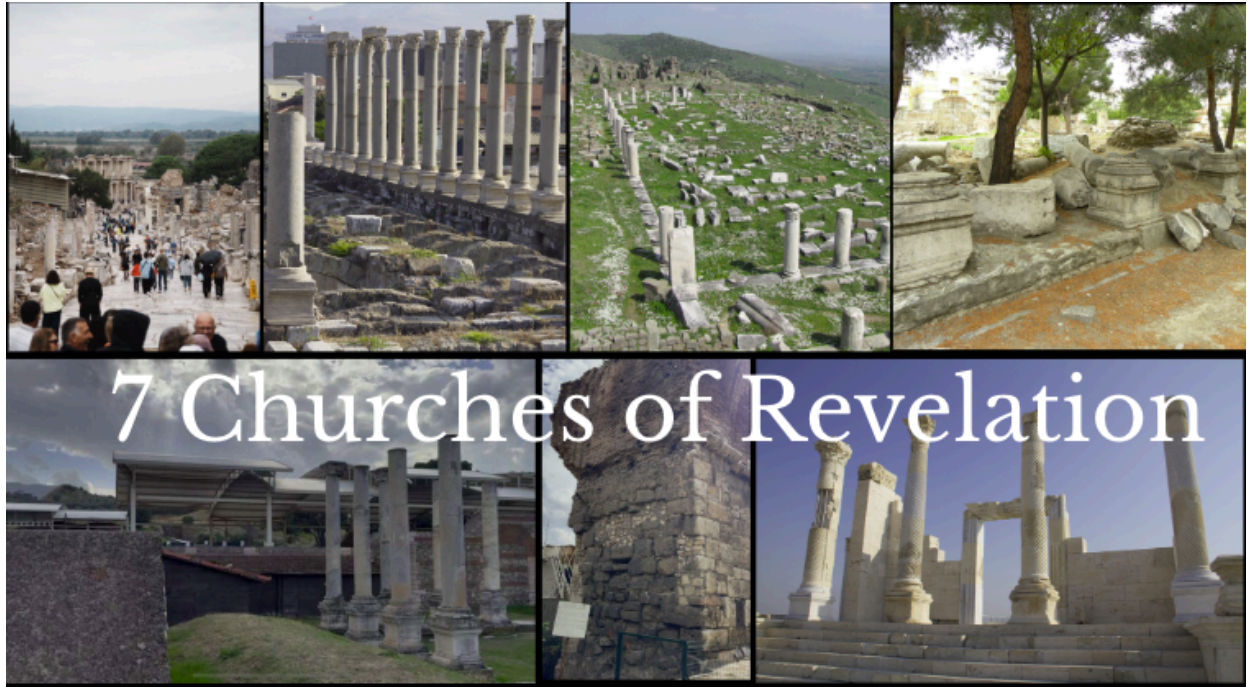
From there we got to go and worship with our family in Desmir or Cluj Romania



These men invited their disciples to come on an impromptu trip to the 7 churches of revelation in Turkey and we ended up bringing along Chiporee, Marius Popa, and Nico.

This is the caliber of disciples that they are investing into and the trust that they have built...with only hours notice they dropped everything to come with us for a surprise trip to Turkey.

