

In the afternoon on day of the resurrection, Jesus talked with two of His disciples as they walked down the road to Emmaus, & opened to them the scriptures predicting His suffering & death?

I'm so thankful for Luke because he is the only Gospel writer to include this event.

Have you ever wondered which scriptures Jesus opened up to them; I have many times.

Recently as I read this account again I thought: I would love to hear some really good teacher talk about this so I could learn more.

Then I had this thought, Why don't I just do my own study of these passages.

That search turned into this study we're going to start looking at today.

As I read these passages I realized that the OT is full of types & shadows, prophetic passages & hidden references to what is undoubtedly the most important event to ever happen.

That being said, it would be impossible for me to exhaustively go thru all of the OT passages concerning the suffering Messiah, but we can begin to look at some of the obvious ones, & maybe some that aren't so obvious.

Here is the account of *The Road To Emmaus* from Luke's gospel:

Luke 24:13-27 Now behold, two of them, (Jesus' disciples), were traveling that same day, (first day of the week after the crucifixion), to a village called Emmaus which was seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴And they talked together of all these things which had happened. ¹⁵So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him. ¹⁷And He said to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?" ¹⁸Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?" ¹⁹And He said to them, "What things?" So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. ²¹But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. ²²Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. ²³When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. ²⁴And certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see." ²⁵Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" ²⁷And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He explained to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

What a bible study that would be! Jesus Himself is opening the OT scriptures & explaining the veiled prophecies foretold about His life, death & suffering.

Jesus had told the Pharisees earlier: *You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me; John 5:39.*

The Pharisees, like the disciples were confused, they believed the Messiah was coming to free them from Roman rule & restore Israel to its former glory.

Luke 16:24-21 But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel.

Acts 1:6 (Just before Jesus ascended), Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

- Even after the crucifixion, after all they had witnessed in the last three years, they still thought the Messiah, was at that time, going to re-establish the throne of David in Israel.

- A few days earlier in the upper room, just before His arrest & crucifixion, Jesus said to them: *John 16:12 I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ However when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth ...*

- It would take years for Jesus to build His church & reveal the truth of His New Covenant. All thru the NT we see Jesus unfolding His plan & building His church.
- But now, just resurrected from the dead, Jesus joined them on the road to open the scriptures & began explaining the true purpose of His ministry & His crucifixion.
- After the crucifixion, all of Jesus' disciples were confused, no one understood the OT scriptures that foretold of His death & resurrection, or why it was necessary.
- Then shortly after the day of Pentecost, we see that Peter was starting to get it; A lame man had just been healed in the name of Jesus & Peter told the Jewish leaders:

Acts 3:18 Those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.

- Standing before the Jews Peter says; all the prophets foretold that the Messiah would suffer.
- Those OT prophecies of the suffering Servant were now opened up to all who would listen.

Today we're going to begin looking at some of those OT prophecies about Jesus, specifically those concerning His suffering, & not His second coming to rule in power & authority.

But why were these prophecies so misunderstood; Why couldn't they see that the Messiah would not reign as King immediately, but suffer shame & ultimately death?

- Why would God hide His plans from His people?
- Why would God hide the fact that the Messiah would in fact make two appearances on earth.
- Why would God shroud the first appearing of the Messiah in such mystery?

*1 Cor 2:7-8 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, ⁸which none of the rulers of this age knew; **for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.***

- God hid these prophetic events so that no person, demon nor fallen angel would interfere with His redemption plans, with His plan for the Messiah to die for our sins.

° The very first prophecy about the Messiah's suffering is recorded in *Genesis 3* right after Adam sinned & sold mankind into the bondage of sin & death; At that time, God said to Satan:

Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall crush your head, And you shall bruise His heel.

- God immediately prophesied of a deliverer to come, who would be born of a woman & crush the serpents head, but at the same time, that deliverer would also be injured by the serpent.
- This is the very first prophetic mention of the Messiah, & it tells of a deliverer who's earthly mission to free mankind will require His suffering to complete it.

° Two thousand years later, in the scriptures, we have an incident that is recorded as a symbolic type, prophetically foreshadowing the Messiah's death.

- The Jews call this *The Akedah*, (The Binding of Isaac), They are unaware of it's true meaning.

