

Now, I'd like you guess how many f's are in 1 Peter 1:1,2.

How many F's are in this passage?

To God's elect, ... chosen according to the foreknowledge of the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be sprinkled with the blood of Jesus ...

Praise the Father of our Lord!

1 Peter 1:1,2

I'll give you ten seconds.

Keep the answer to yourself.

Don't tell anyone.

Give you a couple of seconds here

3 2 1. Drop your pens!

Raise your hand please if you found 4 f's.

Did anybody find 5 f's?

Anybody find 6?

7 f's?

8 f's?

The answer: 8 f's.

You looked surprised!

Most of you guessed 4 or 5 f's.

Some of you guessed 6.

One person got 7.

Nobody got 8.

Who got it right?

What 2 letter word ending in "F" did many of us miss?

Yes, the word "of" in this passage.

There is an "f" in the word "of" that many of you missed.

Several days ago, while preparing for this sermon,

I tried this brain teaser with my wife.

She only found 4 f's – I smirked.

When I showed her that there were actually 8 f's,

she felt foolish, she was embarrassed.

So the reason I'm doing giving you this brainteaser is that

I wanted to also pass on this feeling of foolishness to you all,

to make everyone feel foolish.

No, I'm just kidding,

That's not why I'm giving you this brain teaser.

I give you this brain teaser because this is a good analogy for my sermon today.

You see, the vast majority of you here -- I know -- are very smart people,

but most of you got the answer wrong.

Why?

Because you missed the f's in this passage.

Now, the same is true when it comes to reading the Bible: oftentimes people get the wrong message because they miss the main point of the Bible.

In today's Bible passage in Luke 24, we see the same phenomenon with Jesus' two disciples: they had missed the main point of Scripture.

Now, our Bible passage starts with two followers of Jesus heartbroken by the death of their leader.

As the two make their way to Emmaus, the resurrected Christ accosts them.

Jesus asks, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other?"
Luke 24:17

The two men, however, cannot recognize Jesus.
They say to Jesus,

"Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" (vs. 18).

Approximately 2 million pilgrims were in Jerusalem during Passover according to the Jewish historian Josephus.

Many Jews from all over the Roman Empire would have come to Jerusalem for the Passover.

Most of these Jews would have witnessed the crucifixion of Christ. Because Roman crucifixions always took place on major roads – with high traffic.

They say to Jesus,

The chief priests and our rulers handed [Jesus] over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. Luke 24: 20,21

Then Jesus rebukes them,

"O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

(Luke 24:25-27)

It's very interesting that these two disciples of Christ – who had lived with Him, who had heard His sermons, failed to understand who the Christ was

until Jesus “opened the Scriptures” to them through the entire Old Testament.
the books of Moses to the books of the Prophets!

Jesus said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” Luke 24:44

Why does Jesus say, “... Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms”?

The Hebrew Bible has a threefold division:

1. Moses – Torah תּוֹרָה (The Law) 2. Prophets 3. Psalms (or what we call the Writings.)

So let me explain this threefold division of the Hebrew Bible.

1. Moses – the Torah תּוֹרָה

Also called the Law.

So I’m going to give you a lesson about the Bible that Jesus used -- the Jews used -- 2000 years ago.

The first portion of the threefold division is what we called the Torah/Moses. Moses wrote the first 5 books of the Bible.

In Greek, it is called Pentateuch, “penta” meaning 5.

There are five books and the first book is called Genesis. In Hebrew it is called Bəreshit (בְּרֵאשִׁית, literally "In the beginning").

In the Hebrew Bible, how they named the book of the Bible was by using the first word(s).

And the second book of the Bible is Exodus, in Hebrew, “Shəmot “(שְׁמוֹת, literally "Names"). “These are the names of ...” These words are the first word(s) of Exodus.

The next book of the Law is Leviticus. And in Hebrew, Vayikra (וַיִּקְרָא, literally "And He called").

The next is Numbers and in Hebrew Numbers is Bəmidbar (בְּרֵאשִׁית, literally "In the desert").

