



The Journey
HOUSTON

The Grand Story of Scripture

Session 10: CLIMAX — The King's New Covenant: Death and Resurrection
(The Gospels)

OPENING DISCUSSION

Why do you think the cross, an instrument of Roman torture and execution, has become the primary symbol for the Christian faith?

TEACHING NOTES

The Rejection of the King

Israel rejected her King. (*John 1:11; Matthew 12:23–24*) — They accuse him of being on Team Satan!

The Crucifixion of the King

Israel's rejection of her King sets in motion the events that lead to His crucifixion, but in God's sovereign plan, their rejection becomes the very means of redemption.

Passion/Holy Week

Triumphal Entry/Palm Sunday (*Matthew 21:1–11, Mark 11:1–11, Luke 19:28–40, John 12:12–19*)

Jesus enters Jerusalem as her long-awaited Messiah; Crowd identifies him as the “Son of David”

But alas, he is ultimately rejected again.

Jesus pronounces judgment on Israel — Olivet Discourse (*Matthew 24–25*) — partially fulfilled by the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in A.D. 70; the rest to be fulfilled at second coming

Last Supper/Maundy Thursday (*Matthew 26:17–29, Mark 14:12–25, Luke 22:7–38, John 13:1–16:33*)

Passover meal — commemorated the great salvation event of the OT

The New Covenant that Israel (and the world) is waiting for will be inaugurated by his death.

Jesus prepares his disciples for their assignment when he is no longer with them.

Crucifixion/Good Friday (*Matthew 27:32–56, Mark 15:21–41, Luke 23:26–49, John 19:16–37*)

Ironically, Jesus is crucified with “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews” inscribed above him.

When witnessing his death, even a Roman centurion proclaims “Truly this was the Son of God!”

With his death, the seed of the serpent had struck the heel of the Seed of the Woman, and it seemed as if Team Satan and evil had won ...

The Vindication of the King

Until on the third day, he rose again! (*Matthew 28:1–15, Mark 16:1–8, Luke 24:1–53, John 20:1–21:25*)

“At the cross, Jesus was judged by the religious and political leaders to be a messianic pretender, but at the resurrection, God vindicates Jesus as Messiah and Lord!” (*Living God’s Word*)

“Sin and death, which first intruded on God’s good creation in Genesis 3, has now been dealt a fatal blow with Jesus’s resurrection.” (*Living God’s Word*)

The Commission of the King

Matthew 28:16–20, [Mark 16:15], Luke 24:46–49, John 20:21 — Before he ascends into heaven, the risen Lord Jesus commissions his apostles to take the gospel (the good news of the Kingdom) to the ends of the earth, a task that will take us into the next part of the Story ...

Conclusion: “The King goes to the cross and dies. He completes His role as the Suffering Servant and Lamb who dies for His people ... His blood brings atonement and is the basis for human salvation and cosmic reconciliation ... His resurrection then vindicates who He is ... Jesus’ death, resurrection and ascension result in Jesus having sovereign authority over everything in heaven and earth ... Jesus’ assumption of the Davidic throne on earth is still future ... yet His authority to rule as Messiah is granted to Him.” (*He Will Reign Forever*, Michael Vlach)

DISCUSSION

Why do you think all four Gospel writers devote so much space to Jesus’ death and resurrection?

What does that tell us about their significance in God’s story?

Did today’s lesson help you make any new connections between Jesus’ death and resurrection and the Story we’ve been tracing so far from Genesis to the Gospels?

Homework: Read Chapter 16, “Church: The Coming of the Spirit” & Chapter 17, “Church: In Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria” from *Living God’s Word*