



- Barnabas and Paul have been sent on a journey to teach the Gentiles.
- The first recorded message of Paul happens in Antioch of Pisidia (modern Turkey)
- They have gone to Synagogue and are given the opportunity to present a word of encouragement.
- Acts 16:16-41



A Brief History of Israel

- As Paul goes into the synagogue to speak to the Jews
 - Unlike the Jews in Judea (and even the Gentiles) perhaps knowledge of Jesus had not reached this far?
 - Even if it had, what had they heard? How had the stories been told? Were they accurate?



- So Paul chooses to tell them the story of Jesus
 - begin at the beginning ... the very beginning of Israel as a people of God.
- They knew this story, as we know this story
 - But sometimes we need to be reminded about the point of the story.



- And it starts with God.



- God chose the fathers: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob



- God chose the fathers: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob
 - To them, God made promises
 - Great nation (starting with Isaac)
 - Land
 - All nations be blessed.
 - promises indicate that Jehovah has a purpose and a plan



- But God took them to the land of Egypt
 - this was for a great purpose, beyond just saving them from a famine
 - made the people great. (fulfilling his promise!)



- with an uplifted arm, he lead them out of Egypt
 - Demonstrating the truth of Jehovah as a God greater than other gods, nations (Power)
 - Also that Israel really are his chosen people (Relationship)



- God also took them through the wilderness
 - Again, this was purposeful.
 - Teaching them to trust him and preparing them for the conquering of Canaan
 - But this was difficult: “he put up with them” — 40 years
 - Why did he put up with them? — he has a plan!



- So God brought them to the land of Canaan
 - As he had promised Abraham
 - God destroyed seven nations
 - not something Israel could do of themselves (giants, fortified cities, grasshoppers)
 - They were not warriors
 - God gave them the land as their inheritance (450 years)



- Then God gave the Judges to deliver the people up until Samuel



- Then the people asked for a king
 - first Saul
 - the God raised up David
 - “a man after my heart who will do all my will”
 - of this man’s offspring
 - God has brought to Israel a Savior
 - Jesus
 - As promised (many nations blessed)



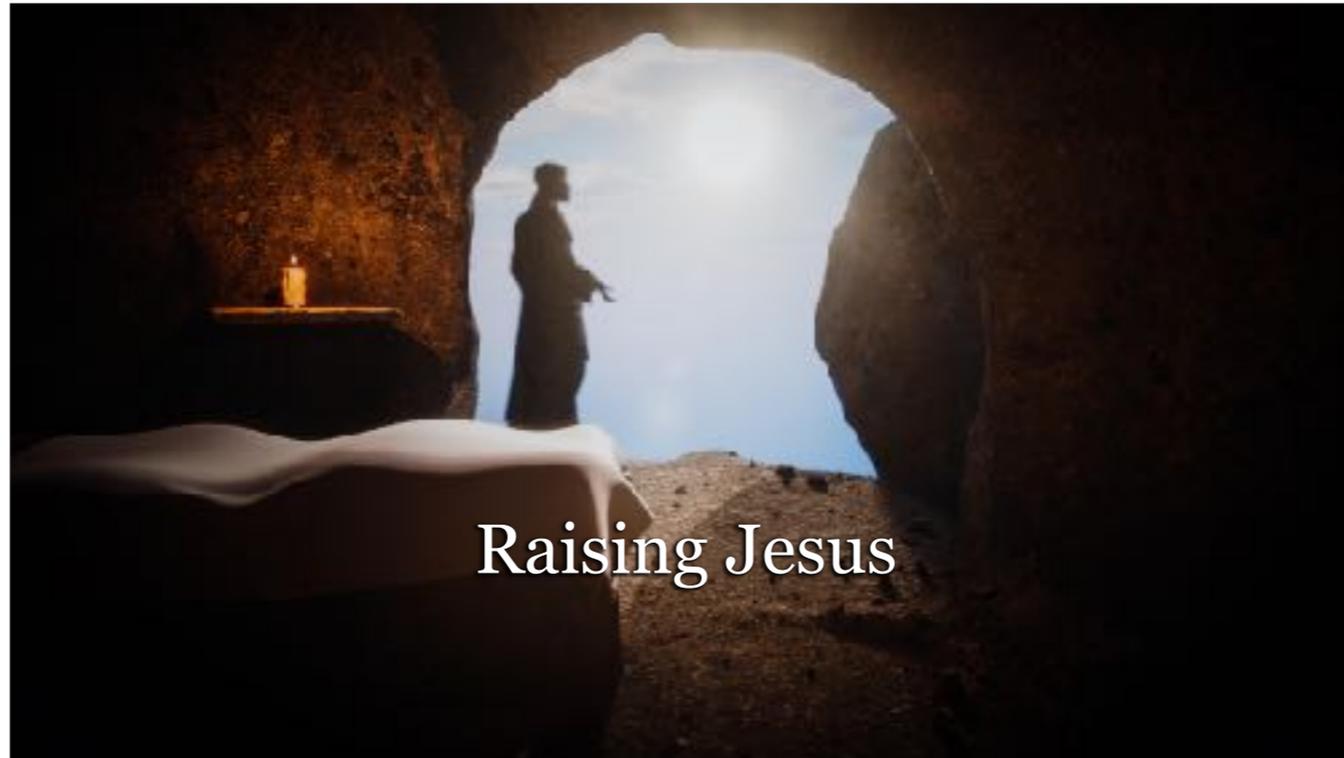
- John (the Baptist)

