The Old Testament

Prehistory of Salvation

The Fall

Disobedience leads to Death

&

Ancestral Sin

The Fall

- Story of Adam and Eve
  one we all know.
  Basis for understanding our sinful tendencies and need for salvation.

- Significant in understanding differing views on salvation.

- Early Christians emphasized consequence of Fall, **death**,
  not on some kind of inherited guilt.

Ancestral Sin

- Scene: Paradise
- Key Players: The Devil & Man
- Plot: The Fall thru Disobedience
- Consequences: Death

Created in Paradise in full communion with God.

Saint John Chrysostom

Before the fall men lived in Paradise ***like angels****;*

they were not inflamed with lust,

were not kindled by other passions either,

were not burdened with bodily needs;

but being created entirely ***incorruptible*** *and* ***immortal****,*

they did not even need the covering of clothing.

Homilies on Genesis 13:4, 15:4

What is Paradise?

- A place that is Beautiful.
- Made in God's Image from dust & potentially immortal.
- Free of bodily needs - like the angels.
- Free from suffering.
- Free from passions.
- Given a challenge and responsibilities.

Who is the Devil?

Scripture tells us:

Angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation. (Jude 6, II Peter 2:4)

Jesus said, "*I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.* (Luke 10:18)

And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. (Rev 12:7-9)

Ready for Action

- Stage set for Fall of Mankind
- Man created in Image of God - freewill
- Lives in Paradise
- Devil working to deceive world

Fall of Mankind

Michelangelo's Temptation and Fall from the Sistine Chapel Ceiling.

Now the serpent... said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat from every tree of the garden'?"

And the woman said..., "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God said, 'You shall not eat from it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

Then the serpent said..., "You shall not die by death. For God knows in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil."

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree beautiful to contemplate, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave it to her husband with her, and he ate. *(Gen 3: 1-6)*

Why Was the Devil Successful?

- Devious, shrewd and clever.
- Knew what was in human heart:
  Desire for self-gratification and worldly things.
- They were not willing to submit to God's will.

- Genesis continues the story:

- *Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.* (Gen 3:7)

- *Significance of Hiding Their Nakedness?*

Significance of Hiding Their Nakedness?

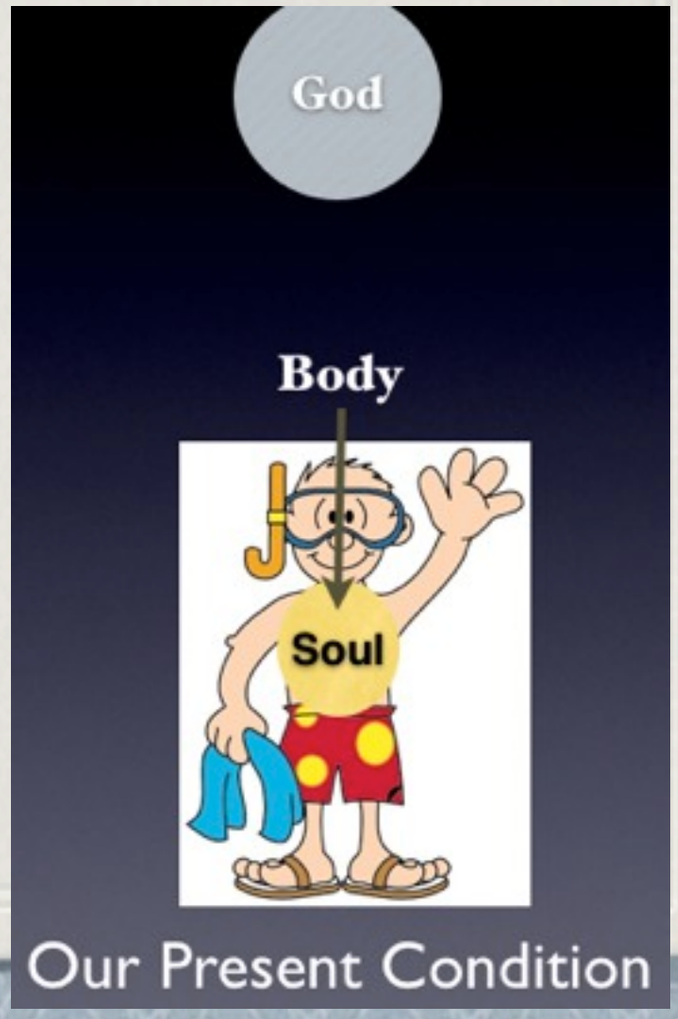
Lost glory of God and now only saw lower things of this earth.

