

## HIStory – The Path to Redemption<sup>1</sup>

### Leader's Helps

**The leadership helps in this portion of materials is designed to accomplish several purposes:**

1. We seek to help leaders maintain the story-line presented by the HIStory cloth.
2. We also seek to provide a continuing flow of helps designed to move from one story to the next without missing the importance of how the stories interface with one another, as well as the overarching story of redemption. These helps can be found in the HIStory cloth teaching materials titled "Bridge Statements." Within these teaching helps you will also find additional aids as required. As you progress from panel to panel you can locate the applicable teaching aids by the thumbnail provided of the panel being discussed.

Please remember, that although we have provided to you these materials, the main purpose of the HIStory cloth is to demonstrate the redemptive scheme has been provided by Holy God within the Holy Scriptures that mankind might know what He has done to bring about the salvation of humanity that has disobeyed and ignored His holiness.

The Bible is a book of redemption, of salvation and deliverance for all mankind. The term redemption refers to deliverance and the price paid for that deliverance. The HIStory cloth is a pictorial guide of God's Path to Redemption of mankind. Each of the panels on the cloth demonstrates that wonderful theme of redemption through blood as it progresses throughout the entire Bible.

Just as the theme leading to Jesus paying the price on the cross with His shed blood, by which we are redeemed from the penalty and power of sin runs throughout all of the Bible, It also is demonstrated by each of the panels on the cloth. As you lead others through the stories on the cloth, do not neglect going back over those already taught to reinforce the continuing truth of God's Path to Redemption.

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1. We are grateful to Dr. Joel Horn for contributing "The Path to Redemption" to help teach HIStory.

### The Power of the Blood

- **His blood redeems us.** 1 Peter 1:18-19, “knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,<sup>19</sup> but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.”(NASB). The cost was too high for man to pay on his own.
- **His blood brings fellowship with God.** Ephesians 2:13, “But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ” (NASB).
- **His blood brings peace with God.** Colossians 1:20, “and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, *I say*, whether things on earth or things in heaven” (NASB).
- **His blood cleanses from sin.** 1 John 1:7, “...but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin” (NASB).
- **His blood gives power over the devil.** Revelation 12:11, "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb ...” (NASB).

### Shadows, types and figures.

Types are found throughout the Word of God. They are a sign; a symbol; a figure which represents things to come. Jesus spoke of them in John 5:39, when He told His detractors that reading Scripture (and even searching it) is not enough if one does not understand the purpose of Scripture. He said, "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me” (NASB).

Scripture includes these types, or shadows, they are pictures, or object-lessons, and even stories designed by God, and built into the Bible and history to illustrate and teach truth—to make it easier to grasp—in order to teach His people concerning His grace and saving power. Each instance represents and prefigures a specific reference; however they are to be seen as one great path to the redemption of mankind and the earth as well. They begin at the Garden of Eden when God sacrificed an innocent animal for Adam and Eve and continue until Calvary where an innocent man gave His blood for all of mankind. The type is the initial person, event, thing or institution while the corresponding and later person, event, thing or institution is called the antitype (copy, counterpart). In this instance The Apostle Paul portrays Christ as the antitype of Adam (the type) in Romans 5:12–21.

## HIStory Lesson 1

# THE STORIES OF CREATION

(Stories 1, 2, 3a)

## [1] [The] Spirit World



- God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit existed before the earth was formed.
- Before time was created, God—the Spirit, God, the Almighty Jehovah God—created a celestial, spiritual, heavenly world.
- He created them in angelic orders. Some of them are called angels; some of them are called seraphim; some of them are called cherubim; some of them are called archangels. In that host of God's created angelic beings, living in the heaven of heavens where God lives, there was the great covering cherub, the ruling archangel that God named Lucifer, or the "Son of the Morning." (Ezek. 28:12-18)

**Timeless Truth:** Before this planet was placed into the cosmos, God had determined in His heart that He would send His Son to die upon the cross. How wonderful it is to trace HIStory and the Path to Redemption woven through the Bible. How much more thrilling to experience His redemptive work on our hearts, personally.

## [2] Creation



### The Path to Redemption:

- The first verse in the Bible is Genesis 1:1: "In the beginning"—in the beginning of God's material creative ability, producing this world that we see—"in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."
- When God created the world, it was beautiful perfect and pure. It was without sin, disobedience or curse. God created man to have dominion over everything He created, and to rule over it, and to be as God's high regent under the Almighty, ruling over God's dominion.

**Timeless Truth:** Point out that Jesus was the agent of creation (Col. 1:16). He created everything mankind (not yet created) would need to live out the life which would glorify Holy God.

### [3a] Adam and [ & ] Eve



#### **The Path to Redemption:**

God created mankind in His image, they were without sin, and “they were naked and not ashamed.” Their eyes were not open to disobedience. They would not purposely choose to disobey, so had to be deceived.

- Satan chose the most beautiful, the most beautifully adorned and gifted of all of God's creation outside of the man and his wife. And the serpent lent himself, whatever he looked like and whatever abilities he had, to Satan. He began to speak [in language] to the beautiful woman.
- Satan brought a question to the woman, and then a lie. And the first lie: "You won't die." And then he presented to Eve the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil. And the woman ate, enticed and deceived by the serpent. And she took the fruit to Adam, and Adam was not deceived.
- Adam knew in the moment that he ate he would die. Satan deceived the woman, but he didn't deceive Adam. Adam made a choice. He so found his soul bound with her that he chose to die by her side rather than live without her.

## **HIStory Lesson 2**

### **THE STORY OF THE FALL OF MANKIND**

(Stories 3b, 4, 5)

### [3b] Adam and [ & ] Eve

#### **The Path to Redemption:**

- This breach of relationship from God caused the first offering of an innocent sacrifice to hide their nakedness.
- Make note of their attempt to “cover themselves with the result of their work,” but that could never satisfy God, for it was not His way of dealing with sin. The remission of sin is not possible without shed blood.
- This first blood sacrifice was offered by God! He made clothes for them from an animal skin, so there was a blood sacrifice for their sin. The consequence of sin is always death, and the blood of the innocent animal should have been a striking reminder to Adam and Eve.
- It is highly conceivable that Adam saw the gasping, spent life of that innocent creature and saw the crimson stain soil the ground. That was his first experience to know what it meant to die.

## HIStory Cloth Path to Redemption

- And so the story of atonement and sacrifice begins to unfold through the Word of God, until finally in glory you will see the great throngs of the saints who've washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb

**Timeless Truth:** The concept of required sacrifice is first seen in the promise of a redeemer (Gen. 3:15). It speaks of Jesus at Calvary, His suffering, His “bruised heel” and the crushing of Satan’s head, and will be repeated for the remainder of the Bible.

