



Salvation History

Session 2

RCIA at St. Sylvester Church
Segment 6

Prayer to the Holy Spirit



Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
And kindle in them the fire of your love. Send
forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And
you will renew the face of the earth.

Amen

Tonight & Next Week

- Overview of Salvation History
- Mankind's Fall From Grace
- ➔ • God's Plan to Save Mankind
- Fulfillment of God's Plan
- Your Place in God's Plan



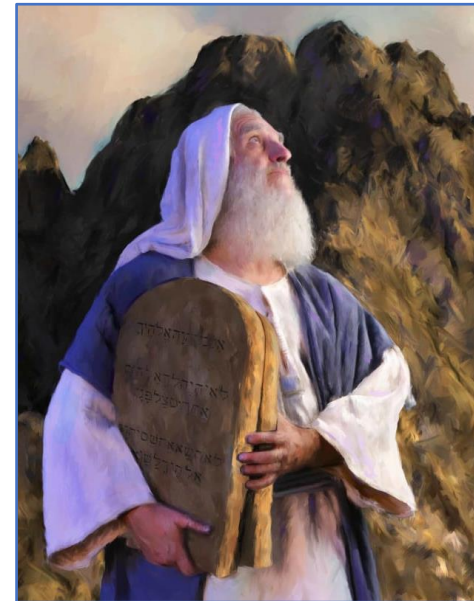
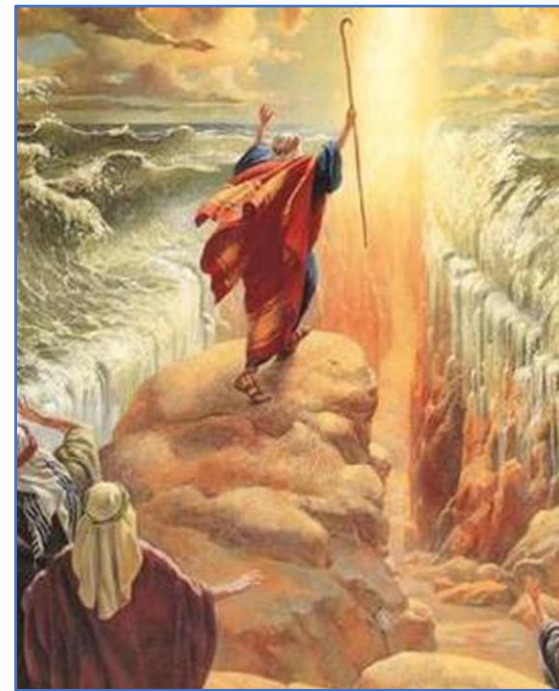
Timeline of Salvific Eras & Covenants

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Pre-history: Creation<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The Great Flood▪ Tower of Babel➤ 2000-1850 BC, Patriarchs➤ 1450-1410 BC, Exodus➤ 1400-1050 BC, Judges➤ 1050 - 930 BC, United Kingdom➤ 930 - 722 BC, Divided Kingdom➤ 722 - 538 BC, Exile➤ 538 - 167 BC, Return➤ 167 - 4 BC, Greek & Roman Era➤ 4 BC - 33 AD, Messianic Era➤ 33 AD – Present, The Church | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <u>1st Covenant</u> - marriage of Adam & Eve- <u>2nd Covenant</u> with Noah's family to preserve mankind- God confuses human language & disburses people- <u>3rd Covenant</u> with Abraham, 3 great promises- <u>4th Covenant</u> with Israel, God's people; Moses' Law- Israel surviving in the Promised Land- <u>5th Covenant</u> with King David – a dynasty forever- The 12 tribes split into two kingdoms- Northern tribes wiped out; Southern tribes exiled- Persia releases Jews to return to Promised Land- Jews struggle to maintain their culture- Jesus fulfills all promises with <u>6th Covenant</u>- Christianity spreads throughout the entire world |
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Moses

