

JESUS REVOLUTION

PART 8

We are entering presidential election year. I cannot recall a time when I have felt so negative about the political situation in our nation. I wish there was a man that I felt could be elected as president that could make our country a safe place and a prosperous place to raise our families. I wish there was a man that I felt could be elected as President that could give our country back the freedoms that we have lost. I wish there was a man that I felt could be elected as President that could protect our country from our enemies. I wish there was a man that I felt could be elected that could be an example to the men of our country of what it means to be both a righteous and a compassionate man; a man who lives and upholds God's holy standards and a man who loves the least and the lowest. Our nation is living with the fear of terror and it is a growing fear. We all know that living among us are people that could decide at any moment to murder us. We all know that living among us are people that would not hesitate to use a nuclear device if they had one. Our nation needs a savior!

This was the way the people of Israel felt at the end of the first century BC but their situation was much much worse. They lived in walled cities to protect their families from predators.



They lived under the rule of the Roman Empire. They lived in an environment where at any moment they or their children could be drafted by a Roman soldier to carry his gear for up to a mile. They or their children could be drafted by the Roman governor of their land for a building project. They or their children could be drafted into the Roman army.



They lived with the sheer terror that they could suddenly be required to pledge their ultimate allegiance to Caesar or be executed for treason. They were regular witnesses to the Roman way of execution for those who were convicted for treason.

To make matters even worse, their land was ruled by a tyrannical puppet king named Herod. He was a corrupt, self-serving serial killer who only lived to promote his own glory through building projects that cost thousands of Jews their occupational freedom and cost thousands of Jews their lives. They needed a savior!

The extreme passion the Jews felt for a savior was fueled by prophecy and a promise that their God made to them. He promised through their prophets that one day they would be governed again by a descendant of David.

Isa. 9:6-7

6 For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
7 Of the increase of His government and peace
There will be no end,
Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,
To order it and establish it with judgment and justice
From that time forward, even forever.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.
NKJV

Mic 5:2-5

2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting."
3 Therefore He shall give them up, until the time that she who is in labor has given birth; then the remnant of His brethren shall return to the children of Israel. 4 And He shall stand and feed His flock In the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God; and they shall abide, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth; 5 And this One shall be peace.
NKJV

They longed for this savior that would give them peace! They talked about Him in their homes and in their synagogues. They sang songs about Him. They looked for signs of His arrival. Their anticipation was so great that some were easily deceived by imposters.

But then it happened.

The first announcement of His impending birth was to His mother.



Luke 1:26-38

26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"

29 But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. 30 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

31 **And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.**

32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

34 Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. 37 For with God nothing will be impossible."

38 Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word."

And the angel departed from her.

NKJV

Mary was the first to hear His name! Jesus!

The name Jesus is the Latin form of a Greek name that comes from the Hebrew name Yeshua. It means savior! The meaning of this name described who Jesus was to the Jews! Jesus was their Savior!

After His birth in Bethlehem, the first word of His arrival came from a few shepherds who claimed an angel had led them to the stable in Bethlehem where He was born. Then there were wise men from the east who claimed they had been miraculously led to Israel to worship Him. Then there were contemporary prophets who claimed they were at his dedication.

You would expect the next part of the story to include how the Jews rallied around Jesus and Jesus rose to power. You would expect the next part of the story to be about how Jesus then led the Jews to victory like an Alexander the Great did for the empire of Greece or Augustus Caesar did for the Roman Empire or Genghis Khan did for the Mongolian Empire. But instead the life of Jesus ended with only a small band of followers. He was executed by the Romans.

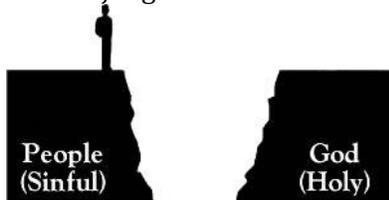
This was a huge disappointment to most of the Jews. They felt disappointed and defrauded.

Only His small band of followers who were witnesses to His resurrection understood that Jesus provided for the Jews a salvation that they did not expect and that they did not even know they needed.

