## "The One Who Has Been Promised"

April 20, 2025

- 1. Intro
  - a. On this Easter Sunday morning, it is good for us to ask the question, "Where does the story of Easter begin?"
    - i. Does it begin on Thursday night of Holy Week, as Jesus sat down with his disciples to celebrate the Passover with them one last time?
      - 1. It was on this Holy Thursday that Jesus would stoop to the ground, and wash each of his disciples' feet... a task reserved for the lowliest of servants
      - It was on this Holy Thursday that Jesus would reveal to his disciples that one of their own was about to betray him into the hands of those who had been looking for a way to kill him
      - 3. It was on this Holy Thursday that Jesus would take the Feast of the Passover, and repurpose it for Church throughout the coming age
        - a. As the bread now became a representation of his body that would soon be broken
        - b. And the wine now became a representation of his blood that would soon be poured out
          - i. His hour had come...
          - ii. His death was immanent
            - 1. So is THIS where the story of Easter begins?
    - ii. Or does it begin in the early hours of Good Friday morning, when, after a sham of a trial before the religious leaders of Israel, Jesus is brought before the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate?
      - 1. It was on the morning of Good Friday that Pilate would have Jesus flogged and mocked and ridiculed by his merciless soldiers
      - 2. It was on the morning of Good Friday that Jesus would be brought before the crowds, where Pilate would attempt to release Jesus in exchange for a murderer named Barabbas.
        - a. And yet the masses cried out about Jesus, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"
      - 3. It was on Good Friday that Jesus would indeed be crucified
        - a. As he was nailed to a cross like the worst of criminals
        - b. As he was scorned by all who passed by
        - c. As he took the weight of our sin upon his shoulders
        - d. As he shouted out, "It is finished!"
          - i. And he breathed out his last breath
            - 1. Is THIS where the story of Easter begins?
    - iii. Or does it begin on Sunday morning... Resurrection Day?
      - 1. As the stone of Jesus' tomb was rolled away in a great earthquake
      - 2. As the guards stationed at the tomb trembled and fell like dead men
      - 3. As Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were told by the angel, "He is not here, for he has risen!"
      - 4. As the risen Jesus met them on the road, and they took hold of his feet and worshipped him
      - 5. As he then appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve, and then to more than FIVE HUNDRED brothers...

- a. According to the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:5-6
  - The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is certainly the culmination and the apex of all that we celebrate every year on Easter Sunday...
    - 1. But is THIS where the story of Easter begins?
- iv. Or should we go back, about three and a half years before Resurrection Day, when Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, affirmed by his Father as the Beloved Son, and his public ministry began...
  - 1. Or maybe thirty years or so prior to that, when the Holy Spirit overshadowed a young virgin named Mary, and the baby who would be named Jesus was conceived in her womb...
    - a. As we gather here together on Resurrection Day, and we turn our gaze BACK throughout the Scriptures, we start to realize that this story of Easter is a far more grand and majestic story than we often realize
      - i. And Jesus affirms this for us in our passage for this morning, Luke 10, verses 21-24
- v. Just to briefly remind us of the context of this passage,
  - 1. At the beginning of chapter 10, Jesus had sent out 72 of his followers, commissioning them with three main objectives
    - a. They were to go into all the towns and villages of that region
      - i. Healing the sick
      - ii. Proclaiming that the Kingdom of God has come near
      - iii. And preparing the people for Jesus' arrival
        - 1. Jesus cautions them that he was sending them out as lambs in the midst of wolves, and that there would be many towns who would reject them and their message
  - 2. And yet, in spite of this reality, we saw last week that the 72 came back from their mission with great joy,
    - a. Rejoicing that even the demons were subject to them in the name of Jesus
      - i. Jesus rejoiced with them, and then he gave them this incredible encouragement in verse 20...
        - 1. <sup>20</sup>Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."
  - 3. As we also saw last week, this is OUR great encouragement as well
    - a. If you are truly a follower of Jesus Christ, and your heart is truly surrendered to him as both Savior AND Lord,
      - i. Then your name is ALSO written in heaven
        - 1. It is written in a book that is kept before God
          - a. But this isn't just any old book...
            - i. It is the Book of Life of the Lamb Who Was Slain
        - 2. And if your name is written in THIS book, then it has been written there since the very foundation of the world
          - a. Your good works didn't get your name added to this book
          - b. Your continued struggle with sin in your flesh won't get your name blotted out
        - 3. It has been written in the blood of the Lamb who was slain, and it has been sealed by the Holy Spirit of God

- a. In THIS, all true followers of Christ can rejoice ALWAYS, regardless of what circumstance we find ourselves in!
- b. And Jesus joins us in our rejoicing as well, as we read in verse 21...

