The Cross of Christ

You don’t understand Christ until you understand his cross.
- Forsyth

‘God forbid that I should boast of anything but the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ’
- Gal 6:14
The Cross of Christ

The Study will be based on this book by John Stott.

Highly recommended!!
The Cross of Christ

The Shadow of Death
Holman Hunt 1869-73

From Jesus’ youth, indeed even from His birth, the cross cast its shadow ahead of Him.

His death was central to His mission.
I could accept Jesus as a martyr, an embodiment of sacrifice, and a divine teacher, but not as the most perfect man ever born. His death on the cross was a great example to the world, but that there was anything like a mysterious or miraculous virtue in it, my heart could not accept.

Mohandas Gandhi
"I consider myself a spiritual person," she told Scotland's Daily Record. "I believe in an idea of God, although it's my own personal ideal. I find most religions interesting, and I've been to every kind of denomination: Catholic, Christian, Jewish, Buddhist. I've taken bits from everything and customized it."
Christ is to us just what his cross is. All that Christ was in heaven or on earth was put into what he did there... Christ, I repeat, is to us just what his cross is. You do not understand Christ till you understand his cross.

P T Forsyth, *The Centrality of the Cross*
The Cross of Christ

The Sign and Symbol of the Cross

- Common symbols
- What do they mean to us
Symbols

- **Symbols** are objects, pictures, or other concrete representations of ideas, concepts, or other abstractions.
- **Religious symbolism** is the use of symbols by a religion. Religions view religious texts, rituals, and works of art as symbols of compelling ideas or ideals. The symbols help to express
  - the moral values of the society,
  - the teachings of the religion,
  - creates a sense of solidarity
  - functions as a way to bring them closer to their god or gods.
The Cross of Christ

Corporate Logos
Quickly identifies a company.
Common Religious Symbols

Islam

- The star and crescent historically was a symbol of the Ottoman Empire, but later became associated with Islam in general.
The Cross of Christ

Common Religious Symbols

Judaism

- The Star of David
- It is named after King David of ancient Israel; and its earliest known communal usage began in the Middle Ages
- With the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948 the Star of David on the Flag of Israel has also become a symbol of Israel.
The Cross of Christ

Other Symbols

Buddhism/Hinduism (Lotus Flower)

Communism (Hammer & Sickle)

Satanism

Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Nazis (Swastika)

Taoism
The Cross of Christ

Early Christian Symbols
The Cross of Christ

Early Christian Symbols

Ichthys (fish)

• Greek: ἰχθύς, capitalized ΙΧΘΥΣ; is the Ancient and Classical Greek word for "fish."

• Said to have been used by early Christians as a secret symbol and now known colloquially as the "Jesus fish".
The Cross of Christ

The Cross

- The Christians choice of a cross as the symbol of their faith is the more surprising when we remember the horror with which crucifixion was regarded in the ancient world.
The Cross of Christ

The Cross Symbol

• The cross was first avoided by early church as it associated with the execution of a criminal.

• Early symbols used were a peacock, a dove, victory palm, a fish and many other Biblical images.

• It was not used until the 2nd Century by Christians.
The Cross of Christ

Imagine a form of execution as a symbol of your faith.
Who was Jesus?

- Following are images of Jesus throughout history
Pictures of Jesus

I’ve got a picture of Jesus,
In his arms so many prayers rest
We’ve got a picture of Jesus,
And with him we shall be forever blessed.

