

Who do you say that I am?

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The Return of the King

# The Return of the King

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Introduction

# Review

- Jesus Relationship to Judaism
- Jesus' Agenda
- The Reasons for his Death
- Painted a picture:
  - Jesus saw himself as a prophet announcing and innaugurating the Kingdom of YHWH
  - He believed himself to be Israel's true Messiah
  - He believed that the Kingdom would be brought by the means of his own death at the hands of the Pagans
  - He believed, that is, that the message of the Isianic herald was coming true at last:
    - Israel's God was becoming King
    - 'Babylon' was being defeated
    - The Exile was over at last



# The Picture of Jesus, so far...

- Jesus saw himself as a prophet announcing and inaugurating the Kingdom of YHWH
- He believed himself to be Israel's true Messiah
- He believed that the Kingdom would be brought by the means of his own death at the hands of the Pagans
- He believed, that is, that the message of the Isaianic herald was coming true at last:
  - Israel's God was becoming King
  - 'Babylon' was being defeated
  - The Exile was over at last
  - *Return of YHWH to Zion*

# Key Remaining Questions

- Did the theme of the “Return of YHWH to Zion” find a place in Jesus’ agenda and proclamation, and if so how?
- How did early Christianity begin, and why did it take the shape it did?
  - How did it come about that Jesus was *worshipped*?
- Premise:
  - Jesus action in the Temple announced Judgment and proclaimed himself as the agent of that Judgment as Messiah
  - Jesus action in the Upper Room predicted and announced himself as the agent of the defeat of evil and the new exodus renewal through his death as Messiah
  - *Jesus went to Jerusalem to embody the return of YHWH to Zion*

# The Return of the King

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The Jewish World of Meaning



# The Jewish World of Meaning

- The Hope of YHWH's return
- The Speculation that YHWH's agent would be exalted to share his throne
- The symbolic language used for YHWH's activity in the World

# The Hope of YHWH's return

Hope of the Exodus that  
YHWH would dwell  
gloriously in the midst of  
his People.





# Isaiah 4:2-6

## The Branch of the LORD

<sup>2</sup> In that day the Branch of the LORD will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land will be the pride and glory of the survivors in Israel. <sup>3</sup> Those who are left in Zion, who remain in Jerusalem, will be called holy, all who are recorded among the living in Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> The Lord will wash away the filth of the women of Zion; he will cleanse the bloodstains from Jerusalem by a spirit of judgment and a spirit of fire. <sup>5</sup> Then the LORD will create over all of Mount Zion and over those who assemble there a cloud of smoke by day and a glow of flaming fire by night; over everything the glory will be a canopy. <sup>6</sup> It will be a shelter and shade from the heat of the day, and a refuge and hiding place from the storm and rain.

# Isaiah 24:23

<sup>23</sup> The moon will be dismayed,  
the sun ashamed;  
for the LORD Almighty will reign  
on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem,  
and before its elders—with great glory.

# Isaiah 25:9-10

<sup>9</sup> In that day they will say,

“Surely this is our God;

we trusted in him, and he saved us.

This is the LORD, we trusted in him;

let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.”

<sup>10</sup> The hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain;



# Isaiah 35:3-6

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the feeble hands,  
steady the knees that give  
way;

<sup>4</sup> say to those with fearful  
hearts, "Be strong, do not  
fear; your God will come,  
he will come with vengeance;  
with divine retribution  
he will come to save you."

<sup>5</sup> Then will the eyes of the blind  
be opened  
and the ears of the deaf  
unstopped.

<sup>6</sup> Then will the lame leap like a  
deer, and the mute tongue  
shout for joy.

Water will gush forth in the  
wilderness  
and streams in the desert.

<sup>10</sup> and those the LORD has  
rescued will return.

They will enter Zion with  
singing; everlasting joy will  
crown their heads.

Gladness and joy will overtake  
them, and sorrow and sighing  
will flee away.

# Isaiah 40:3-5, 9-10

<sup>3</sup> A voice of one calling:

“In the wilderness prepare  
the way for the LORD;  
make straight in the desert  
a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be raised up,  
every mountain and hill made  
low; the rough ground shall  
become level, the rugged places  
a plain.

<sup>5</sup> And the glory of the LORD will  
be revealed,  
and all people will see it  
together.  
For the mouth of the LORD has  
spoken.”

<sup>9</sup> You who bring good news to Zion,  
go up on a high mountain.  
You who bring good news to  
Jerusalem,  
lift up your voice with a shout,  
lift it up, do not be afraid;  
say to the towns of Judah,  
“Here is your God!”

<sup>10</sup> 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.

# Isaiah 52:7-10

<sup>7</sup> How beautiful on the mountains  
are the feet of those who  
bring good news,  
who proclaim peace,  
who bring good tidings,  
who proclaim salvation,  
who say to Zion,  
“Your God reigns!”  
<sup>8</sup> Listen! Your watchmen  
lift up their voices;  
together they shout for joy.

