

### IN EVERY AGE, GOD HAS REVEALED TO PEOPLE WHAT THEY NEEDED.

- $\Rightarrow$  For living a holy life he gave them everything they needed.
- ➡ To be prepared for the next step in his plan he gave them what they needed, in order to be ready.
  - He does not give us <u>all</u> possible information. There will be details that are <u>not</u> necessary for life and godliness, or for knowing how to respond. We can trust God and leave these other details to him.
  - God may also reveal something about even more distant events (though additional information would be given when the time got closer).
- Whatever God reveals at one point in time will be fully consistent with everything he said in *previous* centuries, and what he will say in the future.

### ⇒ Examples in the past:

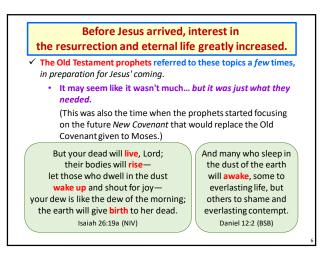
- When Abraham left Ur of the Chaldees, God revealed to him what he needed, for his journey to the land of Canaan... but not much related to a nation living in the land.
- When Israel left Egypt, God revealed <u>what they needed</u> for living in the land of Canaan ... but not much about the coming Messiah and what he would accomplish.
- When the nation of Israel was destroyed because of their sin, God revealed <u>what they needed</u> for getting ready for the New Covenant and the Messiah ... but not much about the resurrection, its significance for us, and the "end times."
- When Jesus came, he revealed to Israel <u>what they needed</u> about the resurrection and some warnings about the "end times."
- After Jesus' resurrection, God revealed much more about these issues to the *church*.

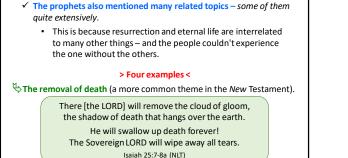
## $\Rightarrow$ In our present situation, we have what we *need*.

• There are things we do not know about the future. The book of Revelation shows us this quite clearly:

When the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write. But I heard a voice from heaven saying, "<u>Keep secret</u> what the seven thunders said, and <u>do not write it down</u>." Revelation 10:4 (NLT)

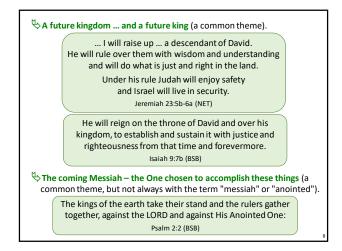
- More information will be revealed in the future, when it's needed.
   [God] has <u>not yet shown us</u> what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is.
   1 John 3:2b (NLT)
- The issue is this: What are we going to do with what God <u>has</u> revealed to us? (Are we going to pay attention to it... or be like the people of Israel, who often <u>ignored</u> what they were told?)





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"But I judge each of you according to your deeds." Ezekiel 33:20b (NLT)



✓ The prophets themselves were *not* told *everything* about these topics.

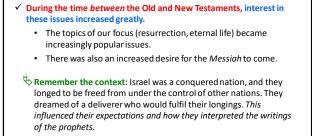
- They realized that they did not have all the information.
- They trusted God to resolve what they didn't understand.

#### As Peter later wrote to the followers of Jesus...

Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you ...

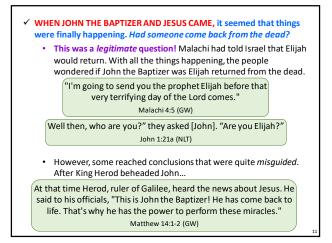
1 Peter 1:10-12a (NIV)

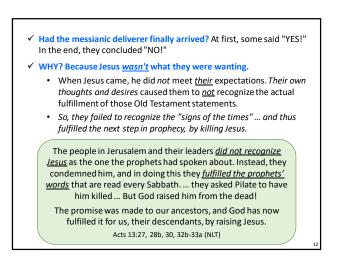
[This refers to us who have been given the Good News].