### [4] Cain and [A] Abel



#### **The Path to Redemption:**

- God respected Abel for the faith in his heart and received the sacrifice. But God did not respect Cain because of the pride in his heart—like Lucifer, lifted up, thought well of himself.
- Abel’s offering was accepted because it was a blood offering while Cain’s offering was the fruit of personal toil (works).
- The first murder (in this case fratricide) – notice in Genesis 4:10 that Abel’s blood “cried out.” The shedding of innocent blood cries out to God because life is in the blood.
- In a demonstration of grace, Abel was replaced to Adam and Eve by another son, Seth. The Godly seed will continue through him.

#### **Timeless Truth:**

- Notice that the killing of mere men brings death, but the killing of the Divine Man (Christ) brought life.
- In the same way that Abel’s offering was acceptable to Holy God, Christ’s offering of Himself was acceptable as well. Why? Because BOTH met God’s demands.

### [5] Noah [Noah’s Ark]



#### **The Path to Redemption:**

- Noah was a righteous man who exhibited saving faith. After understanding the Ark was God’s plan for his salvation, Noah committed to it alone. He preached righteousness for 120 years but only four men and four women entered the Ark with God.
- The Ark is a picture of God’s covering us in Christ. It was grace that supplied the Ark which would keep man from God’s judgment.
- The account of Noah is the first time the concept of covenant is revealed in Scripture. It is also the first time grace is mentioned. This covenant is a binding agreement between two persons—designed to demonstrate God’s provision of grace. The fuller meaning of salvation will be developed as we proceed through HIStory.

## HIStory Cloth Path to Redemption

- As Noah's family disembarks the Ark, they enter a new world again provided by God, but they still will be inclined toward evil. Yet, God's commitment toward His creation as foreshadowed by the salvation of Noah and his family continues. The righteous seed will now pass through Noah's son Shem.
- Note: Do not neglect to mention Noah's obedience in effort and longevity.

**Timeless Truth:** Even the most righteous required salvation and deliverance. Even the elect sin and need redemption. That redemption can only be provided by Holy God. Adam's sin required a blood sacrifice, Abel brought a blood sacrificial offering, and so did Noah. Gen. 8:20-21 tells us that the first thing Noah did after departing the Ark was to build an altar and make a burnt offering. It is another demonstration of the Path to Redemption repeated throughout HIStory cloth.

### HIStory Lesson 3

## THE STORIES OF ISRAEL

(Stories 6, 7, 8, 9, 10)

### [6] God's Promise to Abraham



#### The Path to Redemption:

- The first eleven chapters of the Book of Genesis concern the whole family of the human race. Now, beginning at Genesis chapter 12, we come to see one family that God has chosen through whom He will keep the promise, "I will give thee a seed that shall crush Satan's head."
- For the first time, God uses blood to establish a covenant.
- The fire that passes through the covenant pieces is God Himself. The consumption of the pieces testifies to His acceptance of the sacrifices Abraham had made. [This will be a good time to re-visit Cain and Abel and the concept that God ALONE chooses the proper sacrifice].
- Remember to go back and re-teach the purpose of the animal being slain in the Garden, and the purpose and need of shedding blood for the remission of sin.

#### Timeless Truth:

- The covenant God made with Abram is a VERY significant foundational element of His relationships with mankind, even through the New Testament. God said, "Get out, and I'll make of thee a great nation, and I'll bless them that bless thee and curse them that curse thee. And in thy seed shall all the families and nations of the earth be blessed."

Develop the theme well; especially point out the section of the covenant "in you **ALL nations** will be blessed." Paul will later use this verse to give reason for Gentiles being brought into the church.

## [7] Abraham offers Isaac [Abram's Test]



### The Path to Redemption:

- And the Lord said, "...now I know that you fear God since you have not withheld your son, your only son from Me." (Genesis 22:12)  
Abraham's obedience is a perfect image of Christ's obedience, even unto His death on the cross.
- God provided a ram that was caught in the thicket to sacrifice as a substitute. That day Abraham killed that ram and shed its blood. The ram foreshadowed another sacrifice God would later provide on a mountain as well: His Son Jesus.
- Abraham's love for his son and relationship with God helps us understand John 3:16. God so loved the world He provided the suitable sacrifice., that those who would believe on Him would have eternal life.

**Timeless Truth:** Note that in the reaffirmation of the covenant with Isaac, God reveals new commitments. First He declares, "I am the God of your father Abraham." Second He declares "do not be afraid I am with you!" This is possibly the most wonderful benefit of being in a relationship with God.

## [8] God's Plan for Israel (Jacob and Esau)

Isaac's Blessing on his sons



### The Path to Redemption:

- Once again God chose to use the second born to continue the line to the Messiah.
- Esau was the first-born son of Isaac, but he was carnal, of this world. Jacob, the second-born would be chosen by God in the womb [before he could do good or bad].
- Jacob would become the progenitor of the twelve tribes of Israel, God's chosen nation. Actually Abraham had other sons, one by Hagar and others by Keturah, but God chose none of them – in fact called Isaac Abraham's ONLY son [the only one He would recognize, because he was a son of faith, not works].
- God's choice of the second-born reminds us that salvation is not the result of heredity or personal work (effort), but rather it was then and is now the result of God's grace given to those He chooses.

### Timeless truth:

Review God's grace at this point:

- When Adam sinned he had fear of God's judgment, but grace came upon the situation – the promise of a deliverer.

## HIStory Cloth Path to Redemption

- Noah while living in a totally disobedient society found grace from God as he watched the world being destroyed by a flood.
- Abraham, the son of a cult leader found grace from God and was sent into a land of promise and later fathered a son through whom the Messiah would come.
- Here in the story of Isaac and Jacob, God would choose to grace Isaac according to the promise.
- When Rebekah was pregnant with twins, it was grace that Jacob was chosen.
- GOD has a plan!

### [9] [God's Plan for Israel] Jacob's Dream



#### The Path to Redemption:

- Having been blessed by his father Isaac, to have unlimited prosperity and power, authority over the nations, his brethren because of divine protection, Jacob departed for his uncle's house to find a wife.
- His father, Isaac, wanted him to marry one who believed in Jehovah. A like-minded wife who would be suited for a future patriarch. It was a spiritual decision.
- His first night away was at Bethel, and there the Lord appeared to him. A ladder was let down from heaven, and on that ladder the angels were ascending and descending. The meaning for Jacob was that God had not lost contact with him. God searches out prodigals.
- Jesus later said to Nathanael that the ladder was Himself. The Son of Man is God's way of interfacing with man on earth.
- Perhaps Jesus was also indicating that He is the new "Bethel," God's dwelling place.
- On the way, God He would fulfill His promise to Abraham through him. (Gen. 28:11-22)

#### Timeless Truth:

- Much of HIStory revolves around how God acts in human history to bring about the fulfillment of His promises. His dealings with Jacob [to be called Israel] are yet another evidence of that commitment.

