

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

HANDOUT



SESSION 1: THE GOSPEL

*Now is not always, because Jesus died
for our sins.*

A. INTRODUCTION | CLARITY, CONFIDENCE, & PATH FORWARD

1. CLARITY ON THE GOSPEL & MEMBERSHIP

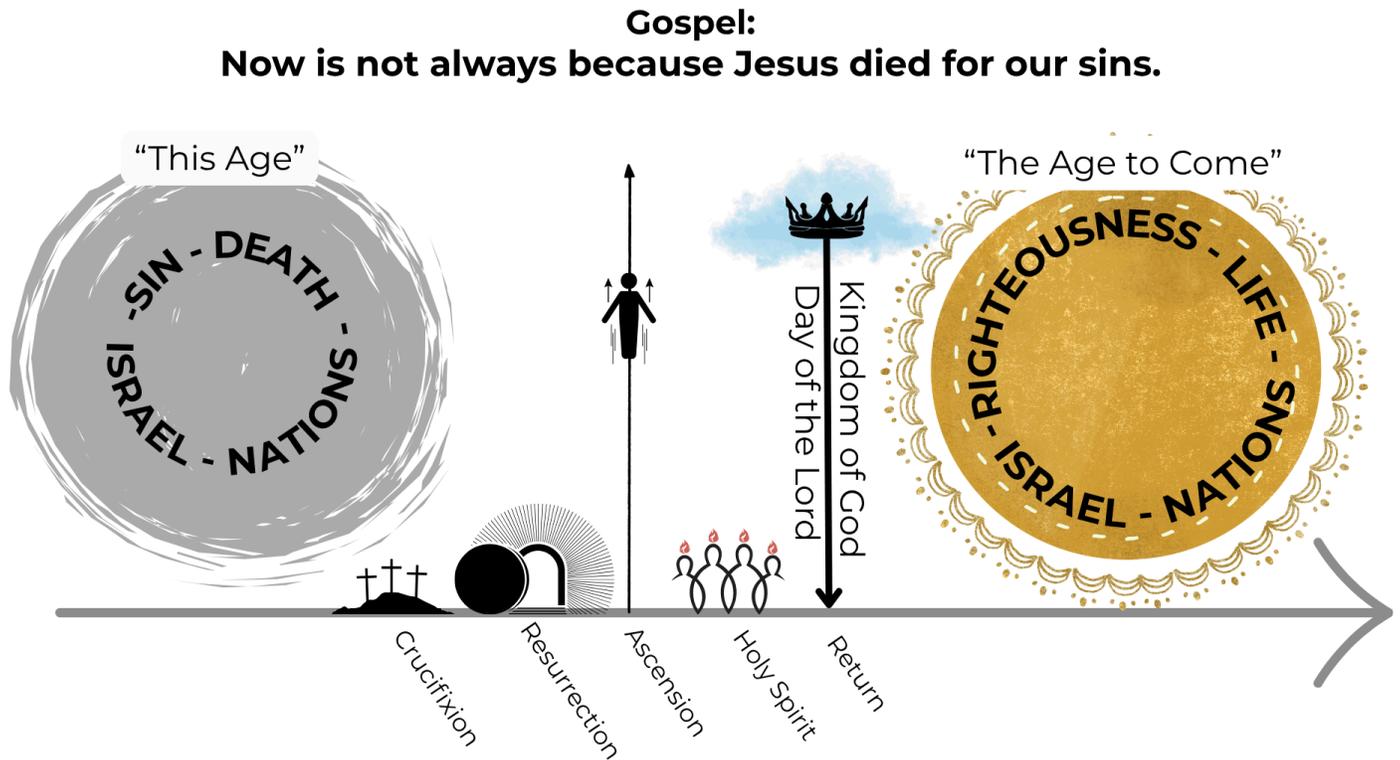
(Romans 1:16, BHT)

...the **GOSPEL** is...the very power of God, **saving all who place their faith in Him**...

2. CONFIDENCE IN MEMBERSHIP

3. MEMBERSHIP PATHWAY

B. THE GOSPEL | NOW IS NOT ALWAYS



The Gospel is "good news". But good news about what? According to the scriptures, it's good news **about the future; how things are now and how things will be** via the work of Israel's Messiah on the cross and on His Day.