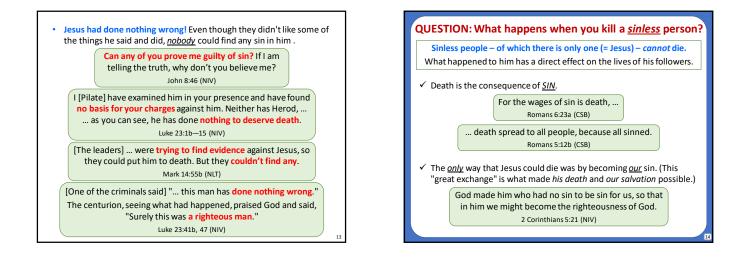


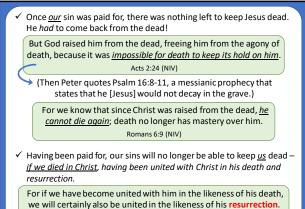
 And so, they were ready and eager for the Messiah to come! Or so they thought.

> WE NEED A MESSIAH – SOMEONE WHO WILL CONQUER OUR ENEMIES AND RESTORE OUR NATION!





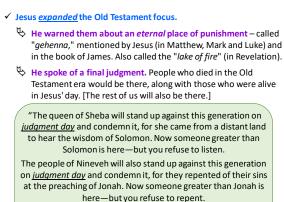




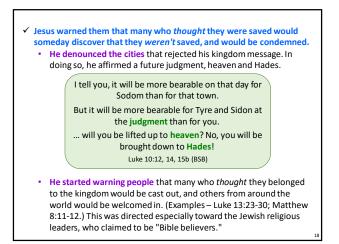
ainly also be united in the likeness of his



The use of words like "sleep," "awake," etc. – both by Jesus and the apostles.



Luke 11:31-32 (NLT)



- ✓ He began to speak about his own death and resurrection. (This was ✓ He taught the whole range of issues related to the future mainly to his followers.) resurrection and eternal life. This included the issues that people · He connected these to Old Testament prophecy. don't like to hear. Then he took the Twelve aside and told them, "See, we are  ${}^{igside b}$  He taught about *eternal life* and the *resurrection* of people in the going up to Jerusalem. Everything that is written through last days. Much of it was said to his followers. the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished. After Jesus' resurrection, his apostles would have much more For he will be handed over to the Gentiles, and he will be to say about these issues. mocked, insulted, spit on; and after they flog him, they will He also had a strong focus on the topic of judgment (and other kill him, and he will rise on the third day." topics that people need to hear, but don't like to hear). Luke 18:31-33 (CSB) This was especially directed to those who were not his After his resurrection, this was affirmed by angels at the tomb. followers (with a greater emphasis on the religious leaders). "Why are you looking among the dead for the living one? "You have let go of the commands of God and are He's not here. He has been brought back to life! Remember holding on to human traditions. what he told you while he was still in Galilee. He said, 'The "You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you Son of Man must be handed over to sinful people, be escape being condemned to hell?" crucified, and come back to life on the third day.' ' Mark 7:8 and Matthew 23:33 (NIV) Luke 24:5b-7 (GW)
  - He rebuked his disciples for not paying attention to what he had said. And he showed them what the Old Testament scriptures said about him.

Then Jesus said to them, "How foolish you are! You're so slow to believe everything the prophets said! Didn't the Messiah have to suffer these things and enter into his glory?" <u>Then he began with Moses' Teachings and the Prophets to</u> explain to them what was said about him throughout the

> <u>Scriptures</u>. Luke 24:25-27 (GW)

Then he said to them, "These are the words I spoke to you while I was still with you. I told you that everything written about me in Moses' Teachings, the Prophets, and the Psalms had to come true." <u>Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures</u>.

Luke 24:44-45 (GW)

In the end, we discover...

- ✓ Resurrection and eternal life are connected to a <u>person</u>: Jesus Christ.
  - Our response to that person and all that he represents will determine our relationship to the resurrection and eternal life.
  - But this involves the *real* Jesus, not the one people choose to "reinvent," to fit what they *want* to believe.

## YOUR MISSION!

✓ Choose which "Jesus" you are going to follow!

- You can "adjust" the *fake* "Jesus" to be whatever you want him to be.
- The real one places obligations on you. You cannot live the way you used to.

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