



THE JOURNEY FROM MANGER TO MESSIAH PART 2 - The Messiah

He Came to Take Away Sin

READ: Isaiah 53:5–6 AND John 19:16–18 AND 1 Peter 2:24–25

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) Isaiah uses the picture of all of us like sheep going astray and the Lord laying our iniquity on the Messiah. When you hear that your “willful rebellion” (**PESHA’**) was slammed onto Jesus, not gently placed, what does that reveal to you about the seriousness of sin?
- 2) John shows Jesus “in the middle” between two criminals, and you said that pictures all of humanity—one rejecting, one receiving. Which of those two hearts do you most identify with in this season, and why?
- 3) Peter says, “He Himself bore our sins in His body... by His wounds you were healed.” Where have you personally tasted that healing—whether forgiveness, restoration, or a new start? Where do you still long for it?
- 4) Pastor G said, “Christmas isn’t just a sweet story about a cute baby. Christmas is God sending the One who would take the sin hit for the whole world.” What do you think/feel when you hear that? How does it change the way you look at the manger?

The Passover Lamb and Our Shelter

READ: Isaiah 53:7 AND Exodus 12:1–13 AND John 1:29 AND John 19:33–36

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) Isaiah calls the Messiah “like a lamb led to slaughter” and emphasizes His silence and willingness. What stands out to you about a Savior who chooses to go like that, instead of being forced?
- 2) Think about Passover: innocent blood on the doorframe, judgment passing over the house. How does that picture help you understand what it means to be “under the blood of the Lamb” today?
- 3) John the Baptist calls Jesus “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world,” and John’s Gospel notes that not one of His bones was broken, just like the Passover lamb. How does this fulfillment detail (not a bone broken) strengthen your confidence that God is intentional and precise in His rescue plan?
- 4) Pastor G said, “This is the Christmas truth your heart needs: You are safe under the Lamb.” What do you think/feel when you hear that? Where in your life right now do you most need to remember that you are “safe under the Lamb”?

Resurrection Promised and Guaranteed

READ: Psalm 16:9–10 AND Acts 2:29–32 AND Matthew 28:5–7

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) Psalm 16 says God will not let His “Holy One” see decay. Peter later explains that this couldn’t be about David, but about Jesus. How does it impact you to see a prophecy written a thousand years earlier line up so clearly with the resurrection?
- 2) In Acts 2, Peter emphasizes that the resurrection is something “we are all witnesses” of. Why is eyewitness testimony important for your faith? How might you explain that to someone wrestling with doubt about the resurrection?
- 3) Matthew records the angel saying, “He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said.” Where in your life right now do you need to cling to that “just as He said”—a promise of Jesus you’re holding onto in a discouraging or “dead-feeling” place?
- 4) Pastor G said, “So when you see the manger this year, don’t just see a beginning, see a guarantee.”

What do you think/feel when you hear that? How does connecting Christmas to resurrection give you hope for 2026 and beyond?

Victory Over Death for All Who Belong to Him

READ: Isaiah 25:7–8 AND 1 Corinthians 15:54–57 AND Revelation 1:17–18

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) Isaiah says God will “swallow up death for all time” and wipe away tears from all faces. When you look at our world—and at your own losses—what does this promise stir up in you: questions, longing, comfort, hope?
- 2) Paul shouts, “Death is swallowed up in victory... O death, where is your victory?” How would you describe the difference between fearing death and living with the confidence that Jesus holds “the keys of death and Hades”?
- 3) In Revelation 1, the risen Jesus says, “I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys...” How might that truth speak into your fears about the future, aging, illness, or the unknowns of the new year?
- 4) Pastor G said, “Christmas isn’t sentimental; it’s the opening move of God’s final victory.” What do you think/feel when you hear that? How could seeing Christmas as the start of that final victory reshape the way you walk through both grief and joy this coming year?