And the last book of Moses/the Pentateuch is called Dəvarim (דְּבָרִים, literally "Things" or "Words") in Greek is means "Second-Law") That’s why you sometimes see a repetition in the first five books of the Bible.

2. Prophets – נְבִיאִים

Does anyone know what “Prophets” is in Hebrew? Nevi'im

The Prophets consist of eight books in the following order: Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Isaiah, and the Twelve (the Minor Prophets).

By the way, the books of the Old Testament we Protestants have today is the same Bible the Jews used 2000 years ago in Jesus’ time and even today. Not like the Roman Catholics who have added books to the original Bible, but

that's another issue I can introduce another time.

3. Psalms or Writings (Ketuvim) כְּתוּבִים is the third portion of the Bible, In Greek it is "Hagiographa" [hagee-og-ruh-fuh] "Hagios meaning "Holy" and "Graphe" meaning Scripture.

The third portion comprises a miscellaneous collection of sacred writings that were not classified in either Moses or the Prophets.

Do you know the first book of the Hagiographa or the Writings (Ketuvim)? It is the Psalms. The first book of the Writings is the Psalms. That's why Jesus calls it the Psalms.

"Psalms" is a synecdoche.

Let me teach you a new word. This is not a Biblical word but all languages use it.

Synecdoche is figurative language.

A synecdoche is using part of a whole to represent the whole.

- Eg., "O God of Jacob," "Jacob" is an example of synecdoche to refer to a "Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob" Sometimes you see in the Bible "the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob" but to use a synecdoche you can say "the God of Jacob." Or it can refer to all of Israel. Remember Jacob is the father of all the tribes of Israel. Sometimes "Jacob" refers to all of "Israel."

We use synecdoche in Korean as well. If you say to your friend, have eaten rice? "Rice" in Korean represents the whole meal, "rice" includes all the side dishes. "Rice" is a synecdoche.

Psalms a part of the Writings, as the first book of the Writings (Ketuvim) and it represents all the Writings.

How do I know it represents all of Scripture?

If you look here, we have the Torah.

We have an acronym of the Hebrew names of the three divisions.

The first letter of Torah is "T."

The first letter of Nevi'im – the Prophets, is "N."

The first letter of Ketuvim is "K."

So we have "TNK," the "Tanakh."

In Hebrew, the Jews call their Bible the Tanakh (TNK).

Everyone repeat after me, ""Tanakh." I will teach you a new word that you can use to impress your Jewish friend.

The "K" is a Guttural/Uvular sound.

I actually have here a Hebrew Bible and it was given to me by my Jewish friend in Israel. I've been to Israel 6 times.

If you look here, the first letter of Torah is “T” or the “Tav”.

The first letter is “N” or “Nun” of Nevi'im.

The first letter of Ketuvim is “K” or “Kaf”

So you get “Tanakh.”

So Jesus was referring to the Tanakh, the Old Testament.

Remember? In Jesus times, there was no New Testament yet. They wrote the New Testament after Jesus died by His Apostles.

However, they did have the Old Testament and it comprised of three sections.

So that's why Jesus says,

“... everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms,...” Luke 24:44

And in vs.27, it states,

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, [Jesus] explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. (Luke 24:27)

God's word reveals to us that the entire Bible is all about Christ.

He is the main theme of the Bible.

But unfortunately the Jews did not see that the Scriptures testified to Jesus.

“You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.” John 5:39,40

Regrettably, the Jews, to this day, study their Bibles without Christ on the radar.

As a result, they are left with no Christ.

No Christ, no Gospel!

Then all that's left are commandments.

That is why Judaism is a religion of works righteousness .

The Old Testament is reduced to moralistic messages and laws and

self-help principles for holy living,

which the Jews today call the “halakhah, meaning “to walk in righteousness” or “the way of walking.”

Now it's easy for us Christians to be critical of the Jews:

“Shame on them for missing Christ in their OT readings!!”

But I have some bad news for us Christians: Even we often times make the same mistake as the Jews – even our pastors and Bible study leaders.

