

PYRAMIDS AND CIRCLES

& The Dawn of A New World

Matthew 10.7—As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’

Mark 1.14,15—“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

The Sermon on the Mount and The Sermon on the Plain

Enemy Love

Isaiah 61.1,2—The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God . . .

Luke 4.16-29—He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim **the year of the Lord’s favor.**”

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to me: ‘Physician, heal yourself!’ And you will tell me, ‘Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.’” “Truly I tell you,” he continued, “prophets are not accepted in their hometowns. I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian.” All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff.

“Good news to some will almost inevitably be bad news to others . . . it is invariably good news to those who are last, and at least problematic news to those who see themselves as first.”— Peter Gomes

“That the world may be healed.” — John 3.17

All Texts Quoted from the NRSV Unless Otherwise Noted

Why Was Jesus Lynched?

Acts 3.12-16—The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, **but God raised from the dead**. To this we are witnesses.

Acts 4.10-11—Let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, **but whom God raised from the dead**. This Jesus is ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.’

Acts 5.30-32—**The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus**, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as **Founder** and **Healer** that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

Acts 10.36-43—We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; **but God raised him on the third day** ... he is the one ordained by God as **LIBERATOR** of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Mark 15.38—The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

God was not on the side of Caiaphas, Pilate, or Herod. God was in the One suspended shamefully on Roman Cross.

The Messiah and the hope of the Hebrew People
The Gospel - Jesus is Lord

Dismantled Pyramids of Privilege and Oppression
Broken Circles of Marginalization and Exclusion

Acts 2.22-36—You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, given to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power . . . This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses . . . Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.

Acts 13.23-38—And we bring you **the good news** that what God promised to our ancestors he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising Jesus . . . Let it be known to you therefore, my brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. [Libration and a New Social Order]

Luke 23.43—He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise. [Paradeiso]”

Ezekiel 28.13—You were in eden, the paradise of God;

Isaiah 51.3—For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like eden, her desert like the Paradise of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanks- giving and the voice of song.

John 19.30—When Jesus had received the wine, he said, “**IT IS FINISHED.**” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

2 Corinthians 5.17—Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come.

Values Shift From Jesus’ Shared Table “Us vs. Them”

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