

The Essential Elements of the Apostolic Witness

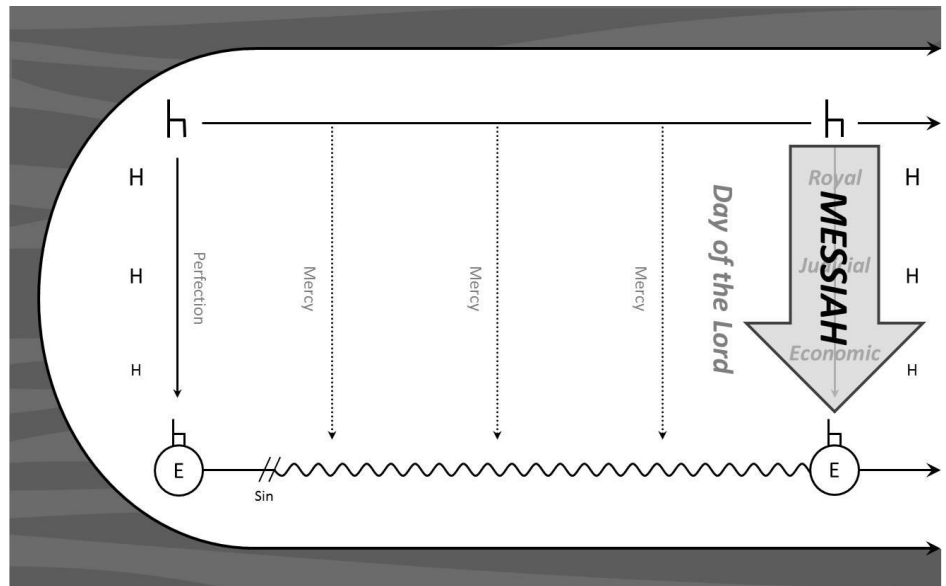
Session 2: Messianic Hope and Jewish Election

I. Messianic Hope

A. The Messianic Function

In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.³¹ For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice *by the man he has appointed*. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead. (^{NIV} Acts 17:29-31)

The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against *his Anointed One* [Hb. *mashiach*]...⁴ The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them.⁵ Then he rebukes them *in his anger* and terrifies them *in his wrath*, saying,⁶ “I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill...”⁸



Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.⁹ *You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery.*” (^{NIV} Ps. 2:2-9)

The Father judges no one, but *has given all judgment to the Son*,²³ that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has *eternal life*...²⁶ For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.²⁷ And he has *given him authority to execute judgment*, because he is the Son of Man.²⁸ Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice²⁹ and come out, those who have done good to *the resurrection of life*, and those who have done evil to *the resurrection of judgment*. (^{ESV} Jn. 5:22-29)

B. The Development of Messianic Expectation

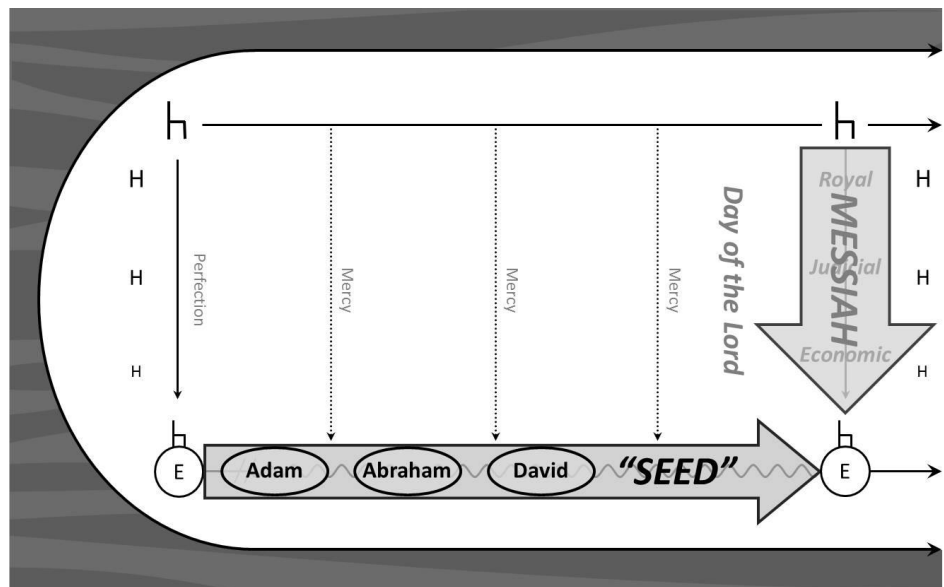
So the LORD God said to the serpent...¹⁵ “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between *your offspring* [Hb. *zera*, “seed” KJV/NKJV/NASB] and hers; *he will crush your head*, and you will strike his heel.” ...¹⁷ To Adam he said...¹⁹ “By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.” (^{NIV} Gen. 3:14-19)