Let me show you some examples of popular sermon titles without Christ as the theme:

“Dare to be a Daniel”

“Five Stones to Slaying the Giants in Your Life”

“How to Be Wise Like Solomon”
“7 Principles of Moses and Joshua’s Leadership”
“6 Examples of Righteous Mothers in the Bible”
“Be like David, Don’t be like Saul”

Have you heard these sermon titles?
How often have we heard moralistic sermons entitled:
“Dare to be a Daniel” -
Be brave like Daniel and face the lions in your life.

Or “Five STONES to slaying the GIANTS IN YOUR LIFE”
Be victorious like David by using the 5 principles to overcoming the major obstacles in your life.

“How to Be Wise Like Solomon”
Techniques on making you wiser and better in your decision-making.

“Seven Principles of Moses and Joshua’s Leadership”
These 7 principles will turn you into a better leader.
Leadership principles to help you run your church, your company, your family!

“Six Examples of Righteous Mothers in the Bible”
These Bible Moms will motivate you to be a good, righteous mother!
I actually got this title from a Mormon website.

Be like David, Don’t be like Saul
Be Like David, seek after God’s own heart!
I got this from a Jewish friend in Israel.

Now I’m not saying we should seek after God’s heart or that morals and laws are bad – I’m not saying that.
But we have to remember,
following good morals, principles, and laws does not lead to salvation, according to Scripture.
So if the Bible gets reduced to self-help, motivational, moralistic, legalistic, do’s and don’ts principles – without gospel (without Christ), the Bible become nothing more than Aesop’s Fables, stories with no power to save sinners.

And honestly, all religions endorse these non-Gospel themes.
These themes are taught by Jewish, Roman Catholics, Mormons, Jehovah Witness, and even Muslim teachers.
All religions, however, are contrary to the Gospel.
That is why, all religions, except true Christianity, cannot -- and will never – teach the Gospel.

Unfortunately, even our churches are losing their Gospel distinctive.
A case in point:
I did some personal research on the percentage of sermons on a given

Sunday that contain the Good News of the Gospel.
My samples were the 200 Christian churches
I had visited over past 15 years
in the 10 cities I have lived in,
cities in North America, Asia, Africa, and Europe.
The result I am sorry to say:
90% of sermons delivered on an average Sunday are
moralistic, legalistic, self-help, motivational, and therapeutic.
90% of sermons have no saving message of the Good News.
That means the average Christian is not getting fed Christ by the pastor on
the Lord's Day.

What's more?

If you were to invite your non-Christian friend to these churches,
the chances are your friend would not hear a message of salvation.

What a waste of time for you and for your friend!

Now listen to what Paul says about preaching Christ,
about preaching the Gospel.

Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel! 1 Cor. 9:16

... but we preach Christ crucified ... 1 Cor. 1:23

... Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead 1 Cor. 15:12

I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto
salvation to every one that believes. Rom. 1:16

And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on
teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ. Acts 5:42

So, from these aforementioned verses, what must the pastor preach?
The pastor must preach Jesus, must preach Christ, must preach the Gospel.
No Gospel means no salvation
A sermon without Gospel – is not a Christian message.

So why do we neglect the Gospel?

Because the Gospel is counter-intuitive to us,
because the Gospel is manna from heaven.

To sinful man, the Gospel is "what is it?"

Gospel is alien to us.

Our human inclination is, as Bible readers, to not look for it;
as preachers, to not preach it;
and as Bible study teachers, to not teach it.

And I'm personally guilty of this too!

When I was 20 years old,

I too was a Sunday study teacher that did not focus on Christ.
I took pride in making my lessons practical for my students' daily lives –
My Bible study dealt with topics teenagers were interested in:
how to be a good student,
how to be a good friend,
how to date,
how to be successful in life.

Soon, my bible study became the most popular at my church.
I went to the largest Korean church in Vancouver.
I became arrogant,
conceited because my practical methods attracted many students.

Yet another source of arrogance came from the fact that I had read the Bible several times as a young boy, so I won a lot of Bible trivia contests at my church.

Thus I smugly felt like I knew Scripture well to the point where I actually started to get bored with reading the Bible.