"Now is not always because Jesus died for our sins."

1. "GOOD NEWS" ABOUT ISRAEL'S REDEMPTION

Israel/Jerusalem/Zion is the origin point of the good news; what "the gospel" is first spoken to.

(Is 40:9–11, NIV)

2 Speak tenderly to **JERUSALEM**, and **announce TO HER** that her time of hard service is over, **her iniquity has been pardoned**...⁹ You who bring **GOOD NEWS** (LXX ‘euangelizomai’) **TO ZION**, go up on a high mountain. You who bring **GOOD NEWS to JERUSALEM**, lift up your voice...say to **the towns of JUDAH**, “Here is your God!” ¹⁰ See, **the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm**. See, **his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him**.

(Is 61:1–8, CSB)

1...the LORD has anointed me to bring **GOOD NEWS** to the **poor**...to **heal the brokenhearted**, to **proclaim liberty to the captives** and **freedom to the prisoners**; 2 to **proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor**, and **the day of our God’s vengeance**; to **comfort all who mourn**, 3 to **provide** for those who mourn **IN ZION**; to give them **a crown of beauty** instead of ashes, **festive oil** instead of mourning...⁴ They will **rebuild** the ancient ruins; they will **restore** the former devastations; ⁷... they will possess double **IN THEIR LAND**, and **eternal joy** will be theirs.

2. “GOOD NEWS” FOR THE NATIONS

(Ge 12:2–3, CSB)

2 I will make you into a great nation... **you will be a blessing**. ³ [GNT, “...and **through you I will bless ALL THE NATIONS**.”]

Paul understands this scenario of Abraham’s nation blessing all nations “the gospel.”

(Ga 3:8, CSB)

8 Now the Scripture saw in advance that **God would justify THE GENTILES by faith** and **proclaimed THE GOSPEL** ahead of time **to Abraham**, saying, **ALL THE NATIONS will be blessed through you**.

(Is 2:2–4, 12 NIV)

2 In the last days **the mountain of the LORD’s temple will be established** as the highest of the mountains; **it will be exalted** above the hills, and **ALL NATIONS will stream to it**. ³ **MANY PEOPLES will come** and say, “Come, let us go up to **the mountain of the LORD**, to **the temple** of the God of Jacob. **He will teach US his ways, so that WE may walk in his paths**.” The law will go out **from Zion**, the word of the LORD **from Jerusalem**. ⁴ He will judge between **THE NATIONS** and will settle disputes for **MANY PEOPLES**. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. **NATION will not take up sword against NATION, nor will they train**

for war anymore....¹² For **a day belonging to the LORD** of Armies is **coming against all that is proud and lofty**, against all that is lifted up—**it will be humbled**

(Is. 52:1, 7-10, CSB)

...wake up; put on your strength, **Zion...Jerusalem, the holy city!**⁷ (ESV, “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings **GOOD NEWS**...who proclaims **SALVATION**, who says **to Zion, “Your God reigns!”** ⁸...for every eye will see **WHEN THE LORD RETURNS TO ZION**. ⁹ Be joyful, rejoice together, you **ruins of Jerusalem!** For the LORD has comforted his people; he has **redeemed Jerusalem**. ¹⁰ The LORD has displayed his holy arm in the sight of **ALL THE NATIONS, ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH will see the salvation of our God**.

3. “GOOD NEWS” ABOUT CREATION

(Is 24:21–23, NASB)

²¹ ...**in THAT DAY**, the LORD will **punish THE HOST OF HEAVEN** on high, And **the kings of the earth** on earth. They will be gathered together like prisoners in the dungeon...and after many days **they will be PUNISHED** Then the **MOON AND SUN** will be ashamed for the **LORD of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem...**

(Is. 65:17-19, CSB)

¹⁷ “For I will create **NEW HEAVENS and a NEW EARTH**; the past events will not be remembered or come to mind. ¹⁸ Then **be glad and rejoice forever** in what I am creating; for I will create **Jerusalem** to be a joy and **its people** to be a delight. ¹⁹ I will rejoice in **Jerusalem** and be glad in my people. The sound of **weeping and crying will no longer be heard in her**.

