

THE RISEN LAMB

The Long Awaited Promise Fulfilled (Handout 1)

Romans 15.8-9—For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's faithfulness, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.

The Creator God's election of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Israel) to be His people

Promise to Bless them, particularly by giving them Land

Exodus and Reaffirmation of Promises through Moses & Commandments (seen as acts of Divine grace and mercy).

Promised Blessings are contingent on Israel's obedience. (See Leviticus 16 and Deuteronomy 28)

- Obedience = Prosperity
- Disobedience = Suffering, Hunger, Devastation, Illness, Death, Exile and oppression at the hands of the other nations

Diaspora (Discipline)

Redemption and restoration of Israel and its capital Jerusalem, inaugurating an Age to Come marked by abundance, prosperity, long life and freedom. (The Messiah)

Individual Jews would find their own salvation through membership within Israel, this is, within the covenant.

*Not the Jewish people who share in the the universal salvation of humanity but rather the nations in general who share in the salvation of Israel.

*Hope of Israel was not that the world would end, nor post mortem bliss, but that the new age might arrive.

Forgiveness of sins was defined as restoration from the diaspora.

According to Mosaic law, a person who had committed a sin for which the penalty was death could not avert the death penalty by offering an animal substitute in his or her place.

Obedience = Condition of Restoration

Not perfection but a Commitment to Doing God's Will.

Not Faith versus Works (Faith, putting their future in God's hands)

Sacrifices - Only for inadvertent sins some involved no sin

Torah Intestification

Jesus and the Mosaic Law

"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father."— John 14.9

*All texts quoted from the TNIV unless otherwise noted.

John 8—Woman Caught in Adultery

Luke 8—Woman with Issue of Blood

Matthew 5.21-20, 33-42—True fulfillment of these commands involves much more than a literal observance.

Jesus presented an interpretation of the commandments on the basis of a concern for human wholeness and well-being.

Letter and Spirit vs Spirit over Letter
Controversy of the New Testament Church
between Jews & Gentiles. (2 Corinthians 3)

Mark 10.39—Jesus said to them, “You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with . . .”

Matthew 5.20—For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Luke 9.35—A voice came from the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.”

Luke 22.20—In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the **NEW COVENANT** in my blood, which is poured out for you. (cf. Exodus 24.8)

A New Element

Luke 11.21-22—When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up his plunder.

Luke 4.5-7—The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours.”

John 18.11—Jesus commanded Peter, “Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?”

John 14.30—I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has **NO CLAIM** over me.

Romans 5.19—For as through the disobedience of one man many were made sinners, so through the **OBEDIENCE** of one man many will be made righteous.

Philippians 2.8—He humbled himself by becoming **OBEDIENT** to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, **IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH** and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Acts 3.13-15—The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.



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The Long Awaited Promise Fulfilled (Handout 2)

Isaiah 65.17—"See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind."

Galatians 4.24-25—I am taking these things figuratively, for the women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar. Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother.

Acts 2.23-24—This man given to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was **IMPOSSIBLE** for death to keep its hold on him.

Hebrews 2.14,15—Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

Revelation 12.10—Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down."

Revelation 5.6—Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center before the throne . . .

Revelation 21.1-2—Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

Revelation 21.9-10—"Come, I will show you **THE BRIDE, THE WIFE OF THE LAMB.**" And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem.

Revelation 7.9—After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from **EVERY NATION, TRIBE, PEOPLE AND LANGUAGE**, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb.

Romans 15.8-9—For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's faithfulness, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.

1 Corinthians 15.20-26—But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a human being. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But in this order: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when he hands over **THE KINGDOM** to God the

"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father."— John 14.9

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The picture we get of Jesus in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John is of an itinerant, going around gathering those who will join him in a revolutionary way of doing life that he calls “the kingdom of God.”

The “kingdom of God” is not some place out in the heavens, nor is it a place some go to when they die. This “kingdom of God” is a radical rearrangement of how we see God, ourselves and everyone else that leads to a radical rearrangement of how we do life in the here and now. It’s a radical rearrangement of how human beings arrange their society that is “of God” or “from” God . . . to us . . . through this person Jesus. To enter THIS way of doing life is entirely revolutionary. It is a radical break with life as we have known it, as it has been given to us, as we have been told, as we have been instructed is the natural way of life. It is a call to go against how we have been indoctrinated, to go against the scripts we have been handed, the rules we have been given on how to play the game. To “follow Jesus” is to break with all of that, and say, “I want to live by an entirely different evaluation of what is important.” It’s radical. It’s revolutionary.

Today, Jesus is still extending the ongoing invitation to join his revolution. He is looking for those who are weak but daring, afraid but believing, unsure but willing to take a risk, people who are simply crazy enough to go for it with him. To follow Jesus and live the Jesus way is the most revolutionary thing a human being can do. It’s not about a ticket to go to heaven. (How boring, tame, and domesticated.) It’s not about saying a simple prayer, going to church once a week and then simply going back to the way things have always been done. To follow Jesus IS radical and revolutionary. It is to adopt a completely counter intuitive way of doing life called The Way, of which Jesus is the template. The “kingdom of God,” rightly understood, is an alternate society formed around Jesus and his teachings. It’s about learning to follow the Jesus practice of love, forgiveness, restorative justice, mercy, and fidelity to self-sacrificial, other-centeredness. The Seeds of revolution will always be present as long as the Jesus story is around, and you just never know when someone might leap.

Father **AFTER HE HAS DESTROYED ALL DOMINION, AUTHORITY AND POWER.** For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Revelation 11.15—The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever.”

Matthew 13.31-32—He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”

Luke 9.22-24—And he said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.” Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.”

Revelation 14.1-4—Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 . . . They follow the Lamb . . .

FOLLOW THE RISEN LAMB.



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