There's nothing new for me to learn, I thought.

Until one day after hearing the benefit of reading the Bible with cross reference, I decided to enhance my understanding of Scripture by checking the cross references in the margins.

Do you see the cross reference in the margins here – on the sides?
So I decided to read the passages listed in the margins from the OT and NT.

As I read the OT and
checked NT references,
and as I read the NT and
checked OT references,
I was humbled by the fact that I actually had very little understanding of the underlying theme of the Bible.

And just like the Jews,
I had missed the main point of the Bible:
And because I didn't read Scripture with Christ as the main subject,
I was crippled – handicapped -- in my understanding of Scripture.
Once I understood that all Scriptures point to Christ,
I began to see that the Bible stories were not about good guys versus bad guys.
I had erroneously taught my students in my Sunday School classes.

Sheepishly, I went back and looked at all my old Bible study lessons I had made – lessons that I used to take pride in.
To my horror, I noticed my lessons were filled with just moralistic teaching.

My lessons had focused on encouraging my students to do their best to follow

the moral example of Abraham, Moses, David, Daniel, Solomon and even myself.

I challenged them every week to be good role models themselves, but egregiously I had missed the main theme of the Bible: the Gospel.

Once I realized I had been a bad Bible study teacher, I repented,

“God I’m so sorry! I didn’t teach your message.”

You see, I had taught man’s wisdom, not God’s wisdom.

The mistake I had made was that I had read the Bible egocentrically, rather than Christocentrically.

Paul says,

For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord. 2 Cor. 4:5

Here we have the word “ego” and “ego” means “I” or “myself.”

So someone who looks at the Bible from an egocentric perspective is someone who focuses on himself rather than on Christ.

Let me tell you the differences between the egocentric and the Christocentric perspective.

Someone taking the egocentric approach asks these questions:

- How is this Bible passage practical to/ beneficial for me?
 - How does this verse challenge me?
 - What are some principles, techniques, and directions I can take away from this verse so that I can be more successful in life?
- What does this passage mean to me?

This person employs a subjective interpretation of Scripture

But someone looking from a Christocentric perspective asks these questions:

- Where is Christ in this Bible passage?
- How does this person/object point to Christ?
- How does this passage reveal the Good News/Gospel?
- What has God done through Jesus Christ to redeem sinners?

The Christocentric believer uses an objective interpretation of Scripture.

In Luke 24, Christ gives the two disciples a Christocentric perspective of the Tanakh.

The eyes of the two are opened and they finally recognize who He is.

It’s Jesus!

In a state of amazement and joy, they say to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” (Luke 24:32)

Have you ever had Scripture opened to you?

Have you ever had your heart burn within you because Christ had opened your blind eyes?

Just like the two disciples on the road to Emmaus,
15 years ago, I too had a “heart burning” understanding.

Both the OT and NT are centered on the Gospel.
As I, for the first time, began to see that.
By reading the Bible through the lens of Christ as the main figure,
I saw the Bible anew.
Even books of the Bible I once considered boring such as Leviticus and
Numbers, became thrilling.

And so to facilitate cross-referencing between OT and NT,
I actually took a pair of scissors and cut my Bible into two –
the OT on side and the NT on the other side.
I laid both OT and NT in front of me and read simultaneously and it gave me a
new understanding of the Bible.
My understanding was taken to another level.

So when I read about Isaac in the OT,
I noticed the NT cross-references in the margins.
Isaac is mentioned the OT but is also mentioned in the NT in Heb. 11:17-19:
By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who
had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even
though God had said to him, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be
reckoned.” Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in
a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.

So I realized that Isaac was pointing to Christ. He is a type of Christ.

When I read about the temple and the curtain in the Old Testament,
I went to the New Testament reference in the margin.
And it explained the torn curtain of the temple in Heb. 10:18-20:

And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.
Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most
Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us
through the curtain, that is, his body,

I realized the curtain signifies the torn body of Jesus Christ.
So I became excited, I could finally see these OT passages were fulfilled in
Christ.

Take a look at these types and shadows of Christ in the OT. This is not an
exhaustive list.