When the LORD returns to  
Zion, they will see it with  
their own eyes.  
<sup>9</sup> Burst into songs of joy  
together, you ruins of  
Jerusalem,  
for the LORD has  
comforted his people, he  
has redeemed Jerusalem.  
<sup>10</sup> The LORD will lay bare  
his holy arm in the sight of  
all the nations, and all the  
ends of the earth will see  
the salvation of our God.



# Isaiah 59:15-17, 19-21

<sup>15</sup> Truth is nowhere to be found,  
and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey.

The LORD looked and was displeased  
that there was no justice.

<sup>16</sup> He saw that there was no one,  
he was appalled that there was no one to  
intervene;

so his own arm achieved salvation for  
him,  
and his own righteousness sustained  
him.

<sup>17</sup> He put on righteousness as his  
breastplate,  
and the helmet of salvation on his head;  
he put on the garments of vengeance  
and wrapped himself in zeal as in a  
cloak.

<sup>19</sup> From the west, people will fear the name  
of the LORD,  
and from the rising of the sun, they will  
revere his glory.  
For he will come like a pent-up flood  
that the breath of the LORD drives  
along. [A]

<sup>20</sup> “The Redeemer will come to Zion,  
to those in Jacob who repent of their  
sins,”  
declares the LORD.

<sup>21</sup> “As for me, this is my covenant with them,”  
says the LORD. “My Spirit, who is on you,  
will not depart from you, and my words  
that I have put in your mouth will always  
be on your lips, on the lips of your  
children and on the lips of their  
descendants—from this time on and  
forever,” says the LORD.

# Isaiah 60:1-3

<sup>1</sup> “Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

<sup>2</sup> See, darkness covers the earth  
and thick darkness is over the peoples,  
but the LORD rises upon you  
and his glory appears over you.

<sup>3</sup> Nations will come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

# Isaiah 62:10-11, 63:1, 3, 5, 9, 64:1

New International Version (NIV)

<sup>10</sup> Pass through, pass through the gates!  
Prepare the way for the people.  
Build up, build up the highway!  
Remove the stones.  
Raise a banner for the nations.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD has made proclamation  
to the ends of the earth:  
“Say to Daughter Zion,  
‘See, your Savior comes!  
See, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense accompanies him.’”

## God’s Day of Vengeance and Redemption

<sup>1</sup> Who is this coming from Edom,  
from Bozrah, with his garments stained  
crimson?  
Who is this, robed in splendor,  
striding forward in the greatness of his  
strength? “It is I, proclaiming victory,  
mighty to save.”

<sup>3</sup> “I have trodden the winepress alone;  
from the nations no one was with me.  
I trampled them in my anger  
and trod them down in my wrath;  
their blood spattered my garments,  
and I stained all my clothing.

<sup>5</sup> I looked, but there was no one to help,  
I was appalled that no one gave support;  
so my own arm achieved salvation for me,  
and my own wrath sustained me.

<sup>9</sup> In all their distress he too was distressed,  
and the angel of his presence saved them.<sup>[1]</sup>  
In his love and mercy he redeemed them;  
he lifted them up and carried them  
all the days of old.

<sup>1</sup> Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come  
down,  
that the mountains would tremble before you!  
come down to make your name known to your  
enemies  
and cause the nations to quake before you!



# Isaiah 66

<sup>12</sup> For this is what the LORD says:

“I will extend peace to her like a river,  
and the wealth of nations like a flooding  
stream;  
you will nurse and be carried on her arm  
and dandled on her knees.

<sup>14</sup> When you see this, your heart will rejoice  
and you will flourish like grass;  
the hand of the LORD will be made  
known to his servants,  
but his fury will be shown to his foes.

<sup>15</sup> See, the LORD is coming with fire,  
and his chariots are like a whirlwind;  
he will bring down his anger with fury,  
and his rebuke with flames of fire.

<sup>16</sup> For with fire and with his sword  
the LORD will execute judgment on all  
people,  
and many will be those slain by the  
LORD.

<sup>18</sup> “And I, because of what they have planned  
and done, am about to come and gather  
the people of all nations and languages,  
and they will come and see my glory.

<sup>19</sup> “I will set a sign among them, and I will  
send some of those who survive to the  
nations—to Tarshish, to the Libyans and  
Lydians (famous as archers), to Tubal  
and Greece, and to the distant islands  
that have not heard of my fame or seen  
my glory. They will proclaim my glory  
among the nations.