The Essential Elements of the Apostolic Witness

I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies,¹⁸ and *in your offspring* [Hb. *zera*, “seed” KJV/NKJV/NASB] *shall all the nations of the earth be blessed*, because you have obeyed my voice. (^{ESV} Gen. 22:17-18)

When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, *I will raise up your offspring* [Hb. *zera*] to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom.¹³ He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and *I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever*.¹⁴ I will be his father, and he will be my son. (^{NIV} 2 Sam. 7:12-14)

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, *the son of David, the son of Abraham*.² Abraham was the father of Isaac...¹⁶ and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, *who is called Christ*. (^{ESV} Mt. 1:1-16)



II. Jewish Election

A. Birthright and Jewish Election

I have made a covenant with My chosen; I have sworn to David My servant,⁴ *I will establish your seed forever* and build up your throne to all generations...²³ I shall crush his adversaries before him, and strike those who hate him.²⁴ My faithfulness and My lovingkindness will be with him, and in My name his horn will be exalted.²⁵ I shall also set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers.²⁶ He will cry to Me, “*You are my Father, My God, and the rock of my salvation.*”²⁷ I also shall make him *My firstborn* [cf. birthright: “inheritance rights as the oldest son” (Heb. 12:16, ^{NIV})], the highest of the kings of the earth. (^{NASB} Ps. 89:3-27)

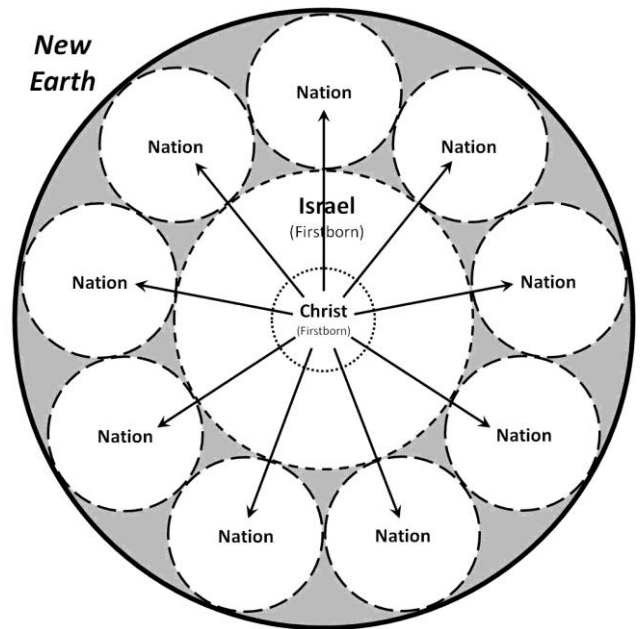
He is the image of the invisible God, *the firstborn* of all creation.¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. (^{NASB} Col. 1:15-16)

Thus says the LORD, *Israel is my firstborn son*,²³ and I say to you, “Let my son go that he may serve me.” If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill *your firstborn son*. (^{ESV} Ex. 4:22-23)

I will make them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble, for *I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.* (^{ESV} Jer. 31:9)