### [10] Israel [God Fulfills His Promise]



#### The Path to Redemption:

- God was still in the process of building a people for Himself.
- He has chosen Abraham, Isaac and now will use Jacob in His plan of redemption for the world.
- The first thing Jacob experiences is being deceived in the same fashion that he deceived his father. Laban cared the same about Jacob's feelings as Jacob had cared for his father's – but God's will is carried out in both accounts. God's sovereignty exceeds even the incorrect actions of sinful man.



## HIStory Cloth Path to Redemption

- God would honor him by making him the father of the twelve tribes of Israel, but the fact that four different women were involved in building his family would create for Jacob one problem after another.

**Timeless Truth:** Throughout the time Jacob spent with Laban, God intervened to insure and protect Jacob from the harmful deceit intended by Laban. This is to insure the redemptive path is continued.

- Jacob's peeled sticks belonged in the same category as Rachel's mandrakes: They were both superstitious practices that had nothing to do with what actually happened. It was God who controlled the genetic structure of the animals and multiplied the spotted and striped sheep and goats, thus increasing Jacob's wealth very quickly.
- Judah would become the fountain head of the kings of the southern tribes of Israel [the line of the Messiah].

**Timeless Truth:** Although the regal line of Judah is not included in the HIStory cloth, it would be advantageous to mention the need for the line to be unbroken within the covenant community leading to the expected and promised Messiah, Jesus the Christ.

## HIStory Lesson 4

### THE REVELATION OF RECONCILIATION

(Stories 11-12)

#### [11] [Jacob] Wrestle[s] with [an] Angel



##### The Path to Redemption:

- When Jacob left his home in Paran in route to the Promised Land, he expected to meet Esau in Canaan [Edom]. The account with the angel and later Elohim (God) clearly illustrates Jacob's persistent pursuit of the blessing of God.
- Jacob, in preparing for his meeting with his brother Esau, sent gifts ahead. These gifts, "*minchah*" in Hebrew, were a tribute given to a higher identity from a lower. He was not always that way, until his meeting God at Bethel he was a lying, deceiving, and self-centered man. The "me first" man was finally prepared to be content to be "others first."

##### Timeless Truth:

- Jacob's life, before the struggle with the God of Grace, included broken relationships, deceit, conniving to achieve and running away—no pattern for God's leader. The struggle with God taught Jacob that one cannot run from God and be content nor successful in God's eyes.

## The Story Cloth Path to Redemption

- Jacob needed to learn to cling to God to have His blessings. His victory was established, his name changed, his dependence clear.
- Christ, in a similar way, struggled with God in the Garden on our behalf, “Take this cup from me.” He wrestled with God’s grace on the cross crying out, “Why have You forsaken me?” Wounded and beaten, He clung to mercy; in grace He defeated sin and death. The result was a name above every other name.

## [12] [Joseph] and his Brothers



### The Path to Redemption:

- Joseph’s eleven brothers tried to kill him, but God rescued him for a higher calling.
- Joseph entered Egypt as a slave, with iron around his wrist; he left Egypt a person of high rank, with gold around his neck. What happened between those two events is the key to understanding this story being included in HIStory.
- In all of his actions, Joseph continually portrayed the attitude of Christ, and as a provider for his brethren, he examples the provisionary death of Christ.

Joseph as a Type of Christ			
Joseph		Jesus	
1.	Was the well-beloved son of his father. (Gen.37:3).	1.	Was the well-beloved Son of His Father (Matt. 3:17).
2.	Lived in Hebron, the place of fellowship, with his father before he was sent to his brothers (Gen. 37:14).	2.	Lived in heaven, the place of fellowship, before coming to the earth (John 17:5).
3.	His father sent him, and he was perfectly willing to go (Gen 37:13).	3.	His Father sent Him, and He was perfectly willing to go (John 3:16; Phil. 2:5-7).
4.	Testified against his brothers' sin and they hated him (Gen. 37:2).	4.	Testified against men's sin, and they hated Him (John 15:18).
5.	Revealed to them the exalted position he would hold in the future, and they hated him the more (Gen. 37:5).	5.	Revealed to men the exalted position He would hold in the future, and they hated Him the more (Matt. 24:30-31).
6.	His brothers plotted against him (Gen. 37:19-20).	6.	His brothers according to the flesh (the Jews) plotted against Him (Luke 20:13-14; Luke 19:46-47).
7.	Judah sold him for twenty pieces of silver (Gen. 37:26-28).	7.	Judas sold Him for thirty pieces of silver (Matt. 26:15).
8.	Was tempted and did not yield (Gen. 39).	8.	Was tempted but did not yield (Matt. 4:1-11).
9.	Was accused wrongfully (Gen. 39:13-18).	9.	Was accused wrongfully (Matt. 26:59-65).

**The Story Cloth Path to Redemption**

<b>Joseph as a Type of Christ</b>			
<b>Joseph</b>		<b>Jesus</b>	
<b>10.</b>	Was put in the Egyptian dungeon, the place of death, with two malefactors (Gen. 39:20).	<b>10.</b>	Was put on the cross, the place of death, with two malefactors (Mark 15:27-28).
<b>11.</b>	One of the malefactors died and the other lived (Gen. 40:21-22).	<b>11.</b>	One of the malefactors died and the other lived - spiritually (Luke 23:39-43).
<b>12.</b>	Was raised from the place of death by the king of the land (Gen. 41:14).	<b>12.</b>	Was raised from the place of death by the King of the universe (Eph. 1:19-20).
<b>13.</b>	Was given all power in Egypt (Gen. 41:42-44).	<b>13.</b>	Was given all power in heaven and earth (Matt. 28:18).
<b>14.</b>	After his exaltation took Gentile bride to share his glory (Gen. 41-45).	<b>14.</b>	After His exaltation takes Gentile Bride (the Church) to share His glory (Eph. 5:23-32).
<b>15.</b>	Acknowledged to be the savior of the people and their ruler (Gen. 47:25).	<b>15.</b>	Acknowledged to be Savior and Ruler (Phil. 2:10-11).
<b>16.</b>	All must get their bread (physical life) through Joseph (Gen. 41:55, 57).	<b>16.</b>	All must get spiritual life through Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12).
<b>17.</b>	Gave all honor to the king, and delivered all things into his hands (Gen. 47:14-20).	<b>17.</b>	Gives all honor to the King (God), and delivers all things into His hands (1 Cor. 15:24).
<b>18.</b>	Knew the past history of his brothers (Gen. 43:33).	<b>18.</b>	Knew what was in man (John 2:24-25; Matt. 9:4).
<b>19.</b>	When his brothers humbled themselves before him and threw themselves on his mercy, he freely forgave them (Gen. 44-45).	<b>19.</b>	All who confess their sins receive His forgiveness (1 John 1:9).