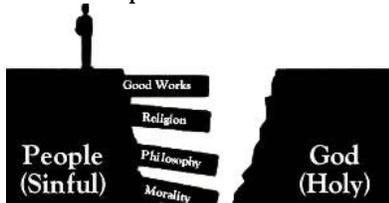
Jesus promised His followers He would return and save the Jews from their political enemies.



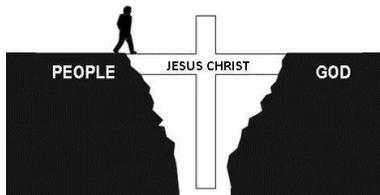
But first He provided a way for them to be saved from their greatest enemies; sin, death, and eternal judgment.



From the fall of the first man, all of mankind was under a curse and the judgment of death and eternal separation from God.



There was nothing that man could do to make things right and avoid this judgment. Even if God chose a nation to be His people and gave them His Holy laws, they would not keep them.



Jesus provided the way of salvation by being born to Mary, living a sinless life, and dying on a cross.

He did everything for Israel that the prophets promised He would do.

[Isa. 53:1-6](#)

1 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? 2 For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. 3 He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. 4 Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace

was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. NKJV

Jesus made available to the Jews the gift of righteousness, a righteousness they could not obtain through God's law.

What Jesus did for the Jews He also made available to the whole world. When Jesus was born, the angels declared this.

Luke 2:13-14

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

14 "Glory to God in the highest,

And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

NKJV

Jesus said...

John 3:16-17

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

NKJV

The apostle Peter said...

2 Peter 3:9

9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

NKJV

Jesus said...

Matt. 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

NKJV

Just as Jesus was the savior for the Israel, He is also savior for you.

His name will become especially sweet and precious to you if you will receive Him. Lord knows, you need a savior.

- He can give you what money cannot buy - inward peace about your future.
- He can give you what expensive therapists cannot give you-rest for your wearied conscience.
- He can give you what your parents cannot give you, a husband cannot give you, and your peers cannot give you-a significant eternal identity.
- He can give you what no person can give you-a perfect love.

Will you receive Him?

There is more than enough physical evidence to reasonably support the claim of Jesus to be the savior of the world.

Jesus said there is only one thing that would keep you from receiving Him. Jesus said people would not receive Him if they loved darkness.

[John 3:19](#)

[19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.](#)

[NKJV](#)

He said men would not come to the light if they loved darkness. Men do not repent of sin and follow Him because they love darkness. Men do not commit themselves to Jesus because they are committed to sin. If you reject Jesus it is because you love sin!

You will not reject Jesus because of unanswered intellectual issues or because of the hypocrites in the church or because it is too hard to follow Jesus. If you reject Jesus today it is because you want to leave here and continue in sin. You love sin more than you love your own family. You demonstrate that by the way that you continue to cause your family to suffer.

The fact that you would reject Jesus because you love sin should show you how depraved you are and how much you deserve eternal judgment from a Holy God. The fact that you love sin should show you how much you need a savior.

To be saved you must repent of sin and follow Jesus. When you receive Jesus you will be born again.

I wish there was a man that I felt could be elected as president that could make our country a safe place and a prosperous place to raise our families. I wish there was a man that I felt could be elected as President that could give our country back the freedoms that we have lost. I wish there was a man that I felt could be elected as President that could protect our country from our enemies. I wish there was a man that I felt could be elected that could be an example to the men of our country of what it means to be both a righteous and a compassionate man; a man who lives and upholds God's holy standards and a man who loves the least and the lowest. I wish there was a man who could save our nation from the sum of all of our fears.

For the sake of our country that I love I wish there was such a savior. There is not such a man who could be elected and who accomplish these things.

But today there is a savior that can give you salvation from sin and a future hope that no one can take from you. His name is Jesus!

Jesus was content to be called by a name that means Savior. He did not instruct his followers to call Him by some other name like Mr. President. It is His role and His delight to be named savior. Savior is who He is. Will you call Him your savior today?