- Ben Harper
1. The Romanesque Jesus
Ancient Jesus - drawing found in catacombs - dated AD375
Stained Glass Jesus - one of the first faces of Christ ever to be made in glass. Dated 1070, from an abbey in the borderland between France and Germany.
Sinai Jesus - a rare surviving icon
Shroud of Turin – either 1st century or 1260 (depending on who you believe)
2. Gentle Jesus
The Light of the World by Holman Hunt (1854)
Bearded-Lady Jesus
Hollywood Jesus – Robert Powell in Jesus of Nazareth
3. Revolutionary Jesus
Pasolini’s The Gospel According to Matthew
Che Jesus - used as advertising campaign by Church of England in 1999

MEEK. MILD. AS IF.
Discover the real Jesus. Church. April 4.
4. The ordinary Galilean
5. The culturally acceptable Jesus
Armenian Jesus
(CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS AT AGHTAMAR (VASPURAKAN)
915-921
The Entry of Christ into Jerusalem)
Businessman Jesus
Politician Jesus
Tattooed Jesus
Simpson’s Jesus
Gun-toting Jesus
Hamburger Jesus?
6. The marginal Messiah
Black Jesus – In 2004, Jesus was voted greatest black icon of all time by the New Nation newspaper
**Black Jesus** – In 2004, Jesus was voted greatest black icon of all time by the New Nation newspaper

Ethiopian 17th century
**Black Jesus** – In 2004, Jesus was voted greatest black icon of all time by the New Nation newspaper

Top – Ethiopian 17th century
Bottom – Roman 530AD
Rasta Jesus
Jamaica
Laughing Jesus
El Salvador
Oppressed Jesus
Mexico
Guru Jesus

India
WILL WORK FOR LOAVES AND FISHES

Homeless Jesus
USA
7. Creepy Jesus?
"With you always"
"With you always"
In what ways is Jesus like…

…the Romanesque Jesus
- transfixed, transcendent, tranquil

…gentle Jesus
- calm, serene, majestic

…revolutionary Jesus
- dangerous, conspiratorial, radical

…an ordinary Galilean
- earthy, Jewish, provincial

…the marginal Messiah
- oppressed, poor, suffering
The Cross of Christ

Why did Jesus Die?

- We are sinful
- God is Holy and Just (*)
- God Hates Sin (*)
- God deals with all sinners and sin through Jesus, as a sacrifice etc. (*)

* These all relate to Old Testament concepts
## The Cross of Christ

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Good Teacher</th>
<th>The Word</th>
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The Cross of Christ

Old Testament Survey
God’s Purpose for Humanity

A Kingdom of God

Dominion and Dynasty

Geography

Genealogy

In God’s Place

God’s People

Under God’s Rule

In God’s Place

God’s People

Under God’s Rule

Geography

Genealogy
The Cross of Christ

The Fall in Eden – Genesis 3

• They had a choice (free will) 2:15-17
• When one has a choice it is natural to be curious about the other choice
• They took the other choice. 3:1-7
• They were naked and covered themselves with leaves
• God cursed the serpent and promised one who will come (the seed) and crush him. 3:15
• God sacrificed an animal to cover their shame 3:21
• God sent them out of Eden so not to eat from tree of life and live forever in sin 3:22
• God had other plans for their salvation…
OT Timeline

Human History

Creation
Adam/Eve - The Fall
The Flood
Abraham
Isaac

To Nations
Promise: BLESSING
Promise: LAND
Promise: NATION
Promise: BLESSING

Isaac
Creation
Adam/Eve – The Fall
The Flood
Abraham

~4000 BC

Israel

Jacob
Joseph
Salves in Egypt
Moses
Passover
Prominent

Promise: LAND

NATION

Promise: BLESSING

Covenant
with Noah
Gen 9
Abrahamic Covenant
Gen 12
Circumcision Gen 17

Promise of Seed
Gen 3:15
Reaffirmation of Covenant
Gen 28

Covenant

Gen 11-13
Priests Among Nations
Ex. 19
Covenant & Tabernacle
Ex. 24-25
Blessings Before the Conquest
Deut 28-30

