

**WHOLE HEARTED
ADHERANCE
TO THE BIBLE
AS GOD'S WORD**



Developing Strong
and Deep Disciples
of Jesus



God's Big Picture: An Overview of the Bible

Week 6 – The Present Kingdom

1st September 2019

Stan Thompson



SCF has a voice to
share The Gospel
of Jesus

NEW ERA

Week 6 – The Present Kingdom

- Week 1: Aim of Series (Ben, lead pastor):
- Show that the Bible is one story – all 66 books
 - 40 authors – over 2,000 years – ‘All Scripture is given by inspiration of God’ (cf. 2 Timothy 3:16)
- Week 5: Last week, Paul asked the question: ‘what should we be getting from these talks?’ They are designed to:
- help us see God’s grand plan unfolding through time
 - help us grasp some foundational truths
 - help us have a greater desire read /study the Bible
- Resource: *New Lion Handbook of the Bible*, Lion Publishing, Oxford
- Scope: The Gospels – In NT noun ‘Kingdom’ appears 158 times

Strategies to Convert a Nation (Ch.3) – ‘Unleash the Gospel’

THE NATION'S GOSPEL

Spreading The Christian Faith
In Britain Since The Reformation



VOLUME 1 (1516-1791)
REFORMATION TO REVOLUTION

JEREMY A THOMAS

Foreword By Rico Tice

Hugh Latimer – d.1555

(Bishop of Worcester and chaplain to
king Edward VI)

He warned Edward VI at the
beginning of a sermon that it would
take 3 to 4 hours to deliver, unless
the King commanded otherwise!
It proved to be his last sermon at
Court!

(Nation's Gospel, page 99)

NEW ERA

Book of Malachi (c.450BC)

1:1 The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi.

4:5 Behold, I will send you
Elijah the prophet,
Before the coming of
the great and dreadful
day of the LORD.

4:6 And he will turn the
hearts of the fathers to
the children, and the
hearts of the children to
their fathers, lest I come
and strike the earth
with a curse.



NEW ERA

This is the same Elijah, who...



...on Mount Carmel challenged Israel to decide whom they would serve (1 Kings 18:20-40):

- a) the false god of the prophets of Baal; or
- b) the true and living God – the God who answered Elijah's prayer with fire from heaven

... was taken up to heaven
– in a whirlwind
– and chariot of fire
(2 Kings 2:1-12)



NEW ERA

'The Return of Elijah'

Like a dramatic film
trailer:

'The Return of Elijah:
the prophet of the LORD
God Almighty'

is announced to Israel by
the prophet Malachi
(c.450BC)

and then ... silence ...



NEW ERA

... Silence ... for over 400 years ...

And then, there is a rumour of the birth of a king. Wise men had come from the East saying: “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”

(Matthew 2:1-2)



But Herod – tyrant king/puppet of Rome – was troubled and soon put paid to the rumour. He massacred all the male children under two years old in and around Bethlehem (Matthew 2:3-18).

- God had forewarned Joseph in a dream and he fled with Mary and the baby Jesus to safety in Egypt until the death of Herod (Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23).

NEW ERA

30 more years of silence and then...

Matthew (NKJV)

3:1 In those days, John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,

3:2 saying, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

- John had no wealth, fame nor fortune but his words had power
- He had been filled with the Holy Spirit since he was a child (Luke 1:15)
- John called by God whilst in his mother's womb to go before the LORD to prepare His way 'in the spirit and power of Elijah' (Luke 1:15-17)



NEW ERA

‘Behold, I send My messenger...’ (Malachi 3:1)

- 30 years of preparation
- And now his time had come
- God was about to unleash His prophet John on the people of Israel



- For the ‘word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness’ (Luke 3:2)
- And all Israel came to hear him

Matthew 3:3 (NKJV)

... ‘the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the LORD; make His paths straight.’

NEW ERA

The promise of the Holy Spirit (Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:14-39)

Matthew (NKJV)

3:5 Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him

3:6 and were baptised by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.



3:11 “I indeed baptise you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

The Baptism of Jesus

Matthew (NKJV)

3:13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptised by him. ...