Soul came under the domination of the body and its passions.

Self-centered.

Separated from Spirit.

Lost their dispassion and began the passionate earthly life.



What Was God's Response?

- Genesis story continues:

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day.... Then the <u>Lord God called to Adam</u> and said to him, "Where are you?"

- *"Where are you"* means?
- Indicates separation from God and God's loving immediate searching for them to return.

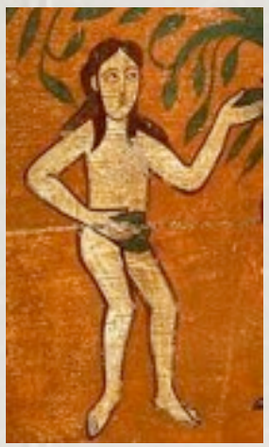
  God is calling for them to repent. *"Where are you?"*

How Did Adam and Eve Respond?

Adam says:

"I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

"The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."



Eve Says,

"The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Responded with self-justification.

Adam blamed Eve

Eve blamed the snake.

There was no humility, no remorse.

Consequences of the Fall?

- And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, *"Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it **you shall surely die.**"* *(Gen 2:15-17)*

Paul says:

*As by one man sin entered into the world, and **death** by sin; and so **death** passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.* *(Rom 5:12)*

*The wages of sin is **death**.* *(Rom 6:23)*

- **Death** is our consequence (punishment)
  What they Chose. What we inherited.
  Mankind has paid
  All who follow suffer death causing tendency to sin.

Lost Home in God's Kingdom

Then God said, *"Behold, the* ***man has become like one of Us****, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"—*

therefore the Lord ***God sent him out*** *of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken... He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.* (Gen 3:22-24)

- In place of immortality, mankind beheld death and separation from God.

Did God Reject Man?

- God did **not** reject man.
  He took away neither His image,
  freedom of his will, nor his reason.
  Man still had image of God - tarnished.
- Nature changed: Body became grossly material and subject to corruption and death.
- Man now needed help of a supernatural power to overcome death, be transformed, and return to live in union with God.

Reflect

- Man was created in Paradise in full communion with God.
- Made what is created the object of his desire.
- Looked at things of this world for fulfillment rather than his Creator.
- Thru freewill, disobedience, separated himself from God.
- Suffered the consequence of death.
- Nature changed to material and biological.
- Now, we struggle trying to preserve life.
- Have we not already paid for Adams Sin?

God

Body

Our Present Condition

God

Soul

Body

Our Natural Condition

What Next?

- To be saved we need to overcome the obstacle of Death and tendency to sin.
- How will be do this?
- Preparation begins with story from OT.

OT History of Mankind

Preparing the Way for Man's Salvation

Adam and Eve

- Suffer trials and tribulations of mortal life
- Have children: Cain (farmer)and Able(shepherd)
- Cain kills Able out of jealousy - 1st Martyr

Noah's Ark

- God saddened as humans grew in number as did their wickedness. What did he do?
- Chose Noah who lived an honest and hard-working life.
- God tells him His plan to destroy all things on earth .
- What does Noah do?
- Builds ark in obedience to God to save His people.

- God promises *"never again to curse the works the earth because of man's works... nor will I destroy every living thing as I have done."* (Genesis 8:21)

Abraham

Abraham

- History of salvation begins with Abraham, forefather of Israel and first ancestor of Christ, "according to the flesh."
- Abraham means "father of a multitude."
- Person and life of Abraham, central events of salvation by Christ are prefigured.