Genesis 22:1-2 Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ²Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

- Abraham's obedience would provide a prophetic type, an earthly foreshadow of God's plan to give His only Son whom He loves as a sacrifice for us.

- God had promised to build a nation thru Isaac, & *Heb 11:19* tells us that Abraham believed if he obeyed & killed Isaac, God would be obligated to raise him from the dead;

Heb 11:17–19 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, ¹⁸ of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” ¹⁹ concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

According to Hebrews, for the 3 days they traveled, Abraham considered Isaac dead, so after God intervened, Abraham, figuratively speaking, received Isaac back from the dead after 3 days.

- In this event there’s no mention of Isaac resisting or refusing to be sacrificed, just as Jesus willingly submitted to the cross.
- Isaac didn’t argue with Abraham & try to tell his dad this was a mistake; In the same way Jesus would be silent before His accusers some two thousand years later.
- The only mention of Isaac saying anything was when he asked: here is the wood & the fire, but where is the lamb; Abraham’s reply was: God will provide Himself a lamb.

This OT prophetic illustration doesn’t portray a powerful king commanding vast armies & destroying all of Israel’s enemies.

Instead, it shows an only son, in obedience to his father, submitting to a death he doesn’t deserve.

- ° Another prophetic type Moses wrote foretelling the suffering Messiah is seen in the Passover.
 - When God freed Israel from their bondage in Egypt, He did it in a mysterious way that would point to the suffering Messiah.

Exodus 12:3–13 Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: ‘On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household ... ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year ... Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight ⁷And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it ... ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. ¹³ Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you ...

The Passover is a study in itself which could easily take weeks or months, but we’re only going to briefly look it as one of the OT prophecies foretelling a suffering Messiah.

- A spotless lamb was to be taken, inspected, killed & eaten by God’s people.
- The blood was to be put on the doorpost of their home; That blood was the only thing that would keep them from dying in God’s judgment on Egypt, (Egypt is a type of sin & the world).
- Likewise, those bought with the blood of Jesus will not be judged with this world & death will have no hold over them.

To avoid judgment with Egypt, the lamb had to die in their place.

- John the Baptist announced the beginning of Jesus’ ministry by saying: “Behold, The Lamb Of God who takes away the sins of the world”.
- Jesus is our Passover Lamb; He was killed so we can live.
 - But notice at that first Passover it wasn’t enough for the lamb to be killed, the blood of that sacrifice had to be put visibly on the doorpost of each home.
- Likewise, Jesus died for the sins of the world; This may sound strange, but that isn’t enough to free us from being judged with the world.
- Each of us need to willingly & from the heart apply His blood to our own lives by faith.

- Just as each family in Israel clearly marked their doorposts with blood, every believer today also needs to be marked with the blood of His sacrifice & openly confess Jesus as Lord.
- He suffered & died so we can live; It's only His blood that distinguishes us from the world & without His blood, judgment & death will be inescapable.

Surely this would have been one of the passages Jesus opened to the disciples on that road.

- This prophetic event mysteriously foretold details of God's plan, but it's veiled in a way that only after the cross we can see it represents a suffering Messiah.
- Before the cross, could anyone imagine the Messiah dying so our sins could be passed over.

° Another Messianic prophecy Moses recorded is found in the book of Numbers.

Num 21:5–9 And the people spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread." 6So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died. 7Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. 8Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live." 9So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

This strange passage is puzzling, but the OT gives no explanation of the details.

It's not until the NT that Jesus Himself explains to Nicodemus its meaning.

John 3:14–15 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

- Why a serpent: *It's a type of sin, & now we know Jesus became sin for us; 2Cor 5:21*
- Why bronze: *It's a common biblical type of God's judgment: most items in the temple were bronze*
- Why were they healed simply by looking at it: *It's a type of our faith, looking to Jesus*

Again, this Messianic illustration doesn't show a powerful king who conquers Israel's enemies. Instead it portrays the Messiah, lifted up on a pole, being made sin, suffering God's judgment & thru simple faith in His sacrifice, forgiveness & life are freely granted to all who look to Him.

° Don't make the mistake of thinking the suffering Jesus endured was limited to the cross.