- Prophecy of his coming in the last book of the OT:

- Malachi 4:5-6 — “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. 6 And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”



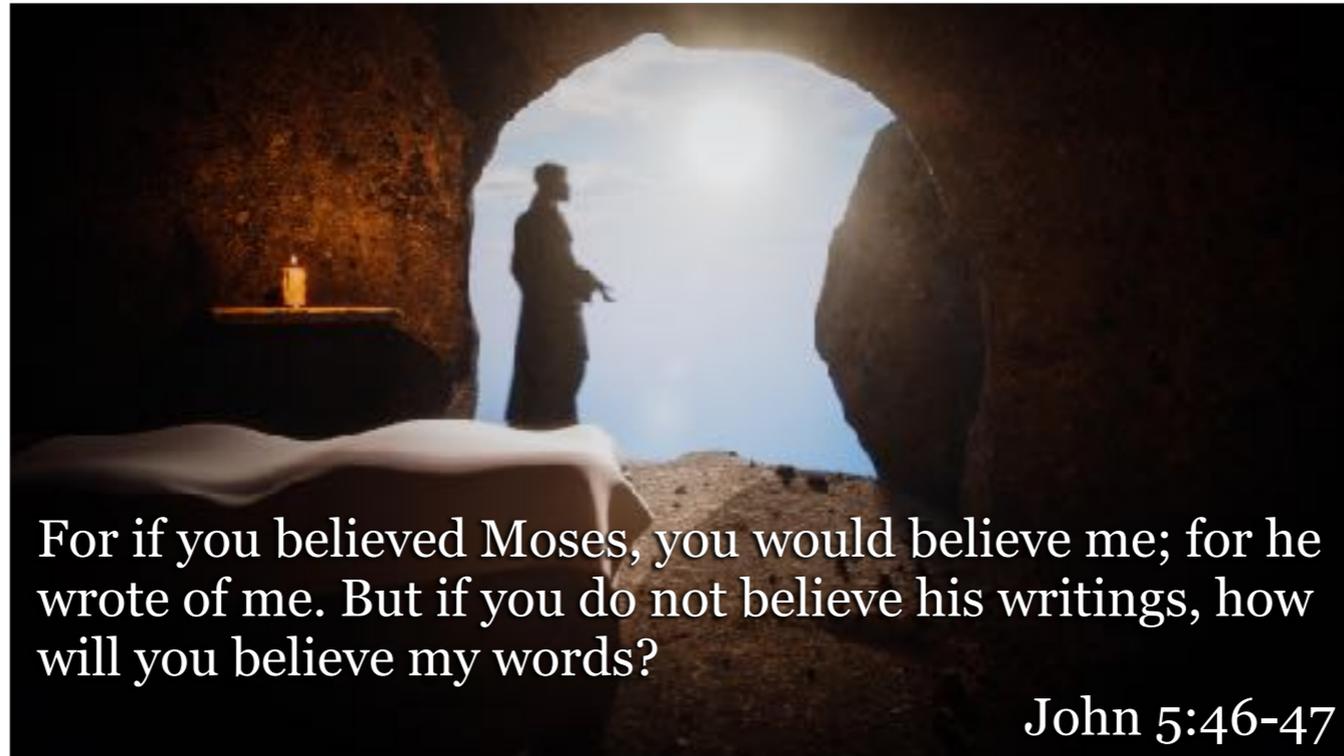
- I am not he: John says clearly that he is not the savior
 - after me one is coming the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie
- What has Paul accomplished?
 - Reminding them of God's promises, his purpose and his power to accomplish His will
- They would agree with all of this ... but Jesus is new?
- He's got them listening