Abraham

- God made first promise of salvation for all people to Abraham.
  He also made His covenant to be faithful forever.

- Now the Lord said to Abram, *"Go from your country and kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make you a great nation, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing ... and in you all families of the earth shall be blessed"* *(Gen 12:1-3, See also 17:1-8, 22:1-18).*

Abraham

- All through New Testament claim is made that God's promise to Abraham is fulfilled in Jesus.

- Mary, Mother of God, sings at her time of waiting for Savior's birth, that all generations will call her blessed because the fulfillment has come from God *"as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity forever"* (Lk 1:55, see also Zachariah's Song in Lk 1:67-79).

Abraham

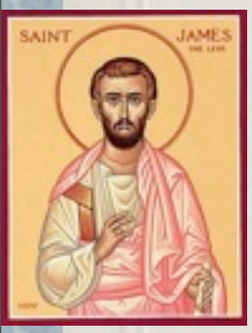
- How did God test Abraham?
- Commanding him to sacrifice his son Isaac.
  He obeyed and went to the mountain to slay his child.
- What did God do?
- God stopped him and placed a ram in Isaac's place saying *"now I know that you fear God, seeing that you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me"* (Gen 22:12). *Once more God made the promise that "by your descendants shall all of the nations of the earth be blessed ..."* (Gen 22:18).

Abraham

- A testimony to Abraham's faith
- Abraham' faith is prototypical of all who in Christ are saved by faith as stressed in New Testament necessary for salvation.
- What is nature of the prototype of NT faith?
- Abraham responded in *"faith"* to God's promise and he was accounted righteous or justified. His faith was total, dynamic and living.

Abraham - Faith

- Abraham's faith is united to his works, and expressed in his works.



Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he offered his son Isaac upon the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by works, and the scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness;" and he was called the friend of God. You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone (James 2:21-24).

- Abraham showing faith a dynamic process.

Hospitality of Abraham

- Holy Trinity, also prefigured in Abraham's life.
- *And the Lord appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men stood in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the earth, and said, "My lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, while I fetch a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on ... since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said"* (Gen 18:1-5).

Hospitality of Abraham

Abraham addresses the three angels as one, calling them Lord.
They eat in his presence and foretell the birth of Isaac from Sarah in her old age.
In this visitation of God to Abraham, we see prefiguration of full revelation of Holy Trinity in New Testament.

Abraham

- Abraham prefigures Christ
  - Christian doctrine about faith with works
  - Christian revelations about the sacrifice,
  - Holy Trinity.

PASSOVER AND EXODUS

Passover and Exodus

- Central event of Old Testament history is the Passover and Exodus.

Abraham's son Isaac was the father of Jacob whom God named Israel which means *"he who strives with God."* *(Genesis 32:28)*

- God renewed His promise to Isaac and Jacob, and continued covenant He had made with Abraham.

Jacob

- Jacob had twelve sons who became leaders of twelve tribes of Israel.
- The sons of Jacob sold their youngest brother Joseph into slavery in Egypt.
- The foretelling of Christ's sacrifice?
- Sale of Joseph, sacrifice of favored son - becomes the savor of brothers.

Joseph

- With God's help, Joseph gains favor of Egyptian pharaoh and becomes great man in Egypt.
- Was a famine and what happens?
- Joseph's brothers come to Egypt for food. Joseph recognizes them and brought all of the people of Israel into Egypt. They are saved and prosper.

Moses

- Twelve tribes prosper in Egypt
- New king fears them and made all Iraelites slaves
  Declared any male born of an Israelite woman will be put to death.
- Moses born and put in basket of reeds and set in river.
- Rescued by Pharaoh's daughter.
  His mother employed at nursemaid.
  Eventually He is adopted as princess' son and called Moses.

Moses

- Becomes influential in Pharaoh's family and affairs

- Moses kills Egyptian guard and flees
- What happens in his exile that causes him to return?