Liberation
Joshua 4

Passover

Sinai Covenant

Monarchy
Davidic Covenant
2 Sam 7

Enter Promised Land

Tabernacle

1st Temple

2 Temple

Exile & Time of Prophets

New Heaven And Earth
Believers
Spiritual & Future

Fulfilled in Christ

New Covenant
Jer. 31:31-34

Tabernacle

Kings

Priests

Prophets
The Cross of Christ

Early Babylonian settlement in the Plain of Shinar after the Flood - Akkadian and Sumerian Kingdoms - The Tower of Babel

Medes (Madaï)
Scythians (Magog)
Grecians (Javan)

Arabs from Abram about 2000 BC

Japheth
Shem
Ham

The Patriarchs
Abram, Isaac, & Jacob

Israel a nation under Moses

Assyrian Empire
(Asshur)

Nebuchadnezzar
Nebuchadnezzar conquers Egypt 570 BC
40 years desolate never again to rule nations.
Under Persians

Babylonians, Scythians & Medes destroy Nineveh 612 BC

Babylonian Empire
Under Persians

536 BC
Persian Empire (Elam)

Greek Seleucids 312 to 63BC

Roman and Byzantine rule till Arab invasion AD639

Tens Lost Tribes scattered through Central Asia

Jewish Wars & Maccabees
Pompey takes Syria 63BC
Romans put down Jews AD70 & 135

Jews scattered suffer at hands of
Byzantine Empire, Muslims, RC Church, Tzars, and Hitler

Nazi Holocaust
Israel a nation since May 1948

Ten Lost Tribes

Southern Kingdom of Judah
606-586 BC
Taken captive to Babylon for 70 years
Temple rebuilt 516BC

Northern Kingdom of Ephraim
721 BC - Taken captive to Assyria
Samaritans in northern Israel

Grecian Empire

63BC

Imperial Rome
30BC to AD476

Germanic Invasions

1st Reich Holy Roman Empire AD800-1806

Holy Roman Empire
3rd Reich 1933-45

EU - 1957

2nd Reich 1871-1918

BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF WORLD HISTORY FROM NOAH TO 2000

Ottoman Turk Empire
1296-1917

Arab Empire
AD636-1258

AD224-636
Sassanian Empire
New Persian Empire.

Romans and Babylonian Empire

Mongols destroy Baghdad 1258

Advent of Islam AD622

EU - 1957
Armenians in OT Times

• Armenia (Land of Ararat): in KJV translation of Ararat in 2 Kings 19:37 and Isaiah 37:38, mentioned as the place where Sennacherib’s (Assyrians) two sons fled after murdering their father.
The Cross of Christ
The Cross of Christ

OT Study

• Covenants
• Sacrifice
• Sanctuary
• Roles (Priests, Prophets and Kings)
## Restoration of God’s Kingdom

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<th>Eden</th>
<th>Israel</th>
<th>Exile &amp; Prophecy</th>
<th>Jesus Christ &amp; The Cross</th>
<th>New Testament</th>
<th>The Second Coming &amp; Millennium</th>
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<td>Sacrifice Animal for Shame</td>
<td>Sacrificial System for Redemption</td>
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<td>New Israel – Those ‘In Christ’ The Church</td>
<td>Resurrected Church</td>
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<td><strong>God’s Place</strong></td>
<td>The Garden “Perfect Sanctuary”</td>
<td>Canaan</td>
<td>Kingdom at hand</td>
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<td>New Covenant – Christ’s Rule in our lives</td>
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<td>Kingdom Restated</td>
<td>Kingdom at Hand</td>
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<td><strong>God's Presence</strong></td>
<td>Walking with Man</td>
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<td>Temple</td>
<td>Christ in us – We are like Temples</td>
<td>Eternal!!!</td>
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- Eden: Pre-Exodus
- Israel: Exodus, Wilderness & the Law, Promised Land & Monarchy
- Exile & Prophecy: Royal Remnant of Israel
- Jesus Christ & The Cross: By Faith
- New Testament: Eternal Heirs
- The Second Coming & Millennium: Resurrected Church