## 2. Luke 10:21-24

- a. <sup>21</sup>In that same hour [Jesus] rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>22</sup>All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." <sup>23</sup>Then turning to the disciples he said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! <sup>24</sup>For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it."
  - i. Isn't verse 21 a tremendous help to us in our day?
    - 1. According to the gracious will of God, the Lord of Heaven and earth...
      - a. The truths and promises of the Christian faith have not been reserved for the wise and the understanding
        - i. They've been revealed to those who are like little children
          - 1. As Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 1:20,
            - a. <sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?
          - 2. And then he says in verse 26 and 27,
            - a. <sup>26</sup>For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;
    - 2. According to the gracious will of God, the truths and promises of the Christian faith have been hidden from those who would rely upon their own wisdom and intellect
      - a. They have been hidden from those who would seek to use their own rationalism and humanistic understanding to explain away the world
        - i. God has made foolish all of THEIR wisdom
          - 1. And instead, He has chosen to reveal these things to those who are like little children
            - a. Those who are lowly...
            - b. Those who are meek...
            - c. Those who come to their Father with arms raised high, saying, "Abba, Father... I need you for EVERYTHING"
          - 2. Such was His gracious will!
- b. And such was His gracious will that God the Father handed ALL things over to His Son, Jesus Christ
  - i. Because God so loved the world, He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life
    - 1. We're all familiar with John 3:16, aren't we?
      - a. But John 1:9-11 tells us,
        - i. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.
          - 1. For no one TRULY knows who the Son is, except the Father

- a. The light had come into the world...
- b. But the people loved the darkness rather than the light
  - i. For their works were evil (John 3:19)
- 2. This was the reality two thousand years ago
  - a. And this is the reality still today
    - i. There are MANY who would say that they worship God in our day
      - 1. There are MANY who would even say they follow Jesus
        - a. But when you look at the works of their lives, their works remain evil
          - i. They still look like all the world around them
          - ii. They're still chasing after all the same things the world is chasing after
      - 2. And the reason why is simple, they love the darkness more than the light
        - a. And therefore, they do not truly know the Son
- ii. And if you do not truly know the Son, then you cannot truly know the Father
  - 1. For as Paul says in Colossians 1:15,
    - a. <sup>15</sup>[Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.
  - 2. As the writer of the book of Hebrews says in Hebrews 1:3,
    - a. <sup>3</sup>[The Son] is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.
  - 3. And as Jesus himself says in John 14:9,
    - a. <sup>9</sup>Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.
      - i. NO ONE truly knows who Jesus is except the Father
      - ii. And NO ONE knows who the Father is except the Son
        - 1. If Jesus were to stop at that point in this passage, we would be left without hope, wouldn't we?
          - a. The seventy-two would have had no cause for rejoicing on that day
          - b. The Twelve would have no cause for joy in their hearts
        - 2. WE would have no hope at all, if all we were left with was an unknowable Son, and an unknowable Father
- iii. But sometimes the smallest of words can make an entire world of difference
  - 1. In this case, it is the simple word, "and"
    - a. How can ANYONE have ANY hope of knowing God our Father, our Creator, the Lord of Heaven and earth?
      - i. The answer is, NO ONE knows the Father except the Son, AND anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him
    - b. So then the great question becomes, "Who will the Son CHOOSE to reveal the Father to?
      - i. We've already established that is it not the wise or the scholarly or the intellectual who the Son will choose...
      - ii. Back in Luke 1, in Mary's beautiful song magnifying God, she establishes the fact that is not the proud or the mighty or the rich who have been chosen...
- iv. No, my friends, Jesus chooses to reveal the Father to little children
  - 1. He chooses to reveal the Father to those who come to him, broken and contrite in their spirit over the sinfulness that resides in their own heart