Here is a list I made of Old Testament Types and Shadows of Christ with New
Testament References:

Adam (Rom. 5:14),
The First Fruit (1 Cor. 15:20-23 [Lev. 23:10-11]),

Tree of Life (Rev. 22:2),
Abel (Heb. 12:24)
King Melchizadeck (Heb. 5:6-10),
Isaac (Heb. 11:17-19),
Jacob's ladder (John 1:51),
the sacrificial Passover lamb (1 Cor. 5:7),
sin offering (Heb. 13:11, 12)
the sacrificial offering pleasing to the Lord (Heb. 10:5-10; Luke 3:22, [Lev. 1:3-9]),
the High Priest (Heb. 9:7 and 24)
manna (John 6:35, 48-51)
the cleft rock (1 Cor. 10:4)
the bronze snake (John 3:14-16)
Solomon (Luke 1:32 and 33)
Jonah (Matt. 12:39-41)
the temple (John 2:19-22)
the torn curtain of the temple (Heb. 10:18-20)

Do any of these examples look familiar?
Do you know that in every sermon I have delivered to you so far,
I have given you types and shadows of Christ?

Remember over a month ago, Abel?
Abel's bloody sacrifice was a shadow of Jesus' bloody sacrifice that appeases
God's wrath.
And Abel's own blood points to Christ's death.

Do you remember the parable of Lazarus?
In my sermon,
I told you that the sin offering was burned outside the gate,
so Jesus suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his
own blood.

Last week, I taught you the manna from Heaven, which is Jesus. He is the
bread of life that comes down from heaven.

Remember three weeks ago, we talked about the cleft rock Moses struck?
That rock symbolized Jesus on the cross.

About 2 months ago, I talked about the torn curtain that symbolized Jesus'
torn body on the cross.

Through these examples, can you see that the OT is all about Christ?

Brothers and Sisters,
I encourage you to read the Bible with the Gospel in mind,
And if you do so, I believe,
just like the two disciples,
your eyes will be opened and your hearts will burn within you.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father,

We bless your name, for you have given us Christ throughout all of scripture. May you forgive us when we read Scripture egocentrically, when we put Jesus on the sidelines when He should be the main, the center, the core of our understanding of Scripture. Forgive us of our sinfulness and may we repent and believe in you for our salvation. Give us everyday our daily bread that comes through the Good news of Jesus Christ. May we feed on him for our justification and feed on the Gospel daily for our sanctification until our glorification. We praise you for your redemptive plan. Amen

Now that you know that they point to Christ, does it not

the main purpose of God's unfolding drama is to point to Christ as the fulfillment of Scripture.

To this end,

systematically, start reading a Bible with middle or marginal column cross-references. As you read through the Bible, take time to look at all the cross references in the marginal or middle column.

Abel (Heb. 12:24),

to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Sin offering (Heb. 13:11, 12),

¹¹ The high priest carries the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place as a sin offering, but the bodies are burned outside the camp.

¹² And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood.

Manna (John 6:35, 48-51)

⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. ⁵⁰ But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

The Rock (1 Cor. 10:4)

⁴ and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.

This is what we call Reading the Bible Redemptive-Historically. From Genesis to Revelation, the whole of Scripture is about God redeeming a people for himself. The Bible is essentially one grand story – a drama about Christ as the central figure - in which God, through His Son, is reconciling sinful man to Himself.

As I realized

Jonah (Matt. 12:39-41)

³⁹ He answered, "A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰ For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. ⁴¹ The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now something greater than Jonah is here.

The Bronze Snake (John 3:14, 15)

¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

Type of Christ

No the criminal the defendant is told always in scripture in legal settings stand before me

in this amazing passage of scripture God himself says I will stand before you in court

then he says I will stand on the rock

he is symbolically identifying himself with the rock.

God is that rock

here the rock has connotations of creator savior redeemer and so Israel is real look like God on trial for breaking his covenant

but in this amazing story God stands in the place of the accused

God will take their punishment

he will become their substitute

will sacrifice himself for the punishment that they deserved

God is the only innocent one but he bears the judgment

God willingly decide to take the punishment

Instead, the stories of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation are essentially one narrative with Christ as the chief character.

