

EXPLORATION: BIBLE

JESUS said, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory? **And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself...**” Then, “**He rebuked their unbelief and said... All things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me**” (Luke 24:25-27, 44).

SCARLET THREAD - CONCLUSION

Over the past eleven months we have studied places where the Old Testament foretells Jesus as the Messiah. We have discussed how these stories contain a symbolic “Scarlet Thread” that weaves through the biblical narrative and ultimately connects to Jesus. The whole Bible from beginning to end is **ALL ABOUT JESUS**.

Individually each Scarlet Thread connection is AMAZING, but when all are combined the message is ABSOLUTELY STUNNING. Only one person fulfilled all the prophecies of the Jewish Messiah – Jesus is the Messiah!

INTRODUCTION, in our first study we learned that “scarlet” is the color – blood red. The Scarlet Thread connects the sacrifices of blood atonement from beginning to end, from the Garden of Eden where God provided Adam and Eve with animal skins to cover their sin and shame, all the way to the cross where Jesus shed his blood for the sins of the entire world. We live in a messed-up world, filled with messy people, so the Scarlet Thread connections foretell God’s plan to save sinful humanity.

SCARLET THREAD #1, was the story of God’s grace towards Eve. God promised to vindicate the deception of the Serpent by using the “seed” of a woman, a descendent of Eve, to crush the Serpent’s head. This story then links to four unlikely women: Tamar (a woman who committed incest, Genesis 38); Rahab (a Canaanite prostitute, Joshua 2 & 6); Ruth (from the cursed Moabite nation, Book of Ruth); and Bathsheba (an adulteress, 2 Samuel 11-12). Some people struggled with this article because these stories are disturbing. Thankfully, God does NOT show favoritism and these four Gentile women were, by God’s grace, included in the blood line of Jesus Christ (Matthew 1:1-15).

SCARLET THREAD #2, introduced the fact that blood atonement, shedding the blood of innocent animals to cover the guilt of sinful people, was God’s requirement for the forgiveness of sins. Blood sacrifice connected the stories of Adam and Eve, to Cain and Able, to Abraham and Isaac, to the Passover lamb, to the Tabernacle, to the Temple, and finally to

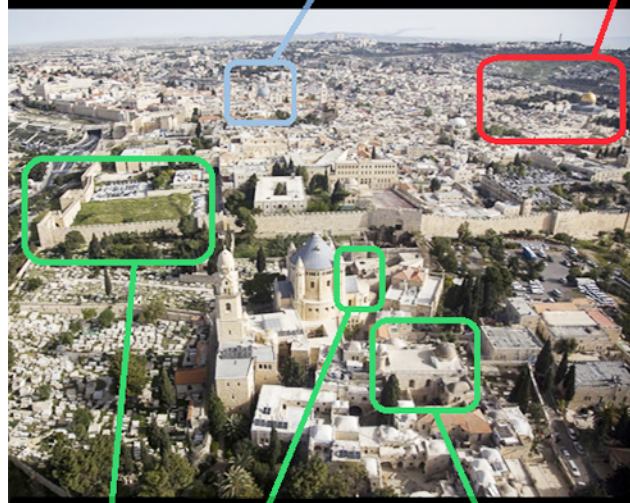
Jesus. Hebrew chapter 9 tells us without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins and Colossians 1 says God used Jesus to reconcile us to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

SCARLET THREAD #3, was when God asked Abraham to offer his son Isaac as a blood sacrifice on the Mountains of Moriah. God, however, provided a ram for the sacrifice in Isaac’s place (Genesis 22). This story precisely pictured what God did for us 2,000 years later as Jesus, the perfect lamb of God, was sacrificed in our place on the Mountains of Moriah.

In this aerial view of Old City Jerusalem, the three peaks that were the ancient Mountains of Moriah can still be identified.

THIRD, is Mount Calvary where Jesus was crucified, buried & rose from the dead (*Church of the Holy Sepulcher*)

FIRST, is Mount Moriah where Abraham took Isaac & where the Jewish Temple once stood.



TRIAL before Pilate at the Praetorium.

TRIAL at the home of Caiaphas.

THE HOME of the Last Supper and where Pentecost happened.

SECOND, is Mount Zion (the Western Mount) where the trials & beatings of Jesus took place. This is also the Mount where the Last Supper and Pentecost (*Acts 2*) happened.

SCARLET THREAD #4, brought us to the first Jewish Passover (Exodus chapter 12). In this story, the Jewish people were saved from certain death and set free from slavery by the sacrifice of the Passover Lamb. 1 Corinthians chapter 5 says Christ, our Passover Lamb, was sacrificed for us.

SCARLET THREAD ARTICLES #5-8, explain how God’s Sanctuaries, first the Tabernacle later replaced by the Jewish Temple, perfectly pictured Jesus. The Temple in Jerusalem, located on Mount Moriah, was the one place on earth where sinful men could meet with the holy God. This building was a slaughterhouse – it was the house of blood atonement. For almost 1,000 years, millions of innocent animals (lambs, goats, and bulls) were offered as blood sacrifices for the sins of the people at the Jewish Temple. Hebrews chapter 10 tells us the blood of bulls and goats could never permanently atone for sins, but Jesus offered himself as the final sacrifice for sins on the cross. In doing this Jesus perfected forever those who place their faith in Him (Hebrews 10:1-4, 10-14).

SCARLET THREAD #9, examined the “Suffering Servant” of Isaiah chapter 53. One cannot read this chapter and not see Jesus in every detail, yet this prophecy was written seven hundred years before the birth of Christ. It says, “He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:5-6).

SCARLET THREAD #10, looked at prophecies that stated the Jewish Messiah would become the Savior of both Jews and Gentiles. The idea that a humble Jewish man would one day be worshipped worldwide seems impossible! Yet following the death and resurrection of Christ, Christianity spread quickly from the Jews to the entire Roman Empire and by 200 A.D. it dominated the ancient world. Christianity eventually spread to every nation on earth. Today there are approximately 2.4 billion followers of Jesus. The Psalmist wrote, “Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of Yahweh endures forever. Praise the LORD!” (Psalm 117:1-2).

CONCLUSION: Jesus influenced our world in a greater way than any other human being. Why? Not because He died, but because He died and then three days later, He rose from the dead. Jesus is the Savior of the world because Jesus lives. The Scarlet Thread will one day conclude with the return of Jesus to the earth. He will set up his eternal throne on THE MOUNTAINS OF MORIAH; On the same mountains where Abraham and David built altars to Yahweh; On the same mountains where the Jewish Temple once stood and where the Lamb of God was sacrificed, buried, and rose from the dead. The underlying message of the Scarlet Thread has never changed, “For God so loved the WORLD that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).