**HIStory Lesson 5**  
**THE PORTRAYAL OF OUR DELIVERANCE**  
 (Stories 13, 14, 15, 16)

**[13] The Story of Moses [Moses' Early Years]**



**The Path to Redemption:**

- When Moses was born in Goshen, Egypt, much persecution was in the land concerning the Hebrew children. The Pharaoh had ordered all male children to be killed.
- Two Hebrew midwives refused to kill Moses due to their fear of

God.

## The Story Cloth Path to Redemption

- Moses was placed into an ark (basket) coated by “tar and pitch” [a sign of His atonement] and placed into the water for salvation. This is the same picture, in fact the same word “ark,” [only used in these two places in Scripture] as Noah.
- Both vessels saved the life of a man.
- It was God making provision for the continuance of the Path to Redemption for all mankind.

**Timeless Truth:** Abraham’s descendants were now many, but they are not in the land promised [they are in the wrong place] and they were under the rule of Pharaoh [they were under the wrong authority]. They needed deliverance. They are God’s chosen people, but, like Noah, required redemption. The Exodus from Egypt will more fully demonstrate His power over foreign gods, nature and mankind’s self-serving rulers. Moses would be God’s chosen leader for this task.



### [14] [Moses and] The Burning Bush

#### The Path to Redemption:

- Moses was an “alien” in Midian, the place to which he fled after his confrontation in Egypt.
  - The call of God is always personal, to an individual. It was that way for Moses and will be the same for each of us who follow.
- Note: the “flames of fire” locale of revelation as also in Ex. 13:21; 19:18; 1 Kin. 18:24, 38; see also Acts 2:3-4. These instances point to His purity.

**Timeless Truth:** Moses took his shoes off since the ground was holy not by nature, but by the appointment of a holy God. Holiness involves removal from the commonplace to be set apart for the purpose of serving God.

### [15] The Ten Plagues [The Plagues of Egypt]



#### The Path to Redemption:

- Each of the plagues experienced by Egypt was a direct attack on one of their gods. Making note by God to display His superiority over all gods and people groups.
- It would be good to note that Moses was eighty years old when he faced Pharaoh [He was forty when he had the confrontation in Egypt (Acts 7:23) and had lived in Midian for forty years. (Acts 7:26)].

**Timeless Truth:** Exodus 7:3 reveals a promise made to Moses by God that He would multiply His “signs” and “wonders” in Egypt. The ten plagues are those signs and wonders demonstrating God’s authority over the gods of Egypt, His deliverance of His chosen people and judgment on the Egyptians. God’s people were seemingly helpless and under Pharaoh’s control. With no hope, they call out to God and He will deliver them under the blood of the sacrificial lamb.

## [16] The Passover Angel [The Passover]



### The Path to Redemption:

- After the plagues God inflicted on the Egyptian Nation, each Israelite family was instructed to kill a sheep or goat and put some of its blood on the sides and tops of the doorframes of their houses.
- That night, God went through Egypt and struck down every firstborn male. Many years later, Christ was crucified at the time of the Passover. He had committed no sin and therefore was the Lamb without blemish.
- The Passover sacrifice perfectly foreshadowed Jesus:
  - The lamb was a male, a firstling of the flock, without blemish – Jesus God’s ONLY Son, without blemish (1 Pet. 1:19)
  - The lamb kept 4 days for examination– Jesus also kept for examination and found without guilt “I find no fault in Him” Cf. John 8:46, “Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me?”
  - The lamb had to be slain – Jesus was sacrificed on cross (John. 12:24) It was not His life alone, nor His words that set the example, but the shedding of His blood that secured our (as in the first-born of the Hebrew children) redemption.
  - The blood had to be applied – we are sanctified by the blood offering made on the cross (Heb. 10:10, 14).
  - Not a bone of Passover lamb was to be broken – Jesus was already dead when they went to break His bones (John. 19:33)

**Timeless Truth:** The Passover demonstrates the truth that redemption from slavery is possible only through the shedding of blood as the means of escape.

### HIStory Lesson 6

## THE REVELATION OF OUR SALVATION

(Stories 17, 18, 19, 20)

## [17] Crossing [Parting of] the Red Sea



### The Path to Redemption:

- The story of Israel leaving Egypt and finally entering the Promised Land is the story of salvation. Paul knew this as he wrote, “For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” (Rom. 15:4, NASB).
- Now under the blood, judgment paid, Israel will now be separated **to** God. Their past slavery to the world behind them, their future slavery unto God (Canaan) before.

## The Story Cloth Path to Redemption

- In the meantime God is **with** them. They had heard what later will be called the “midnight cry” and obeyed it as God called them to Him
- This pictured not only immediate salvation but this same event will again occur at the rapture of The Church. Egypt [the world] was glad to see the Israelites leave them; it will not be so when God’s people will be removed in the future.

**Timeless Truth:** God’s plan for Israel’s redemption was to allow them to be in a hopeless situation. Instead of bringing them out along the major highway provided by man, He chose to bring them to another seemingly hopeless situation. The sea was before them, the Pharaoh’s army behind them, foreboding terrain on the left and right—the only way out was UP! He then would perform yet another wonder—by splitting the sea.

Entrance into the Promised Land [as entrance into the kingdom of God] is not something one is born into, nor can man’s effort bring it about. The captivity in Egypt demonstrates the captivity of humans to the powers of evil, the release from that captivity requires the necessary, miraculous, grace-full work of merciful God.

God’s call for His people is to be separated from the world unto Him. He has provided the path, delivered us from this present world, Jesus on the cross secured the release with His blood, and demanded that we make the separation as clear as the Red Sea on one side and God’s people on the other (James. 4:4).

## [18] [Giving of] The Ten Commandments.



### The Path to Redemption:

- The first words spoken as Israel came to Mount Sinai are recorded in Exodus 19:4-6. They are words of grace (redemption) God had brought Israel to Himself [as if on eagles’ wings]. He is their God, He has saved them. His heart cry was “Oh, that they will have a heart in them to fear Me and keep My commandment—that it might be well for them forever” (Deut. 5:29).
- The Law [the Decalogue] would be given to those who have already experienced grace; therefore it cannot be that which brought their salvation about. Rather, it will demonstrate to following generations their need for salvation, keeping them in boundaries that will mimic the captivity of Israel to Pharaoh. It would bring about the hopelessness of self-achieved friendship and communion with a Holy God.
- Not only were the Israelites given the Ten Commandments on that mountain, they were instructed how to live and what “blood offerings” to give to the Lord (Lev. 17:11).