- The OT scriptures are not silent about His early sufferings, but tell us of a young boy who is treated unjustly by those around Him, & He turns to God for refuge.
- Jesus was despised long before His ministry officially began; Remember, His mother was pregnant before she was married, so His whole life was overshadowed with this shame.
- We even see the pharisees throwing this in Jesus face as they argued with Him about the things He was teaching.

John 8:39–41 They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. 40But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. 41You do the deeds of your father. Then they said to Him, We were not born of fornication; we have one Father—God.

- News of Jesus' illegitimate birth would have surely been told thru-out Israel once His ministry began & He became famous.

I believe we get a glimpse of the suffering of Jesus' early life in the Psalms.

Some believe *Psalm 69* describes Jesus' agony in the garden & on the cross, but the first half of the Psalm can't be, because this is a prayer for deliverance, but in Gethsemane Jesus didn't pray for deliverance, He prayed "not My will but Yours".

- *Ps 88* is a prayer from Jesus' trial & crucifixion but it is very different from *Ps 69*.

As we read the first half of *Ps 69*, listen to it as a prayer from a young boy who loves God, but struggles with the torments of ignorant & cruel people that think He was born from adultery.

Psalm 69: Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck. ²I sink in deep mire where there is no standing; I have come into deep waters where the floods overflow me. ³I am weary with my crying; My throat is dry; My eyes fail while I wait for my God. ⁴Those who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head; They are mighty who would destroy me, being my enemies wrongfully; Though I have stolen nothing, I still must restore it. ⁷Because for Your sake I have borne reproach; Shame has covered my face. ⁸I have become a stranger to my brothers, and an alien to my mother's children; ⁹Because zeal for Your house has eaten me up, and the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me. ¹⁰When I wept and chastened my soul with fasting, that became my reproach. ¹¹I also made sackcloth my garment; I became a byword to them. ¹²Those who sit in the gate speak against me, and I am the song of the drunkards. ¹³But as for me, my prayer is to You O LORD, in the acceptable time; O God, in the multitude of Your mercy, Hear me in the truth of Your salvation. ¹⁴Deliver me out of the mire, and let me not sink; Let me be delivered from those who hate me, And out of the deep waters. ¹⁵Let not the floodwater overflow me, nor let the deep swallow me up; and let not the pit shut its mouth on me. ¹⁶Hear me, O LORD, for Your lovingkindness is good; Turn to me according to the multitude of Your tender mercies. ¹⁷And do not hide Your face from Your servant, For I am in trouble; Hear me speedily. ¹⁸Draw near to my soul, and redeem it; Deliver me because of my enemies. ¹⁹You know my reproach, my shame, and my dishonor; My adversaries are all before You. ²⁰Reproach has broken my heart, and I am full of heaviness; I looked for someone to take pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none.

I believe these are the words of Jesus, fully God & yet fully human; struggling as a young boy under the injustice & ridicule of ignorant & cruel people.

- Everywhere He turns, those of His own family & those of His home town despise & hate Him thru no fault of His own.
- But for Jesus, for this young boy, it's only the beginning of the suffering He must endure.
- ° One of the most important passages concerning the Suffering Messiah is not usually recognized nor understood as such by most, & yet without this detail, the cross would have no meaning.
 - The story is found in the book of Ruth, but the key to the problem is found in the Law; This little discussed key answers the problem Adam created back in the garden.
 - The book of Ruth begins with a famine in Israel;

Ruth 1:1-2 Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem, Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. ²The name of the man was Elimelech, the name of his wife was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion ...

- Elimelech has lost everything because of the famine & decides to make a new start in Moab.
- While in Moab, he dies leaving his wife Naomi with two sons who marry Moabite wives.
- The two sons also die leaving Naomi alone in a strange land, so she decides to return to Israel where her family still live.
- Her two daughters-in-law want to go with her but eventually only Ruth does.

