

Lent 2010: Christ the Redeemer

Welcome to the Lent 2010 Small Group Study!

For centuries, the season of Lent has prepared the heart of the believer for the good news of Easter. During Lent, we remember the suffering of Jesus that led to his death on our behalf. It is an opportunity to slow down and reflect on what the death of Jesus means to us, to remember his great gift of atoning sacrifice, so that we can celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday.

This study looks at the Passover and the establishment of the Mosaic Covenant, an extraordinary period of time in the life of the Israelites. But...what do they have to do with us today? This Lenten study explores the foreshadowing of Christ our Redeemer in the story of the Passover and God's covenant with the Israelites. We see God's redemptive story throughout history and realize that our story is part of God's larger story of redemption. The story of the Exodus is the primary event of redemption in the Old Testament; Christ is the primary (indeed ultimate!) event of redemption in the New Testament and for all of history.

Moses is a type or foreshadowing of Christ. He is the deliverer of the Israelites from Egypt, the one who redeemed them from slavery; the giver of the Law; the priest who intercedes for the people; and their guide through the wilderness. As we read about Moses, remember that everything that he does for his people, Christ does for us in a better, more complete way. We, like Paul in his writings, will look at the Exodus not so much as historical event as in terms of its meaning for fulfillment in Christ.

The stories of the Hebrew Scriptures are rich testaments of the faith of our spiritual ancestors. They are the story of God's redemptive plan of humankind. 2

Timothy 3:16 tells us that “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.” While for some, the word “story” may carry a connotation of a falsehood, the first definition given of story in the dictionary is a “factual account of an event or series of events.” These stories are the word of God, given to us as part of his revelation of his character so that we may know him better.

My prayer is that this study will speak to your heart in new ways during this season of Lent and draw you ever closer to our amazing God. I write with overwhelming gratitude and appreciation for God’s great gift of salvation, Jesus Christ.

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

Sally Bryant

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Before You Begin

This study is written for you. If you feel it is more helpful to skip certain questions in order to spend more time on questions that spark interest, feel free. It is written in a weekly format with the hope that you will divide the reading in a given week into a time of daily reading and personal devotional time as it best fits your schedule. The questions are designed for you to answer during your time of study on your own. The main purpose of the questions is not to find the “right” answer but to engage with God’s word. As a group, decide which questions you want to discuss during your time together. In other words, make this your own! Adapt it so it becomes the best study tool for you.

When studying the Bible, it can be helpful to read from different Bible translations. Try www.biblegateway.com – it’s one of the easiest ways to quickly find different translations. It also has many other study tools available – all free of charge! You will see occasionally in the study where there are suggestions to read a passage of scripture in a particular translation. Feel free to try different translations, and notice how it can open up scripture for you.