

### 3/8/26: Week 10, Good news for All People!

#### Welcome

**Intro** (Band stay with me until I pray): **Matthew 24:4-14**, Word from Israel and our ministry partner King of Kings and Pastor Chad. Pastor Chad asks for us to pray! They are in Jerusalem, loving, serving, and sharing Christ with that city. **Pray for them.**

**King Cyrus**, was the ancient Persian King who in 538 BC conquered Babylon. (**Ezra 1**) When he conquered Babylon, he generously set the Jews free, allowed them to return to Jerusalem and even financed the rebuilding of the Jewish temple. His Edict, **The Cyrus Cylendar**, is displayed in the United Nations building today and is considered one of the world's first charters on human rights.

**Ester 50-60 years later:** The Persians were still in power and Hamman wanted to destroy the Jews throughout the Persian empire. However, God used Queen Ester and Mordecai to deliver the Jews. Purim is the day each year the Jews celebrate God's deliverance from the Persians, that was last Monday, **March 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

The conflict between Muslims and the Jews will not end, it will actually user in the second coming of Christ. The next thing to happen on the eschatological calendar is the rapture of the church, the tribulation, and the rise of the anti-Christ. Jews, Christians, and Muslims are all looking for the return of Jesus.

- Muslims believe Jesus is coming back to tell Christians and the world we were wrong about him and Allah is the one true God.
- The person who returns and claims to be Jesus, the Muslims will believe he is Jesus, the Bible calls him the false prophet. (**Revelation 13:11-18**).
- Muslims also believe their savior, deliverer is coming, they call him the **Mahadi**. Their Mahadi, as described in the saying of Muhammad is exactly the way the Bible describes the anti-Christ. The Muslim savior is the Christian Anti-Christ.
- Jesus will return, 144k Jews will recognize him, the Muslims will call Jesus the deceiver and there will be a battle between Jesus and the Anti-Christ. Jesus will defeat the anti-Christ and will wage war against the Muslim nations. This is why, in the Bible, every prophesy about the second coming of Christ, he fights against Muslim nations. For example:

**Jeremiah 49:34-39**, Elam is modern day Iran. This is a prophecy about the second coming when the Messiah will establish his 1000- year reign on the earth.

How should we pray?

- Pray for an open door, for the gospel to go forth. **Verse 14**, "When the gospel is preached, then the end will come!" It is easy to drop bombs but God has called us instead to share the gospel. I am not sure how the Government should respond but what I am certain about is how the church should respond

- Pray for Christ to return! Come Lord Jesus come!

### Books as a resource

- Son of Hamas by Yousef
- Seeking Allah Finding Jesus by Qureshi
- God's War on Terror, Shoebat

### Series Review

#### 1. Jesus is Good News! Acts 8:1-13

**Explain:** We want everyone in our city can hear about Jesus! The early church was under severe persecution and on the run. However, wherever they go, they preached the good news about Jesus.

#### What is this good news?

- **Jesus came to forgive our sin.** Romans 3:23, Romanes 6:32, Romans 8:5, Romans 10:13
- **Jesus came to heal our bodies.** Isaiah 53:5, "by his stripes we are healed" (mind/body)
- **Jesus came to free our hearts.** John 4 (Pain), John 8:32,36 (Identity), Galatians 6 (community), Acts 1:8 (Vision).
- **Jesus came to build his family, a diverse family.** Verse 5

Jews and Samaritans hated each other.

**Mixed Heritage and Ethnicity:** After the Assyrian conquest of the Northern Kingdom, many remaining Israelites intermarried with foreign Gentile settlers, leading Jews to consider Samaritans as racially impure.

**Religious Schism:** Samaritans only accepted the first five books of the Bible (the Torah) and rejected the rest of the Hebrew scriptures. They worshipped on Mount Gerizim rather than in Jerusalem, which Jews viewed as invalid worship and a direct rejection of God's ordained sanctuary.

**Political and Historical Conflict:** Following the Babylonian exile, Samaritans offered to help rebuild the Jerusalem Temple but were rejected by the returning Jews, causing intense resentment.

#### **Samaritans and Ethiopians. Acts 8:26-40**

**Social and Religious Barriers:** The Ethiopian was likely viewed by many 1st-century Jews as an outsider on multiple fronts—he was a Gentile, an African (descendant of Ham), and a eunuch. Eunuchs were considered unclean.

**The Radical Nature of the Encounter:** The Holy Spirit clearly directs Philip to approach the Ethiopian's chariot. God was intentionally breaking down these racial and social barriers.

**We must take the gospel to every ethnic group!**

**Argue:** Acts 2, Revelation 7:9-10, "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 before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding

palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

**Apply: Passion point: Diversity**, this is what heaven looks like.

- **Easter**, Baptism, Record attendance, Easter, Core, Serve, why?

## 2. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit! Acts 8:14-25

**Explain:** In the Old Testament, what was the sign that you were a Jew, you were in the family of God? Circumcision and the generally the law. In the New Testament, everything changed:

- **Ezekiel 36:26-27:** "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you... And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees...".
- **Ephesians 1:13-14 (NIV):** "...When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance...".

Therefore, when Phillip goes to the Samaritans, they receive the Holy Spirit, just like the first believers in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. This confirmed in everyone's minds, the gospel was for Jews and Samaritans.

I want you to notice a pattern:

1. **Believe (The Holy Spirit is Present) Vs. 12**
2. **Surrender (The Holy Spirit is President) Vs. 12**
3. **Filled (The Holy Spirit is Power) Vs. 14-17**

**Argue:** **Ephesians 5:18 (NIV)** - Salvation is a one-time event, the baptism or infilling of the Holy Spirit is an ongoing present reality.

**Illustrate:** Marriage- As you all know, I'm married to Tina but imagine if I had a girlfriend on the side. Of course, Tina would not like that but I could say to Tina, I'm with you, six days a week, you get most of my time and attention. You are clearly my favorite. Do you think that would fly? What I know is living to love and bless Tina all the time with every thought, word and action produces a very different, very fulfilling marriage for both of us. That is what God wants with you. That is what it means to be filled. We do not follow the law, a list of rules, but the Holy Spirit, our hearts, we are relationally driven. Spirit and Truth!

**Apply:** Fidelity produces and protects intimacy. Intimacy produces and protects a blessed life. That last 10% is costing you much more than you know. **Moment of silence.**

## 3. Jesus is knocking on the door of your heart! Acts 8:26-40

**Explain:** How many of you would say, I want God to use me to share Jesus? (raise of hands)

**Illustrate:** Dario- Two little girls walked up to our table, introduced themselves, and invited us to church, when I told them I was a pastor they asked at what church. They were bold, they were pleasant, they were smiling, it was just a great experience.

**I think many people are terrified of sharing their faith:**

## Monthly Practice: Bible Study

- a. **Phillip is listening to the Spirit.** The Spirit is leading him and he has something to say.
- b. **God has scheduled an evangelistic appointment.** God will do the same for you.
- c. **Philip is looking for those who are spiritually open.**
- d. **Philip does not just rush in.** He respectfully begins with a simple question.

**Illustrate:** Arron (Joe) at the golf course, felt led to engage, simple question, attended my Bible study for a month, shared his story, divine appointment, on his way to Jesus.

**Argue: Revelation 3:20**

**Apply: Easter is one month away**

- Attend Saturday night
- Serve 2 on Sunday morning
- Bring your friends (Nathan, Blake, Aaron, Jeff, Kristen)

**Communion**