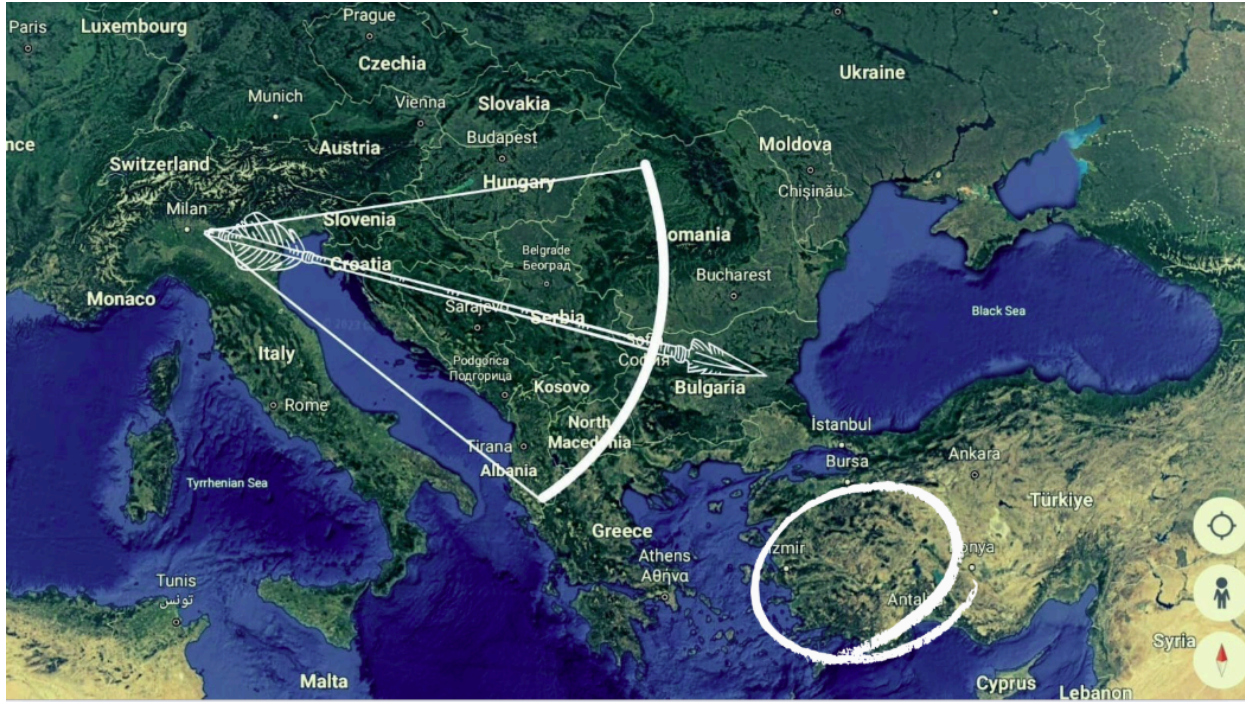
Russu and Robert we love you too!



(pergamum)



I want to remind you the original vision of the Aswan team who is currently planted in Romania as you look at the picture of the Balkan bow.



Isaiah 49:8-13 NIV 84

Restoration of Israel

8 This is what the Lord says:

“In the time of my favor I will answer you,
 and in the day of salvation I will help you;
 I will keep you and will make you
 to be a covenant for the people,
 to restore the land

 and to reassign its desolate inheritances,

9 to say to the captives, ‘Come out,’
 and to those in darkness, ‘Be free!’

“They will feed beside the roads
 and find pasture on every barren hill.

10 They will neither hunger nor thirst,
 nor will the desert heat or the sun beat upon them.
 He who has compassion on them will guide them
 and lead them beside springs of water.

11 I will turn all my mountains into roads,

and my highways will be raised up.

12 See, they will come from afar—
some from the north, some from the west,
some from the region of Aswan.”

13 Shout for joy, O heavens;
rejoice, O earth;
burst into song, O mountains!
For the Lord comforts his people
and will have compassion on his afflicted ones.

These Pastors have a heart and a vision for the Aswan region, Turkey in particular. The Lord has shown them that the churches that are in ruins will one day thrive again.

The churches we visited:

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamum

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea

Sons will be raised in the Balkans, trained in the Word, in perseverance, courage and faith, and launched straight into the heart of Turkey and the Middle East — devoted to the God of Israel. Their witness will cut through hatred, turning hard hearts and stirring the Jews to jealous longing for the Lord.

We will preach on these different churches and the messages that they each speak another time, but what I want to emphasize right now is that each of these churches are currently in ruins:



The seven churches were not the only ones that could have been addressed—there were other congregations at the time—but the Lord chose these seven for a specific reason.

Each eventually fell into ruin for a variety of causes: earthquakes, cultural compromise, passive male leadership, toxic independence, and pride. The cities in which they stood were also major strongholds—places where the Lord intentionally planted His churches right in the face of the gods the people worshiped.