3:16 When He had been baptised, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.



3:17 And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’

NEW ERA

John the Baptist's testimony (prophetic)

John (NKJV)

- 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"
- 1:30 "This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.'
- 1:31 "I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptising with water."

John (NKJV)

- 1:32 And John bore witness saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him.
- 1:33 "I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptise with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptises with the Holy Spirit.'
- 1:34 "And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

The Temptation of Jesus

(compare to Genesis 3:1-24)

Matthew 4:1 (NKJV)

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit
into the wilderness to be tempted
by the devil

Matthew 4:2

And when He had fasted
forty days and forty nights,
afterward He was hungry



NEW ERA

The Temptation of Jesus

Matthew 4:3 (NKJV)

Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God command that these stones become bread.”



Matthew 4:5-6

Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw yourself down...



NEW ERA

Matthew 4:8 (NKJV)

Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory



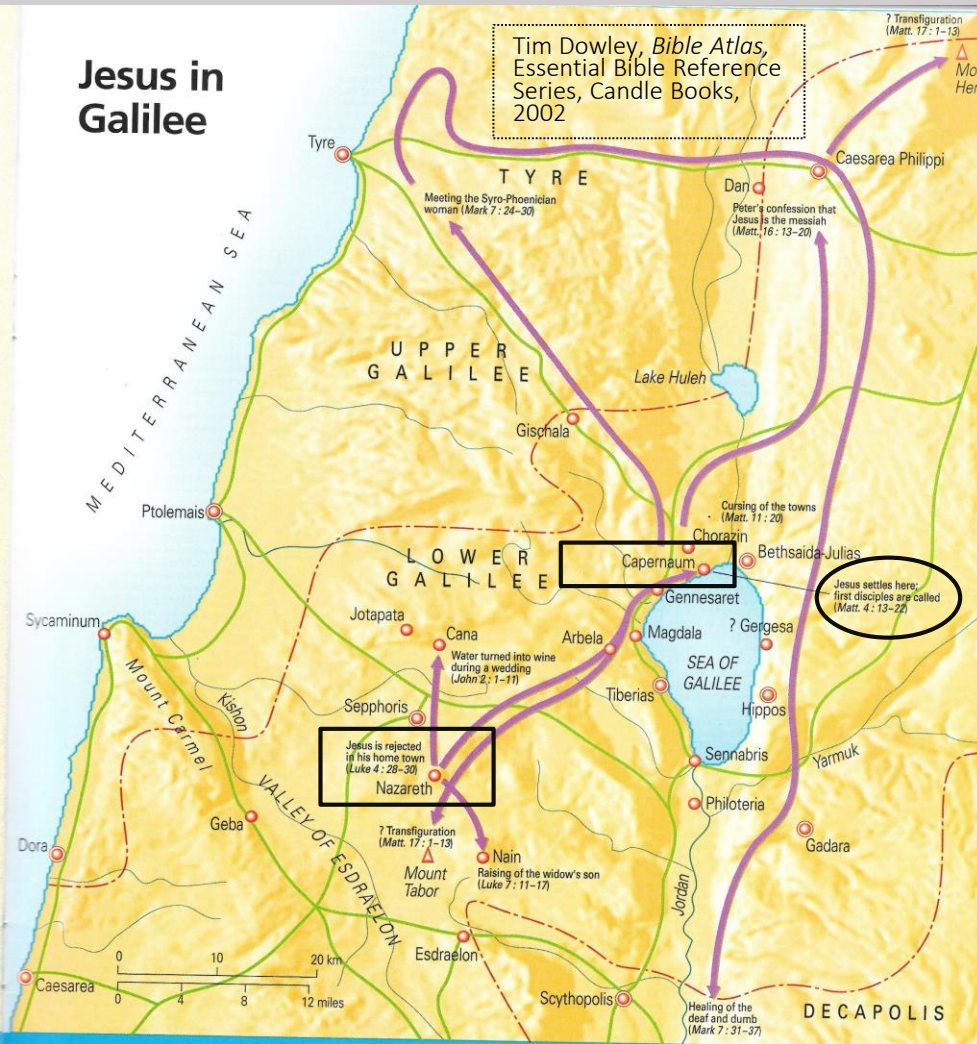
Matthew 4:9

And he said to Him, “All these things I will give you if You will fall down and worship me.”