4. “GOOD NEWS” ABOUT SIN

The Lord promises to count the death of his Righteous Servant as atonement for sin.

(Is. 53:5-11, CSB)

⁵ But he was pierced because of **our rebellion**...⁶...the LORD has punished him **for the iniquity of us all...** ¹¹ **After his anguish, he will see light** and be satisfied... **my righteous servant will JUSTIFY many, and he will carry their iniquities**.

5. “GOOD NEWS” ABOUT DEATH

(Is 25:6–9, CSB)

⁶ On **this mountain**, the LORD of Armies will prepare for **all the peoples** a feast...prime cuts of choice meat, fine vintage wine. ⁷ On this mountain **he will swallow up THE BURIAL SHROUD** covering all the nations. ⁸ **HE WILL SWALLOW UP DEATH FOREVER** for the Lord GOD will **WIPE**

AWAY TEARS from every face and remove his people's disgrace from the whole earth...9 **On that day** it will be said, "Look, this is our God; **we have waited for him, and he has saved us...**Let's rejoice and be glad **in his salvation.**

(Is 26:17-19, CSB)

17 As a pregnant woman **about to give birth writhes and cries out in her pains,** so we were before you, LORD. 18 We became **pregnant, we writhed in pain...**19 **YOUR DEAD WILL LIVE, THEIR BODIES WILL RISE. Awake** and sing, you **who dwell in the dust!** For you will be covered with the morning dew, and **the earth will BRING OUT THE DEPARTED SPIRITS.**

C. APOSTOLIC ASSUMPTION OF "THE GOSPEL"

(Lk 3:15-18, NIV)

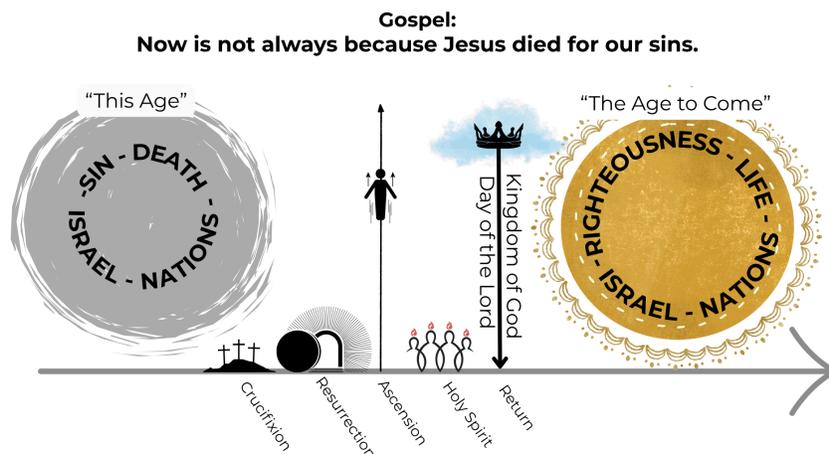
15 Now the people were waiting expectantly... questioning in their hearts whether **John might be the MESSIAH.** 16 John answered them all..."**one who is more powerful than I will come...** 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to **gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.**" 18...John exhorted the people and proclaimed the **GOOD NEWS** to them.

(Mark 1:14, CSB)

Jesus went...**proclaiming THE GOSPEL of God:...**"repent and believe **THE GOOD NEWS** [BHT, "keep putting your trust **in the promises.**"]"

1. APOSTOLIC ADDITION: REPENTANCE & FAITH IN JESUS' WORK AS MEANS FOR INHERITING THE GOSPEL PROMISES

For the apostles, "gospel" is two-fold. **1)** There's a glorious coming age, and **2)** the repentant can inherit that age *through the cross.* Now is not always because Jesus died for our sins.