**Timeless Truth:** The first commandment is in actuality inclusive of all other commandments. “You shall have no other gods before Me” indicates the Israelites [and all other followers of God] would be dependent on God’s revelation for understanding the proper response to all other commands, statutes and demands of God. His claim over His people is exclusive—His gift to His people **WAS** the covenant relationship. The Law is an expression of His character and kingdom.

## [19] The Golden Calf



### The Path to Redemption:

- The Israelites were guilty of doing that which was later taught by the apostle Paul, “They have changed the glory of the incorruptible god into an image made like corrupted man–birds and four-footed animals...”
- When the idols were made the Israelite saw the golden calves as a god [Elohim]–the one who led them from captivity in Egypt.
- Aaron declared that through them a “Feast to the Lord” [Jehovah] could be held. They even brought burnt offerings and peace offerings to this imagined god. Then played as they desired. They had promised to obey God's law, but in making a golden calf and indulging in a sensual celebration, the nation would break the first, second, and seventh commandments.
- At least three times during the months at Sinai, the Jewish people had promised to obey whatever God told them to do (19:8; 24:3, 7; and see 20:19). The Lord knew that it wasn't in their hearts to keep their promises (Deut. 5:28-29), and the tragedy of the golden calf proved Him right.

**Timeless Truth:** This same Aaron, the one led by the Spirit of God to meet Moses, the one who was made a spokesman for Moses, who held up Moses' hand as Israel fought, who will be chosen to be High Priest in God's Tent, the beginning of the priestly office picturing our coming High Priest [Jesus], would be the very leader who, shaken by fear of man, became the instrument of the sin of making an idol.

## [20] [The Building of] The Tabernacle



### The Path to Redemption:

- God does not leave it to humans to determine the worship they are to offer Him. He designed the Tabernacle specifically for a “place that He might dwell among His people.” He demanded they build it EXACTLY as He designed it, and even empowered men with the special wisdom to accomplish it.
- He not only designed the tabernacle, but also provided the means by which it could be built. He caused the people of Egypt to give the fleeing Hebrews every kind of material in sufficient qualities to accomplish the expected finish. Note: the people did not earn the materials as the result of warfare against the Egyptians, nor did they work for it making bricks – God's grace and sovereignty provided everything they would need to worship Him in the manner which He demanded.
- Examine the various pieces of furniture and relate each of them as a picture of Jesus.

## The Story Cloth Path to Redemption

**Timeless Truths:** Until this time, small altars were sufficient on which to offer sacrifices, but now the nation of Israel needed a place to come into the presence of God to offer sacrifices and worship. The Tabernacle actually incorporated the small altars into a primary location where God revealed Himself to His people. Not only did God demand the “how” of worship, but also the “where” of worship as well.

### HIStory Lesson 7

## THE PREPARATION FOR PROMISE

(Stories 21, 22, 23)

### [21] Land of Canaan [Promised Land]



#### The Path to Redemption:

- As the way out of Egypt was by demonstration of God’s power over all, the entrance into Canaan involves a similar miracle—the opening of the waters and the ability to cross into the Promised Land on foot. Yet another sign of God’s provision for His chosen.
- After the Israelites crossed the Jordan they began to conquer kingdoms. The only reason they will possess the land is that the Lord will fight for them.
- Another picture of the path to redemption is provided when they entered Jericho Rahab the prostitute provided a “scarlet cord” from her window to indicate a path to victory. Here again, the picture is repeated. God saw the scarlet “blood” and passed over them. The Path to Redemption is again seen as God leads Israel to the promise.

**Timeless Truth:** Notice again, the portrayal of God’s saving gospel (in its Old Testament form) is consistently displayed the saving acts of God as the ONLY way for Israel’s existence. Please take time to repeat the covenant of God with Abraham, especially the last portion; that ALL nations will be blessed through these descendants. This younger group, who motivated by the unfaithfulness of their predecessors, will engage [ultimately] the whole world. This is our foundation for missions.

### [22] The Lord Calls Samuel [Samuel and Eli]



#### The Path to Redemption:

- After the rebellion of the house of Eli, God raised up a “faithful priest, who shall do according to what is in My heart. And I will build him a sure house, and he shall go in and out before My anointed forever” (1 Sam. 2:35).



### The Story Cloth Path to Redemption

- Of course, this divine promise will take place only in the coming of God's High Priest, Jesus. Whenever the role of priest is given to an Israelite, one should realize that Jesus is the One who truly fulfills the sacred office.
- There is a total of four calls to Samuel: the first and second calls were to salvation (v. 7); the last two calls were to service (v. 10).
- The story of Samuel's call initiates a drastic change in the form of government. The period of the judges is over, and no longer will God move through the priest. He is now raising up a prophet-priest.
- Samuel will minister for the Lord, but his office will be that of a prophet. This story marks one of the great transitional periods in Scripture: the change from theocracy to monarchy, from priest to king.

**Timeless Truth:** The lesson we see in Samuel is to realize, that even in the most rebellious situations, God is working behind the scenes in grace. It doesn't matter what the situation looks like, God will be honored in His timing. Individual godliness in simple commitment to God is what makes the real difference in our lives. God's grace is ALWAYS sufficient.

### [23] Israel asks for a King [A King for the Israelites]



#### The Path to Redemption:

- As the Israelites experienced the transition from a group of tribes to a chosen Nation, their experience with the sons of Eli as well as the sons of Samuel (both sets were ungodly), they opted to demand from Samuel a king so they “could be like everyone else.”
- This demand was not the first time. Previously they had asked Gideon to be their king but he refused reminding them of the blessing of having the Lord as their king. Israel's desire was for human leadership, not that of the “unseen God.”
- God would grant their request, allowing Saul to be anointed. His rulership would be found lacking, since he would have worldly values, and ultimately taken away from him by God.

**Timeless Truth:** Their rebellion was indicative of their inner motivations and desires. Instead of being under the grace-full rulership of God, they opted for a worldly man. Rather than allowing God to intervene in their lives at His desired time, they wanted a king “now!” And significantly, they chose a system that would not call for them to live by faith—which would be unnecessary as the king would be responsible for their welfare. God responded to their rebellion allowing them (and us) to experience worldly rule and the consequences thereof.