- This story tells us how the land that Naomi lost when she left Israel is eventually restored thru the Jewish Law of the Kinsman Redeemer, found in *Lev 25:47-50*.
- That Law says a person enslaved by debt can be freed by a close relative, a kinsman redeemer who pays their debt, (or buys back their lost possessions).
- Boaz, the legal kinsman of Naomi, a type of Jesus, willingly pays that redemption price.
- But Boaz goes even farther; according the law of Levirate marriage from *Deut 25:5-10*, he legally marries Ruth, the gentile widow of Naomi's son.
 - (In *Mt 22:25-30* the Sadducees tried to trick Jesus with a question regarding this law).
- Ruth is a Moabite; She is a type of the church, the gentile bride of Jesus.
- Boaz, a type of Jesus, legally restores her inheritance, marries her & gives her a child with full rights to the family name; the tribe of Judah.
- Ruth is the great grandmother of king David & so she is part of Jesus' own bloodline;

Ruth 4:18-22, Mt 1:5-6, Lk 3:31-32.

Here's some background to help understand why the kinsman redeemer is the Suffering Messiah.

- God gave Adam all authority over this world & everything in it.

Gen 1:26–28 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

- When Adam yielded to Satan & sinned he surrendered all the authority God gave him.
- Satan became the legal "god of this world" as we can see by the conversation the devil had with Jesus when he tempted Him in the wilderness.

Luke 4:6 And the devil said to Him (Jesus), "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.

- Notice God didn't give Satan this authority, It had been "delivered to him", by Adam.
- God had told Adam that if he ate the forbidden fruit he would surely die; Death is the only acceptable payment for this sin.
- Adam & all of his offspring are now sold into slavery to sin & death with no way of paying the debt themselves, (short of dying).
- Adam needs a kinsman to redeem him from this debt, but Adam has no brothers; he was a son, Fathered directly by God.
- There needs to be another man who is Fathered by God alone; a true brother of Adam.
- There's only one other man Fathered by God; Jesus, born into this world from a virgin, not fathered by another man sold under slavery.

Luke 1:31–35 Behold, you (Mary) will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" ³⁵And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

- The Father of Jesus was God, making Jesus Adam's brother & his only legal Kinsman; He's the only one who can redeem Adam & his children.

- From the beginning Jesus knew His purpose, as Adam's kinsman redeemer, was to die in his place, pay the price Adam couldn't pay.
- And because Jesus was without sin, when He died in Adam's place, sin couldn't hold Him & He returned to life, resurrected, firstborn from the dead.
- Not only did Jesus pay Adam's debt, but because He never sinned, He reclaimed all the authority over this world that God originally gave to Adam; *Rev 5*.
- ° The doctrine of the Kinsman Redeemer is not often taught in Christianity today, but because we are all sons of Adam, born into that same debt of sin that we cannot pay, by putting our faith in the Jesus, our kinsman Redeemer, we too are set free.
- ° Now like the bronze serpent in the wilderness that was lifted up on a pole, We who look to the one who was lifted up on the cross, will be redeemed from death.
- ° Now all who put the blood of His sacrifice on the doorposts of our lives will be passed over by the angel of death.
- ° Now all who put their faith in the Son whom the Father loved, the one to whom the promises were made, the one whom the Father was willing to sacrifice, they will be redeemed.
- ° Now we can know Him who was born the seed of the woman, came into this world to crush the serpents head, & yet in so doing, was Himself bruised in the process.

So, on the road to Emmaus, Jesus begins to open His disciples understanding of these scriptures.

- These two disciples were the first to have the mystery of the suffering Messiah revealed.
- Over the next 40 days I believe Jesus opened these scriptures to all the Apostles & disciples who loved Him & were close to Him.
- Peter much later wrote about these mysterious passages that confounded the OT prophets.

1 Pet 1:10–12 Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, ¹¹searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. ¹²To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into.

- I believe Peter spent the rest of his life sharing & explaining these same OT prophecies that Jesus opened to him after His resurrection.
- He began telling people about the death and resurrection of the Messiah with his first sermon from the upper room on the Day of Pentecost & never stopped talking about it.
- Jesus' death is the focal point of God's plan for mankind, which had been hidden, veiled to their eyes in the scriptures for more than a thousand years.
- It's these same scriptures we have the privilege of looking behind the veil at what God mysteriously hid long before Jesus was even born.

If we will take the time to search the scriptures & listen to the Holy Spirit, He will help us to understand the meaning of the Suffering Messiah in a deep & personal way.