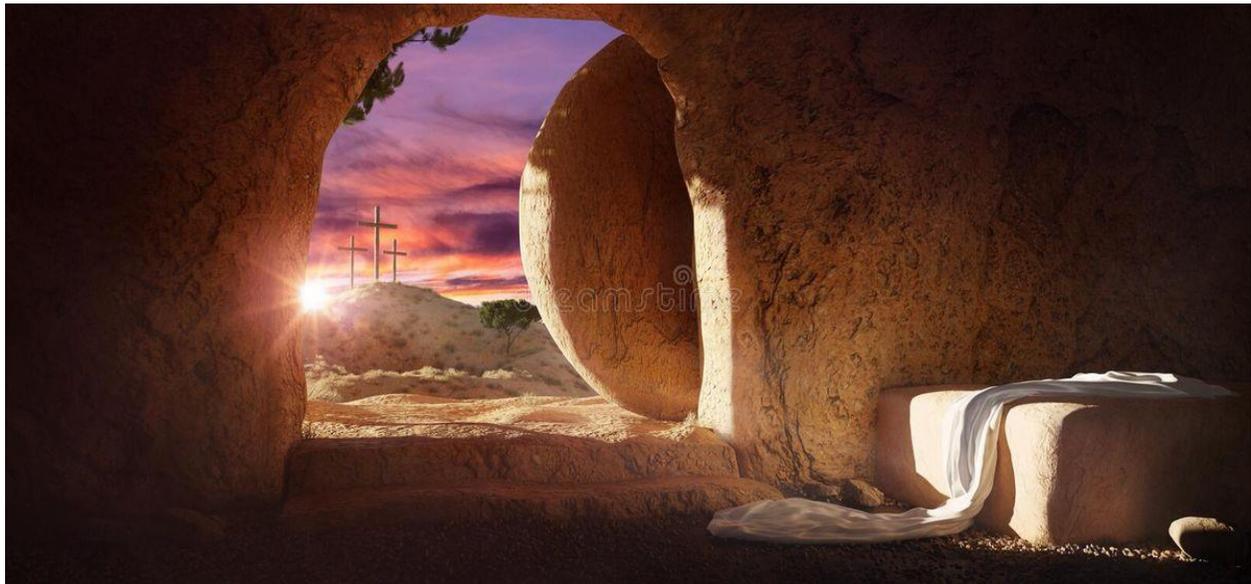




# THE OLIVE BRANCH



MARCH/APRIL 2023



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**AJ FIRST PRESENTS: COME BACK TO THE TABLE**

**Good Friday April 7th at 6:30 pm**

**a good time to invite friends and neighbors.**

**Easter Sunday April 9th 9:30 am**

**Mark your calendar:**

Our All Church Picnic will be held at 1 pm on Sunday March 26<sup>th</sup>, in Prospect Park

Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, and all the fixin's will be provided.

Please bring a dish to share.

Living the D.R.EA.M. with Christ

“For I know the plans I have for you,  
declares the

Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm  
you,

plans to give you hope and future.”  
Jeremiah 29:11

D – Develop = People, ministers, and  
facilities to serve the needs of the  
community.

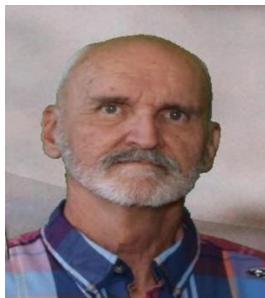
R – Reach = World Missions, US Missions,  
and Community Outreach. Reach the  
People where they are with the love of  
Christ.

E – Equip = Believers with the knowledge of  
God to establish them in a relationship with  
Christ.

A – Anoint = Holy Spirit lead spontaneous  
worship that glorifies God and draws people  
to Him.

M – Mobilize = The Church to exercise their  
gifts in ministry outreach and missions.

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The Olive Branch



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Worship Leader: Michele Smet

Youth Director: Niki and Jonathan Carter

Children’s Pastor: Lisa Satterfield

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OFFICE INFORMATION

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## NEWS FLASH

“Day of Jesus’ Crucifixion Believed Determined” \*

Reported by  
Harold Worthen

“But it was to us that God revealed these things by His Spirit”, 1 Corinthians 2:10.

The Gospel of Matthew, 27:50-51 tells us of a great earthquake that shook Jerusalem at the time of Jesus’ crucifixion. God also told Daniel in the book Daniel 12:4 that Knowledge will increase in the last days.

We can see this increase of knowledge applied today. Geologists with this knowledge given by God has identified a major earthquake in Jerusalem around year 31 AD. The geologists compared their finding alone with Biblical

information of the crucifixion occurring on a Friday, and that Jesus died just before Passover on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan, plus chronology information of the reign of Pontius Pilate. Using all this information in conjunction with their geological information, the most likely date of the crucifixion was on Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup> 33 AD.