Burning Bush

- God calls him at the burning bush asking him to free the Israelites and lead them out of bondage.
- *Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?"*
- *God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Say to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' "*
- *God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'The Lord (Yahweh), the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': this is my name for ever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations."* *(Exodus 3:14-15)*

Exodus

- Returns to Egypt to ask Pharaoh to let His people go free.
- Series of plagues follow Pharaoh's refusal.
- After many trials and after many plagues sent by God, he led the people of Israel out of slavery.
- The exodus from Egypt took place on the night called the passover.
- A type of Christ leading his people out of slavery?
- Also demonstrates the dynamic nature of faith.

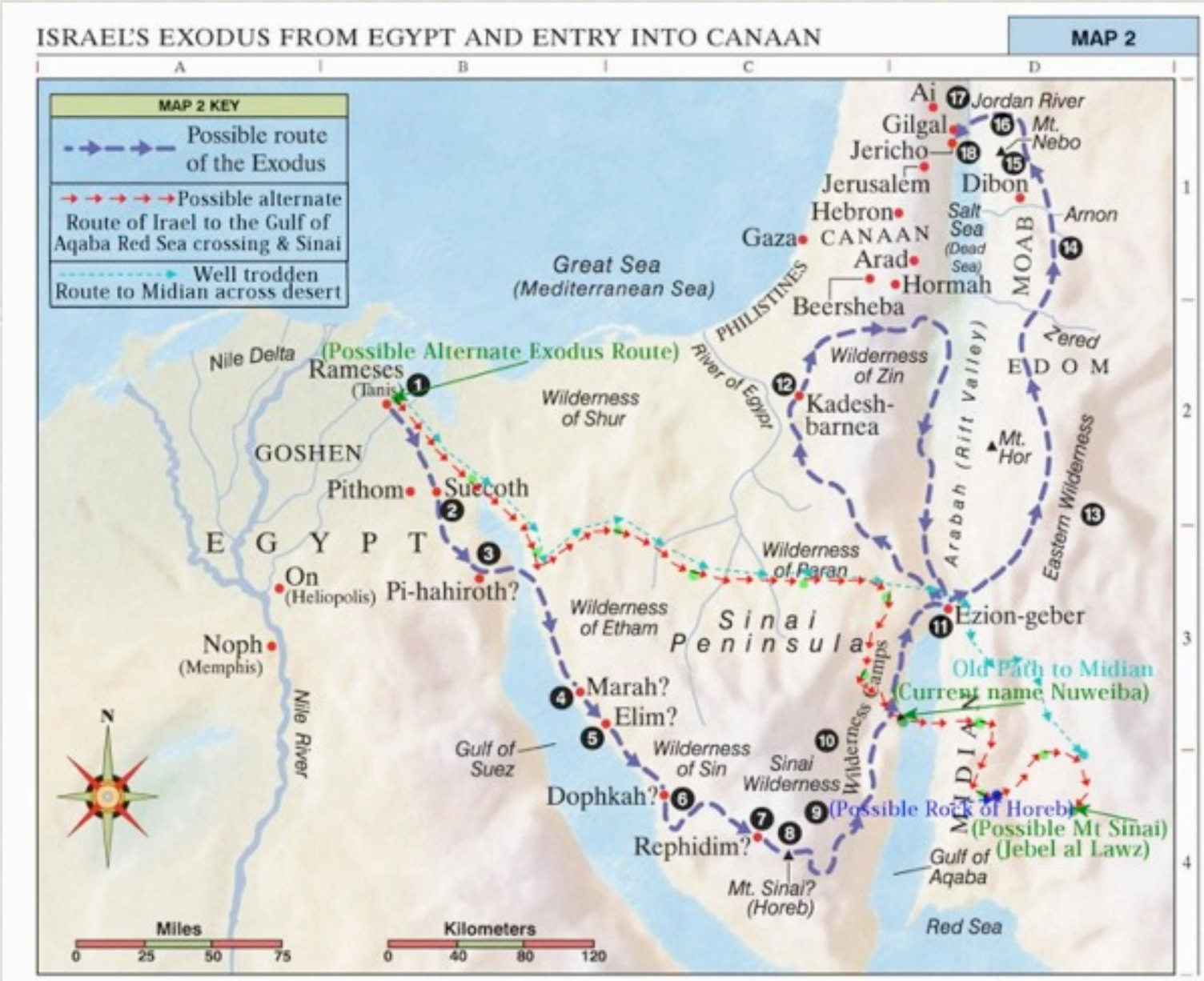
Passover

- What was the "passover"?
- God, through Moses, ordered the Israelites to select lambs, kill them and place blood on 2 doorposts and lintel of houses.