(Ac 3:18–21, CSB)

18...God fulfilled what he had **predicted through all the prophets**—that **his MESSIAH WOULD SUFFER** 19 Therefore **REPENT** and turn back, so that your **SINS MAY BE WIPED OUT**, 20... **that he may send Jesus**, who has been **appointed for you as the Messiah**. 21 Heaven must receive him **until the time of the RESTORATION OF ALL THINGS**, which **God spoke about through his holy prophets** from the beginning.

(Ac 10:34–43, 11:18, CSB)

39 ...yet **they KILLED HIM...** 40 But **GOD RAISED UP THIS MAN...** 42 He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that **he is the one appointed** by God to be **the judge of the living and the dead**. 43 All **the prophets testify** about him that **through his name everyone who believes in him receives FORGIVENESS OF SINS...** (11:18) God has given **REPENTANCE RESULTING IN LIFE** even to the Gentiles.”

(Ac 13:38–39, NIV)

...**through JESUS** the **FORGIVENESS OF SINS is proclaimed** to you. 39 Through him everyone who believes is **set free FROM EVERY SIN**, a **JUSTIFICATION** you were **not able to obtain under the law of Moses**.

(1 Co 15:1–4, CSB)

Now I want to make clear...**THE GOSPEL...**3... that **[Messiah] DIED FOR OUR SINS according to the Scriptures**, 4 that he was **buried**, that **he was raised...** (15:20-23, GNT) ...the truth is that **Christ has been raised from death, as the guarantee** that those who sleep in death **will also be raised**.

(Gal. 1:3-4, ESV)

3... the Lord Jesus [Messiah], 4 who **GAVE HIMSELF FOR OUR SINS to deliver us FROM THE PRESENT EVIL AGE...**

(Rom. 5:6-10, CSB)

8 But God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, **[Messiah] died for us (v.6 “the ungodly”)** 9 How much more then, since we have now been **JUSTIFIED BY HIS BLOOD** will we be **saved through him from wrath**. 10 ...we were **RECONCILED to God**

THROUGH THE DEATH of his Son, then how much more, having been reconciled, will we be **SAVED BY HIS LIFE**.

D. GOSPEL REVIEW

1. GOOD NEWS ABOUT THE FUTURE: NOW IS NOT ALWAYS

NOW: “present **evil age** (Gal. 1:4)” / “anxieties (1 Pet. 5:7)” / “**sufferings** in the **present time** (Rom. 8:18)” / “creation is subjected to **futility** (Rom. 8:20)”, in “bondage to **corruption** (Rom. 8:19)” / “mourning, crying, pain and **death** (Rev. 21:4)”

THEN: “set **a Day** when he will judge the world (Ac. 17:31)”, / “**banish** ungodliness (Rom. 11:26)” / “punish (Is. 24:21-22)” / “fulfill **His promise** (2 Pet. 3:9)” / “**restore** all things (Ac. 3:21)” / “**new** heavens and **new** earth (2 Pet. 3:13)” / “wipe every tear” / “**swallow up death forever** (Is. 25:8)”

(Lk 6:21, CSB)

*Blessed are you who are **hungry now**, because you **will be filled**. Blessed are you who **weep now**, because **you will laugh**.*

(2 Cor. 4:8-5:5, CSB)

17 For our **MOMENTARY light AFFLICTION** is producing for us an **absolutely incomparable ETERNAL weight of GLORY**. 18 So we do not focus on **what is seen**, but on what is **unseen**. For **what is seen is TEMPORARY**, but what is **unseen is ETERNAL**.

Now is not always.

2. HOW TO INHERIT THAT FUTURE: JESUS DIED FOR OUR SINS

Since “**all have sinned** and fallen short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23)” / “**Day of judgment** (2 Cor. 5:10)” “just **condemnation** (Rom. 3:8).” But because God is “**kind** (Rom. 2:4)” and “**patient**, not wishing that any should **perish** (2 Pet. 3:9)”, in love, “**He gave** His only Son (Jn. 3:16)” as a “sacrifice **for our sins** (1 Jn. 4:10).”

(Hebrews 9:26-28, ESV)

...[Messiah], having been **OFFERED ONCE TO BEAR THE SINS OF MANY** will **APPEAR A SECOND TIME** not to deal with sin but **TO SAVE** those who are **EAGERLY WAITING** for him.