- Paul must now explain what happened to Jesus now that he has come.
 - And it's not the story most might expect.



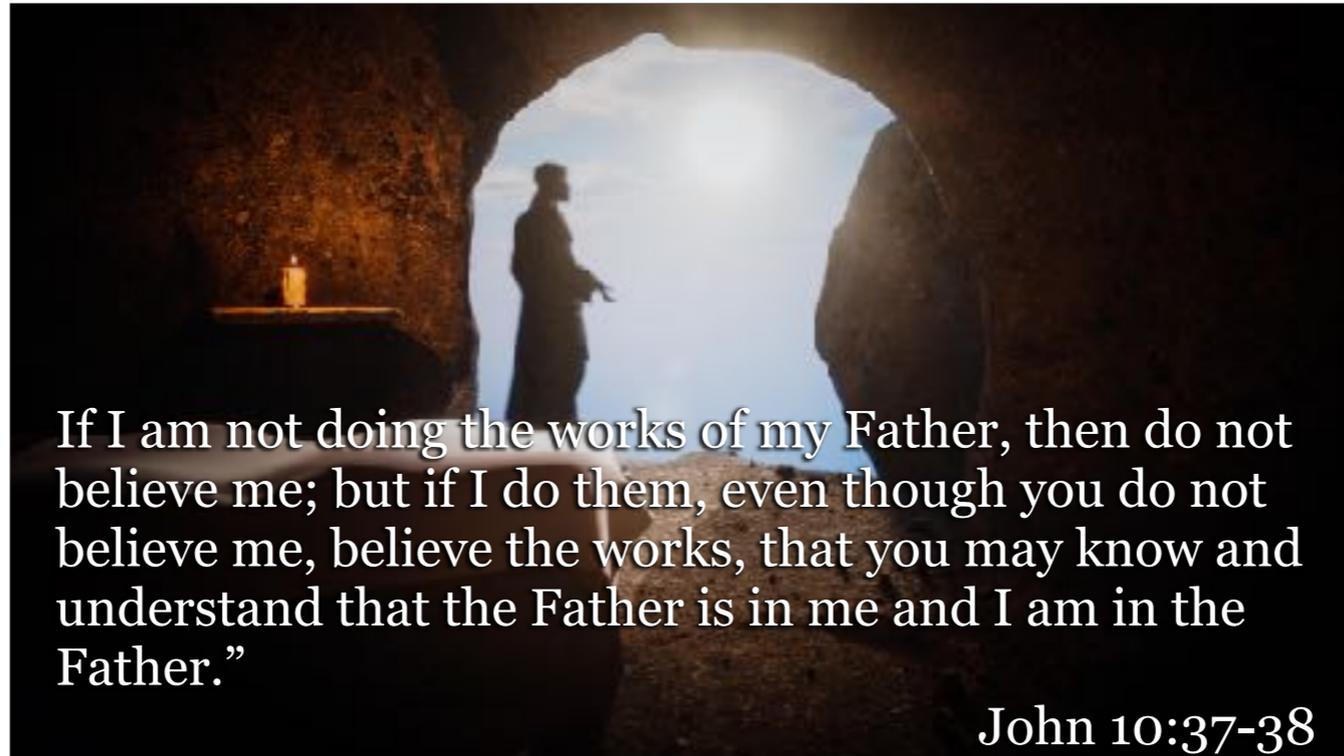
- The people of Jerusalem and the rulers didn't recognize Jesus
 - How could they not? Paul has made it so clear.
- Acts 13:27
 - For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize him nor understand the utterances of the prophets,
 - which are read every Sabbath,
 - fulfilled them by condemning him.