- Kingdom: New Covenant written on Heart
- New Covenant – Christ’s Rule in our lives
- A people under God & worshipping Him
- Kingdom at Hand
- Everlasting Kingdom

- New Temple: Where Christ dwells in us
- New Heaven/Earth

- Eden: The Garden “Perfect Sanctuary”
- Israel: Canaan
- Promised Land
- In Canaan, Jerusalem
- Restored Land & Jerusalem
- Kingdom at hand

- God's Presence: Walking with Man, Spoke to and appeared, Tabernacle (Worship), Temple, Temple
- Christ in us – We are like Temples
- Eternal!!!
Eden establishes the kingdom pattern - God, his people, and the place all exist in perfect relationship.

This kingdom is dislocated and confused by mankind's sin.

The rest of the Bible is about the restoration of a people to be the willing subjects of God who rules perfectly.

This kingdom is promised to Abraham - people (Israel), place (land), rule.

It is foreshadowed under the monarchy - David and Solomon, but then lost in exile on account of sin.

The kingdom promises are restated by the prophets.

Kingdom at hand in Jesus' life death and resurrection. Where Adam and Israel failed, Jesus carried out God's purposes perfectly.

The kingdom will be consummated at Jesus' return.
The Cross of Christ
The Cross of Christ

Jesus understood the Old Testament to be about himself

- **Luke 24:27** ... then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.
- **Luke 24:44** Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—" that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled"
- **John 5:39-40** "You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that testify on my behalf. Yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

Because of this, if we are to properly understand Jesus - his person and his work, we can only do this with an understanding of the Old Testament Scriptures.
The Cross of Christ
Covenants
Israel
A Nation Built on Covenants
Jer.31:31;32:27-40;
Isa.55:3;59:21; 61:8
Ezek.16:60;34:25;37:26;
Hos.2:18-20; Heb.8:8-13.
2Sam.7:12-16; Ps.89.
Deut.28-30
Exod.24:7-8.
Gen. chs.12, 13, 15,17, 22.
New
Davidic
Palestinian
Sinai
Abrahamic
The Cross of Christ
What are Covenants?

- Covenants in Scripture are solemn agreements, negotiated or unilaterally imposed, that bind the parties to each other in permanent defined relationships, with specific promises, claims, and obligations on both sides (e.g., the marriage covenant, Mal. 2:14).
God’s Covenants

• When God makes a covenant with his creatures, he alone establishes its terms, as his covenant with Noah and every living creature shows (Gen. 9:9).

• When Adam and Eve failed to obey the terms of the covenant of works (Gen. 3:6), God did not destroy them, but revealed his covenant of grace to them by promising a Saviour (Gen. 3:15).
God’s Covenants

- God’s covenant rests on his promise, as is clear from his covenant with Abraham.
- He called Abraham to go to the land that he would give him, and he promised to bless him and to bless all the families of the earth through him (Gen. 12:1-3).
- Abraham heeded God’s call because he believed God’s promise; it was his faith in the promise that was credited to him for righteousness (Gen. 15:6; Rom. 4:18-22).
The Cross of Christ

Abrahamic Covenant
The Cross of Christ

Abraham’s Call

Abraham’s Migration from Ur

- Ur
- Erech
- Babylon
- Asshur
- Tadmor
- Mari

Points of interest:
- Shechem
- Elah
- Bethel
- Hebron
- Negev
- Hazor
- Damascus
- Haran
- Gozan

Scale: 0 to 150mi

Legend:
- Red arrows indicate Abraham’s Travel
Abrahamic Covenant

- Gen 12, 13, 15, 17, 22
- Echo of Gen 1:28
- A word from God
  - Abraham to “Go from” 12:1 and go “to the land”
  - Abraham is to “Be a blessing: 12:2b
- Obedience will result in promised blessings 12:1-3
  - The land that I will show you
  - A great nation
  - Blessings (ref 3:14-19)
  - Great name (ref 11:4)
  - Through you all the families of the earth shall be blessed
  - Those who blesses you will be blessed and curse you will be cursed
The Cross of Christ