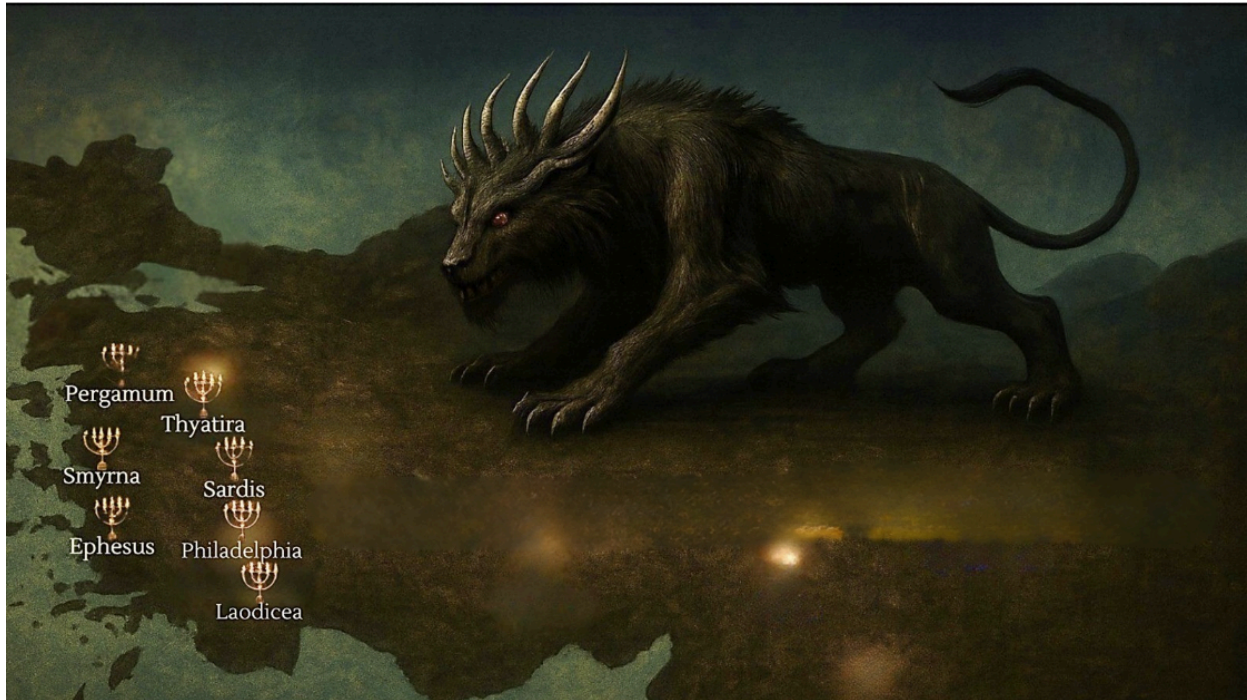
One more thing I want to point out: all seven of these cities lie within what later became the very heart of the Ottoman Empire—territory that is once again rising in influence today.



Let me remind you of a few details from scripture about this kingdom

Daniel 2:40 Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron—for iron breaks and smashes everything—and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others.

Rev. 17:11 The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.



The Ottoman empire began in 1299 and was dismantled in 1924. We drove all around Turkey and you can feel it, the president, the people, the signs are everywhere, their desire is to reassert Turkey's leadership in the Muslim world and resurrect the Islamic caliphate. While it's true it will be given authority to trample and crush you need to understand that this enemy thrives on fear and intimidation. But the Lord was showing us a different perspective.

Every time we heard the call of the Adhān saying allah was greater it dripped with insecurity, always trying to assert itself, attempting to dominate audibly. Every time we saw the crescent moon laying flat on it's back with a star standing over it, it seemed to be prophesying it's inevitable destruction

Islam Being Dominated



Travelling around the country and seeing the churches we were reading about in ruins and hearing the sounds and seeing the posters pumped us up to go into Bulgaria and see Chris' family, muslims, and share the Israel dependent gospel with them.

Chris come up to share testimony: (show slides while he speaks)



Chris' mom



Chris' mom's
family



Chris' mom's
family



Chris' sisters



The OAE prophesied at the Black Sea and we flew over it from Istanbul to bring Chris back home.

The current generation travelled and drew the bow we travelled to the tip of the arrow

They prophesied about trained Muslims being fired into Turkey to turn the hearts of Muslims toward Israel we stood with a Turkish son who was born into a Muslim household and watched him boldly share the Israel dependent gospel with Muslims in their living room and at their dinner table

A little boy being raised in the same place as Chris parroted out common phrases associated with hate filled Muslims as we spoke about Israel

Chris is a young man that was snatched from the fire and I watched him share passionately about his love and support for Israel

I watched as we shared about the Balkan bow and the whole vision with these people and how wide their eyes got as we showed them arrowhead drawn by men with no awareness of Chris or Erjan and his birthplace and how it was pointed straight at them they marveled at what was happening

They could not argue with what we were saying and many had tears in their eyes because they could not deny the change they were seeing in what left as a

troubled boy and what was sitting before them as a peaceful young man filled with power, joy and love

We stayed at a hostel in varna and ran into a Jewish woman

We did not discover she was Jewish until our second time of meeting her because she said when she first saw us she was afraid to say anything because she saw Chris was brown and times are tense right now

As soon as she spoke this Chris said "I love Israel" and with a surprised look on her face we told her about the story of Ittai the gittite and his love and support for king david and the people of Israel, we said this is our example to which she replied "like ruth!" Yes exactly. She later asked us for our contact information because she was interested in keeping up with our journey

We also got the testimony of what happened among the 5 families during this time!