- At midnight, Egyptian firstborn killed. Houses marked with blood spared.
- During the tumult, Israelites made their exodus through the Red Sea.
- See how blood of the "lamb" protects? See parallels in Christian worship and saving grace of Eucharist?

Moses

- What comes next?
- He lifted his rod over the waters and *"The Lord drove the sea back by a strong East wind all night, and made the sea dry land..."* *(Exodus 14:21)* The Israelites passed through the sea on foot. The pursuing chariots of the Egyptians were caught in the waters and were drowned.
- *Israel saw the great work, which the Lord did against the Egyptians, and the people feared the Lord; and they believed in the Lord and in His servant Moses.* *(Exodus 14:31)*



- Crossing Red Sea - like a baptism - the beginning of a return to promised land.

Moses

- In the wilderness people began to complain. No food and drink in desert.
- What did Moses do?
- Moses prayed. God provided water for the people to drink and manna, the *"bread from heaven,"* for the people to eat. *(Exodus 15-16)*

Mount Sinai

- On Mount Sinai, Moses received the Ten Commandments and the laws of morality and worship from the Lord Who *"used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend."* *(Exodus 33:11)*

- Moses allowed to behold glory of God in smoke and clouds on mountaintop and he himself shone with the majesty of God. *(Exodus 34:29)*

Preparing the Way

- God is preparing the way for Christ.
- Ten commandments yield to commandments proclaimed on another mountain - Beatitudes of the Sermon on the Mount.
- What was external will become internal, laws in the heart.
- God's plan is careful and deliberate moving from external laws which which expose sinfulness to internal laws directed by Holy Spirit bringing a renewal, new power, to live through conscience.

Israelites Reach the Promised Land.

- Moses was not granted to cross the Jordan and to enter the promised land.
- He died and was buried near Mount Nebo in the land of Moab. This is where he had looked across the Jordan River into the land where his successor Joshua would lead the people.

Moses

- In Jesus Christ the ultimate meaning and universal purpose of passover and exodus are revealed and accomplished.
- Jesus Christ is like Passover Lamb, slain for deliverance and liberation of all from death, power of devil.
- The real "pharaoh" is devil. Holds all men in slavery.
- The real deliverer is Jesus Christ. He leads from captivity of death into the "promised land" of eternal life in the Kingdom of God.

Moses

- As the people pass through the wilderness of life in this world, they are fed by Jesus, the true Bread of Life, the true *"bread from heaven."*

- Jesus said to them, *"Truly, truly I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which came down from heaven, and gives life to the world."*

- *"I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst."*

Moses

- *"Truly, truly I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me and I in him. As the living Father has sent me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats me will live because of me. This is the bread which came down from heaven, not such as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live forever."* (John 6:25-59)

Moses

- All of this took place that New Passover and New Exodus could be effected, from death to life, from wickedness to righteousness, from darkness to light, from earth to heaven to glorious freedom of the Kingdom of God.
- The Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ is true passover-exodus of People of God. Those who are marked with Christ's blood are spared from the visitation of death.

Kings

- In Old Testament, God was to be King of His People. Wishing to be like other nations, Israelites asked the Lord for a human king.

Samuel recounted to people all that would happen to them if they lived like other nations having a man as their king.

- Would send their sons to war.
  Put all people to work for him.
  Take their best animals and crops.
  Make people his slaves.

Kings

- The first was Saul who became demented.

Second was David the Shepherd who ruled well.

Third was Solomon who was known for his wisdom and who built the temple to God in Jerusalem.

- There was division of kingdoms of Israel and Judah, Strife among them.
  Resulted in succession of captivities to foreign powers from which people never finally escaped.