## HIStory Lesson 8

# THE PROMISE TO KINGS AND PROPHETS

(Stories 24, 25, 26)

### [24] [King] David, [King] Solomon and the Temple

#### The Path to Redemption:



- David was different than Saul. Saul was provided by the world with worldly qualifications, David was provided by God for himself with seemingly none. Saul represented Law, David, grace. Saul was led by his own heart; David had a heart for God. Note: See the sovereignty of God in action.
- David typified Christ as king. He was king long before he was anointed (recognized for who he was).
- He was hated and hunted by the world who desired his death even though he did nothing wrong.
- David typified Christ as Savior. The first part of David's reign was marked by acceptance, later he was rejected and had to hide to continue his life, Jesus entered Jerusalem with "Hosanna's" shouted by the masses, then was "rejected by His own, and they received Him not" (John. 1:11).
- When Saul sinned, no repentance was seen, when David sinned repentance abounded.
- The covenant God made with David is one of the most important in Scripture: a descendant of David will be established on the throne of an everlasting kingdom. Clear identifying the Messianic King from the line of David-Jesus Christ, the fulfillment of the promised Path to Redemption.
- After David's death, his son Solomon was king. David had given him instructions to always follow the Lord's ways which were clear, available and beneficial. He did not. His disobedience did not remove the covenant God had made with his father David, but his disobedience certainly affected his enjoyment of fellowship with God.

**Timeless Truth:** David's psalms would later reveal his heart and utmost trust and confidence in God. What wonderful culmination of a good heart planted with God's redemptive grace. David allowed God to prepare him for his mission—to be king. Although anointed king, he continued to shepherd, watching and caring for his flock, to serve, becoming a mighty warrior, a man of valor.

## The Story Cloth Path to Redemption

It is a picture of Jesus, who being God, did not see it wrong to come to earth as a baby, grow into manhood, to become the Mighty Warrior who would free His flock from the enslavement of sin. Solomon was endowed with wisdom and a heart to hear God, but his disobedience to and ignoring of God's (and his father's) commands brought idolatry and difficulties into the kingdom. The fact that God did not remove the covenant He made with David is proof of His commitment to the Path to Redemption which must include the heavenly son of David sitting on the kingdom's throne—His name is Jesus of Nazareth.

### [25] Elijah on Mount Carmel



The Path to Redemption:

- In Elijah we can see the continuing drama of God ALWAYS having a remnant (or a people) who will be faithful.
- This story carries the implication of: “Who is the real God?” A choice that MUST be made in our lives. The choice to be made was between Baal and Yahweh. Baal was the choice of those in power (government leaders), he was the long-standing god of tradition and the god who supposedly could provide everything needed—rain, weather, crops and even sensuality. Everything the farmer needed. Holy God had not that reputation, but He did possess that power of which Baal was impotent.
- Elijah's challenge still rings throughout the halls of humanity: If Baal be god, **follow** him, but if God is God then you **must FOLLOW** Him. Proper theology will always lead to productive disciples.

**Timeless Truth:** In the story of Elijah, we learn that Yahweh God is the creator of the universe that holds in His hand the ability to manipulate earth at His demand. He is not bothered by an idol god's territory, the number of priests who worship that idol, nor circumstances which seem impossible—Why not? Because HE is GOD! Additionally we can discern that a government that leaves God out, regardless if it is a democracy or a dictatorship is doomed to fail. Government by man **always** results in everyone doing what is right in his own eyes.”

### [26] Prophets Of Old [Jesus Coming Foretold]



The Path to Redemption:

- “Truth has stumbled in the street, and uprightness cannot enter, yes, the truth is lacking” were the words of the prophet Isaiah (59:14b-15a). This is not a problem to a God who is committed to continuing the Path to Righteousness.

## The Story Cloth Path to Redemption

- Sixteen “holy men of God” (The writing prophets) were chosen to speak as they are given messages from God by the Holy Spirit. They spoke in different places, through different times, but had one thing in common: They brought God’s truth to God’s nation. Many of these messages prophesied the coming Messiah; one coming —out of the house of David.
- One of the Major Prophets, Isaiah, was permitted to know more about the coming Christ than any other. He saw: Christ in His pre-existence (John. 12:41); Christ in His incarnation (Isa. 7:14); Christ in His suffering/Death (Isa. 53); Christ in His intercession (53:12) and Christ in the end-times (Isa. 63, 65).
- Especially note what Isaiah saw in chapter 6: 1. His (and the peoples) unworthiness and deed, 2. The sufficiency of the coming Christ and, 3. The appropriate response to that Christ.

**Timeless Truth:** The study of the messages of the prophets reveal two truths: (1) the pain and suffering of a people who purposely decide to ignore God to go in their own direction in spite of God sending prophets to encourage their repentance and allegiance. The result? Jerusalem ruined, the Temple destroyed, the Promised Land lost. (2) the wonderful hope of a Messiah to come who will establish a righteous kingdom with eternal blessings.

### HIStory Lesson 9

## THE ARRIVAL OF PROMISE

(Stories 27, 28, 29)

### [27] The Birth of Jesus [John the Baptist and Jesus’ birth]



The Path to Redemption:

- In the Old Testament there were many prophecies concerning the birth of a Messiah. Here we can see the beginning of their fulfillment.
- The Old Testament ends with the prophet Malachi making the promise that Elijah the prophet would return to point out the Messiah. Jesus would later teach that John the Baptist was the Elijah who would come.
- John testified to who Jesus is – He who would take away the sins of the world [His blood would be applied like that of the Passover lamb].

**Timeless Truth:** The Jews were looking (and praying) for a Messiah, and this is the fulfillment of that dream. Now, would they accept Him? The issue is the same for all who follow. As HIStory is repeated throughout history each will have to make that same decision.

## [28] Baptism of Jesus [Jesus' Baptism]



### The Path to Redemption:

- Baptism is a mark of identification; here Jesus requests to be identified with the purposes of God.
- In sending the dove we have the picture of God's approval and the Holy Spirit's empowerment. The entire Trinity is involved in the path to Redemption.

**Timeless Truth:** The portrayal of the Passover Lamb as well as the anointing with the Holy Spirit is a sign not only to John, but the Jews who had those expectations of the coming Messiah. Again Holy God portrays the Path to Redemption.

## HIStory Lesson 10

### THE VERIFICATION OF THE PROMISE

(Stories 30-34)



## [29] Calling the Disciples [The Twelve Disciples]

### The Path to Redemption:

- The Kingdom was not only for those immediately surrounding Jesus. It was for the world.
- Jesus set an example for us by choosing men who would assume the primary responsibility in spreading the good news – later to be called the gospel. Men who would leave “all” behind to follow Him—who had all.
- Giving later followers a model to use, Jesus spent time with His disciples training them to carry out the functions of a leader who would raise other disciples.