Abrahamic Covenant

- Formalized in Gen 15 & 17
- Gen 15 – The promise of Nationhood (Land and descendants) 15:18; 13:14-18
- Gen 17 – the promise of international blessing
  - Eternal 17:7
  - Depends on Abrahams obedience 17:1
- Gen 22 – is guaranteed by God when Abraham was willing to sacrifice Isaac 22:16-18
- Abraham’s story is the story of the partial fulfillment of the promises to the Patriarchs.
Unfolding of the Covenant Story

• Abraham & Sarah were buried in the Land

• Isaac – offsprings Gen 24:7
  – Wife Rabekah was barren but bore children 25:21-23

• Jacob – Isaac’s blessings Gen 28:3-4
  – Dream – 28:10-15
  – Jacob’s 2nd wife Rachel was barren Gen 29:31; 30:22-23
  – Name changed to Israel 32:22-30
**The Cross of Christ**

**Unfolding of the Covenant Story**

- **Joseph**
  - Blessing to Potipher Gen 39:5
  - Blessing to Pharaoh Gen 40-41 (41:39-40)
  - Climax and centre of the story Gen 45:5-8

- Joseph is the preserver of Israel through whom Israel becomes a great nation by the end of Genesis Gen 50:20

- **Slaves in Egypt**
  - Israel grew to become a great nation Ex. 1:6-10
  - They become slaves and called out to God Ex 2:23-25
  - Exodus and praise the Lord Ex. 15:13-17
The Cross of Christ

Sinai Covenant
The Cross of Christ

Sinai Covenant Ex. 24:7-8

• God’s covenant with Israel at Sinai took the form of a Near Eastern suzerainty treaty, that is, a royal covenant imposed unilaterally on a vassal king and a servant people. Ex. 34:10-16

• Although that covenant required obedience to God’s laws under the threat of his curse, it was a continuation of his covenant of grace (Deut. 7:7-8; 9:5-6).

• God gave his commandments to a people he had already redeemed and claimed (Exod. 19:4-6).
The Cross of Christ

Sinai Covenant

- The promise of God’s covenant was made stronger through the types and shadows of the law given to Moses.
- The failure of the Israelites to keep the Mosaic covenant showed the need for a new redemption and covenant if God’s people were to be truly his and he theirs.
The Cross of Christ

Palestinian Covenant

• At Moab
• Obedience vs blessings and disobedience vs curses  Deut. 29
• New Covenant Deut 30
  – Circumcision of the Heart Deut 10:16; 30:6
The Cross of Christ

Davidic Covenant

KING DAVID LEARNING TO GIVE UP HIS OWN WAY
The Cross of Christ

Davidic Covenant

- Israel asks for a king 1 Sam 8:4-9
- After Saul reigns in David
  - 2 Sam 2:1-3
- Promises to David (2 Sam 7) see table
- Messianic Kingship hope based on the hope of the covenant 2 Sam 23:1-7
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Abraham</th>
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<tr>
<td>“Great name”</td>
<td>2 Sam 7:9</td>
<td>Gen 12:2</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Place” (Land)</td>
<td>2 Sam 7:10</td>
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<td>Victory over enemies</td>
<td>2 Sam 7:11</td>
<td>Gen 22:17</td>
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<td>Divine human relationship</td>
<td>2 Sam 7:14</td>
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<td>Special line of “seed”</td>
<td>2 Sam 7:12-16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Descendants to keep law</td>
<td>2 Sam 7:14; Ps 89:30-32; 132:12</td>
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<tr>
<td>A unique descendant will mediate international blessing</td>
<td>Ps 72:17</td>
<td>Gen 22:18</td>
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</table>
The Cross of Christ

