

“Period, Pause, & Promise”

Intro: Series.... Done with O.T.... beginning N.T....

QUESTION: “What have you heard God saying?”

I. PERIOD. (Review O.T.)

- Genesis 3:15 to Malachi 3:5 = *Creator to Christ!*
- Theme throughout...
 - Malchi...
 - “I have ALWAYS LOVED YOU...”
 - “Jesus is coming!”
 - Bible Summary... (The Gospel Project)

God's Word to You: A Summary of the Bible

In the beginning, the all-powerful, personal God created the universe. This God created human beings in His image to live joyfully in His presence, in humble submission to His gracious authority. But all of us have rebelled against God and, in consequence, must suffer the punishment of our rebellion: physical death and the wrath of God.

Thankfully, God initiated a rescue plan, which began with His choosing the nation of Israel to display His glory in a fallen world. The Bible describes how God acted mightily on Israel's behalf, rescuing His people from slavery and then giving them His holy law. But God's people - like all of us - failed to rightly reflect the glory of God.

Then, in the fullness of time, in the Person of Jesus Christ, God Himself came to renew the world and restore His people. Jesus perfectly obeyed the law given to Israel. Though innocent, He suffered the consequences of human rebellion by His death on a cross. But three days later, God raised Him from the dead.

Now the church of Jesus Christ has been commissioned by God to take the news of Christ's work to the world. Empowered by God's Spirit, the church calls all people everywhere to repent of sin and to trust in Christ alone for our forgiveness. Repentance and faith restores our relationship with God and results in a life of ongoing transformation.

The Bible promises that Jesus Christ will return to this earth as the conquering King. Only those who live in repentant faith in Christ will escape God's judgment and live joyfully in God's presence for all eternity. God's message is the same to all of us: repent and believe, before it is too late. Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, and you will be saved.

II. PAUSE... (Inter-testimonial Period)

- 400 years of silence
- Persians give way to the Greeks...
- Greeks give way to the Romans...
- GOD SOVEREIGNLY @ WORK the ENTIRE TIME!

III. PROMISE... (the GOSPEL of Jesus Christ)

VIDEO: What is the Gospel?

N.T. begins... sharing Gospel Promises...

Mark 1:1 = *The beginning of **the gospel of Jesus Christ**, the Son of God.*

Gospel is an O.T. PROPHETIC PROMISE...

Romans 1:1-6 = *Paul, a **slave of Christ Jesus**, called to be an apostle, **set apart for the gospel of God**, **2** which **He promised** beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, **3** concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh **4** and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, **5** through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, **6** including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ...*

NOTE: cf. **Genesis 3:15**

Gospel Promise = the "Power of God"

Romans 1:16-17 = *For **I am not ashamed of the gospel**, for it is the **power of God** for salvation to **everyone who believes**, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. **17** For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "**The righteous shall live by faith.**"*

VIDEO: "Proof of Your Love"

Jesus' birth fulfills the Gospel Promise:

Matthew 1:21-23 = *...you shall call his name Jesus, **for he will save his people from their sins.**" 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).*

Gospel Promise **always was** God's Plan:

John 1:1-3 = *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

Gospel Promise says: "Believe & Receive"

John 1:12 = *But to all who did **receive** him, who **believed** in his name, he gave **the right to become children of God...***

Gospel Promise must be DESIRED

John 1:35-39 = *John was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" 37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. 38 Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What do you want?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" 39 He said to them, "Come and see."*

Gospel Promise PREACHED... His Purpose!

Luke 4:42-43 = *And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, 43 but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose."*

Gospel Promise is a Timely INVITATION

Matthew 4:18-22 = *While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. 19 And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 21 And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.*

Gospel Promise in Ephesians 2:1-10....

vv. 1-2 Life-giving MIRACLE

Ephesians 2:1-10 = *And **you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2** in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—*

v.3 Empathetic & Forgiving

Ephesians 2:3 = *...among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.*

vv. 4-5 Merciful & Miraculous Love!

Ephesians 2:4-5 = *But **God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5** even when we were dead in our trespasses, **made us alive together with Christ—by grace—**you have been saved...*

vv. 6-7 Heavenly Immeasurable...

6 *and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7* *so that in the coming ages he might show the **immeasurable riches of his grace** in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

vv. 8-10 A Grace Gift w/ a Purpose!

8 For by **grace you have been saved through faith**. And this is not your own doing; it is **the gift of God**, **9** not a result of works, so that no one may boast. **10** For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

G.P. is Supernaturally Transformational!

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 = *...if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*
18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. **20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.**

Gospel Promise is LOVE PERSONIFIED!

21 For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

THUS...

Gospel Promise is the Great PARADOX...

VIDEO: Gospel Love & Hate...

John 3:16...

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Gospel Passion</i> | <i>(loved)</i> |
| <i>Gospel Proof</i> | <i>(gave)</i> |
| <i>Gospel Potential</i> | <i>(world... who-so-ever)</i> |
| <i>Gospel Pragmatics</i> | <i>(biblically believes in Him)</i> |
| <i>Gospel Promise</i> | <i>(eternal life)</i> |

VIDEO: "The Same Love" (cups)

Close:

PRAY! **(KEY VIDEO: "When Mercy Found Me")** testimony!!!