For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?

John 5:46-47

- They didn't recognize him
 - By his words
 - John 5:47 But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"
 - Bread of Life
 - John 6:60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?"

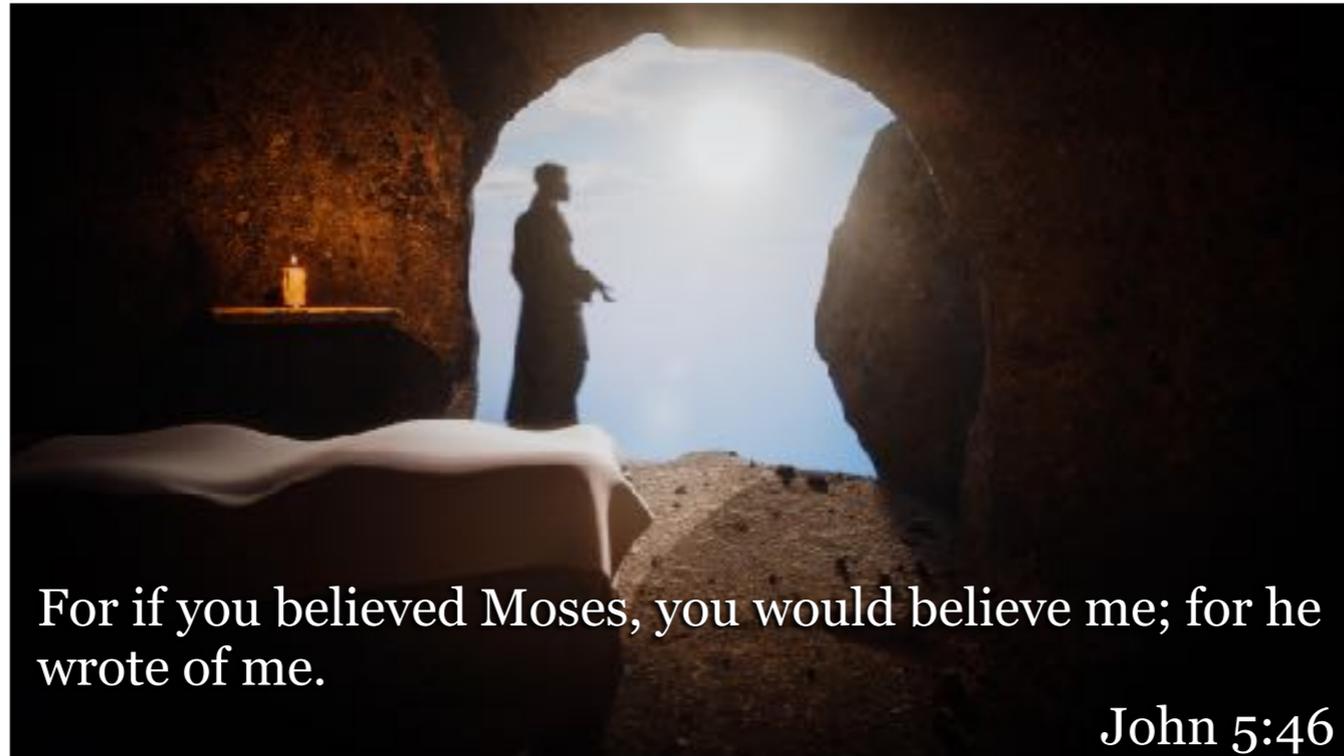


If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.”

