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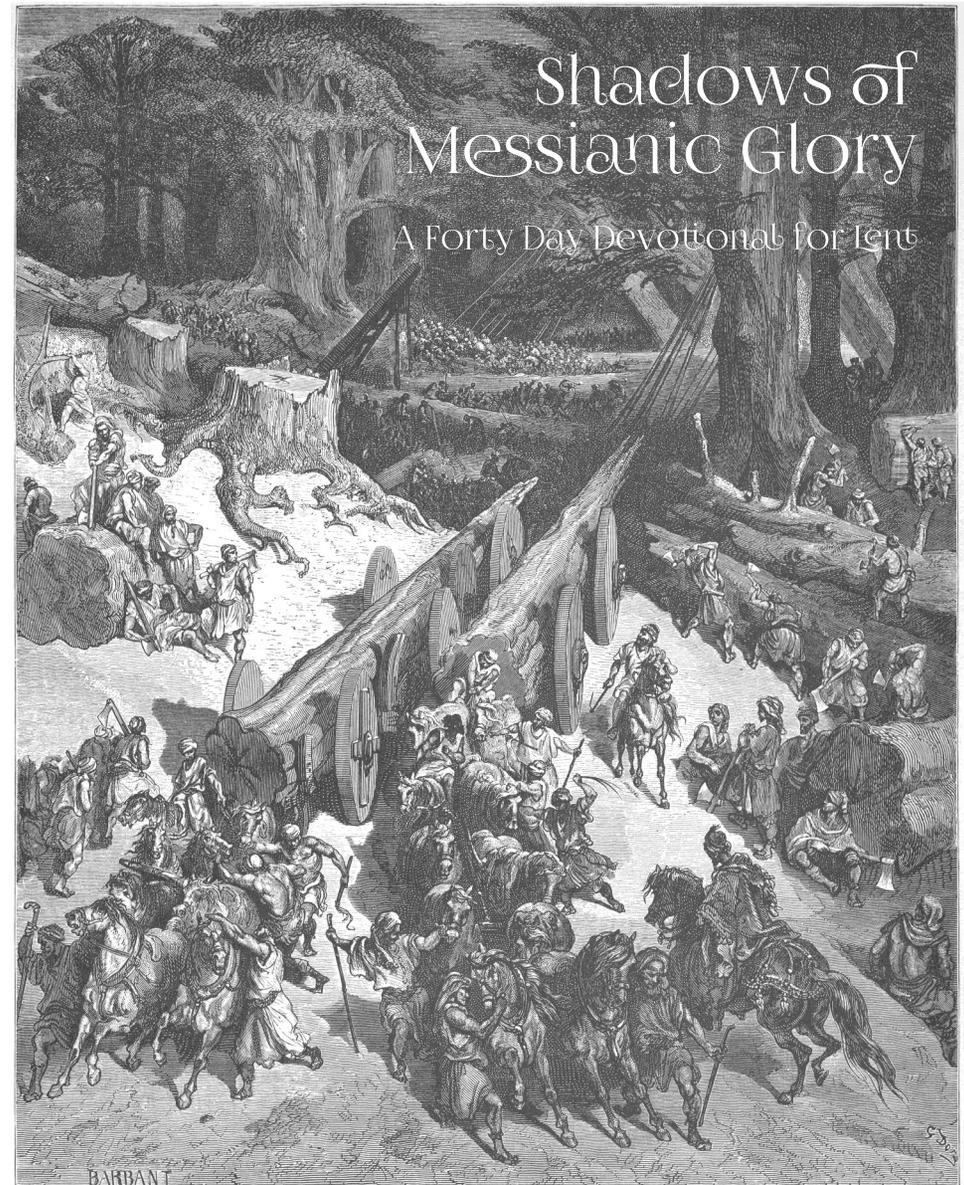
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Shadows of Messianic Glory

A Forty Day Devotional for Lent

"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

John 2:19

Devotions for March 6-9

Genesis 3:15

Psalms 2:6

2 Samuel 7:12-16

Deuteronomy 31:23

Marc h 6

Genesis 3:15

Timeline

written 1400

years before

Christ

Prophet

*Moses, recording
direct prophecy of
the LORD*

Fulfillment

Matthew 1:25

Galatians 4:4

Prayer

*Abba Father,
thank You for
fixing my broken,
sinful heart
through Your Son
Jesus and His
blood shed at
Calvary. Help me
to be a gleaming
example of Your
grace today and
always. Amen.*

I will put enmity between you
and the woman, and between
your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head, and
you shall bruise his heel.

“Daddy, can you fix it?” the child asks plaintively, as he holds out the precious treasure that he has broken. In his voice is a note of fear and uncertainty, that what has been broken is beyond repair and will be lost forever. When Adam and Eve listened to the temptations of the devil and ate the fruit that God had forbidden, they broke something very precious. They broke the perfect and personal relationship with the Creator that existed between Him and His children. In the process, they also broke creation itself. That which God had made very good no longer was. It has become a disrupted and fragmented mess due to their disobedience.

Not knowing whether the Almighty could, or even would, fix that which they had broken, Adam and Eve tried to hide their sin, to cover it up, literally. But not only could God fix it, not only would He fix it, but the All-knowing Father had planned His glorious fix already.

With these words, God gives the very first promise of a Savior, one who would come and crush Satan, sin, and the effects of sin, namely death. There was no maybe, no try in the promise. There was only “He shall.” Because of the cross and the empty tomb, what the first parents broke has been fixed and made as good as new.

In this Lenten season, if you are feeling broken, if your sins have made you fearful, sad and mournful, remember that your heavenly Father, your Abba, can and has already fixed it. In and through Christ Jesus, His death and resurrection, you have been forgiven and made whole again. By His grace, You are perfect, pristine, spotless.