Isaac (Heb. 11:17-19),

¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, ¹⁸ even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." ¹⁹ Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.

Jacob's ladder (John 1:51),

⁵¹ He then added, "Very truly I tell you, you will see 'heaven open, and the

angels of God ascending and descending on' the Son of Man."

The sacrificial Passover lamb (1 Cor. 5:7),

⁷ Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

The Bronze Snake (John 3:14, 15)

¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

Solomon (Luke 1:32, 33)

³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,

³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

The temple (John 2:19-22)

¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

²⁰ They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" ²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

the veil of the temple (Heb. 10:18-20)

¹⁸ And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body,

In Conclusion,

Just as we miss the F's in the of in our activity brain teaser, we miss the Christ in the stories of the OT.

Beloved, my desire that all of you will read the bible – no longer in the dark, but God will open your eyes and that your hearts will burn within you.

Part 2

In part, my misconceptions stemmed from preachers and Christian authors

that taught messages such as, "Be like Jacob, the good guy! Don't be like Esau, the bad guy!"

Unfortunately, these Christian leaders had failed to realize that the OT, as well as the NT, is not a bunch of character stories in which we receive our inspiration to live moral and ethical lives.

It was necessary

Is 53

And had to suffer -

Jewish friend on bus

Some Jews believe in 2 Messiahs.

in the Old Testament of the prophecies of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ it was necessary that they would be fulfilled with great precision now Jesus according to verse 26 addressed those portions of the Old Testament that foretold Foreshadowed that it was necessary for him to suffer that was the part that the disciples missed as they saw a only the glory they did not see the groanings and so Jesus just now must correct their misunderstanding before he would enter into his glory the Old Testament stated that he must suffer and his suffering and his sin bearing substitutionary death upon a cross he sufferings of the Lord Jesus Christ than any begins in Genesis 3 and on the 1st mention of the gospel God himself is the preacher in the garden God proclaims that the seed of the woman must be bruised but he will crush the head of the serpent but he will be bruised and he will suffer but he will recover from that suffering and even in that is a foreshadowing of the resurrection and then there was the animal in the garden that must be slain and be skinned in order to close Adam-and-Eve and then to a foreshadowing of the suffering of the Lord Jesus Christ and then a Genesis for the blood of Abel's sacrifice must be shed in order for it to be a better and more acceptable sacrifice of a ram caught in a thicket offered up by Abraham and Genesis 22 The suffering of the Lord Jesus Christ substitutionary suffering and the passover lamb must be slain and the blood must be applied to the lintels of the door but there must be a death there must be a death of the one who is innocent but \ the entire Leviticus sacrificial system is a foreshadowing of the sufferings of the Lord Jesus Christ and

Leviticus 1 through 5 we read that the head of the house must slay the young
all and
offer up the blood
Old Testament in foreshadowing the coming of christ and
the good must be slain on the day of atonement
the bronze serpent must be lifted up in the wilderness
cursitt man must hang on a tree and Deuteronomy 21
and the greater is son of David must cry out in Psalm my God my God why
have you forsake

he would be surrounded by many enemies who are like roaring lion and they
must Pierce his hands I just think it was cannot this bro they must divide his
garments it was foretold in the Old Testament of a suffering said it must be
betrayed by a friend who eats bread with now he must be betrayed for 30
pieces of silver he must not have a bone broken he must be pierced and
looked upon as a public spectacle the servant of the Lord passages and
Isaiah 40 to 4950 and 52 and 53 speak of how he must suffer he must be the
Prize won by the nation I say A497 he must give this back to those who strike
him and

his beard must be plucked out says and I say a 50 to 14 he must have his
appearance fard more then any hand I say A5033 he must be despise he
must be forsaken of men same verse he must be a man of sorrows he must
be acquainted with grief for the sins
carry our sorrows he must be pierced for our transgressions he must be
crushed for our iniquities
he must suffer art chastening and are scourging a must be oppressed he
must be afflicted he must be cut off from the land of the living
time does not permit us tonight took
all the way through every portion of Old Testament scripture but
suffice to say there is this clear message
that this messiah who will come he must suffer rejection
he must suffer death

these 2 disciples missed this is what we nor clearly understand in the light of
New Testament scripture the message of the karosses an offensive message
the message of the cross
it is one of the suffering of the Lord Jesus Christ as he bled and died in the
place of sinners
lay down his life a ransom for many
it is a message of great sorrow and suffering and sin bearing
runs throughout the Old Testament