John 10:37-38

- Nor by his works

- John 10:25 Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name bear witness about me,
- John 10:37-38
 - 37 If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; 38 but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.”



For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me.

John 5:46

- They didn't understand the prophets
 - John 5:46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me.



- The Rulers fulfilled What was written in the prophets about Jesus: Condemning Him
 - Read every Sabbath
 - Implication is that they were familiar with the prophecies.
 - Isaiah 53: as seen in the struggle the Ethiopian had in understanding who it was talking about.



- Psalms 22:16-18 (ESV)

- 16 For dogs encompass me;
- a company of evildoers encircles me;
- they have pierced my hands and feet—
- 17 I can count all my bones—
- they stare and gloat over me;
- 18 they divide my garments among them,
- and for my clothing they cast lots.



- Fulfilled — condemning him
 - No guilt
 - Jewish witness were false
 - Pilate repeatedly told the Jews that he could find no guilt in Jesus
 - Asked Pilate to execute him
 - “asked”
 - Shouting: “Crucify him” repeatedly
 - Close to riot



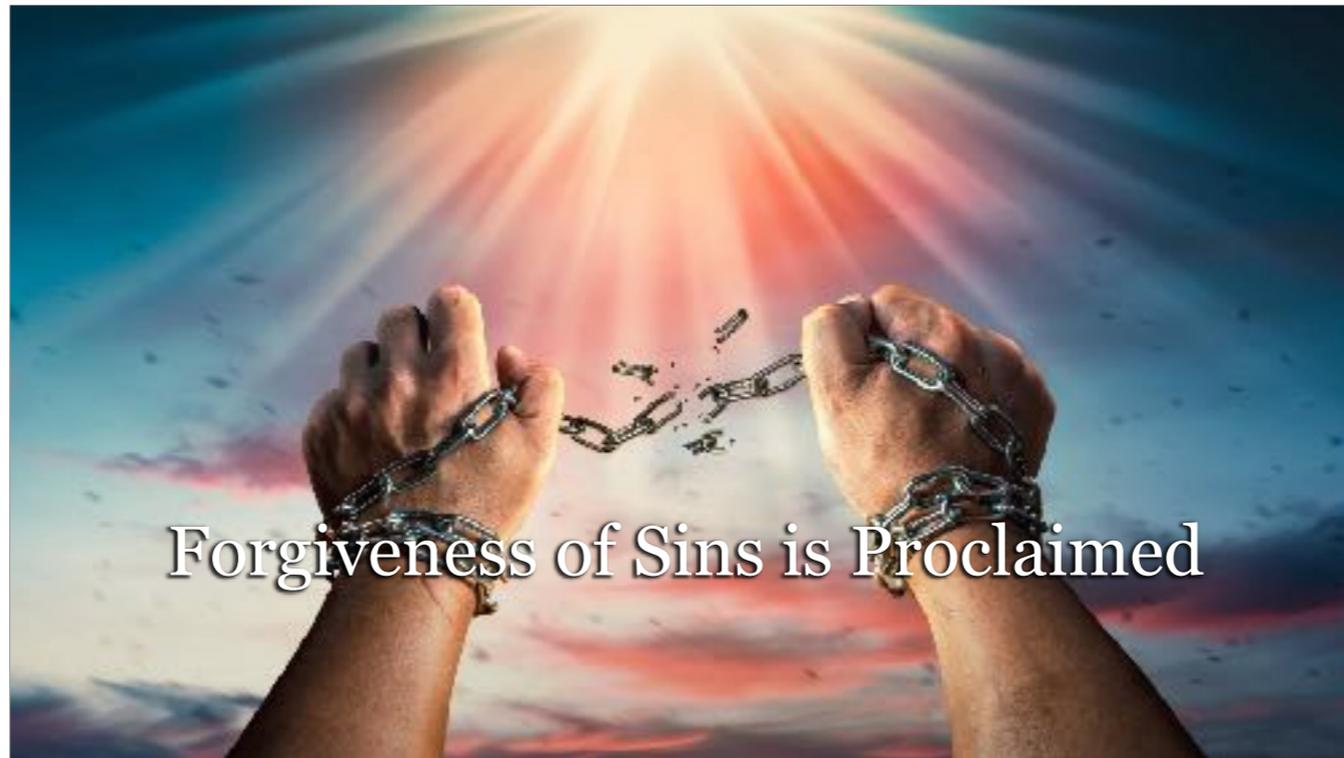
- Carried out ALL that was written of him
 - Paul doesn't go into details at this point
 - And we've looked through both Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53 recently
 - Key is that they killed him.
 - took him down from the tree
 - laid him in a tomb
- In a lot of cases, that would be the end of the story.