Without going into too much detail I wanted to testify to the favor that was on us from the moment that we arrived in Israel. We immediately met up with a messianic Jew who spent time with us and opened his life up to us. The Lord is using this man mightily and we are looking forward to all the Lord will accomplish through His people to make the impossible possible.

Miraculous healings and favor with doctors in a foreign place

As we get into the actual meat of what I wanted to share I want to reassure you all about the direction that we are going and the vision God has given us.

(REMIND ALL THE UP AND COMING LEADERS TO INSPIRE PEOPLE TO FOLLOW YOU RATHER THAN COMPEL THEM WITH SCRIPTURE)

The Israel dependent gospel works!

The vision the Lord has given for the Balkan Bow, for the road from Rome to Jerusalem is real...I have seen it with my eyes and heard it with my ears.

Muslims are not just receptive because it's compelling and logically sound, the Lord had been working on hearts before we even got there.

Jews are saying they have never heard or seen people like us, expressing honor to meet us, asking if they can hug us, asking **US** for our contact info!

So many asked us why we were there as tourism is down by about 70% right now for a variety of reasons, most notably the war

We told them we love the Jewish people

They asked if we were Christian to which we replied that we love and follow Yeshua and our desire is not to convert them from Judaism but to fulfill our role as gentiles to lay down our lives for them and serve them as they become all that the Lord has called them to be to be a help as they seek to follow Torah by faith.

With all that being said I want to remind you as many times as needed where our approach and thinking comes from

Let's go back to Moses eternal song that was given to Israel to be remembered forever

Deut 32:21 they made me angry and jealous I will make them angry and jealous

Deuteronomy 32:21 (NIV1984)

21 They made me jealous by what is no god and angered me with their worthless idols. I will make them envious by those who are not a people; I will make them angry by a nation that has no understanding.

- We know that the nations or gentiles will either fall into one category or the other, making Jews jealous or making them angry.
- We have plenty of experience and knowledge about making them angry
- We walked through the holocaust museum and the Jews have been taught very well about christians and all the nations making them angry

Zechariah 12:8-9 (NIV1984)

8 On that day the Lord will shield those who live in Jerusalem, so that the feeblest among them will be like David, and the house of David will be like God, like the Angel of the Lord going before them. **9** On that day I will set out to destroy all the nations that attack Jerusalem.

- he will defend Jerusalem against attacking nations...this is a picture of gentiles making Jews angry
- But Zechariah tells of a different response that gentiles are to display

Zechariah 8:20-23 (NIV1984)

20 This is what the Lord Almighty says: "Many peoples and the inhabitants of many cities will yet come, **21** and the inhabitants of one city will go to another and say, 'Let us go at once to entreat the Lord and seek the Lord Almighty. I myself am going.' **22** And many peoples and powerful nations will come to Jerusalem to seek the Lord Almighty and to entreat him. This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'In those days ten men from all languages and nations will take firm hold of one Jew by the hem of his robe and say, "Let us go with you, because we have heard that God is with you."

- Several times, we men from different places on this trip grabbed hold of a Jew while in Israel telling him that God is with him and saying we want to be a part of what God is doing with his people

Do you know what the last thing a Jew reads about as he finishes the Tanakh?
After a Jew reads all of the Scripture what is the final story? The bookend of the Hebrew Bible?

2 Chronicles 36:22-23 (NIV1984)

22 In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah, the Lord moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and to put it in writing:

23 "This is what Cyrus king of Persia says:

“The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. Anyone of his people among you—may the Lord his God be with him, and let him go up.”

A gentile king, who serves Israel by empowering them to fulfill the commands of God

Look at what was prophesied about him 150-200 years before he was born

Isaiah 45:1-7 NIV

“This is what the Lord says to his anointed,
to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their armor,
to open doors before him
so that gates will not be shut:

2 I will go before you
and will level the mountains[a];
I will break down gates of bronze
and cut through bars of iron.

3 I will give you hidden treasures,
riches stored in secret places,
**so that you may know that I am the Lord,
the God of Israel,** who summons you by name.