- Pharaoh changes his mind and pursues the Jews
 - Moses parts the Red Sea and they escape into the desert
- Moses leads Jewish people back to Promised Land
 - Difficult journey—the people grumble against God & Moses
 - God feeds them heavenly manna; provides water from rock
- God gives Moses commandments on Mount Sinai
 - God instructs him to build Ark of the Covenant
 - People rebel in Moses' absence and worship golden calf
 - God enters into a covenant with people of Israel
- Israel disobeys God numerous times in their journey
 - God extends their wandering in the desert for 40 years
 - All but two of Moses' generation dies in the desert



Israel the Nation

- After Moses dies, Joshua leads Israel into the Promised Land
 - God holds back the flooded Jordan River through the Ark of the Covenant allowing the 12 tribes to cross
 - They conquer Jericho first through a priestly ceremony instead of a siege
- The 12 tribes are successful in conquering and distributing the lands
 - Only Jerusalem and a small number of nations remain when Joshua dies
- Before dying, Joshua prompts all to decide what Gods they serve
 - Israel renews her covenant with God



Joshua 24:15 *...as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord*

Israel the Nation



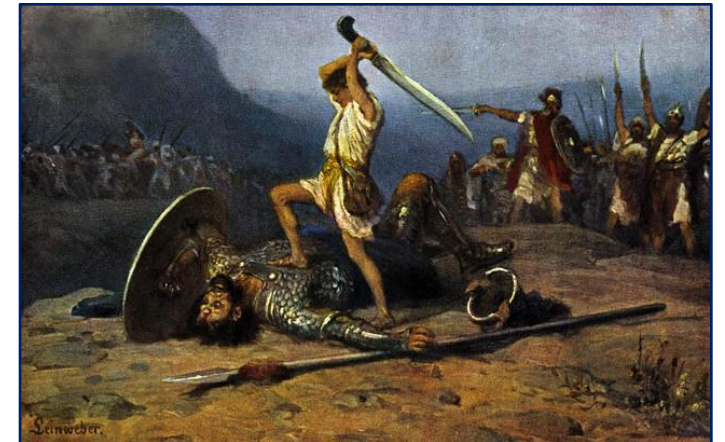
- Israel is governed by a series of Judges for 200 years
 - Israel goes through several cycles of sin and repentance
 - Israel continues to be threatened by neighboring tribes
 - God uses these events to humble Israel and bring them back to Him



- Eventually the people ask Samuel for a king to rule them
 - Samuel initially says no, telling them a king will tax and enslave them
 - The people persist so God relents and allows them a king
 - God tells Samuel to anoint Saul as their first king

The Davidic Kingdom

- Saul is initially successful in conquering Israel's enemies
 - Saul gets power hungry and considers himself a priest as well as a king
 - Several times he disobeys God's word through Samuel
 - God tells Samuel to anoint the young man David as the future king
- Saul's success as king and protector wanes
 - David becomes famous when he kills Goliath with a stone
 - Saul goes jealously insane and attempts to kill David
 - David refuses to harm Saul out of respect when he has the opportunities
- David wins favor with God and the people
 - Outstanding musician – wrote 50% of the Psalms
 - David becomes King after Saul's death in battle
 - He rules his people successfully and fairly



The Davidic Kingdom

- David conquers Jerusalem, makes it capital of his kingdom
 - Moves the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem
- God sees David is righteous; enters into a covenant with him
 - David tells Nathan the Prophet he will build the Temple for God
 - God says “No” that David’s successor will build that, but God will build David’s “house” (dynasty) to rule forever
 - Promises an heir of David will rule His kingdom for eternity
- David lusts after Uriah’s wife, Bathsheba
 - David commits adultery with her and she gets pregnant
 - Orders his general to have Uriah killed in battle
 - He marries Bathsheba, but is remorseful; asks God for forgiveness