NEW ERA

Proclamation of the arrival of the Kingdom

Jesus in Galilee



Matthew (NKJV)

- 4:11 Then the devil left Him ...
- 4:12 Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee.
- 4:13 And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea ... (cf. Luke 4:14-32)
- 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach and to say: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

NEW ERA

Examples of the priority of the Kingdom in Jesus' teaching (NKJV)

Matthew 4:17	Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand
Matthew 5:1-10	Blessed are ... for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
Matthew 6:9	Our Father in heaven ... Your kingdom come
Matthew 6:33	Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness
Matthew 7:21	Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven but he who ...
Matthew 10:7	(Disciples) The kingdom of heaven is at hand
Matthew 13	(Parables) The kingdom of heaven is like
Matthew 24:14	(Signs of the Times) This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Messianic Expectations

- When Jesus started His ministry (cf. Luke 4:14-15, 16-19) he was speaking into a cultural, historical and social context that was pregnant with the hope and expectation of a Messiah.

Some Examples of Messianic Expectations

The people	Luke 3:15-16	Was John the Christ? No.
Andrew (Peter's brother)	John 1:35-42	"We have found the <u>Messiah</u> " (which is translated the <u>Christ</u>)
Samaritan Woman	John 4:25-26	"I know the <u>Messiah</u> is coming" (who is called the <u>Christ</u>).
The multitudes (amazed)	Matthew 12:23	"Could this be the Son of David?"

Some Examples of Messianic Expectations

The People
(Feast of Tabernacles)

John 7:14,26

He speaks boldly ... Do the rulers know indeed that this is truly the Christ?

The multitudes
(entry into Jerusalem)

Matthew 21:1-11
(cf. Zech.9:9)

“Hosanna to the Son of David! ...”

The High Priest
(trial of Jesus)

Matthew 26:63-64

I put you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God!” Jesus said to him, “It is as you said. ... hereafter you will see the Son of Man ...”

NEW ERA

Dashed Hopes and Expectations

Two disciples
(road to Emmaus; third
day after the crucifixion)

Luke 24:13-21

So they said to Him, “The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word ... we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. ...”

Redeem Israel from whom?

- The Roman occupation of Israel since 63BC had led to the expectation that the son of David – the promised king of Israel (cf. 2 Samuel 7) – would deliver Israel from the yoke of Rome.
- The popular expectation was of a powerful King not a crucified one!

Luke 24:25-27

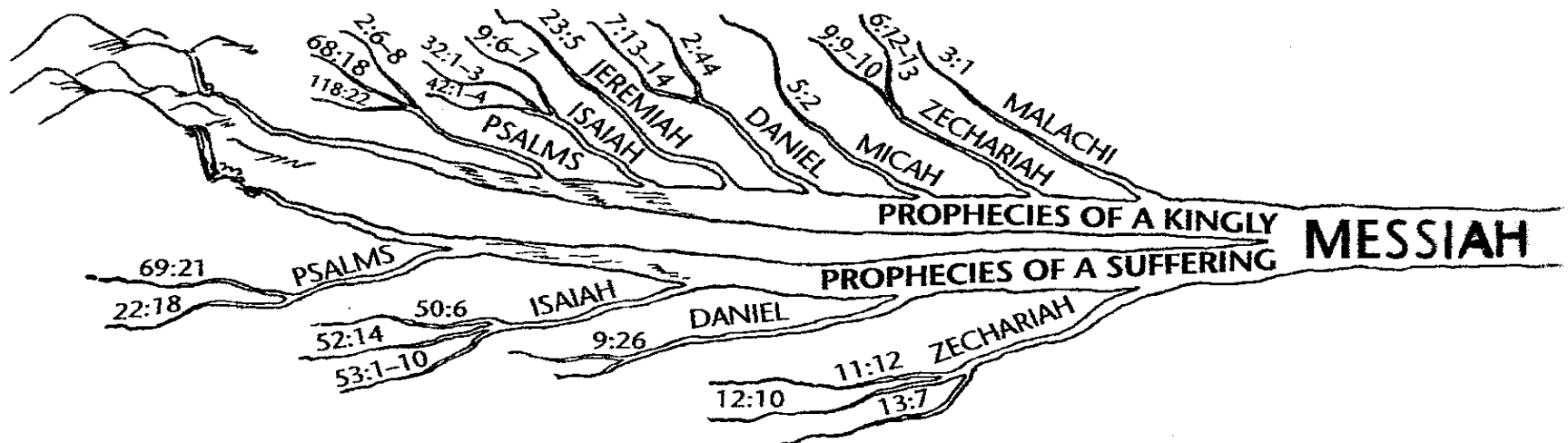
‘O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered ...’