4 For the sake of Jacob my servant,
of Israel my chosen,

I summon you by name
and bestow on you a title of honor,
though you do not acknowledge me.

5 I am the Lord, and there is no other;
apart from me there is no God.

I will strengthen you,
though you have not acknowledged me,

6 so that from the rising of the sun

to the place of its setting
people may know there is none besides me.
I am the Lord, and there is no other.
7 I form the light and create darkness,
I bring prosperity and create disaster;
I, the Lord, do all these things.

Isaiah 45:13 NIV

I will raise up Cyrus[b] in my righteousness:
I will make all his ways straight.
He will rebuild my city
and set my exiles free,
but not for a price or reward,
says the Lord Almighty.”

Ezra 6:3-4 NIV

3 In the first year of King Cyrus, the king issued a decree concerning the temple of God in Jerusalem:
Let the temple be rebuilt as a place to present sacrifices, and let its foundations be laid. It is to be sixty cubits[a] high and sixty cubits wide, **4** with three courses of large stones and one of timbers. The costs are to be paid by the royal treasury.

This means that Cyrus the Gentile was taught by Daniel, a Jew, prophesied about by Isaiah, a Jew, 150 years before He was born in the scriptures that he would be brought to a position to be able to use what he had been given to help the Jews follow the commands of the God of Israel and this story is the bookend for the Hebrew Bible?

We are going to find the mystery stories of gentiles who actually did what they were supposed to and hold them high because in addition to Christ we want all the examples the Bible gives us so we can do our job well. And we are going to teach muslims to do it and if while they're having all those babies they miss a few

we will raise them up to convert Muslims into shameless servants of the God of Israel and His people.

Romans 15:16 (NIV1984)

16 to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

So that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God...an offering!

Revelation 6:9-11

9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.

10 They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"

11 Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed.

Romans 11:25-26 full Number of gentiles comes in then all Israel will be saved

Romans 11:25-26(NIV1984)

25 I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. **26** And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written:

"The deliverer will come from Zion;
he will turn godlessness away from Jacob.

Romans 12:1 therefore offer your bodies as living sacrifices

Romans 12:1 (NIV1984)

1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.

In light of these verses, consider that the salvation of Israel is waiting for the full number of gentiles to come in...John writes in revelation about the full number of those who are to be killed must come in before the Lord returns at which point all Israel will be saved.

Fellow gentiles, this is our time...we have excelled in making Israel angry for too long, now we must excel in not only making them jealous but of counting it a high honor to be numbered among the martyrs.

"I bless You because You have deemed me worthy of this day and hour, that I might receive a portion in the number of the martyrs, in the cup of Your Christ, for the resurrection to eternal life, both of soul and body, in the incorruptibility of the Holy Spirit."

-Polycarp disciple of John the Revelator

Polycarp was a bishop of the church in Smyrna, or modern day Izmir in Turkey...where we stood.

Romans 11:13-14 Paul wants to make them jealous

Romans 11:13-14

13 I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I make much of my ministry **14** in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them.

Acts 1:8

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my **witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 7:59-60 (NIV1984)

59 While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” **60** Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep.

- Clearly a Jew going first in following the example of Christ...the first witness/martyr

Revelation 2:12-13

12 “To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. **13** I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful **witness**, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.

While we cannot definitively state that **Antipas** was a Gentile, neither can we exclude the possibility. Historical tradition records that he was **martyred in Pergamum**, reportedly **roasted alive within a bronze bull** for his steadfast witness to Christ. After his death, other martyrs from the same city followed his example — **Agathonice**, a Greek woman; **Attalus**, **Carpus**, and **Polybus** — all of whom are remembered in the early martyrologies as **Gentile believers** who bore faithful testimony in the same region.

The focus of the scripture is on the Jews, not on gentiles. We aren't meant to be the heroes, the focus, or even the point...it's a mystery that we were included...our high calling is to humble ourselves

I believe if you learn to read between the lines and look, you can find gentiles at key places who are single minded servants full of faith for the people of Israel ready to die, ready to serve...