The Davidic Kingdom

- Before David dies he makes his son Solomon king
 - Solomon asks God for wisdom in ruling his people
 - His kingdom expands; taxes people heavily to pay for it
 - He becomes known internationally
 - Many foreign people come to hear Solomon's wisdom
- He builds the first Temple in Jerusalem
 - Dedicates the Temple; asks the Lord to also hear prayers of foreigners
- While wise, Solomon acts foolishly when it comes to women
 - He acquires 700 wives & 300 concubines, many from foreign lands
 - He worships the gods of his foreign wives alongside the God of Israel
 - He loses favor with God and dooms his kingdom to division



Divided Kingdom

- After Solomon dies there is internal fighting within Israel
 - Solomon's son Rehoboam becomes king upon his death
 - Another son, Jeroboam, returned from exile to challenge his brother
- An assembly of Israel requests Rehoboam to reduce taxes
 - Rehoboam goes against his elder advisors and increases the tax burden
 - Assembly of Israel secedes from the kingdom; chooses Jeroboam as king
- The kingdom divides
 - 10 tribes of the north become Israel; capital was Samaria
 - 2 tribes of the south become Judah; capital remains in Jerusalem
 - Each sub-kingdom chooses its own succession of kings
 - Fighting continues between the north & south kingdoms

Northern Kingdom



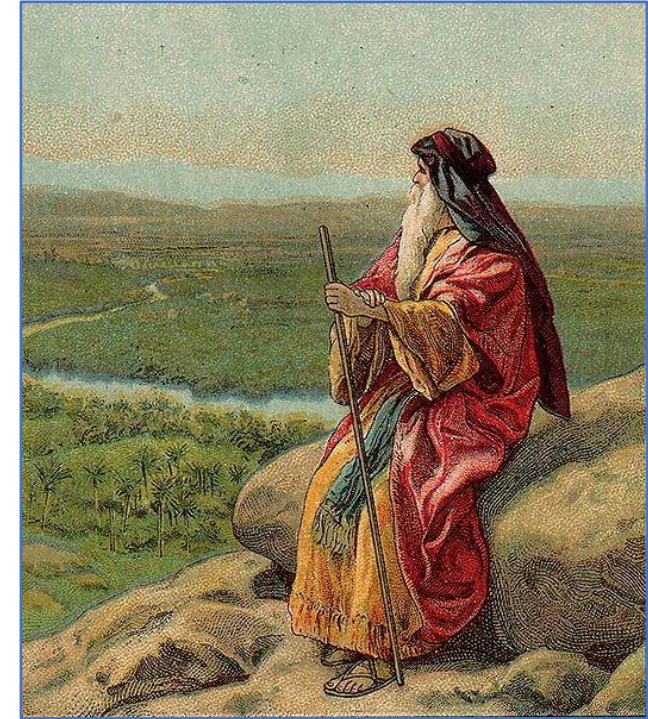
- Jeroboam builds two “calves of gold” in the north
 - Declares these idols as their gods so people won’t worship in Jerusalem
 - He creates his own priesthood and religious calendar
 - Idolatry leads people away from God; make human sacrifices to Baal
- Prophets Elijah and Elisha denounce idolatry & perform miracles
 - Elijah announces a famine; miraculously feeds widow; raises the dead
 - Elijah taken up to heaven in whirlwind; ministry passes to Elisha
 - Elisha multiplies loaves of bread; raises the dead; heals a leper
- Assyria becomes dominant power & conquers Israel in 722 BC
 - Jews are deported & assimilated among Gentile nations; lost to history
 - Other conquered people resettled into Samaria to taint Jewish blood

Southern Kingdom

- Kingdom of Judah fares a little better than Israel, but not for long
 - Kings of the Southern Kingdom alternate between “good” & “bad” over time
 - In the end, these kings also turn away from God to idolize evil
- Several prophets deliver God’s warnings to Southern Kingdom
 - Isaiah foretells of Babylonian exile, new Exodus, salvation, suffering servant
 - Jeremiah warns of Temple destruction, 70-year exile, new covenant
 - Daniel envisions 4 beasts, son of man/everlasting dominion, 490-year exile
 - Ezekiel proclaims new life in dry bones, new temple, new heart, new spirit
- Foreign threats cause Judah’s eventual fall
 - Threatening skirmishes continue for Judah even after Israel is disposed
 - New Babylonian power, destroys Jerusalem/Temple in 586 BC, exiles people