**Timeless Truth:** The core of Jesus' disciples was the twelve chosen to preserve what Jesus taught them, He was their source of inspiration and information. The Jews thought God would restore Israel, Jesus taught that a new kingdom, not based on ethnic succession, but one spiritual founded through blood sacrifice and grace would be established, and grown through His followers. Their teaching has continued to this time and has become the foundation for many New Testament teachings.

## [30] Jesus Heals the Sick [Jesus Heals the Paralytic]



### The Path to Redemption:

- Jesus performed many miracles during His stay on earth. All designed to reveal WHO He was and WHAT authority He possessed.

## The Story Cloth Path to Redemption

- Here we see Jesus demonstrating His power over sin. This power was to be part of the expected Messiah (Isa. 33:24; 40:1-2).
- The crowd thought [correctly] this power was reserved for God alone – now the demonstration of WHO Jesus was.

**Timeless Truth:** The Distinctive truth of the gospel is that man can be forgiven from the consequences of his sin. It is the heart of the Christian message as it is communicated to the world: Sinful man can be forgiven, cleansed and brought into fellowship with a Holy God.

## [31] Woman at the Well



### The Path to Redemption:

- An immoral Samaritan woman coming to Jesus presents the perfect picture that ALL can come to Him.
- The barriers of ethnicity, sex, position, intellect, education, social position and even moral purity have been absolved – all that is required is a believing, repentant heart. God's grace is sufficient!
- Note that the woman thought she believed correctly as do many in the world, but there is only one truth that prevails, that of a God who is Holy and loving even to the point of providing the Path to Redemption and not demanding something from the adherent as other gods have in the world religions.

**Timeless Truth:** There are many in Scripture who come to Jesus. The wonderful realization the Jesus is NEVER on record as refusing any who freely come to Him for salvation. The Scripture does not teach that ALL will be saved, but that ANY may be. Remind the listening that salvation does not come only from believing, but asking as well. (John. 1:12)

## [32] Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand [Feeding the Five Thousand]



### The Path to Redemption:

- In the only miracle recorded in all four gospels, we find Jesus teaching His disciples two significant truths: That they must make the choice to rely on Him or the world's provision and two, that He alone is the bread that satisfies.
- Significant profit would be made by the study of "feeding on Jesus" as mentioned in this story.
- Also note Jesus' compassion on those in need – the answer to which will be His provision, not the world's.

## The Story Cloth Path to Redemption

- We also see in this event the truth that if one will freely give what he has to Jesus, Jesus will bless it and use it to alleviate problems and needs in those around you. However despite the motives of the crowd God continued His Path to Redemption according to His divine will. Jesus would once again be identified as One from God who embodies divine prerogatives and powers.

**Timeless Truth:** The feeding of the five thousand was a miracle that should have pointed the crowd to the fact that Jesus was from God and as such the answer to their problems. But as the world often does, the crowd saw Him only as a source of food — a path to sustenance without work. Many of those to whom the gospel [HIStory] is presented to will come to the same conclusion. Continually point out that Jesus was, and is, God's provision not for physical respite, but the answer to their greater problem: alienation from a Holy God by their sin.

## [33] Demon Possessed Boy [Casting Out the Demon]



### The Path to Redemption:

- This miracle is another that demonstrates Jesus' power over the spiritual evil world.
- It also centers on the power of faith in the individual. Just as spiritual life is received by faith, it also must be lived out by faith.
- Jesus' followers will experience the full gambit of emotion in this story, from the height of the Mount of Transfiguration to the depths of the Valley of Despair.

**Timeless Truth:** Even though the disciples did not have sufficient faith to heal the boy, and disregarding the fact that He was also being observed by Jewish leaders looking for fault accompanied by those who were thrill-seekers looking for personal benefit, the Lord Jesus, following God's Path to Redemption, called the boy to Himself and healed his body and soul.

## [34] Jesus Raises Lazarus [Lazarus Raised from the Dead]



### The Path to Redemption:

- Jesus had previously demonstrated His power over the physical elements, the spiritual underworld and the forgiveness of sin, now He would demonstrate victory over life's greatest challenge: death.
- Martha exhibits faith that Jesus was able to perform whatever God commands. She also believed in the resurrection as most Jews, excluding the Sadducees.

## The Story Cloth Path to Redemption

- Jesus intention was to teach His being not only the resurrection but the life as well. This would take more than intellectual consent of a resurrection, but faith that Jesus was who He said he was.
- The Path to Redemption continues to reveal itself as Lazarus was raised from the grave by the word of God's Son alone. Note in the Scripture: "that the Son of God might be glorified through it" (John. 11:4)

**Timeless Truth:** Mary is always pictured as one whose devotion to Jesus is exemplary, however here it seems she has lost her way somewhat. Her trust, like ours, is not flawless. It is the consistent faith of Martha, sometimes seen as unemotional and cold, that continues the path to divine intervention seen. Yet, even with Martha, it would be prudent to note that her faith was likewise flawed in her comment that Jesus might ask God for the "power" to return her brother from the dead.

### HIStory - Lesson 11



## THE ESSENTIALS FOR OUR SALVATION

(Stories 35, 36, 37, 38)

### [35] [The] Rich Young Ruler

#### The Path to Redemption:

- The rich ruler, perhaps on account of his youth, or being steeped in rabbinical tradition, did not understand, trust or desire God's wonderful provision. He thought his was sufficient.
- The term inherit insists a personal, familial relationship – those unknown or outside the family do not inherit.
- "What shall I do" suggests his concept that one must earn eternal life – but it a gift from a loving Holy God.

**Timeless Truth:** This man came to the right person, with the right spirit, asked the right question but could not make the right choice – because he would not let go of what he had learned in the past. It is so with many who find coming to Christ difficult. Only as the Path to Righteousness revealed is salvation revealed – it is in Him, the provider.

### [36] Jesus Anointed at Bethany [Woman Washes Jesus' Feet]



#### The Path to Redemption:

- The miracle of forgiveness is unlike those of physical healing. Physical healing is applicable only during life on earth, but God's forgiveness is eternal.



## The Story Cloth Path to Redemption

- Here a woman who has seen her sin as great exhibit much love for the One who forgave her, while another who has not seeming awareness of his own great need for forgiveness finds fault with her.

**Timeless truth:** Again we find the understanding that the only thing that could keep a person from coming to Jesus is the unbelief that he needed to. The greatest miracle of all is offered to all, but some, because of their lack of awareness of the greatness of their sin, do not choose to believe or receive it.