I want to share with you one point that blessed me while studying in Israel and I will start with this passage from 1 Cor. 1:18-31 in the ESV

18For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. **19**For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” (This is from Isaiah 29)

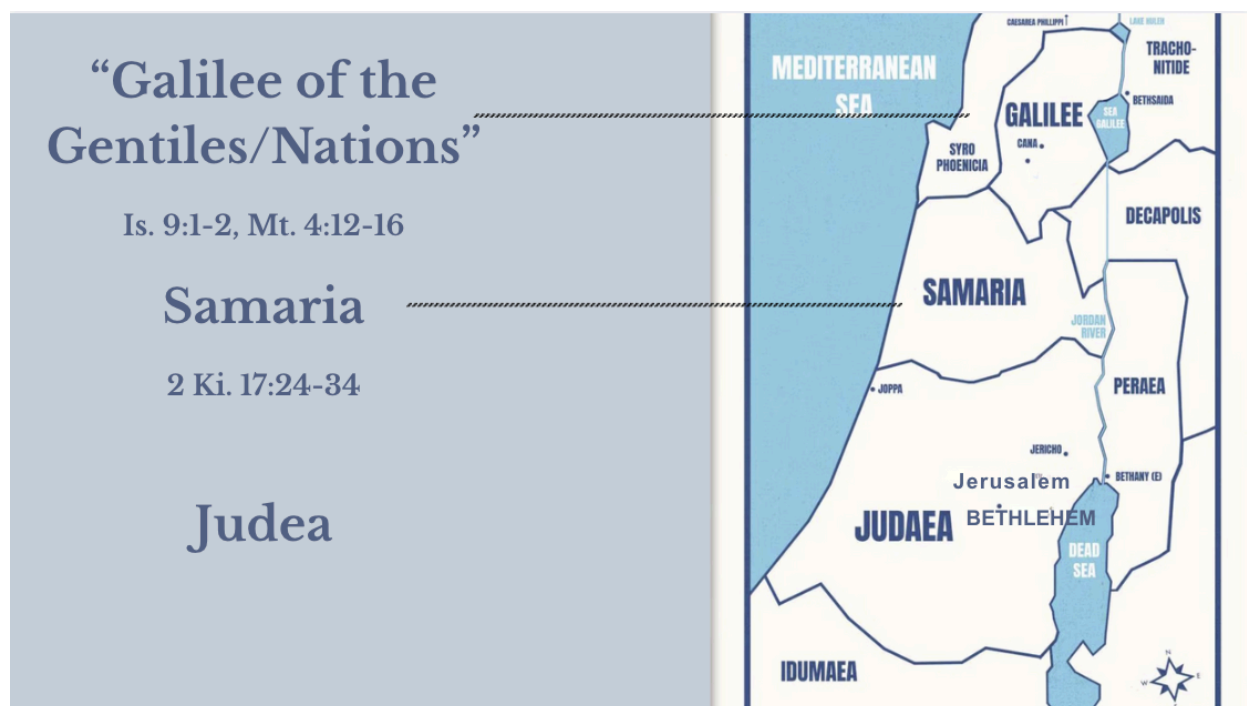
20Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? **21**For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach^b to save those who believe. **22**For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, **23**but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, **24**but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. **25**For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

26For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards,^c not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. **27**But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; **28**God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, **29**so that no

human being^d might boast in the presence of God. [30](#)And because of him^e you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, [31](#)so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

We talk about being Gentile dogs in here because there is a pride that needed to be broken and must remain broken so that we do not become arrogant
But God has been choosing the foolish, the weak, the things which are low and despised to shame the wise and strong and to break the pride of man so that no one might boast.

I want to show you where Jesus lived and who he chose as his disciples.



Now as you look at this I want to make a few things that you probably don't think about very clear. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the heart of Israel is Jerusalem in Judea the southern region, it is where the temple is, where the leadership resides, the best students and the best teachers are here. At 12 he astounds them with his questions and answers.

Samaria was north of Judea-
In 722 this happened.

2 Kings 17:6 (NIV 1984)

“The king of Assyria captured Samaria and deported the Israelites to Assyria. He settled them in Halah, in Gozan on the Habor River, and in the towns of the Medes.”

And then this happened:

2 Kings 17:24 (NIV 1984)

The king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath and Sepharvaim and settled them in the towns of Samaria to replace the Israelites. They took over Samaria and lived in its towns.

2 Kings 17:34 (NIV 1984)

To this day they persist in their former practices. They neither worship the LORD nor adhere to the decrees and ordinances, the laws and commands that the LORD gave the descendants of Jacob, whom he named Israel.