Return to Promised Land

- Persia conquers Babylon as new world power
 - God tells King Cyrus to build Him a house in Jerusalem
 - After 70-year captivity, he sends Jews to Jerusalem
 - Jewish people return in three waves
- Jewish culture also renewed in three ways
 - 537 BC, Zerubbabel begins rebuilding the Temple
 - 458 BC, Ezra returns, teaches, restores reverence for the Law
 - 444 BC, Nehemiah begins rebuilding Jerusalem's walls
- Despite return & rebuilding, Jewish Kingdom is not restored
 - Prophets/priests see this is due to spiritual, not geo-political factors
 - Restoration dependent upon repentance & purification from sin
 - 336 BC, Greece becomes new world power; dominates Jewish state



Greek and Roman Domination

- Jewish people work to remain faithful to God during Greek control
 - Initially, only a subversive influence & driven by cultural change
 - Some Jews cave to new culture, but many remain faithful to Mosaic Laws
 - After Alexander the Great died, his empire divided among his generals
- 167 BC, Greek tyrant Antiochus IV oppresses Jewish people
 - He hates Jews and wants to erase their culture, forcing their apostasy
 - A zealous Maccabean revolt expels the Greeks in 164 BC
 - Jews become an independent kingdom again for about 100 years
- 63 BC, Rome takes control ending short-lived political freedom
 - Rome's focus is to keep the peace; give limited power to religious leaders
 - Religious leaders cause distress through overreaching religious laws

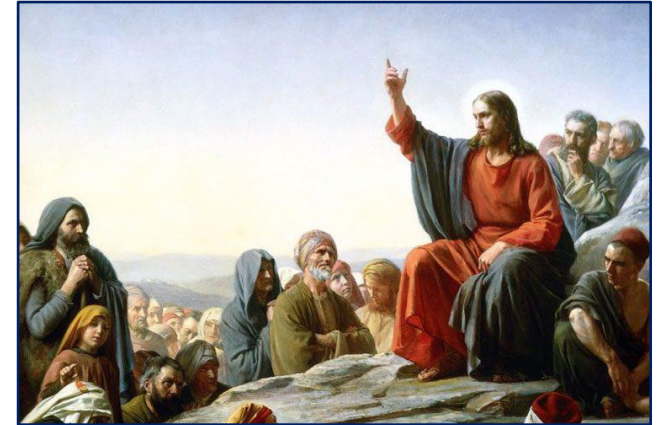
Fulfillment of God's Plan

- Salvation history reaches perfect fulfillment in Jesus Christ
 - Jesus is the prophesized Messiah, Son-of-God and Son-of-Man
 - Born without sin to Immaculate Mary and Joseph (descendent of David)
- The four Gospels detail Jesus' life in this world
 - Very little written about his youth; focus is on the last 3 years of his life
- His baptism begins the narrative plot
 - God the Father reveals Jesus as his Son
 - This is the initiation of sacramental salvation
 - His baptism was for our sake, not his own
- Immediately goes into the desert, 40 days