Kings

- Reality - Only God is King
  Psalms and prophets of Old Testament constantly called God's people to this reality.

- God alone is True Shepherd of His People.
  He alone is the One Who rules and Who is to be served and obeyed.

Prophets

- The prophets called all of the earthly kings to repentance before the divine King of heaven
- What was result?
- Words were mostly to no avail.

Isaiah

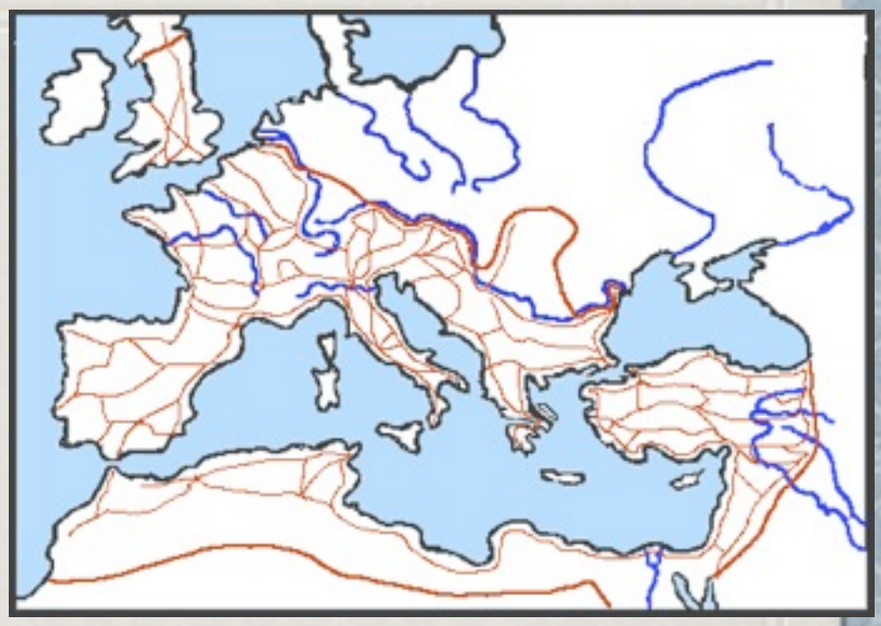
- Isaiah - warned people of consequences of ignoring God and foretold the coming of the Messiah.
- God told him, time will come when happiness and joy will be everywhere.
- God will come down to earth to tend to people as lovingly as a shepherd tends his lambs, giving them food and water and protecting them from evil.
- Those who follow in the way of the Lord will be given new strength, and will be safe forever after.
- *"The Lord himself shall give you a sign: Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."*

Prophets

- Psalms and prophets foretold time when God would rule His People directly.
- Scattered throughout passages of prophets' writings is depiction of future events of Gospel and Jesus Christ Himself.
- He would be
  Shepherd of all nations,
  Ruling through Messiah-King
  Would come from house of David,
  Whose kingdom there would be no end.

Time is Right

- Roman roads and administration
- Common Language - Greek
- Hellenic Philosophical thought
- Greek Gods falling out of favor
- Jewish people in diaspora seeking Messiah
- Mankind in need of renewal



Η ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΓΛΩΣΣΑ
ΚΑΙ ΓΛΩΣΣΟΛΟΓΙΑ
Greek Language
and Linguistics

God Prepares the Way

- God creator of all and it is very Good
- Man created in image and likeness of God
- Man tarnishes this image with separation from God
- Man endures death and tendency to sin.
- Man cannot overcome condition alone - God prepares the way
- Abraham shows us nature of dynamic faith
- Introduces the Trinity
- Moses leads people out of slavery to promised land
- Gives people God's laws
- Kings show that no earthly king can bring us peace - Only God.
- Prophets warn people and foretell coming of Savior.
- Civil life & peace in Roman empire prepares for acceptance and spreading of Word.

Assignment

- Read one of the Gospels.

  Genesis Chap 3

  Handout on Original Sin

- Next time: Life of Christ

Next: Life of Christ