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PROPHECIES CONCERNING JESUS AND THEIR FULFILLMENT

*Thompson Chain
Reference Study Bible*

The Two Branches in the Stream of Messianic Prophecy



NEW ERA

Theme of Prophetic Fulfilment

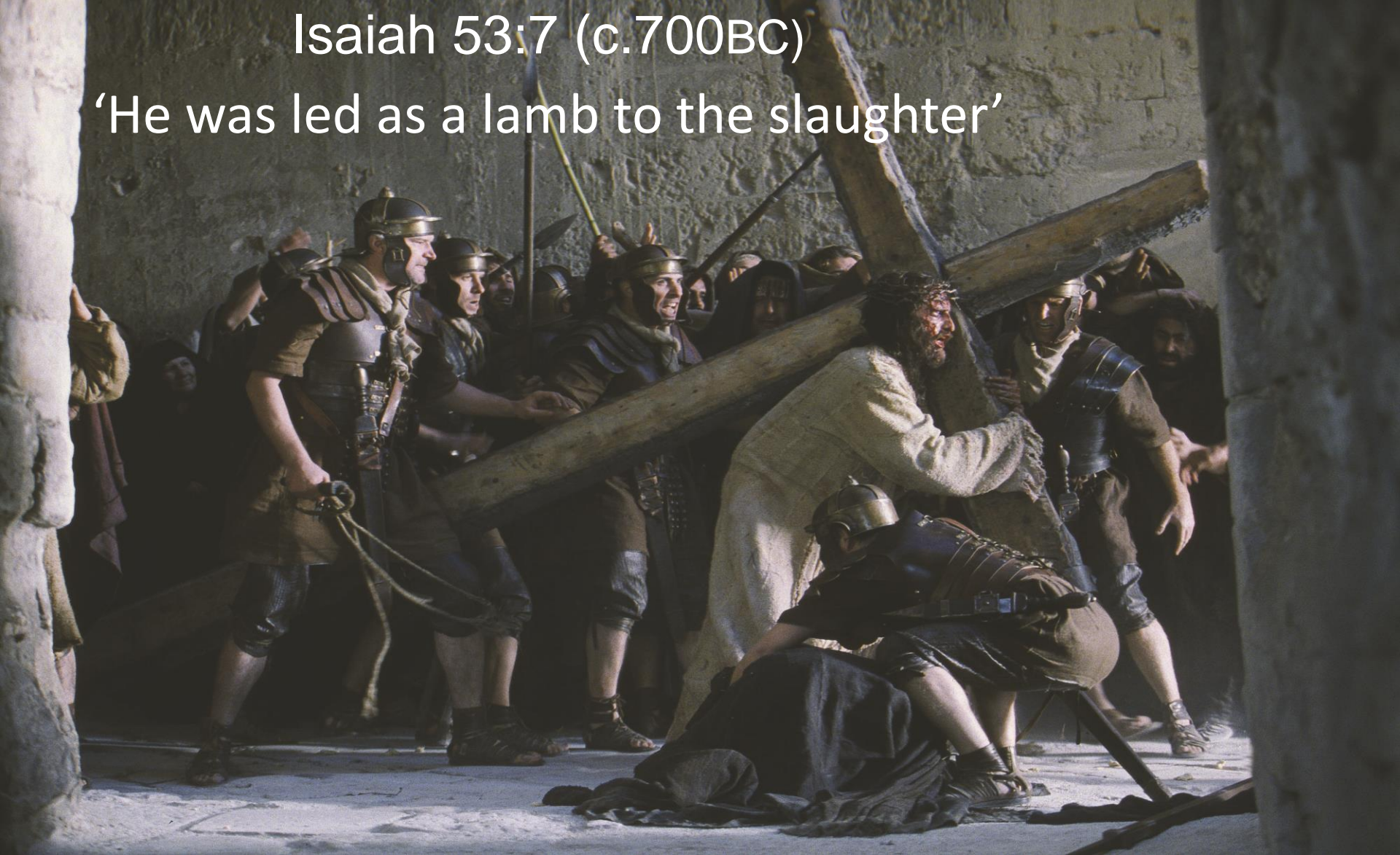
- The theme of prophetic fulfilment is written all over the New Testament – from beginning to end:

Mark 1:14-15 ... Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the gospel.”

Matthew 5:17 “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

Isaiah 53:7 (c.700BC)

‘He was led as a lamb to the slaughter’



NEW ERA

Some examples of Suffering Servant / Messiah Prophecies

NKJV	Prophecy	Fulfilment
Isaiah 50:6 (cf. 52:14)	Shamed, beaten and spat upon	Mark 14:65; John 19:1-3
Isaiah 53:7	‘led as a lamb to the slaughter’	John 19:16 (cf. 1:29)
Isaiah 53:8-9; Daniel 9:26	Imprisoned, judged, killed (‘cut off from the land of the living’)	John 19:38-42
Psalms 22:16; Zechariah 12:10	‘They pierced My hands and feet’	Matthew 27:35
Psalms 22:18	Garments divided – lots cast	John 19:23-24
Psalms 22:6-7	Ridiculed, mocked, ‘He trusted in the Lord, ... Let Him deliver Him...’	Matthew 27:39-40; Mark 15:29-32 Luke 23:35-36

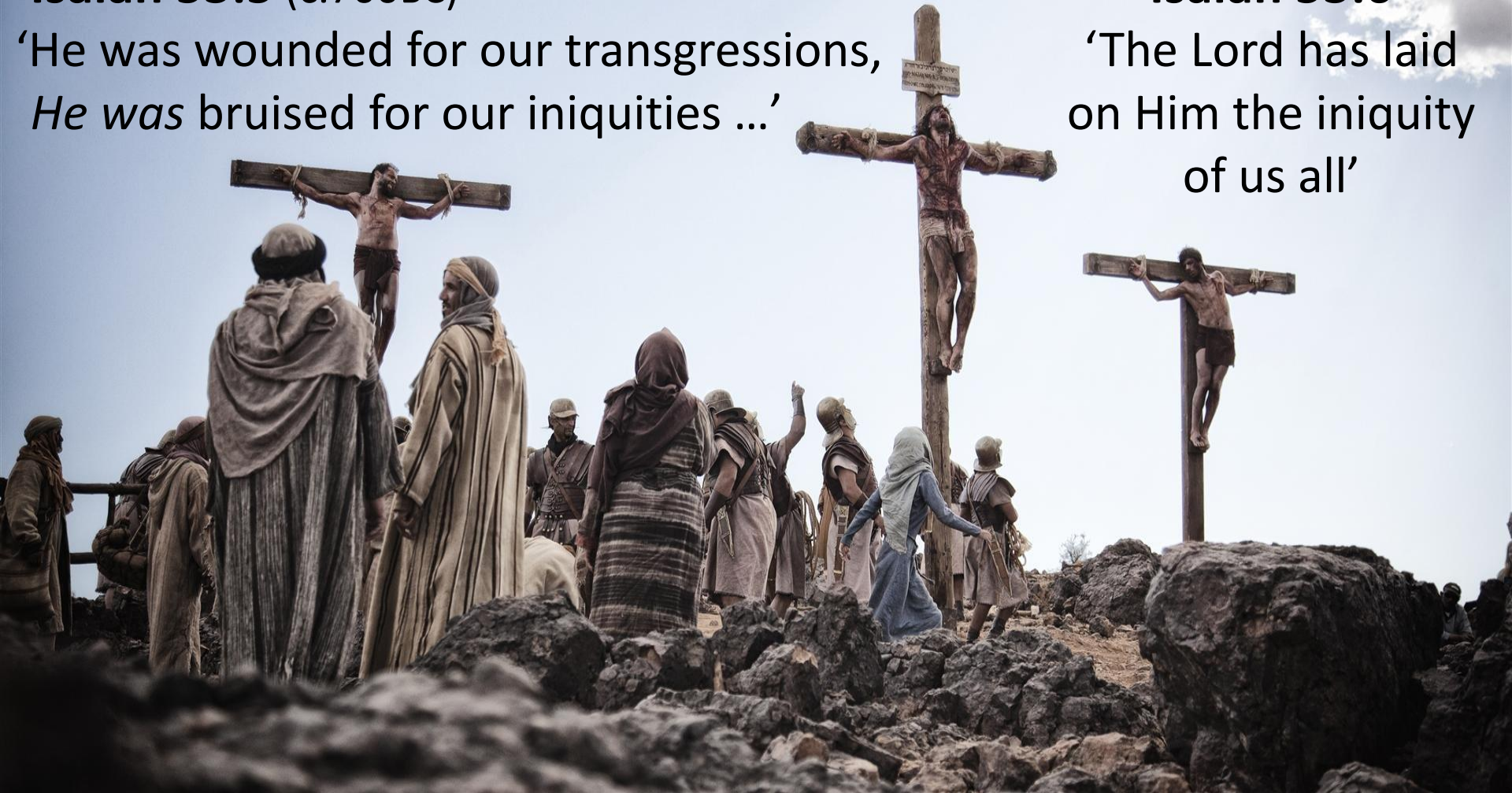
Jesus our substitute

Isaiah 53:5 (c.700BC)

‘He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities ...’

Isaiah 53:6

‘The Lord has laid
on Him the iniquity
of us all’



NEW ERA

Isaiah 53:8


‘For the transgressions of
My people He was stricken’

Isaiah 53:10

His soul was made
‘an offering for sin’



NEW ERA



Jesus our Saviour

Matthew 1:21 (NKJV)
“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

Isaiah 53:12

‘He poured out His soul unto death ...
He bore the sins of many ...’

NEW ERA



Jesus the King

Luke 1:30-35 (NKJV)