- 2. He chooses to reveal the Father to those who come to him in repentance and surrender, as they lay down their arms, and cease their striving against their God
- 3. He chooses to reveal the Father to those who come to him with the faith of a little child...
  - a. Confessing with their mouth that Jesus is Lord, AND believing in your heart that God RASIED JESUS from the dead
    - i. THIS is why Easter is so central to the Christian faith
      - 1. As Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:14,
        - a. <sup>14</sup>If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.
      - 2. And he goes on in verse 19,
        - a. <sup>19</sup>If in Christ we have hope IN THIS LIFE ONLY, we are of all people most to be pitied.
    - ii. We celebrate Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday because, without the resurrection, THERE IS NOTHING FOR US TO BELIEVE IN OUR HEART!
      - 1. If we no longer can believe in our heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, then we can no longer confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord
        - a. If we cannot confess that, then we have no faith
        - b. And Jesus will NOT reveal the Father to us
          - i. And we are of all people most to be pitied
  - b. So I ask you, friends, are you willing to have this childlike faith?
    - i. Are you willing to surrender your life to Jesus as Lord over EVERYTHING?
    - ii. Are you willing to believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead on that very first Easter morning?
      - 1. If so, then that all-important word in verse 22... the little word, "and" is yours to embrace
        - a. "Whosoever comes to me," says Jesus in John 6:37, "I will NEVER cast out!"
          - i. I pray that this will be YOUR story on this day
- c. But we are brought back to our original question as we continue in verses 23 and 24...
  - i. Where does the story of Easter begin in the Word of God?
    - 1. It doesn't start on Resurrection Sunday
    - 2. It doesn't start on Good Friday
    - 3. It doesn't start with the beginning of Jesus' earthly ministry
    - 4. It doesn't even start with his conception in young Mary's womb
  - ii. Jesus reveals to his disciples in verses 23 and 24, that this story has stretched back thousands of years before he even came to this earth...
    - 1. <sup>23</sup>"Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! <sup>24</sup>For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it."
- 3. What does Jesus mean when he talks about many prophets and kings desiring to see and hear all that the disciples were getting to experience?
  - a. Jesus is pointing us all the way back to the beginning, as the prophet Moses wrote about the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden
    - i. Adam and Eve were given EVERYTHING in the Garden...
      - 1. It was ALL for their good, and all for their flourishing, and all for their enjoyment

- a. The only thing God kept from them was one tree
  - i. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil
- b. EVERYTHING in the Garden was theirs, except for the fruit of this one tree
  - i. But if they would choose to eat of this one tree, then God said to them, "You shall surely die."
    - 1. We know the end of this story, don't we?
      - a. Satan, the great serpent, the great deceiver, enters into the Garden...
        - i. He twists God's words
        - ii. Eve is deceived, and she eats the fruit of the forbidden tree
        - iii. And then she turns and gives some to her husband, Adam, who is standing there right beside her
  - ii. God comes to the Garden, and He asks Adam and Eve, "What is this that you have done?"
    - 1. Adam blames the God and the wife that God gave to him
    - 2. Eve blames the serpent
      - And all of humanity is plunged into sin and death, as
        Adam and Eve are banished from the Garden and the
        Tree of Life
- ii. But in the midst of the PUNISHMENT that was given by God on that day, the prophet Moses speaks of just the hint of a PROMISE
  - 1. In Genesis 3:15, as God speaks to the serpent, Moses writes that God said,
    - a. <sup>15</sup>"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."
      - i. There was One who was coming who would indeed be delivered a powerful blow by the serpent...
        - 1. But he in turn would crush THE HEAD of the serpent
          - a. The seed of the promise was now planted in the heart of God's prophet, and it was recorded for God's people
            - i. And they LONGED to see its fulfillment
- b. The prophet Moses goes on to write in Genesis 12, how God called a man named Abram out of the land of the Chaldeans
  - i. Abram was a pagan man, whose descendants had worshiped pagan gods
    - 1. Yet God called him nonetheless... and Abram obeyed
      - a. In Genesis 12, God promises to make Abram into a great nation
      - b. In Genesis 13, God promises to give Abram the land of the Canaanites, and that his offspring would be as many as the dust of the earth
      - c. In Genesis 15, God covenants with Abram regarding these promises of land and offspring
        - i. And at the same time, God tells Abram that these offspring would be afflicted for four hundred years in a foreign land
      - d. And in Genesis 17, God again confirms His covenant with Abram, changing his name to Abraham... the father of a multitude of nations
        - i. Not only would Abraham be given countless offspring
        - ii. Not only would Abraham be given all the land of Canaan
        - iii. But now, God reveals to Abraham that KINGS would come from his line