- But God raised him from the dead — this is like the crescendo of Paul's message
 - Of course, it's the most difficult to accept and requires the most proof
 - 1) Appeared for many days (40)
 - Apostles are now witnesses



- 2) We bring you the good news
 - promised through fathers
 - fulfilled to us
 - by raising Jesus
 - Psalm 2:7: Jesus is God's Son
 - Isaiah 55:3: God's promises to David are sure
 - Psalm 16:10: Jesus would not see corruption
 - And this could not be referring to David (36)
 - But to Jesus (37)



- Forgiveness Proclaimed (38-39)

- 15: "if you have any word of encouragement for the people, say it"
- 26: "to us has been sent the message of this salvation"
- 38: "through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you"
- 39: "freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses"
- 46: "eternal life"



- Through this man ... by him ... who believes
 - The man who is the fulfillment of the promises to the fathers
 - The man who is the fulfillment of the prophecies to David and the prophets
 - This man who died and was raised from the dead
 - Are you willing to accept him as the Savior that God promised?



- Paul's message, though, ends differently from any of the messages we've looked at lately.
- It comes with a warning
 - Interestingly, this is the first message that we hear from Paul
 - And Paul was very aware from his own experience of failing to hear this message and failing to believe in Jesus
 - Paul reminds them that even the Prophets warned about dangers of failing to believe in Jesus, and the joy of believing



- Scoffers — “one who thinks down against, despiser” (Vine)
 - Believing in Jesus is harder than we think.
 - It was hard for Paul
 - And it’s still difficult for many
 - We should not underestimate what a challenge is involved
 - Prophecies and promises that all have to be fulfilled
 - That a man could die for our sins.
 - That a man could rise from the dead.
 - These are absolutely astonishing.



- The prophets reveal what God said about this salvation
 - Be astounded
 - to wonder, to marvel
 - a work
 - you will not believe, even if told