“... 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 ... and of His kingdom there will be no end.

God's covenant with David

2 Samuel 7:1-29

cf. Isaiah 9:6-7; 11:1-2;

Daniel 7:13-14

NEW ERA

Angel of the LORD

“Do not be afraid
for I know that
you seek Jesus
who was crucified.
He is not here; for
He is risen ... and
go tell His
disciples that He is
risen from the
dead.”

Matthew 28:1-8

Prophecy

God's Holy One
would not see
corruption
(Psalm.16:10)

Fulfilment

Acts 2:27,31
(Peter)

Acts 13:35
(Paul)

NEW ERA

Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the gospel of the Kingdom of God

- John the Baptist prepared the way (as foretold: Malachi 3:1; 4:5)
- He testified that Jesus is the Lamb of God who came to deal with the problem of sin (John 1:29; cf. Genesis 3; Isaiah 53).
- He testified that Jesus is the baptiser in the Holy Spirit and fire (Matthew 3:11; John 1:33; cf. Acts 2:1-39; Isaiah 11:1-2; Joel 2:28-29)
- He testified that Jesus is the Son of God (John 1:34)
- And God has backed up John's testimony and vindicated His Son by declaring with power that Jesus is indeed 'the Son of God' by raising Him from the dead by the Spirit of holiness (Romans 1:1-4)
- And that is why the risen Lord Jesus Christ is just as focused today on the gospel of the kingdom as He was ... (Matthew 24:14; 28:18-20)
- And that is why Matthew draws attention to God's covenants with David and Abraham from the outset of his gospel (Matthew 1:1)