We have a Great God don’t we.

\*From a recent report by Discovery News

More this article can be found at:

<https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-topics/crucifixion/jesus-crucifixion-reflected-in-soil-deposition/>

*“And [Jesus] saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye and believe the gospel.*  
Mark 1:15 KJV

## **Repentance—What is it? Why do we Need it?**

By Fran Barbano

Throughout scripture, we are told to repent. Confusion abounds. What is it? Why do we need it?

Repentance, according to Merriam Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, means the action or process of repenting especially for misdeeds or moral shortcomings. Repent means to ‘be sorry,’ to turn from sin and dedicate oneself to the amendment of one’s life; to feel regret or contrition; to change one’s mind; to cause to feel regret or contrition . . .

Today, there seems little understanding of the role of repentance in our lives. As Christians, our walk seems sporadic. We take one step forward and two steps back as life throws obstacles in our path. How we handle those obstacles is revealed in the way we react.

***We should repent each day, sometimes several times.***

Repenting is a means of keeping us ‘right’ with God. (See Matthew 3:7.)

Repentance keeps our spirit aware while keeping the door open to hear from the Lord. Without repentance there is danger of returning to our old ways, before we were made “new” in Christ. “Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new,” 2 Corinthians 5:17. If we have kept repentance in the forefront, we are better equipped to experience the refreshing

that comes from the Lord when we humble ourselves.

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***If we have kept repentance in the forefront, we are better equipped to experience the refreshing that comes from the Lord when we humble ourselves.***

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Before we make a decision to follow Christ, we can’t see or understand spiritual things. “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God,” 1 Corinthians 1:17. To open our eyes we choose to believe, not only that He exists but, that He is the Son of God who came, died for our sins, and rose again on the third day. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life,” John 3:16. It is a matter of choosing to believe and having faith to *act* on that belief. We are unable to see, unless and until, we come to Christ. We cannot see spiritual things, cannot understand the Bible, and cannot comprehend what Christians are talking about when we have not committed our life to Christ.

This decision to come to the Lord and repent brings us to the foot of the cross. “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; . . .” Isaiah 64:6a. We are naked, poor, wretched and blind. “For godly sorrow works repentance to salvation . . .” 2 Corinthians 7:10. “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9. Longsuffering means patience and God’s patience with us is unmatched. *We realize our shortcomings*

*and our failures* as we submit to Christ.

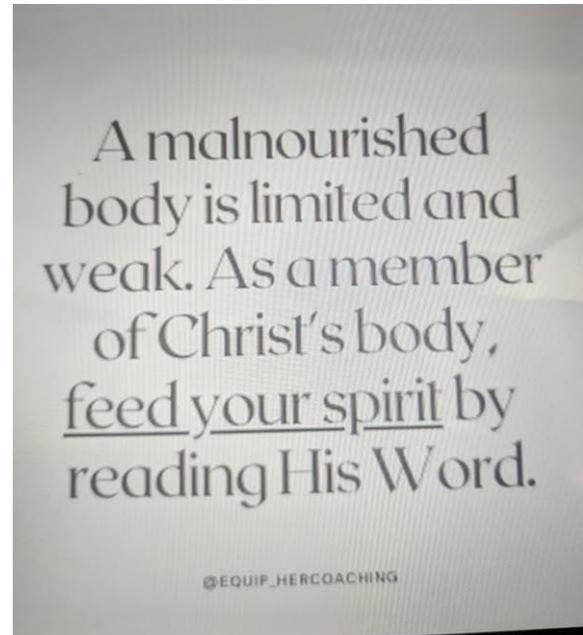
Luke, the physician, shares: “Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repents,” Luke 15:10. When we are saved we realize He has always been faithful to us, giving us ample opportunity to choose throughout our life. When we become sorry for our faults, we repent.

“For godly sorrow works repentance to salvation. . . .” 2 Corinthians 7:10.

We are told to watch for the signs indicating the end times and understand the signs from the Lord, listed in the gospels. Read these chapters: Matthew 24; Luke 21; Mark 13. How much time do we have left? Only God knows. The signs we see are everywhere and a commandment to watch: “Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come,” Matthew 24:42.

The world is careening out of control. Evil and violence are rampant everywhere on earth. Those who are called to be “watchmen” know there isn’t much time remaining to make a decision for—or against—Christ. He could call us home at any moment. For those sitting on the fence, undecided, jump one way or the other but get off the fence because no decision is a decision. We are approaching the “now or never” moment in our nation, the world, and personally. The decision we make today will determine where we spend eternity. We have until our last breath. Knowing that our last breath could come anytime, my prayer is that you choose wisely, my friends. Choose wisely.