Galilee of the gentiles contained Nazareth, Cana, and Capernaum. After the Assyrian invasion, it still contained practicing observant Jews who had not mixed with the nations around them but were influenced by them as you might guess. But listen to what Isaiah prophesies over them after Assyria had conquered the northern kingdom and before the deportation:

Isaiah 9:1–2 (NIV 1984):

1 Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan—

2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

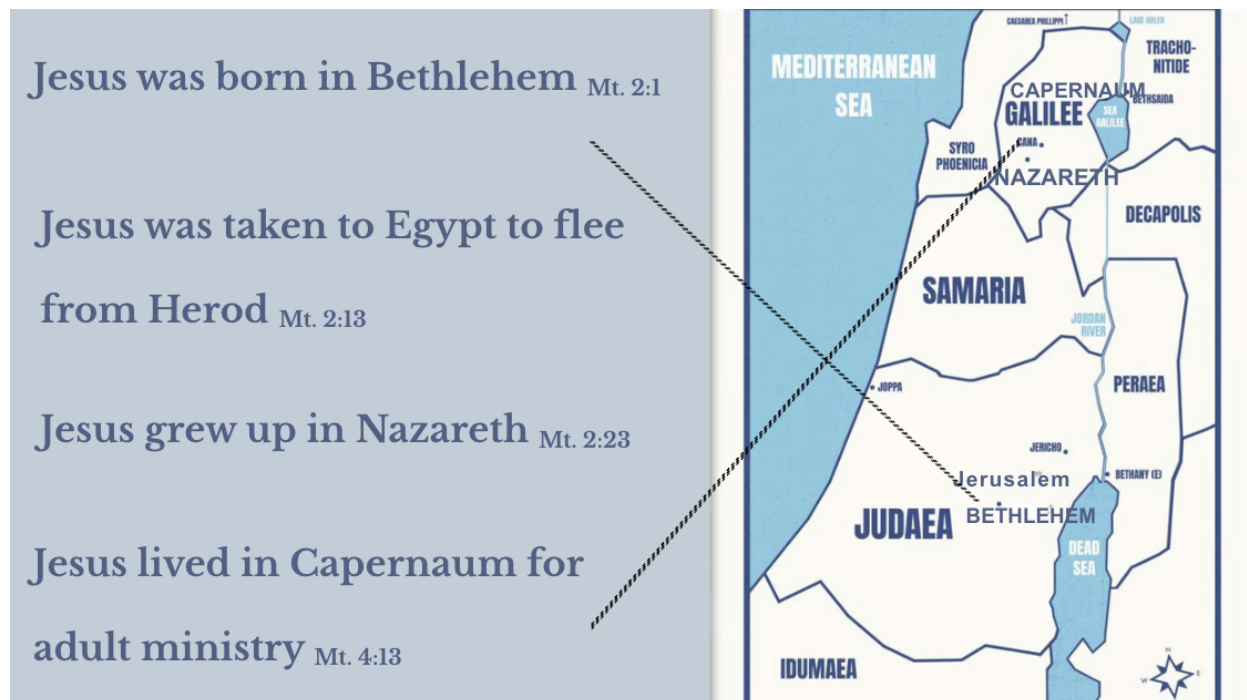
In Matthew, we see Jesus fulfilled this prophecy

Matthew 4:12–16 (ESV)

12 Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. 13 And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

15 “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
16 the people dwelling in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death,
on them a light has dawned.”