# But after the Restoration under Cyrus...

- No manifestations
- No Pillar of Fire or Cloud
- No announcement of the Glorious return of Zion
- No Glory Cloud in the Temple

# The Return of the King

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Jesus' Riddles of Return and Exaltation



# Ezekiel 1 and 10 & 11



# Daniel 7:9, 13

<sup>9</sup> “As I looked, “thrones were set in place,  
and the Ancient of Days took his seat.  
His clothing was as white as snow;  
the hair of his head was white like wool.  
His throne was flaming with fire,  
and its wheels were all ablaze....<sup>13</sup> “In my vision at night I  
looked, and there before me was one like a son of man,  
coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the  
Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. <sup>14</sup> He was  
given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and  
peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is  
an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his  
kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.



# The Return of the King

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Vocation Foreshadowed



# Talents and Pounds, Matthew 25:14-30

- <sup>14</sup> “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. <sup>15</sup> To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, <sup>16</sup> each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. <sup>16</sup> The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. <sup>17</sup> So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. <sup>18</sup> But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. <sup>19</sup> “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’
- <sup>21</sup> “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’
- <sup>22</sup> “The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’
- <sup>23</sup> “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’
- <sup>24</sup> “Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. <sup>25</sup> So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’
- <sup>26</sup> “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? <sup>27</sup> Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.
- <sup>28</sup> ““So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. <sup>29</sup> For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. <sup>30</sup> And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

# The Parable of the Ten Minas, Luke

## 19:11-27

- <sup>11</sup> While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once. <sup>12</sup> He said: "A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. <sup>13</sup> So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. <sup>14</sup> 'Put this money to work,' he said, 'until I come back.' <sup>15</sup> "But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, 'We don't want this man to be our king.'
- <sup>16</sup> "He was made king, however, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it.
- <sup>17</sup> "The first one came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned ten more.'
- <sup>18</sup> "'Well done, my good servant!' his master replied. 'Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.'
- <sup>19</sup> "The second came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned five more.'
- <sup>20</sup> "His master answered, 'You take charge of five cities.'
- <sup>21</sup> "Then another servant came and said, 'Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth. <sup>22</sup> I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow.'
- <sup>23</sup> "His master replied, 'I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant! You knew, did you, that I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow? <sup>24</sup> Why then didn't you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?'
- <sup>25</sup> "Then he said to those standing by, 'Take his mina away from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.'
- <sup>26</sup> "'Sir,' they said, 'he already has ten!'
- <sup>27</sup> "He replied, 'I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>28</sup> But those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them—bring them here and kill them in front of me.'



# Not about Jesus Second Coming

- King/Subject stories are all about YHWH/Israel
- King who returns from a long absence fit with the exilic theme.
- Jesus “coming on the clouds” seems more to refer to Daniel 7 ascension.
- Jesus “second coming” is not primary for Luke as a the early church. Acts 1:11
- No idea that there would be a judgment at the second coming of those *within the church*.



# Malachi 3:3-5

- <sup>3</sup> He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, <sup>4</sup> and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.
- <sup>5</sup> “So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me,” says the LORD Almighty.

# What should we say about these parables...

- When YHWH returns he will come as a judge to those who have not been faithful to his commission (See Amos 5:1)
- YHWH's coming is imminent
- Parable coheres with other parables:
  - Parable of the Sower (Matt. 13)
  - Wicked Tenants (Mark 12)
  - Prodigal Son and Elder Brother (Luke 15)
- Rejection of Owner's Son and the connection to King who is rejected by his subjects. Rejection of YHWH is a Rejection of Jesus and vice versa.
- It explained Jesus actions in the Temple
  - Jesus saw his Journey to Jerusalem as the symbol and embodiment of YHWH's return to Zion.

# Luke 12:35- 13:9

- <sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’
- <sup>8</sup> “‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”



# Riddles of Exaltation

**Mark 12:35-37**

## **Whose Son Is the Messiah?**

<sup>35</sup> While Jesus was teaching in the temple courts, he asked, “Why do the teachers of the law say that the Messiah is the son of David? <sup>36</sup> David himself, speaking by the Holy Spirit, declared: “The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.””[Psalm 110]

<sup>37</sup> David himself calls him ‘Lord.’ How then can he be his son?”

The large crowd listened to him with delight.

# Riddles of Exaltation

Mark 14:60

Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” <sup>61</sup> But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.

Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”

<sup>62</sup> “I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

<sup>63</sup> The high priest tore his clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked. <sup>64</sup> “You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?”

# Vocation Foreshadowed

- Who is the Sower? Who is the Prodigal Father? Who is the Shepherd? Who is the Returning Master? Who is the Woman searching for her Lost Coin?



# Matthew 11:25-27

## The Father Revealed in the Son

<sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. <sup>26</sup> Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do. <sup>27</sup> “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

# Mark 8:34-9:1

## The Way of the Cross

- <sup>34</sup> Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. <sup>36</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? <sup>37</sup> Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? <sup>38</sup> If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”
- <sup>9:1</sup> And he said to them, “Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power.”

# The Return of the King

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Conclusion