- 1. The promise was beginning to take shape... and it was a truly MAGNIFICENT promise!
  - a. And Abraham LONGED to see its fulfillment
- c. But Abraham would die WITHOUT seeing it
  - i. And his offspring would indeed be taken into slavery for four hundred years, just as God had promised
    - 1. The family of Jacob, Abraham's grandson, would flee to Egypt during a great famine, and their numbers were around 70 people
      - a. Right before Jacob died, he gave his twelve sons a bunch of blessings
        - i. A lot of these blessings were really not all that great
          - 1. But one blessing stands out above the rest...
        - ii. In Genesis 49, Jacob gives a rather unexpected blessing to his fourthborn son, Judah
          - 1. To Judah he says in verse 8,
            - a. <sup>8</sup>Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you. <sup>9</sup>Judah is a lion's cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him? <sup>10</sup>The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.
          - 2. Kings would come from the descendants of Abraham
            - a. And now we see that they will come through the line of Judah
              - i. The promise is continuing to take shape
              - ii. But neither Jacob nor Judah would see it fulfilled
- d. After Jacob died, and his sons died as well, Egypt no longer saw these descendants of Abraham as refugees... they saw them as slaves
  - i. And over the course of four centuries, Abraham's offspring were subjected to harsh labor under oppressive rulers
  - ii. But in the midst of their harsh oppression, God did an amazing thing...
    - 1. This family, who came to Egypt numbering around seventy people, multiplied exponentially
      - a. By the end of the four hundred years, their numbers now exceeded well over two MILLION people
- e. And the Scriptures tell us that, in those days, God heard the cries of His people, and He raised up a deliverer for them
  - i. Moses, a descendant of Abraham, raised in the household of Pharoah himself, fled the country after he murdered an Egyptian overseer
    - In the wilderness of Mt. Sinai, God spoke to Moses from a burning bush, telling him to return to Egypt, for he must stand before Pharoah and demand the release of God's people
      - a. We read starting in Exodus 7 that God began to unleash a series of plagues upon Pharoah,
        - i. And yet Pharoah's heart continued to be hardened toward the Lord, and disaster fell upon the entire country

- ii. That is, the entire country, EXCEPT for the area where God's people lived
- ii. Until finally, God declared the tenth and final plague in Exodus 11...
  - <sup>4</sup>Every firstborn in the land of Pharoah shall die, from the firstborn of Pharoah who sits on the throne, even to the firstborn of the slave girl who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the cattle."
    - a. This painful punishment would fall upon the Egyptians, but it would not fall upon the offspring of Abraham
      - i. As long as they followed God's SPECIFIC instructions
        - 1. Every Hebrew household was to take a lamb without blemish
        - 2. They were to kill that lamb
        - 3. And they were to take the blood of the lamb, and place it on the top and the sides of the doorway to the house
    - And when the Lord would pass through the land to strike down the Egyptians, He would look upon the Hebrew homes, and He would pass OVER them
      - i. For they were marked by the blood of the lamb
- f. The people of God had been given a promise of a great multitude of nations
  - i. They had been given the promise of a land flowing with milk and honey
  - ii. They had been given the promise of kings
    - 1. And now, they had been given the promise of salvation through the blood of a lamb
      - a. The promise was continuing to take shape, but the Israelites who walked freely out of Egypt including the great prophet Moses...
        - i. They would NOT see its fulfillment
- 4. Over the next forty years, the offspring of Abraham would wander about in the wilderness, as they continued to be stiff-necked and rebellious against their God
  - a. They would finally make it into the Promised Land, but once they got established there, they again turned from God, and everyone did what was right in their own eyes
    - i. The people of God eventually looked at all the nations around them who had their own kings, and they demanded of God, "We want a king for ourselves as well!"
      - 1. God gave them what they wanted, a man named Saul, from the tribe of Benjamin
        - a. Saul would become Israel's first King
          - i. But remember, the scepter was to come from the line of Judah, not Benjamin
        - b. Saul would eventually reject God, and God would in turn reject him
      - 2. And then God would send another of His prophets, the man named Samuel, to the household of Jesse... a descendant of Judah
        - a. And from the sons of Jesse, God would choose HIS OWN King, young David, the man after God's own heart
          - i. David would go through many trials and tribulations, from fighting giants to fleeing from kings
            - 1. But he would eventually be coronated as King over all of Israel
              - a. And as God's own King over God's own people, David sought to build a proper house for God himself
      - 3. But in 2 Samuel 7, God says to David, "You will not build a house for me, but I will build a house FOR YOU!"
        - a. In verse 12, God says to David,
          - i. <sup>12</sup>When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body,

and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup>He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup>I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, <sup>15</sup>but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. <sup>16</sup>And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever."