By Rev. Richard Gizynski

He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

King David's intention were pious and good. The Lord had raised the king from the lowliest of stations, a shepherd boy, to the highest in the land. King David now lived in a magnificent building, while the sanctuary of the Lord was in an old tent. The Lord had provided for him in such an astonishing way, and David desired to show his gratitude by building a temple of cedar wood comparable to his mighty palace.

When the king told the prophet Nathan his plans, the seer initially gave his blessing. However, the Lord corrected Nathan. It would not be David, but his Seed, who would build the house of the Lord, one that would be established forever.

David heard the words of the Lord and thought they referred to his son, Solomon. The king would spend the rest of his life stockpiling materials and drafting the blueprint for the temple, handing it all over to his son. Yet, as was often the case even with Jesus' disciples, David did not see. He desired to establish the Lord's kingdom in this fallen world, yet our heavenly Father's plan was to establish a kingdom that would endure for all eternity, free from the sin and death of this age. The Seed of David was not Solomon, but the descendant who would come a millennium later: our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Jesus would affirm that this prophecy was indeed about Himself. He referred to His own body as the Temple of the Lord (John 2:19-22) and how, when it was destroyed on the cross, He would raise it up again on the third day. God deigned to dwell in the fleshly tent of the body of a man. Conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, the Son of God took on flesh and dwelt (literally, in the Greek, "tabernacled") among us (John 1:14).

By Rev. Wm. G. Sabol

Marc h 7

2 Samuel
7:12-16

Timeline
*1000 years before
Christ*

Prophet
Nathan

Fulfillment
John 2:19-22

Prayer

*Lord Jesus, by
Your death and
resurrection, You
have established
Your eternal
kingdom for all
Your people. Pre-
serve me from the
temptations of
this fallen world,
that, by Your
grace, I may ob-
tain life everlast-
ing and dwell in
Your Temple for-
ever. Amen.*

Marc h 8

Psalm 2:6

Timeline

1000 years before
Christ

Prophet

David

Fulfillment

Revelation

21:9-14

Acts 4:23-26

Prayer

*Heavenly Father,
our Lord and
King Jesus Christ
is victorious over
sin, happy to
reign over the
forces of death
and glorious in
His rule over the
forces of Satan.
May He long
reign over us and
save us. Amen.*

As for me, I have set my King on
Zion, my holy hill.

In the beginning, the descendants of Israel, freed from slavery in Egypt, had only one King. "I Am who I Am," the King of Israel told Moses. He delivered the people and brought them to their own land. But having an invisible King who lived in a tent and had an ark for a throne was not normal. And the people wanted to be normal. They asked for a normal king, and the Lord obliged by letting them choose Saul.

Saul had many good qualities, but he did not have a heart after God's own (Acts 13:22). The Lord rejected Saul, but He did not reject the people's desire to have a king like all the other nations (1 Sam. 8:10). The Lord met his recalcitrant people halfway by picking His own, human king. He chose a Bethlehemite, the youngest son of Jesse, a warrior musician with justice and love in his heart. He installed David on the throne of Israel.

Yet the Lord never ceased wanting to be our King, even when we reject Him. He has never stopped desiring to be the King who rules in holiness over the peoples. In the fullness of time, He set a true and perfect King on the holy hill of Golgotha to deliver us. That King was both a descendant of the first human the Lord ever chose to rule under that title, and the Lord's one and only Son. Jesus, at long last, was both the Lord's true King and one of our own.

Humans have an inborn desire to be normal, like everybody else. The King installed on the Lord's holy hill is anything but normal. What He is, though, is faithful to save us and trustworthy in His reign.

By Rev. Charles St-Onge

Be strong and courageous, for
you shall bring the people of
Israel into the land that I swore
to give them. I will be with you.

Did you know there are two Joshuas in the Bible? One is more famous than the other, but I bet you've heard of them both. The connection between the two Joshuas might not be clear at first, because their name has found its way into English in two different forms. Yet these two men do share one name. In Hebrew, that name is "Yeshua," which means, "The LORD saves." Translated directly into English, this is "Joshua." But if it is first translated into Greek, and then English, the name is "Jesus."

These two men share more than a name. The first Joshua was given a job by God. Moses had taken God's people out of Egypt, led them for 40 years in the wilderness, and brought them to the banks of the Jordan River, within sight of the Promised Land. But Moses could go no further. Joshua would bring the people through the Jordan's waters to their final goal.

The second Joshua, Jesus, was also appointed to bring God's people to the Promised Land. Of course, this Promised Land is not Canaan, and we do not get there by crossing the Jordan. But there is a crossing all the same.

Jesus was sent to lead us from death to life. Passing through the water of Baptism, we have gone from wandering in the wilderness of sin and death to living in God's kingdom. The kingdom of God is our Promised Land. It is not a country on earth, but it is still a real place. It is the place where we may rest from wandering, where life has no end.

God sent both Joshuas to bring His people home. The first led the Israelites into Canaan. The second has led us to a kingdom of eternal life. Jesus has brought us to our Promised Land.

By Rev. Jonathan Mueller

Marc h 9

Deuteronomy 31:23

Timeline

1400 years before
Christ

Prophet

Moses, recording
direct prophecy of
the LORD

Fulfillment

John 1:17

Acts 1:4-8

Prayer

*Holy Lord, You
sent the first Joshua
to lead Your
people to the land
You promised,
and You sent
Your Son, the second
Joshua, to
lead us to eternal
life. We thank
You for this great
gift. Help us to
follow him al-
ways. We pray
this in Jesus'
name. Amen.*