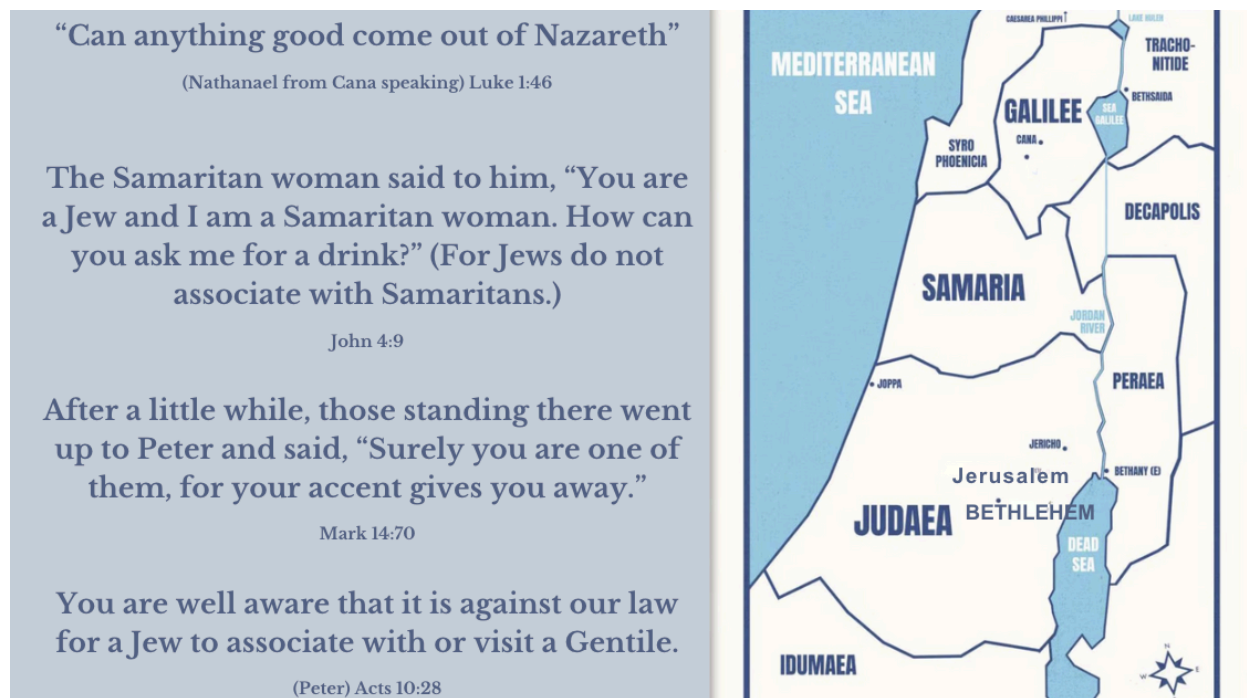
He was the great light that had dawned in this humbled land known as Galilee of the Gentiles



Jesus chose to do his adult ministry in a place known as Galilee of the Gentiles!

Now Matthew 15:24 makes it clear that Jesus came to save the lost sheep of Israel. And to be crystal clear these men from the galilee that became his disciples were Jewish. But he chose to live in the place known as Galilee of the gentiles and choose disciples that were Galilean!

Take a quick look at a snapshot of some of the cultural issues Jesus faced in his day.



Jesus trained up men who although Jewish were heavily influenced by Gentiles (Go read Galatians 2:11-14 for fun in light of this.)

He could have chosen to get disciples from the center for learning in Jerusalem where the brightest minds were, but he chose to minister and pick disciples in Galilee of the Gentiles.

He would use these men with their lack of education and accents and gentile influence to go and minister to the sharpest biblical students in the world.

But let me read 1 Cor. Again:

27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; **28** God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, **29** so that no human being ^d might boast in the presence of God.

Before the Assyrian invasion when gentiles came to the northern kingdom to remove the Jews and replant them with other nations, Isaiah prophesied this:

Isaiah 28:9-11 (NIV1984)

9 “Who is it he is trying to teach?

To whom is he explaining his message?

To children weaned from their milk,

to those just taken from the breast?

10 For it is:

Do and do, do and do,

rule on rule, rule on rule;

a little here, a little there.”

11 Very well then, with foreign lips and strange tongues

God will speak to this people,

When the Assyrians came in as God's instruments for judgment against the northern tribes of Israel, they came with a language that could not be understood and they brought devastation and destruction.

This prophesy served as a sign for the people of Israel.

Paul connects this exact verse with speaking in tongues in 1 Corinthians 14.

1 Corinthians 14:20–22 (ESV)

20 Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature. 21 In the Law it is written, **“By people of strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners will I speak to this people, and even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord.”** 22 Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers.

In the same letter to the same people as Paul writes about the foolish things shaming the wise he connects the sign of the strange assyrian language to the northern tribes with tongues spoken in church. Stay with me here...

Now let's bring all of this together going back to pentecost when these disciples that Jesus chose were all together in Jerusalem, the center of the greatest minds.

Acts 2:4–8 (ESV)

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

5 Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. 6 And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. 7 And they were amazed and astonished, saying, **“Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?”** 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?

In this great reversal which you guys learned about last week, God took the foolish and lowly galileans from galilee of the gentiles to minister to Jews and perform a sign among them that provoked them to jealousy...leading them to say brothers what must we do to be saved.

I am speaking to a room of lowly gentiles who are now tasked with bringing the israel dependent gospel to places that can seem intimidating...but you are just the next in a long line of despised things filled with something divine to reveal His glory