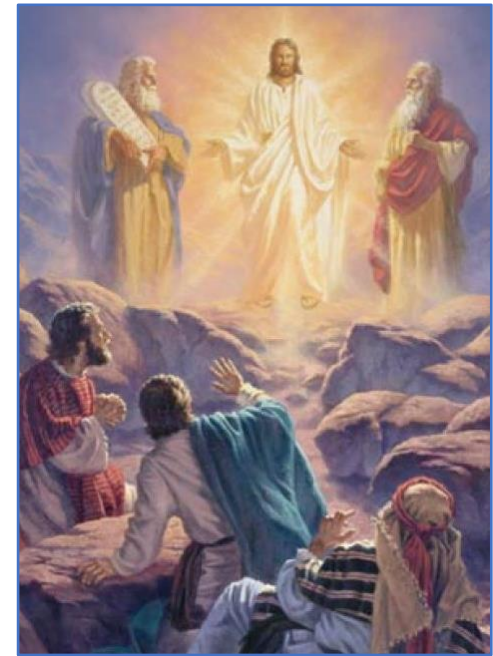
Christ the King

- Jesus begins counter-cultural preaching; attracts many disciples
 - Gathers his 12 Apostles and forms their faith
 - Exemplifies prayer, service, healing & teaching
 - Performs numerous miracles to drive home points
 - Teaches & preaches through parables
- Constantly proclaims the kingdom of God
 - Asserts God's love—frequently says “do not be afraid”
 - Proclaims good news for the poor, marginalized and sinners
- Calls out the failures of self-serving religious leaders
 - Purposefully sets religious establishment against himself
- Jesus reveals his divine identity gradually
 - By forgiving sins and through other familiar Jewish religious references



Christ the King

- Jesus eventually expands his audience beyond Jews
 - Begins preaching & performing miracles for Gentiles
- Religious leaders begin to conspire against him
- Jesus narrows his focus to preparing the Apostles
 - Changes Simon's name to Peter: *"On this rock I will build my church..."*
 - Shows his inner circle the Transfiguration on Mount Tabor
- On three occasions he forecasts his death and resurrection
 - The Apostles don't understand what he means
 - They are still expecting the Messiah to be a conquering political force



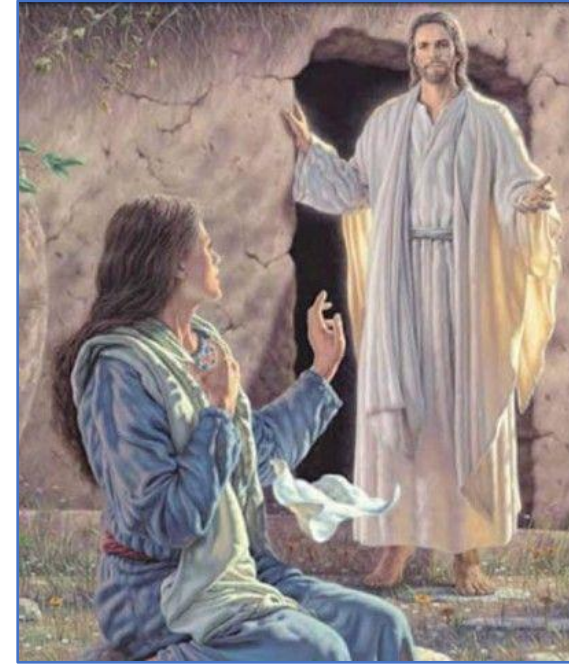
Christ the King

- For last Passover Feast, Jesus rides a donkey into Jerusalem
 - All Jews understand that symbolism & cheer their new king
- Jesus provokes religious leaders; expels Temple money changers
 - High priest plots to arrest Jesus
 - Entices the Apostle Judas Iscariot to betray Jesus for 30 silver pieces
- Passover Feast—Last Supper with Apostles
 - Redefines it as a Eucharistic memorial feast
- Jesus prepares to sacrifice his life
 - Prays to his Father in Garden of Gethsemane
 - Judas betrays him and he is arrested
 - Willingly submits to death for atonement of humanity's sins



Christ the King

- Jesus is taken to Pontius Pilate for sentencing
 - Pilate finds him not guilty; Jewish leaders threaten revolt
 - Pilate denies guilt for his death, but supports the sentence
 - Jesus is scourged, mocked, crucified and dies on the cross
- Jesus is resurrected from death on 3rd day
 - Appears to Apostles and other disciples several times over 40 days
 - Commissions the Apostles to make disciples of all nations, baptizing and teaching repentance and forgiveness of sins