Bible Prophecy: Isaiah 53:3 says, "He was despised and rejected by men, a
man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide
their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not."
Fulfillment: John 1:10-11 says, "He was in the world, and though the world

was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him."

Bible Prophecy: Psalm 41:9 says, "Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me."

Fulfillment: Mark 14:10 says, "Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them."

Bible Prophecy: Zechariah 11:12 says, "I told them, 'If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it.' So they paid me thirty pieces of silver."

Fulfillment: Matthew 26:14-16 says, "Then one of the Twelve - the one called Judas Iscariot - went to the chief priests and asked, 'What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?' So they counted out for him thirty silver coins."

Bible Prophecy: Isaiah 53:7 says, "He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth."

Fulfillment: Mark 15:5 says, "But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed."

Bible Prophecy: Psalm 22:7-8 says, "All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads: 'He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.'"

Fulfillment: Matthew 27:41-44 says, "In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. 'He saved others,' they said, 'but he can't save himself! He's the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, I am the Son of God.' In the same way the robbers who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him."

Bible Prophecy: Psalm 22:17-18 says, "I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing."

Fulfillment: John 19:23 says, "When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom."

Preach Christ – preach Gospel – word search.

Even with our worship, the church today, wants to go back to Egypt.

God has commanded us to be holy – set apart from the world in our worship (Ezra 6:21; Ezra 9:1; Neh. 9:1-4; 2; Ezekiel 14:3-7; Cor. 6:14-17).

But, as did Israel in Exodus 32 and time and time again, we too look to the world – Egypt - and bring in the idols of Egypt (Ezekiel 20:7,8, 16-18;), the idols of the world, into our holy place of worship –

we imitate and adopt the practices and customs of the nations (2 Kings 17:7,8,15,19,41; Psalm 106:35,36; Ezekiel 20:32; James 4:4)–

and we use the idols of our hearts as golden calves to worship YHWH (Exodus 32:5).

What's popular today? What does the young generation like?
Pop music?

Let's make Christian pop music?

What's contemporary?

Aha, let there be contemporary Christian music.

We adulterate and profane Holy and acceptable worship,

by attempting to create with - our own hands (Ps. 135:15)

– with our own tools (Ex. 20:25; Ex.32:4; Deut. 27:5; Joshua 8:31; 2 kings 22:17)

- we create our own worldly splendor (Luke 21: 1-6; 1 Peter 2:25-3:4; Gal. 6: 13,14),

we create worship that is pleasing to OUR eyes and OUR ears – pleasing to all our senses,

rather than the spiritual splendor that comes from Christ that is pleasing to God (Luke 3:22; John 8:28; Hebrews 10:5-9; 2 Peter 1:17).

If you want to know what Jesus would do in worship,
look at the last supper,
the first Christian church service held in the upper room led by Jesus.

Matt. 26 and Mark 14 reveals to us that

It was simple worship,
not glamorous, not dazzling,
definitely not entertaining
there was no public exhibition of artistic or musical talent

No just simple, corporate singing of the psalms (Matt. 26:30; Mark 14:26).

Jesus preaching a message about the cross (Matt 26:21-25,31,32;Mark 14:18-21,27,28).

And the breaking of bread – the first communion (Matt: 26:26-28;Mark 14: 22-25).

Nothing glamorous, nothing spectacular, just ordinary.

So don't look to the average mega-church to see what would Jesus do in worship.

You see, suppressing the truth in our unrighteousness, we worship that which is created – idols - rather than the Creator (Romans 1:25).