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## Young at Heart April 1st



Meet at the church at 1 pm to caravan/carpool to the Museum. A great day of fellowship and lots to see from the Apacheland Movie buildings, Elvis Chapel, a arts and crafts exhibit on the patio and the SMMRR model railroad exhibit.

Bring a picnic lunch or buy lunch at the food trucks across the street.

# JEWISH HISTORY 101

## SESSION 3

By Harold Worthen  
02/05 2023

Hello everyone, welcome to another session of Jewish history. In this session we will examine three Questions on the subject of Melchizedek and see what we find. Keep in mind the bible interprets the bible.

Question 1. Who is Melchizedek?

Question 2. Is there only one?

Question 3. Is there someone today of the Melchizedekian order?

Genesis 14:18-20 (NLT)

18. And Melchizedek, the King of Salem and a Priest of God Most High, brought Abram (whose name was later changed to Abraham) some bread and wine.

19. Melchizedek blessed Abram with this blessing. "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of Heaven and Earth. 20. And blessed be God Most High, who has defeated your enemies for you." Then Abram gave

Melchizedek a Tenth of all the goods he had recovered.

Hebrews 7:1-2 (NLT)

Paul in the book of Hebrews gives us the strongest evidence of the identity of Melchizedek.

1. This Melchizedek was King of the City of Salem also a Priest of God Most High. When Abraham was returning home after winning a great battle against the Kings, Melchizedek met him and blessed him. 2. Then Abraham took a Tenth of all he had captured in battle and gave it to Melchizedek. The name Melchizedek means "King of Justice" and King of Salem Means "King of Peace".

Question 1. Who is Melchizedek?

The Hebrew word "melek" means "king" and "zedek" means "righteous." Note that the Apostle Paul gave that definition in Hebrews 7:2, Melchizedek was a "King of Righteousness", a servant of God. As we see in Paul's definition he said "was a King" implying that he was not eternal. There is no record of any ancestors or of his life or death. He was a mysterious biblical person whose name means "King of Righteousness". Melchizedek

was an order of priests. The Apostle Paul teaches a priest is one who intercedes with God on behalf of other people. The Melchizedek priests were a priest, king and prophet.

Moving on let's go to question #2. Is there only one?

If you haven't guessed by now, yes there is more than one Melchizedek but only one at a time. The order of Melchizedek began with Adam who was the first representative for God's priest on earth. In Genesis 1:26-28 God Created Adam and gave him dominion over all the earth "dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." This makes Adam King over the entire earth. Adam was a King but was he a Prophet and Priest? God revealed to him one of his descendants would be a savior (Genesis 3:15) making him a prophet, and Cain brought a fruit offering to the Lord (Genesis 4:3) making him a priest. Adam became the first in the Order of Melchizedek or King of Righteousness. Others in biblical History such as Noah and Enoch were of the Melchizedekian order.

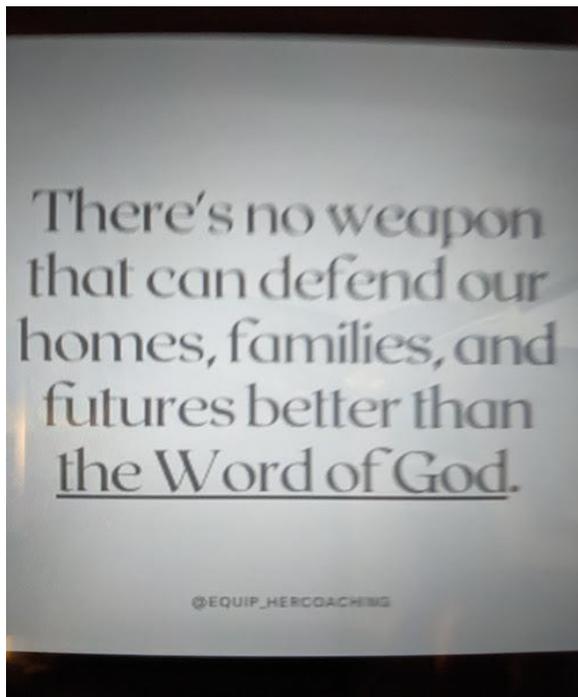
Now on to Question #3 Is there one today of the Melchizedekian order.

The Apostle Paul teaches in the book of Hebrews on the Melchizedekian order. In Hebrews 5:1-6 Paul tells us that all Priest are humans who intercedes between men and God. Human Priest must offer a sacrifice for themselves first, in order to be able to offer a sacrifice on behalf of others.

Jesus had to become human to be a Priest, and His sacrifice was His self on the Cross for all mankind. ...even Jesus having become a high priest forever after the Order of Melchizedek(Hebrews 6:20).