New Covenant - OT

• In Exile the prophets have a hope on a new covenant
  • Jeremiah 31:31-37
  • Jeremiah 32:36-41
  • Jeremiah 33:14-22
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Creation One (Adam &amp; Eve)</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Design</td>
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<td>Communion with God</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Building</td>
<td>Relationally Holy sexuality Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>Co-creativity</td>
<td>World-making stewardship</td>
<td>Earth-raping manipulation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Cross of Christ

Fulfilled in Christ

• The covenant promises finally comes to its fulfillment in the work of Christ for all nations.
• Gal 3:6-14
• Luke 22:14-24 at the last supper
Sacrifices
Why Sacrifice

• God is a Holy God, he cannot tolerate sin!

• He demands blood to be shed for forgiveness of sin
  – Forgiveness may be easy for you and me, but for a Holy God it is huge.

• God had to prepare a way to deal with our sin and His Holiness.
Sacrifices in the OT

• Generally referred to as ‘Offerings’ in OT
• Sacrifices are not only found in Israel’s history but also performed by other nations from that era.
• It was a practice that was around even before the patriarchs.
Sacrifices in the OT

• First Sacrifice By God: In Eden, God provided skins of animal as clothing to cover the nakedness (shame) of Adam & Eve Gen 3:21

• First Recorded Sacrifice by Man:
  – Cain & Abel – Gift Offering Gen 4:3-4
  – Noah after the Flood. Gen 8:20-22

• Abraham was tested by almost sacrificing his son. Gen 22:1-2
The Cross of Christ

Sacrifices in the OT

• The first people understood that blood sacrifice was necessary to cover (atone for) sin. Lev 10:17, Lev 17:11

• There were various other types of offerings required by recorded in Leviticus, numbers and Deuteronomy
  – Burnt Offering, Grain Offering, Sin Offering, Drink Offering, Fellowship Offering etc.
The Passover - Background

- Israel’s slaves in Egypt
- Their future looked dim
- They cried to the Lord and the Lord heard their cry  
  Ex 6:2-5
- He raised Moses to be a mediator for the nation
- The Lord told Moses to approach Pharaoh and demand to let his people go or else god would send plagues
- The Lord sent 10 Plagues, the last one is the Passover
- It would be a symbol of SALVTION!
The Cross of Christ

The Passover – Exodus 11

• God told Moses that the last plague, ‘the plague of death’ would kill the firstborn of Egypt.
• To ensure that Israel’s firstborn are saved they had to follow instructions given by God, that night was called Passover.
• ‘Passover’ = hover to protect, skip over
• Note in 4:21-26 God calls Israel His first born son.
The Cross of Christ

The Passover – Exodus 12

• God gives careful instructions to sacrifice a young lamb and wipe the blood (sign of purification) on the door post on the door frame for protection.

• He also gives other instructions
  – Wear sandals before you sleep (prepare to move out)
  – Eat bread without yeast (symbolises leaving sin behind)
  – Bitter herbs (reminder of their bitter times as slaves)
  – Roast and eat the sacrifice meat (partake in death of that night)
The Passover – Exodus 12-13

- Passover Festival – a Commemoration of the Passover by future generations 12:24-28, Ch13
- It was a new beginning to be remembered 12:2
- Celebrated in 3 ways
  - Re-enacting the Passover 12:43-49
  - Feast of the unleavened bread 13:3-10
  - Consecrating every first-born male 13:11-16
The Passover

- God warns his people against himself; Save Israel from himself
- Destruction is required for a creative act to take place
- Passover – a means for people to be included in the community of God;
- Israel becomes a nation; a holy nation
The Cross of Christ

Christ & the Passover

• “Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth.” 1 Cor 5:7-8

• Moses is remembered for his faith in the Passover Heb 11:24-28

• The Lord’s Supper was on Passover Night Mark 14:12-26
The Cross of Christ

Sacrifice - Recap

• The OT Sacrificial System shows us:
  – How the covenant was maintained
  – The seriousness with which God takes sin
  – How atonement can be made
  – The idea of substitution (animals dies for one’s sin)

