

Echoes of Easter

Echoes of Choice



Recap

Two things are needed in an echo, the sound and the reflecting object

At the core of the Easter story is the word “covenant”

At the centre of Christianity is the word “covenant”



Recap

A covenant is a contract or agreement between two or more parties. Covenant is how God has chosen to communicate to us, to redeem us, and to guarantee us eternal life in Jesus. These truths, revealed in the Bible, are the basis of Christianity. **The Bible is a covenant document.** The Old and New Testaments are really Old and New Covenants. The word "testament" is Latin for Covenant.



Recap

For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.” Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because “the righteous will live by faith.” The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, it says, “The person who does these things will live by them.” Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.” He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit. Galatians 3:10-14

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." Matthew 26:36-38







The names Har Hazeitim (Mt. Of Olives) and Har Hamishcha (Mount of Anointing) come from the many olive trees which flourished all over the mountain range. The oil was used to anoint kings, prophets, priests, and Temple articles. Messiah, in fact, means “anointed one.”



How we choose to suffer is how God
chooses to grow us

Jesus goes to the mountain to wrestle
with God

He wasn't the first



Three Kings and the Mountain

But David continued up the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went; his head was covered and he was barefoot. All the people with him covered their heads too and were weeping as they went up. 2 Samuel 15:30



Three Kings and the Mountain

As King David approached Bahurim, a man from the same clan as Saul's family came out from there. His name was Shimei son of Gera, and he cursed as he came out. He pelted David and all the king's officials with stones, though all the troops and the special guard were on David's right and left.

2 Samuel 16:5-6



Three Kings and the Mountain

Then Abishai son of Zeruiah said to the king, “Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and cut off his head.” But the king said, “What does this have to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? If he is cursing because the Lord said to him, ‘Curse David,’ who can ask, ‘Why do you do this?’” David then said to Abishai and all his officials, “My son, my own flesh and blood, is trying to kill me. How much more, then, this Benjamite! Leave him alone; let him curse, for the Lord has told him to. It may be that the Lord will look upon my misery and restore to me his covenant blessing instead of his curse today.” vs 9-12

Three Kings and the Mountain

On a hill east of Jerusalem, Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable god of Moab, and for Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites. 1 Kings 11:7

The king (Josiah) also desecrated the high places that were east of Jerusalem on the south of the Hill of Corruption—the ones Solomon king of Israel had built for Ashtoreth the vile goddess of the Sidonians, for Chemosh the vile god of Moab, and for Molek the detestable god of the people of Ammon. 2 Kings 23:13

Three Kings and the Mountain

When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his robes. He gave these orders to Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Akbor son of Micaiah, Shaphan the secretary and Asaiah the king's attendant: "Go and inquire of the Lord for me and for the people and for all Judah about what is written in this book that has been found. Great is the Lord's anger that burns against us because those who have gone before us have not obeyed the words of this book; they have not acted in accordance with all that is written there concerning us." 2 Kings 22:11-13

Three Kings and the Mountain

They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch." Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. "*Abba*, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." Mark 14:32-36





Victor Frankl 1905-1997

“In some way, suffering ceases to be suffering at the moment it finds a meaning, such as the meaning of a sacrifice.”

“Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms—to choose one’s attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one’s own way.”

“Between stimulus and response, there is a space. In that space is our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and our freedom.”

Lessons on the Mount

In times of suffering, surround yourself
with community

The king set out, with his entire household following
him

Then the king called together all the elders of Judah
and Jerusalem. He went up to the temple of the Lord
with the people of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem,
the priests and the prophets—all the people from the
least to the greatest.

“My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point
of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

A silhouette of three crosses on a hill, with the central cross being the tallest and most prominent. The crosses are set against a dark, textured background that resembles a night sky or a stormy sea.

Lessons on the Mount

In times of suffering, seek God's strength

It may be that the Lord will look upon my misery and restore to me his covenant blessing instead of his curse today.

Go and inquire of the Lord for me and for the people and for all Judah about what is written in this book that has been found

Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak

Lessons on the Mount

In times of suffering, trust God, not the
outcome

If I find favour in the Lord's eyes, he will bring me back and let me see it and his dwelling place again. But if he says, 'I am not pleased with you,' then I am ready; let him do to me whatever seems good to him."

Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before the Lord when you heard what I have spoken against this place and its people

Yet not what I will, but what you will



The Sound and the Reflection

During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him. Hebrews 5:7-9



The Sound and the Reflection

A day of the Lord is coming, Jerusalem, when your possessions will be plundered and divided up within your very walls. I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city. Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights on a day of battle. On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. Zechariah 14:1-4