Endow the king with your justice, O God, *the royal son* with your righteousness...⁸ He will rule from sea to sea and *from the River to the ends of the earth*...¹⁷ May his name endure forever; may it continue as long as the sun. *All nations will be blessed through him*, and they will call him blessed.¹⁸ Praise be to the LORD God, *the God of Israel*, who alone does marvelous deeds.¹⁹ Praise be to his glorious name forever; may *the whole earth be filled with his glory.* (^{NIV} Ps. 72:1-19)

But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for *the day of God's wrath*, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.⁶ God "will give to each person according to what he has done."⁷ To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give *eternal life*.⁸ But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be *wrath and anger*.⁹ There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: *first for the Jew, then for the Gentile*; but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: *first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.* (^{NIV} Rom. 2:5-10)



B. Jewish Election and the Restoration of All Things

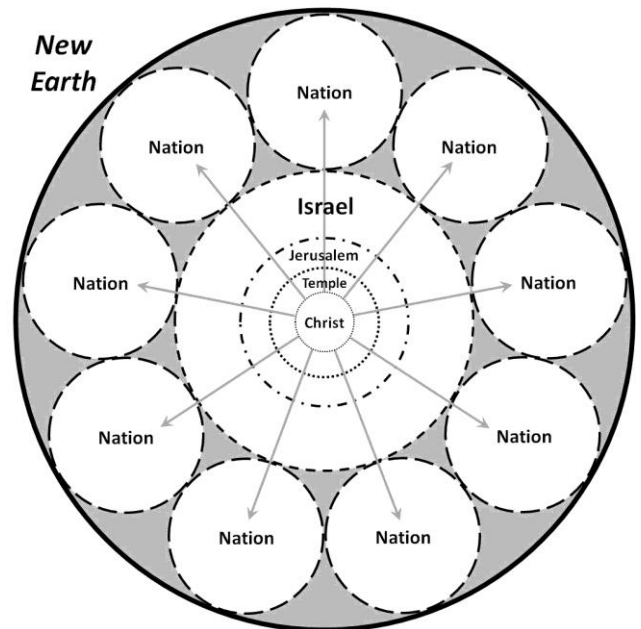
Behold, I will create *new heavens and a new earth*. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for *I will create Jerusalem* to be a delight and its people a joy.¹⁹ *I will rejoice over Jerusalem* and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more. (^{NIV} Isa. 65:17-19; cf. Rev. 21:1-22:5)

In that day the LORD will punish the powers in the heavens above and the kings on the earth below.²² They will be herded together like prisoners bound in a dungeon; they will be shut up in prison and be punished after many days.²³ The moon will be abashed, the sun ashamed; for the LORD Almighty will reign *on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem*, and before its elders, gloriously. (^{NIV} Isa. 24:21-23)

You will arise and have compassion *on Zion*, for it is time to show favor to her; *the appointed time* has come.¹⁴ For her stones are dear to your servants; her very dust moves them to pity.¹⁵ The nations will fear the name of the LORD, all the kings of the earth will revere your glory.¹⁶ For the LORD will *rebuild Zion* and appear in his glory...²¹ So the name of the LORD will be declared *in Zion* and his praise *in Jerusalem*²² when the peoples and the kingdoms assemble to worship the LORD. (^{NIV} Ps. 102:11-22)

In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised 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 house 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. (^{NIV} Isa. 2:2-4)

He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end. (^{NIV} Lk. 1:32-33)



I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;¹⁶ for I say to you, I shall never again eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God...²⁸ You are those who have stood by Me in My trials;²⁹ and just as My Father has granted Me a kingdom, I grant you³⁰ that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (^{NASB} Lk. 22:15-30)

C. The Apostolic Consensus Concerning Jewish Election

He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God...⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (^{ESV} Acts 1:3-8)

They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises.⁵ To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen. (^{ESV} Rom. 9:4-5)

So I ask, did they [Jews] stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous...²⁵ Lest you [Gentiles] be wise in your own sight [cf. "irreverent babble" 1 Tim. 6:20; 2 Tim. 2:16], I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.²⁶ And in this way all Israel will be saved...²⁸ As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers.²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. (^{ESV} Rom 11:11-29)