Your Place in God's Plan

The Church

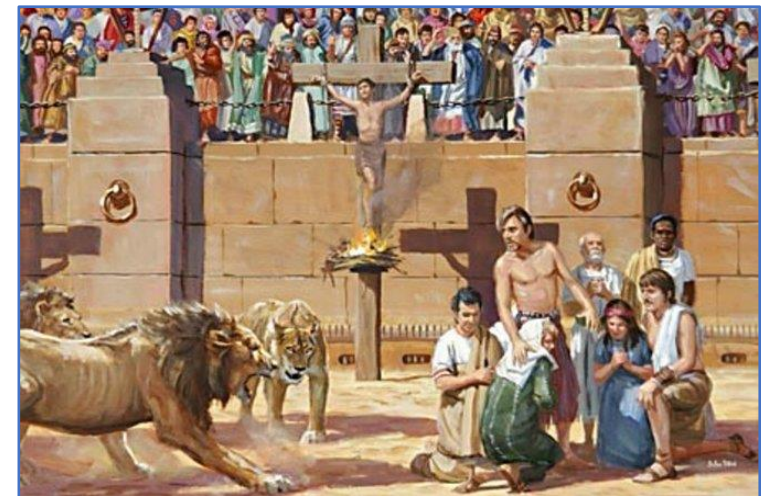
- Jesus ascends into heaven, then sends the Holy Spirit on Pentacost
 - His ascension completes the new covenant & fulfills all prior covenants
 - Disciples gather around Mary & Apostles at Pentacost—the church is born
- Church initially extends from synagogue worship
 - Early Church is called “The Way”
 - Faithful Jews still attended synagogue worship
 - But also gathered for the memorial communion
 - Eventually they were expelled from synagogue



Your Place in God's Plan

The Church

- Apostles evangelized in Jerusalem, Judea & Samaria, then beyond
 - Apostles perform miracles and spread the good news of salvation
 - Many Gentiles join the growing church; it becomes universal (katholikós)
 - The church grows quickly, which worries Rome & Jewish authorities
- The church begins to be persecuted
 - Eventually Rome outlaws the church, so the people worship in secret
 - Apostles are martyred; other disciples killed for their beliefs



Your Place in God's Plan

The Church

- Despite this, the church perseveres and grows
 - People referred to as “Christians” (other Christs)
 - Christians gather secretly to worship (Sundays)
 - Persecutions waned due to Rome's internal feuding
- Emperor Constantine embraces Christianity
 - 313 AD, Christianity becomes legally accepted
 - People no longer have to hide; Church begins to build structure
 - Bishops can gather publicly to address shared concerns of the faith



Your Place in God's Plan

The Church

- Given difficult beginnings, it's amazing that the church survived
 - God's message of love wins out (Jn 13:34-35)
 - The gates of Hades will not prevail against the church (Mt 16:18)
- Church's early survival owes a lot to:
 - Passion of the early bishops directly influenced by the Apostles
 - Jesus' intentions preserved by early Church Fathers daring to write/speak
- First bishops & early Church Fathers knew & loved Jesus personally
 - It isn't enough to have great knowledge about Jesus
 - Deep personal prayer is necessary to know and love Jesus spiritually
 - His call to love and evangelize other people follows

Your Place in God's Plan

The Church

- Our Church is the longest lasting institution in history
 - Many dark periods & events over 2,000 years, but it perseveres
 - It perseveres through mankind's love for God and each other
 - It perseveres because of God's love and mercy
- Not everyone will realize salvation at life's end
 - Many people pursue worldly pleasures instead of God (idolization)
 - Don't take the time to know him through prayer & learning
 - Prayer life is superficial or insincere
- Don't let this be you!

Your Salvation

- History is still being made
 - Do you desire salvation for yourself and your family? Yes?
- Embrace your faith mentally, physically and spiritually
 - Learn about God's church through study & participation
 - Learn about God through reading scripture and frequent prayer to him
 - Share what you learn with others
 - Be patient and kind
 - Show God your love by worshiping, emulating & thanking him
- Live a joyful life, even through tragedies and difficult times

Closing Prayer



Glory be to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

World without end.

Amen