• Christ was the final sacrifice, the substitute for our sins
The Cross of Christ

OT Study

- Covenants
- Sacrifice
- Roles #1 Priests, Prophets
  - Roles #2 Kings
- Sanctuary
Prophets, Priests & Kings
### The Cross of Christ

**OT Timeline**

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**Promise**
- LAND
- NATION
- BLESSING

**Timeline**
- ~4000 BC
- 2200 BC
- 1500 BC
- 1000 BC
- 500 BC

**Key Events**
- Creation
- The Flood
- Abraham
- Isaac
- Generation of Isaac
- Jacob
- Joseph
- Slaves in Egypt
- Moses
- Passover
- Sinai Covenant
- Kings
- Priests
- Prophets
- Fulfilled in Christ

**New Heaven And Earth**
- Believers
- Spiritual & Future
Why Prophets, Priests & Kings?

1. God uses certain individuals to fulfill His purpose:
   – Noah
   – The Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph)
   – Israel, Moses, Judges, Kings, Prophets
Why Prophets, Priests & Kings?

2. Humans had a particular role on earth:
   - In the Garden Eden
   - Genesis 1:28 – Man has a kingly function
   - Genesis 2:15 – Man has a priestly function
     - “to work it [‘abad] and keep it [samar]”
     - When used together linked to duties with the tabernacle and temple.
Who are Prophets?

- First group of individuals that God used to communicate his plans.
- Includes: Noah, Abraham (first Gen 20:7) Patriarchs, Moses, Samuel, Balaam, Deborah
- Definition: speaker, proclaimer or called one
  - Also knows as seers, one who receives visions
Who are Prophets?

• Role: messenger of God (Ex. 7:1-2; Num 12:6-8)
  – Guidance, Warning, Prediction, Interpretation
• Proclamation: spoke the word of God (“oracles”)
• There are also false prophets that speak there own mind (Jer 5:13)
• Those prophets around during the monarchy guarded the LORD’s covenant relationship with Israel.
Who are the Priests?

- In the covenant made between God and Israel, the whole people of Israel was seen as a “kingdom of priests” and thus a holy people (Exodus 19:6).
- Specific priestly activities belonged to three orders
  - high priest,
  - priest,
  - Levite.
- “Priests” were male descendants of Aaron, who was a Levite (Numbers 3:10), and “Levites” were other male members of the tribe of Levi.
- Priests and Levites were the servants of God in the Old Testament Israel.
- The chief functions of the priesthood took place first in the tabernacle, and later in the temple.
Who are the Priests?

- Priests looked after the vessels used during special ceremonies.
- Performed the offerings and sacrifices.
- In doing their duties they dressed in special, symbolic garments. They had strict cleansing rituals.
- They were also teachers, physicians (Leviticus 13-15).
- The high priest was the spiritual head of Israel and he had special functions, such as entering the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16).
- The Levites assisted the priests and served the congregation in the temple.
  - They sang the psalms,
  - kept the temple courts clean,
  - helped to prepare certain sacrifices and offerings,
  - had a teaching function.
- By it the people offered worship to God, made intercessions and petitions, and learned of God’s will.
The Cross of Christ

Prophets and Priests in the NT

• “priest” is never used in the New Testament of a minister or order in the church.
• The Letter to the Hebrews presents the Old Testament priesthood as fulfilled in Jesus Christ.
  – He has been appointed high priest by God himself (Hebrews 5:4-6).
  – Being totally sympathetic to the needs of sinful people and tempted in all points like them, he himself is without sin (Hebrews 4:15; 7:26).
  – Instead of offering animal sacrifices to take away sin, he offers himself, as the sinless Lamb, to take away sin. This is a perfect atonement (Hebrews 7:27; 9:24-28; 10:10-19).
  – Having risen from the dead, he is a priest forever (Hebrews 7:17).
  – Part of his high priesthood is to offer intercession (pray to God on their behalf) for his people (7:25). He is the mediator of a new and better covenant (7:22; 8:6; 9:15).
The Cross of Christ

Prophets and Priests in the NT

• The New Testament describes believers as
  – “a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:5);
  – “priests to his God and Father” (Revelation 1:6);
  – “a kingdom and priests to our God” (Revelation 5:10);
  – “priests of God and of Christ, and they shall reign with him a thousand years” (Revelation 20:6).