Remember: We are like Israel, our example (1 Cor. 10).

The great question in Exodus was concerning Israel's worship:
Whom will you worship - God or Pharaoh?

God wanted his people to serve Him alone,
but the Israelites wanted to go back and serve Pharaoh.

Beloved, let us repent, before God spews us out as He did with the idolatrous Israelites time and time again (Lev. 20:22)

Because of their idolatry,
He eventually called them the dreaded "Not my people" (Hosea 1,2: Romans 9).

Let us repent, as King Hezekiah (2 Kings 17,18)

and King Josiah (2 Chronicles 34),

who did right in God's eyes (2 Kings 18:3),

As these 2 great Kings,
let us eradicate all forms of idolatry from our worship,

and let God's Word alone dictate how worship should be done,
rather than the hearts of men,

for Isaiah and Jesus said about our hearts:

These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.
They worship me in vain

Matt 15:8,9

their hearts are far away from God. They worship God in vain” (Isaiah 29:13; Matt 15:8)

If we let God’s word alone, dictate our worship (Deuteronomy 12:32),

and if we let God’s word alone dictate our message,

we would be a true church that
bears true fruit, pleasing and acceptable to God.

he specific phrase ego eimi occurs twenty four times in the Gospel of John. Seventeen of these times it is followed by a clear predicate.

I am followed by a metaphor –
The 7 I am’s

John 8:24: “Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am, you will die in your sins.”

John 8:58: “Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.”

John 13:19: “From now on I tell you before it comes to pass in order that when it does happen, you may believe that I am.”

John 18:5-6: “They answered Him, “Jesus the Nazarene.” He said to them, “I am.” And Judas also, the one who betrayed Him, was standing with them. Therefore when He said to them, “I am,” they went backwards and fell upon the ground.”

The Septuagint translates the Hebrew phrase ani hu as ego eimi in Isaiah 41:4, 43:10 and 46:4.

and your soul is empty – tormented -- because you are going through such tremendous trials,

agonizing pain – mentally and physically.

I’m reminded of one of the most difficult times in my life,

my desert period was from age 16 to my mid twenties –

when I was 16, My beloved father died of liver cancer

Just 3 years later, when I was 19. My younger sister drowned trying to save

another person's life

Another 3 years later – just 1 month before my university graduation, the doctor told me –

you have the same virus that killed your father –

the virus attacking your liver –

I know because your liver enzyme levels – AST and ALT scores are over 10 times normal.

I remember my liver doctor saying,

You will most likely die, the same way your dad did.

So quit school and just rest in bed.

to make matters worse, while I was in bed, I developed a vicious chest cough a horrible sounding cough that would not go away.

I was diagnosed with bronchitis.

I remember in my mid-20's, one dark night – feeling so sick, lying on what I thought would be my death bed –

I cried,

Why God? Why me?

Why are you trying to wipe out my family?

Why are you making me die a slow death ... in my twenties?

I tried to reason with God.

God, Have I not been a good Christian?

I've never been drunk and you give me this liver disease?

I've never smoked and you give me this lung disease?

This is unfair God.

I don't deserve this.

And I grumbled against God,

But eventually what shut me up, what appeased my grumbling was realizing that God suffered.

He sent His Son to suffer on the cross for me.

Jesus suffered greatly – excruciating pain –

much, much more than I was suffering –

yet Jesus was without sin, without grumbling.

The picture of the cross that formed in my mind

as I saw Jesus suffering on the cross

actually stopped my grumbling and

actually became a source of comfort during my desert period.

There was a reason for His suffering!

And I believe there was a reasons for my suffering,

My desert period –

One, in pastoral ministry and mission work,

You need to empathize with people,

So in my mission work in Kenya,

I can relate to Kenyans, suffering from poverty, diseases and the abrupt deaths of family members

all because of my past suffering.

And today, I'm so grateful:

through the Gospel – God has healed from the emotional pain of my tragedies.

And through God's providence – God has naturally cured me of my bronchitis

And just 3 years ago, after 20 years of suffering from my liver disease,

my doctor told me, Joshua, you no longer have liver disease.