

SALVATION IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN]
 Keys for unlocking the message today
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Welcome

1. After Anselm
2. **Reading John 3:9-18**
3. Healing, service, love
4. Passover and new creation
5. Holy Spirit
6. And today?

2. Reading John 3:9-18

- John 3:9-18
- Stories behind the John 3
- Abraham
- Jacob
- Moses
- Isaiah: The Suffering Servant
- And so...

John 3:9-18

John 3:9 Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” **10** Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

John 3:11 “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. **12** If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? **13** No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. **14** And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15** that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

John 3:17 “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. **18** Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

Stories behind the stories

- All the Gospel writers echo the Old Testament
- Citations and allusion
- Characters
- Events
- Given depth to the presentation of Jesus
- NB for John’s Gospel: continuity within discontinuity

1. Abraham
2. Jacob
3. Moses
4. Isaiah: The Suffering Servant

- A review before an in-depth analysis

1. Abraham

- **Abraham** is named in John 8:33, 39-40, 52-53, 56-58
- **Abraham** is implied in the reference to the (attempted) sacrifice of Isaac in John 3:16
- Why Abraham?
- The “father” in faith
 - ➔ Underlying the discussion of Jesus’ identity in John 8
- The one who was willing to give his only son...
 - ➔ Genesis 22:1-19
 - ➔ Evoking the death of Jesus as the lamb of sacrifice

GENESIS 22:1-19

2. Jacob

- **Jacob/Israel** is very present in John 1-4
- He continued, “I tell all of you the solemn truth —you will see *heaven* opened and the angels of God *ascending* and *descending* on the *Son of Man*.” (John 1:51)
- No one has *ascended* into *heaven* except the one who *descended* from *heaven*—the *Son of Man*. (John 3:13)
- **Jacob’s well** was there, so Jesus, since he was tired from the journey, sat right down beside the well. It was about noon. (John 4:6)
- Surely you’re not greater than **our ancestor Jacob**, are you? (John 4:12)
- Why Jacob?
 - ➔ The ancestor of all the Israelites
- Jacob’s ladder
 - ➔ Genesis 28:10-17
 - ➔ Used to evoke the descent and ascent of the Son of Man
- Jacob’s well
 - ➔ Genesis 29:1-14
 - ➔ Used to evoke the nuptial symbolism of John 2-4/19.

GENESIS 28:10-17

3. Moses

- Moses is named in chapters 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 9.
- For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came about through Jesus Christ. (John 1:17)
- Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, (John 3:14)
- The one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have placed your hope. (John 5:45)
- Moses is implied in the 7 “I am” sentences. E.g. “I am the bread of life.” (John 6:35)
- Why Moses: The great giver of the Torah, the Law.
- The burning bush
 - ➔ Exodus 3:14 I AM WHO I AM
 - ➔ Evoking the deep identity of Jesus in God
- The gift of the manna
 - ➔ Exodus 16:4-36
 - ➔ Evoking Jesus as the true manna from God
- The healing in the desert

- ➔ Numbers 21:5-9
- ➔ Establishing the fundamental healing metaphor for salvation in Jesus

NUMBERS 21:5-9

4. The Suffering Servant

- The four Suffering Servant from Isaiah 40-55: Isaiah 42:1-4; 49:1-7; 50:4-11; 52:13-53:12.
- In the minds of all the Gospel writers.
- Perhaps going back to Jesus himself (Mark 10:48).
- It is worth pausing on the Suffering Servant because of its special resonance in the Fourth Gospel, uniting the various aspects of salvation.
- Why the Suffering Servant?
 - Chosen one (John 1:34)
 - To gather (John 11:51)
 - Light to the nations (John 8:12: ; 9:5)
 - Salvation (John 3:16)
 - Lifted up (John 3:14-15)
- In Second Isaiah (40-55), God's help to Israel is expressed in three ways: creation/redemption, the vindication of the **Servant** and the return to Zion.
- The "servant" is both the individual prophet and all of Israel.
- In context, the suffering of the **servant** was exemplary, for the benefit of the community (but not substitutionary)
- "For the benefit of" rather than "instead of".
- These mysterious poems proved to be an especially rich resource for early Christian reflection on the cross.

ISAIAH 53:13-54:12

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And so...

- John 3:9-18
- Jesus in the light of the Old Testament
- Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Suffering Servant
- NB: Love, healing and service
- Also: testify, believe, love, eternal life
- Foundations laid for the teaching on salvation