• The priesthood of Christians is their sacrificial obedience to God.

• This involves spiritual worship and love of God and compassionate activity and prayer for their fellow human beings. Paul wrote, “Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship” (Romans 12:1, RSV).
The Cross of Christ

Who are the Kings?

• Next Week
• + Christ the King & Priest
Kings
Why Prophets, Priests & Kings?

Humans had a particular role on earth:

– In the Garden of Eden
– Genesis 2:15 – Man has a priestly function
– Genesis 1:28 – Man has a kingly function
First mention about Kings

• In Moses Sermon at Sinai – Deut 17:14-20
  – What God defined as a what a King does
  – The Lord to rule through the King

• By prophet Samuel when he described what kingship involves 1 Sam 8:10-18
  – What Israel wanted as their King; to be like other nations 1 Sam 8:20
  – Wrong motive
The Cross of Christ

OT Timeline

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Fulfilled in Christ

New Heaven And Earth
Believers
Spiritual & Future

Kings
Priests
Prophets
The Cross of Christ

The Early Kings

- Man after man's heart
  - King Saul
    - Prophet Samuel
- Man after God's heart
  - King David
    - Prophet Nathan
  - King Solomon
    - Prophet Ahijah

Divided Kingdom

- Northern Kings
- Southern Kings
Problem with Kings

- Disobedience to the Law
- **Saul** ignored Samuel’s instructions; Samuel rejected him; no repentance
- **David** loved the Lord; committed adultery and murder; he repented
- **Solomon** loved the Lord; asked for wisdom; but lived a compromising life, He was not only like other kings but disregarded God’s laws about kingship
Solomon

- He asked for wisdom and God blessed him 1 Kings 3:10-14
- With his wisdom, he built a great city and worked with the nations surrounding Israel
- He Built the first Temple for the Lord
- The problem was that he disregarded God’s commands
Solomon’s Unfaithfulness

- He came to throne with some ruthless politics
- Alliance with Pharaoh 1 Kings 3:1
- Ambiguous type of worship 1 Kings 3:3-4
- Solomon’s Bureaucracy 1 Kings 4-5
- Solomon's Palace 1 Kings 7
- Solomon’s Pride 1 Kings 8
- Selling off the promised Land 1 Kings 9
- Reversal of Exodus 1 Kings 9 (Chariots, Daughters, Sailing the Red Sea etc.)
- Violation of Laws for Kings 1 Kings 10:26-11:3 (accumulate horses, wealth, wives)
- As a result God judged Israel and Divided the nation.
The Cross of Christ

Christ - King of Kings

- The Lord’s words to David – eternal King
  – 2 Sam 7:11-16
- Prophecy about the Messiah from David descendants
  Isa. 11:1-10; Luke 1:32-33
- Solomon’s prayer – 1 Kings 8:22-28
- Wiser than Solomon – Luke 11:29-32; 1 Cor 1:24
The Cross of Christ

Summary

• God gave Humans free will – to choose
• It was inevitable that Humans would choose evil
• This brought separation between God and Man
• God is a holy God and has a problem with sin
• There must be a mechanism to restore the relationship
The Cross of Christ

Summary

• God put in place covenants & laws with Israel to set aside a people for himself
• Israel showed it is impossible for Man to be righteous and obedient to God
• It was God who initiated saving actions in Israel’s history
• Finally God had planned that through Christ the way for salvation would be opened, not by our own efforts