In Hebrews 5:6 God tells us that Jesus Christ is the last high priest of the Order of Melchizedek, "You are a Priest forever in the order of Melchizedek." Jesus, the last and forever Melchizedek is the one we give our tithes to, this being done through the local Church.

In session #4 let's look into why the Jewish people stopped using God's sun calendar and started using a calendar based on the moon, till then may God's blessing be on you for remember He is in control.



## Prepare for Battle

by Brad Gonzales

Be alert and cautious at all times. That enemy of yours, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. I Peter 5:8

The battle rages, are you prepared? Or are you going into battle without protection, unarmed?

God does not want you to be defeated. The Apostle Paul gives us a visual aid, something they see every day, a Roman soldier. He instructs believers to put on the full Armor of God.

In Ephesians 6:13-17 we read **“Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”**

Most of us have read this and if you have read the Olive Branch, the armor has been written about often. But what is the armor of God? We need to know our equipment before we go into battle.



First is the Belt of Truth. Truth in our day and age is sorely missing. Often, we hear someone's version But there is only one truth, Jesus states, "I am the way the truth and the life" in John 14:6 The belt is the

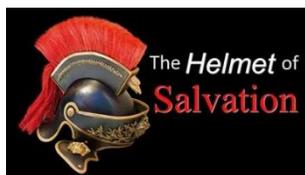
foundation of your armor, the sword is sheathed in the belt and the breastplate attaches to it. The belt has 5 leather straps, this brings to mind the 5-fold ministries that bring the message of salvation in Jesus Christ. The apostle, the prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher.

Next we put on the breastplate of righteousness, this is put on over your head protecting your front and back, it is several parts to give you flexibility, not rigid. Righteousness is given (not earned) and needs to be protected in your heart and spirit,



Today the world tries to get us to fall for their views, a world view like Antifa, BLM, Global warming, the cancel culture and WOKE! Deception comes at us from all angles.

It starts with a small little 'believable' lie and builds up.



We need to remember our righteousness comes from the blood of Christ "For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed – a righteousness that is by faith from the first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith'" Romans 1:17

Then our feet are fitted with the readiness that come from the gospel of peace. The soldiers marched up to 25

miles a day. These sandals protect the feet and the calves supporting the whole body. The soles were not smooth but had cleats to keep them from slipping and sliding backward when climbing a hill. Psalm 139:5 "You go before me and follow me; you place your hand of blessing on my head." We take the gospel of peace wherever we go and we also are able to stand steadfast.



The shield was layers of leather, when going into battle they would soak their shield in water to help extinguish the flaming arrows flying from the enemy. We, too, must protect ourselves from the fiery darts from our enemy. The shield was used in conjunction with the other soldiers together they would use their shields to protect them as one unit, protected from the front, sides and over their heads. Our shield of faith raised up together with fellow believers.



The last piece of protective armor, we place on our head the helmet of salvation, this protects our minds. We are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Constantly bringing our thoughts into captivity. Change the way you think, we all used to live and think and follow the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. But when we change our thinking and turn our lives over to God in repentance,

accepting the mercy and grace found in Christ Jesus, when we ask for forgiveness of our sins and shortcomings, then we become a new creation. God's very own possession. Called out of darkness and into His glorious light.

Lastly, the two-edged sword, an offensive weapon. Take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Jesus, being in a weakened condition from fasting for 40 days, is tempted by Satan. Three times Jesus responds, "As it is written" using the word of God to defeat the devil. "For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, ..." Hebrews 4:12a NLT

Ephesians 6:13 NLT "Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm."

I challenge myself and you to start each day, prayerfully putting on each piece. To start a day without the Armor of God is like going into battle unprepared and unarmed. Remember who you are not fighting against flesh and blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in heavenly places. Ephesians 6:12

***Heavenly Father thank you for your love and forgiveness, forgive me for my shortcomings and sin that***

***has entered into my life. Give me my daily needs and protect me in my coming and going.***

***I tighten my belt of truth around me, knowing that you are the truth. Give me discernment to be able to see through the lies so prevalent in life today.***

***I put on the breastplate of righteousness; my righteousness comes from you. The breastplate protects my heart and life and in you is my life.***

***I fit my feet with the Gospel, everywhere I go I take the Gospel with me and stand firmly in it.***

***On my head, I place the helmet of salvation, protecting my mind from the deceit of Satan.***

***I pick up the shield of faith to quench the fiery darts that come my way.***

***And I wield the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my way.***

***Give me remembrance to use your word against the temptations today. As I study your words today let them renew my mind and transform me into the new creation you are making of me.***

***In Jesus glorious name,  
Amen.***