

January 8, 2023

Messianic Fulfillment Part 2

The Old Testament makes no sense apart from the new and the New makes no sense apart from the Old. Israel, God's people, have a long history of turning from God. They are waiting for all the promises to Abraham to be fulfilled. They await a savior. THEN "unto us a child is born" and he is named Jesus- which is another form of the name Joshua. Which means: God saves. Jesus is born. Not only is he a cute little human baby, but he is also GOD. An angel appeared to Mary to tell her she was going to have Jesus. Jesus taught people and HEALED people! Jesus began his public ministry at age 30 and it was just for 3 short years. He was challenging the way people did things. He was showing people that loving others and caring for others is more important than any "law". Jesus was showing us how to LIVE. The Jewish leaders felt threatened and they did not like it. As a result, they worked to have him killed.

WATCH: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkOZYIFy0I>

That was what the crucifixion would have been like. Remember back to the Old Testament- God made a covenant w/ his people, he said they could be His people and He would be their God. But, when they were in the desert, the Israelites worshipped a golden calf. They broke that covenant w/ God. When a covenant was made, a sacrifice of an animal was also made between the 2 parties. This signified that if one party broke the agreement, the other would be slaughtered like the animal. The punishment for breaking a covenant is death. The Israelites broke the covenant so **someone needed to be sacrificed** pay for the sins that they committed. However, it wasn't the Israelites, **it was God who sacrificed himself**, his only son for the people of Israel to pay the penalty for their sin. That is why Jesus is called the Lamb of God! That is why Jesus is called the sacrificial lamb! Over the centuries, the Israelites had been making sacrifices to God for their sins- to pay for them. That's what they did in the temple. That's what they did at Passover. However, this sacrifice, the sacrifice of Jesus was the final sacrifice- the sacrifice of a perfect, spotless Lamb of God that takes away all sin for now and evermore. The penalty for sin is death and Jesus overcame death.

WATCH: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j2Mnsxj2N7Y>

Jesus is human so he could die. But Jesus is also God and God cannot die. Jesus died on the cross that Friday and rose from the dead on Easter Sunday. THIS is what our faith is about. Had

Jesus not risen, it wouldn't be good news. It'd be a sad story and a terrible ending. Because he rose, EVERYTHING changed- because he rose, life does not end with death.

We have the opportunity to go to Heaven and be with God for all eternity. That was always God's plan. To have us live for all eternity with him in Heaven. Life on earth is meant to be similar to that time when the Israelites are in the desert. The part where the people are being formed, learning about God, learning how to worship, how to have a relationship with God, how to follow the commandment but not out of duty, out of love. And that's what Jesus personally came on earth to do!

SO rose from the dead. Remained with his disciples for 40 days.. and then...

READ Acts 1: 6-12

Jesus ascended into Heaven. He told them to go out and make disciples, tell people about him, tell people the message of the bible and the scriptures. And that's what they did. That's what each of us is called to do. Jesus didn't just leave us. Firstly, he gave us the EUCHARIST and the Sacraments. The eucharist is Jesus' body and blood. Like God gave the Israelites bread from Heaven, or Manna, to keep them alive in the desert, Jesus gives us spiritual bread from Heaven, his body and blood, to give us his very LIFE while here on earth.

Jesus also sent his Holy Spirit.