- And Perished

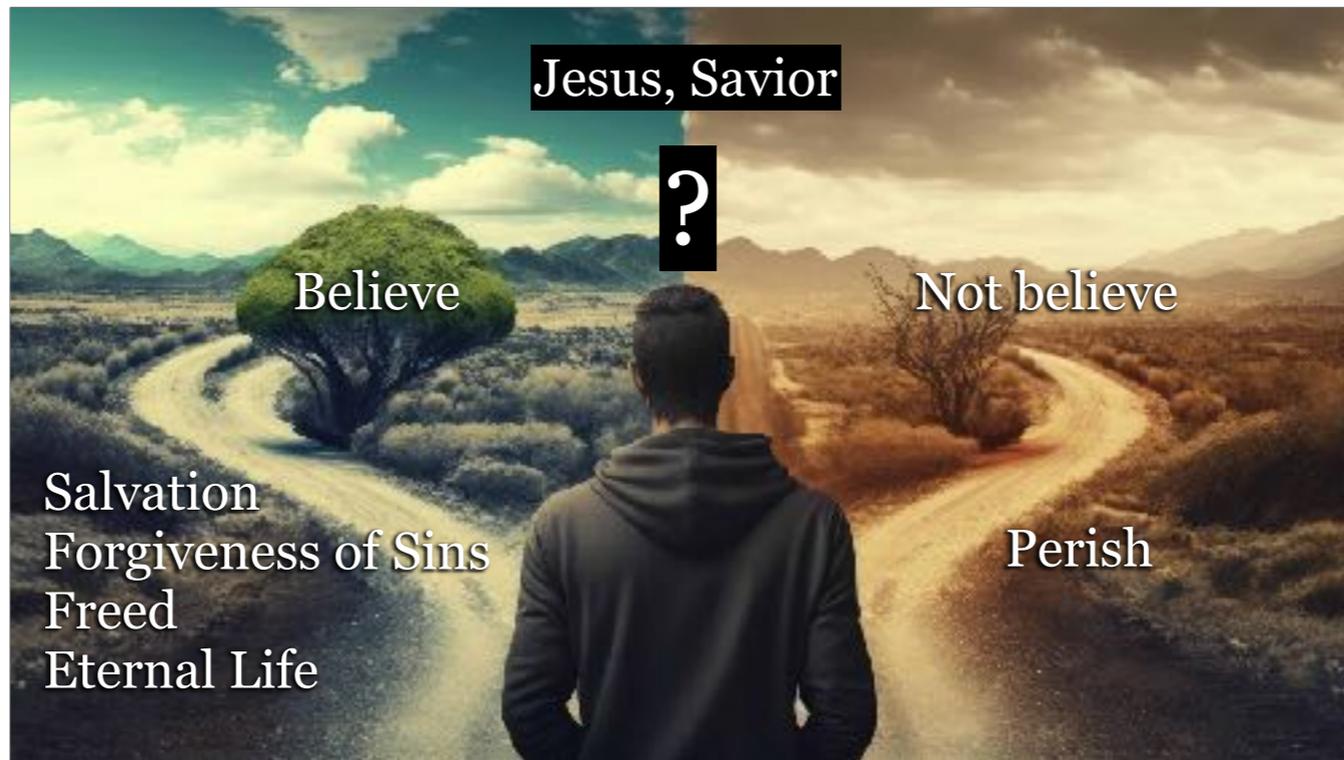
- It is really easy to look at all that is being claimed by God and his messengers and decide that it's not real, didn't really happen, and is not worth believing.
- But the result is to perish.
 - instead of salvation, forgiveness of sins, freed, and eternal life



- Amazingly, despite this warning the Jews fulfill it
 - The next Sabbath, almost whole city is gathered
 - Jews are filled with Jealousy
 - instead of investing the scriptures and the prophecies
 - they contradict Paul and revile him.
 - And so Paul warns them that they have judged themselves unworthy of eternal life
 - They will perish



- But the Gentiles reacted differently to the message
 - even though the promises and prophecies were not given to them specifically, they understood the wonder of God's work
 - so they rejoiced
 - and were glorifying the word of the Lord
 - Those that believed, attained eternal life.
 - Filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit



- The Message of this salvation is about Jesus, God's choice to be our Savior
- And the question is whether you will believe or not believe
- Those who believe can rejoice in their salvation.
- Those who do not believe will perish.
- Which do you choose today?

We implore you
on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Call to Action

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Good News! Great Joy!

#09

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The Message of This Salvation

Acts 13:16-52

Synopsis: In this message from Paul, he reminds us that in Jesus God fulfilled his plan for Israel. And despite the clear teaching in the prophets the people in Jerusalem didn't recognize Jesus, condemned him and buried him. However God raised him from the dead as he had said, and thus forgiveness of sins is proclaimed in Jesus. Paul ends with a warning against scoffing against this message as those who scoff will perish.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”