- 1. The scepter shall not depart from Judah
- 2. The Kingdom shall not depart from David
  - a. The promise is gaining more and more clarity
    - i. But King David would not see it fulfilled
    - ii. Nor would his son, King Solomon
    - iii. Nor in fact would ANY of the kings in the line of David see the things they were longing to see
- 5. And so the kingdom fell into division and ruin
  - a. The people of God were taken into exile
    - i. But, during these days of darkness, another prophet arose... the prophet Isaiah
      - 1. And Isaiah came with absolutely STUNNING words from God
        - a. Isaiah 7 speaks of a virgin conceiving and bearing a son, and his name shall be called, Immanuel, God With Us
        - b. Isaiah 9 speaks of a Son being born, and of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end, as he rules from the throne of David
        - c. Isaiah 11 speaks of a shoot from the stump of Jesse, upon whom the Spirit of God shall rest, and he will reign in righteousness and faithfulness over the poor and the meek
        - d. Isaiah 42 speaks of God's chosen servant, whom He will give as a covenant to the nations, to open the eyes of the blind and set free the captives from prison
          - Incredible promises of the One who was to come from the line of David
  - b. But, turn with me now in your Bibles to Isaiah, chapter 53, as we see things begin to take an unexpected turn...
    - i. At the end of chapter 52, God says that His chosen servant will be "marred beyond human semblance"
    - ii. In chapter 53, God says that His chosen servant will be despised and rejected by men
      - 1. And starting in verse 4, Isaiah writes these words...
        - a. <sup>4</sup>Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup>But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. <sup>6</sup>All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. <sup>7</sup>He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. <sup>8</sup>By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? <sup>9</sup>And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no

violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. <sup>10</sup>Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief...

- i. Let me stop us there
- 2. Do you see, friends?
  - a. The fulfillment of all of God's promises had to be a King from the line of David... a shoot from the stump of Jesse... a descendant of the Tribe of Judah
  - b. Like Moses, this King would be the great deliverer of God's people once again
    - i. But there was a problem...
      - 1. In order for this King to truly deliver God's people, he had to be perfect in every way
      - 2. Like the Passover Lamb, in order for God to pass over the sins of His people, this King had to be without blemish
    - ii. But God had said to David about David's son that whenever he committed iniquity, he would be disciplined with the stripes of men
      - 1. So how could God's chosen servant fulfill all of these things?
        - a. By living a perfect and sinless life, and by then taking OUR sin upon his shoulders
          - For our sake, God made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in HIM, we might become the righteousness of God
- iii. This is the ONLY way all the promises given to the prophets and kings throughout the Old Testament could be fulfilled...
  - 1. Is through a PERFECT King who would bear the sins of many
    - a. Therefore, as Isaiah wrote, it was the will of the Lord to crush him
      - i. Or, as Jesus would put it, "Such was your GRACIOUS will"
        - 1. The Lord our God would crush His Son, for this was what was necessary for US to be forgiven
- iv. BUT, Isaiah continues in the second half of verse 10
  - 1. <sup>10</sup> ...when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. <sup>11</sup>Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. <sup>12</sup>Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.
    - a. Friends, how can the King SEE his offspring?
    - b. How can he SEE and BE SATISFIED?
    - c. How can he still, EVEN TODAY, make intercession for transgressors like you and me?
      - i. Because He is RISEN!
        - 1. And God the Father has handed ALL THINGS over to His Son!
          - a. Many prophets and kings longed to see and hear the things that the disciples saw and heard in their day
- v. <sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.
  - 1. My friends, the Easter story didn't begin on that glorious Sunday morning
  - 2. It didn't begin with the death of Jesus on Good Friday

- a. The Easter story stretches all the way back to the foundation of the world, when God set forth this entire plan that has been fulfilled in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ
  - i. And this story continues on still today, and will continue to stretch on throughout all eternity
    - 1. For Jesus is the King of kings, the Alpha and the Omega, the one through whom all things will be united in heaven and on earth
- b. So what will be your role in this grand story?
  - i. Will you choose to humble yourself like a little child?
    - 1. Will you choose to confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and King over ALL of your life?
    - 2. Will you choose to believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead?
      - a. If your answer to those questions is "YES," then Jesus WILL rejoice along with you, and he WILL choose to reveal the Father to you
        - i. And everything will change!!