

THE DAY WHEN EVERYTHING CHANGED

INTRODUCTION

The world is currently going through a season of change. This pandemic we are facing has impacted us in ways we would never have imagined. Who would have thought that a tiny, invisible to the eye virus could bring the world to its knees? Things we took for granted have been removed. Our health can be great today and tomorrow our lives could be on the line. We may have relied on our business or our employment for income and suddenly that is threatened or, in some cases gone. Stock markets have crashed all around the world, people had planned to go away for holidays, that is gone. Even the poorest people are affected, car guards have no cars to guard, church services can't be held as normal. We are possibly facing the greatest change ever...

But there was another day, a day when everything changed, a day like no other, its impact was eternal. It changed the way people think, live and view the future. Instead of disaster, anxiety and fear, it brought hope, joy and life eternal. It was not an easy day, it was a hard day, it was a day when darkness fell when the sun was meant to be shining. It was a day when the old was replaced with the new. It was the day that our Saviour carried His cross to calvary, was crucified and died. There has been no other day like that day in history, nor will there be another like it. What was done, was done once for all when our Saviour, Jesus Christ cried out from the cross, "It is finished" and His head dropped down as he breathed His last breath and died.

MESSAGE

SINCE BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH GOD PLANNED A DAY WHEN EVERYTHING WOULD CHANGE

Ephesians 1:3-4 (NKJV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

Since before the beginning of time as we know it, God predestined for mankind to be holy and blameless before Him. The challenge was sin! Since the original sin in the Garden of Eden, it was not possible for man to stand holy and blameless before Him, but God, in His eternal love and wisdom planned a day when everything would change.

In His love, He chose a time when the Messiah would come and redeem his people, and everything would change for them. But those people rejected the Messiah, so our loving Father opened an invite for all of mankind to stand holy and blameless before Him. The Messiah would be the Saviour of the whole world, and in the fullness of time, Jesus was born in Bethlehem, fully human and fully God. He came so that there would be a day when everything changed.

THIS DAY WAS SO IMPORTANT THAT GOD ANNOUNCED IT WITH FORESHADOWING EVENTS

God wanted people to know that there would be a day that changed everything. He set up events that would point to the Saviour who would die on a cross, a Lamb that would be sacrificed for the sins of the world.

God pointed to the sacrifice of a beloved son:

Genesis 22:1-3 (NKJV) Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."
2 Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

Abraham displayed remarkable faith and became the father of faith:

Genesis 22:7-8 (NKJV) But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" 8 And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together.

And as Abraham was about to slay his beloved son of promise, God stopped him and provided a ram.

- Abraham so loved God, he was willing to give his son. He trusted that God would make a way.
- Isaac trusted his father and allowed himself to be bound and prepared for sacrifice,
- And our Heavenly Father provided a sacrifice in Isaac's place.

This all pointed to the day when God would change everything.

Last week we were reminded of the Israelites who had to slay the Passover lamb and paint its blood on the doorposts and lintels so that they would be saved from the loss of their firstborn.

The Law provided for a day of atonement when a goat would be sacrificed and its blood sprinkled in the Holy of Holies as and atonement for sin and another sent out into the wilderness, the scapegoat who symbolically carried the sins of the nation away.

Then there is the account of God breaking out in against the Israelites and sending fiery serpents into the camp.

Numbers 21: 7-9 (NKJV) Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you; pray to

the Lord that He take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. 8 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live." 9 So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

Abraham and Isaac his son, the Passover meal, the Feast of Atonement and the bronze serpent on a pole all pointed to the day when everything would change, the day when Jesus, God's only Son, our Messiah, would be crucified on a cross, to atone for our sins and carry our them away from us. And anyone who would believe in Him and look to Him would be saved! The blood of Jesus Christ painted on our hearts and minds our Passover.

THIS DAY WAS SO IMPORTANT THAT GOD ANNOUNCED IT BY HIS SPIRIT THROUGH PROPHECY

There are well over 100 prophecies in the Old Testament about Jesus. Many spoke about the crucifixion, some in virtually word by word detail. Just look at these:

Psalm 41:9 says, "Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me." (Judas)

Zechariah 11:12 says, "I told them, 'If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it.' So they paid me thirty pieces of silver." (Judas)

Psalm 22:16-18 (NKJV) For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; 17 I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. 18 They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.

Isaiah 53:3 says, "He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed Him not."

Isaiah 53:7 "He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open his mouth; He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so He did not open his mouth."

Psalm 22:1-2a says, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?"

Isaiah 53:9 And they made His grave with the wicked— But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth. (Buried in Joseph of Arimathea's tomb).

There are too many to list, but God announced through His prophets the day that everything would change, and He announced it in great detail. On the day that Jesus our Lord was crucified, each of these prophecies came to pass.

WHY WAS THIS DAY SO IMPORTANT?

Isaiah 53:4-6 (NKJV) Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

This day is so important because when Jesus died for our sins, He reversed the curse of sin over mankind, He dealt with God's righteous judgement, He made a spectacle of our old enemy the devil and He freed us from sin.

This day is so important because it's about God's love for us. He dealt with

- Our griefs.
- Our sorrows.
- Our transgressions.
- Our chastisement.
- Our spiritual healing.
- Our iniquities.
- Our justification.

This day was about you and me! In the perfection of God's timing, through Jesus, the perfect sacrificial Lamb, God made everything right! And everything changed.

CONCLUSION

Each of us are invited to a day when everything must change, a day when we personally encounter Jesus. The day we respond to His invite and accept Him as Lord and Saviour. God has planned such a day for us since the foundation of the earth.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

You can't have a genuine encounter with Jesus and remain the same, it's impossible. You may be able to fool man, but God will see through any non-genuine response to Jesus!

Jesus told a parable of the wedding feast. The king's invited guests did not arrive so the king sent his messengers out into the highways to invite all they could find to the wedding feast. Many came, good and bad, some didn't have

the wedding garments on and were removed and cast out into outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

We receive our invite when the Holy Spirit convicts us in our heart that we need Jesus. If we accept with all our heart, inviting Jesus to be our Lord and Saviour everything changes. Some will accept the invite, but their lives will remain the same. You see, unless you respond and let the Saviour change you, you will not receive your wedding garment, your robe of righteousness.

There's an old chorus we used to sing:

I am covered over with a robe of righteousness that Jesus gives to me, I am covered over by the precious blood of Jesus and He lives in me, What a joy it is to know my heavenly Father loves me so and He gives to me, my Jesus. When He looks at me, He sees not what I used to be But he sees Jesus.

What does The King see when He looks at you? Have you received your wedding garment? Is your life reflecting the change? Are you walking in righteousness, holiness, joy, peace and love? This is the change that an encounter with Jesus our saviour and Redeemer brings.

Could today possibly be your day when everything changes? Receive the Saviour who humbly allowed Himself to be crucified on the cruel cross of Calvary so that He could pay for your sin and purchase you a robe of righteousness with the precious eternal currency of His blood.