## [37] The Last Supper



### The Path to Redemption:

- In keeping with HIStory, Jesus used the prophetic feast of the Passover to illustrate to His disciples the coming necessity of the shedding of His blood and the continuing Path to Righteousness.
- Review the continual demonstrations of sacrifice that have been studied: in the garden [for Adam], in the Passover, a ram [for Isaac]. Instruct that they were all of God's choosing, for it is He that demands propitiation.

**Timeless Truth:** On the cross, Jesus fulfilled the Old Covenant and established a New Covenant (Heb. 9-10). The New Covenant in His blood would do what the Old Covenant sacrifices could not do—take away sin and cleanse the heart and conscience of the believer. Part of the meal included unleavened bread and wine, two common items used at every Seder meal for hundreds of years, but Jesus revealed their wonderful meaning. When Jesus said, "This is My body," and, "This is My blood," He did not transform either the bread or the wine into anything different. When the disciples ate the matzos, it was still unleavened bread; when they drank the wine, it was still wine. However, they would serve as memorials of His death. The Old Covenant was validated with the blood of an animal sacrifice, but the New Covenant was validated by the blood of God's Son. We are not saved from our sins by participating in a religious ceremony, but by trusting Jesus Christ as our Savior.

## [38] Jesus on Trial [The Trial of Jesus]



### The Path to Redemption:

- The most important portion of any trial is the verdict. Jesus was accused of treason for claiming to be Christ, the King (Luke. 23:2).
- He was also charged by the religious community of Jews of blasphemy, claiming to be the Son of God.

## The Story Cloth Path to Redemption

- The main issue in both is IDENTITY. Who is He? Does the evidence argue for or against this man being the Messiah He claimed to be?
- Jesus was found innocent but still beaten and scourged. His blood will flow here, even before it will be spilled on the cross. His broken body will be the payment required by Holy God to pay for our sin.

**Timeless truth:** Either Jesus was an evil man purposely deceiving the world, a liar who misled even the most adherent of His followers, or He was mentally insane to the point that He did not really understand reality. Pilate came to the verdict of "I find Him innocent", but that is not of importance here. YOU have become the jury, not just the listener. The important piece of this story is what you determine. What is YOUR verdict?

## HIStory Lesson 12

### THE FULFILLMENT OF PROMISE

(Stories 39, 40, 41, 42)

#### [39] The Crucifixion [Jesus' Death]



##### The Path to Redemption:

- Although His teachings were important, He had come not just to teach, but also to die. The decision was made long before the Garden, the victory won from the foundation of the earth.
- The demand was made, a sacrificial lamb required. There was NO other way for mankind to be saved from his eternal curse.
- In love Jesus willingly went to the cross. Prophecy stated the Messiah was to be tortured and crucified (Isa. 53:5). It was fulfilled when Jesus was beaten and crucified (Matt. 27:26).
- His death brought together the separation between God and man, by His stripes we are healed from that malady. We witness on the cross our transgressions imputed onto a sinless substitute sacrifice.
- The blood was shed, the demands of the Law satisfied, God's wrath was appeased, and the sacrifice was perfect. **The Path to Redemption was now completed.**

**Timeless Truth:** The important issue of Christmas is not so much that Jesus came, but why He came. There was no salvation in His birth. Nor did the sinless way He lived His life have any redemptive force of its own. His example, as flawless as it was, could not rescue men from their sins. Even His teaching, the greatest truth ever revealed to man, could not save us from our sins. There was a price to be paid for our sins. Rom. 6:23a, "For the wages of sin is death..." And only Jesus could pay that price!

## [40] The Resurrection



### The Path to Redemption:

- The resurrection of Jesus is a fundamental and essential doctrine of Christianity.
- The resurrection of Jesus is so important that without it Christianity is false. Paul said in 1 Cor. 15:14, "and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain."
- Jesus' vindication involves the exercise of God's power bringing him to life in a new, glorified state.
- If Jesus had only died and never been resurrected, His death would have been like the normal death of a human. But Jesus is not only human—He is also God the Son!
- If Jesus had stayed dead, He would still be under the punishment and power of sin—death. But He is victor!
- The resurrection proves God the Father accepted Jesus and His saving work on the cross (Acts 17:31).
- The resurrection shows God will give believers life again after they die
- The resurrection assures believers that their obeying, serving, and suffering for the Lord will be rewarded one day in heaven.

**Timeless Truth:** Jesus rose in the same kind of body in which He died (John 2:19-21; Luke 24:36-43). The difference is that it was in a glorified state. We do not know exactly what His body is like, but the nature of the resurrected body is discussed by Paul in 1 Cor. 15:35-58.

## [41] Jesus Appears to Disciples



### The Path to Redemption:

- Jesus had promised to rise on the third day, but the reaction of His followers following His death gives some evidence of their confusion or doubt. An angel came to announce His resurrection, but there were not many at the grave-site to hear it – only a few women who were also in doubt.
- Jesus had instructed the disciples, "I will be in Galilee" (Matt. 26:3) but they had not yet departed. In fact they were hiding in fear.
- His appearing to them gave more than insurance, it gave them the Holy Spirit, it gave them direction, and gave them hope.

## The Story Cloth Path to Redemption

- Before Jesus ascended into heaven he gave the Great Commission, telling his followers to go and make disciples of all nations.

**Timeless truth:** The reaction of the followers of Jesus is a forerunner of reaction of those who hear about Him today. Some partially believe, some reject, some accept. Even those who accept have some fear brought on by the evil one, “Is it really true? Does He really save?” But when Jesus reveals Himself in their lives reason for doubt is removed, direction is given and hope instituted through faith.

## [42] Jesus Taken up to Heaven [The Ascension]



### The Path to Redemption:

- Jesus had prayed to His father, “I have finished, I am ready to return to You.”
- After the resurrection, God completed the task He was born to do. Satan’s head had been crushed, sin and death defeated and His seat beside the Father was to be occupied by the only one worthy.
- He was welcomed by angels of glory, and sat down. The victory was complete and concluded. **JUST AS HE PROMISED**
- And throughout time Christians will resound, “He is risen INDEED!”

**Timeless Truth:** As you have listened to H<sup>I</sup>Story you have been presented evidence of WHO Jesus is. What His claims were, what His actions were, what His teachings were. All very clearly pointing to His being the Son of God, the sent sacrifice for mankind’s sin. The ONLY way to salvation. Yet all this information must be decided upon. Is Jesus who He said He was, or has this all been one long exhaustive plot based on nothing, going nowhere – a joke on mankind?

**It is your choice.**

***What should our response to H<sup>I</sup>Story be?***