



JESUS HEALS & FULFILLS

Matthew 12:9-21

Matthew 12:7-8

- *And if you had known what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.”*

Matt. 11:28-29

- *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you **rest**. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find **rest for your souls**.*

Basic Interpretive Questions for Bible Study: The Three 'Dubs

- *Who?* (questions about authorship & intended recipients)
- *When?* (questions about historical dates & locations)
- *Why?* (questions about what were the circumstances which prompted the letter, theological concerns, etc.)

Two Important Additional ‘Dubs for Biblical Interpretation:

- *WHERE are we?* (questions about where the present text finds itself in the wider biblical story)
- *WHAT time is it?* (questions about what has God *already fulfilled* on behalf of His people, and what promises are *not yet consummated*)

God's appointed OT institutions to help Israel to "remember":

- Tabernacle/Temple - The Temple is God's holy place where heaven and earth meet; where God and His people dwell together in a sacred communion
- Sabbath - Sabbath observance is a reminder that while God is at presently "rest" (reigning/ruling over the nation), there remains a future "rest" that is not yet consummated (uninterrupted dwelling/communion amongst His people)

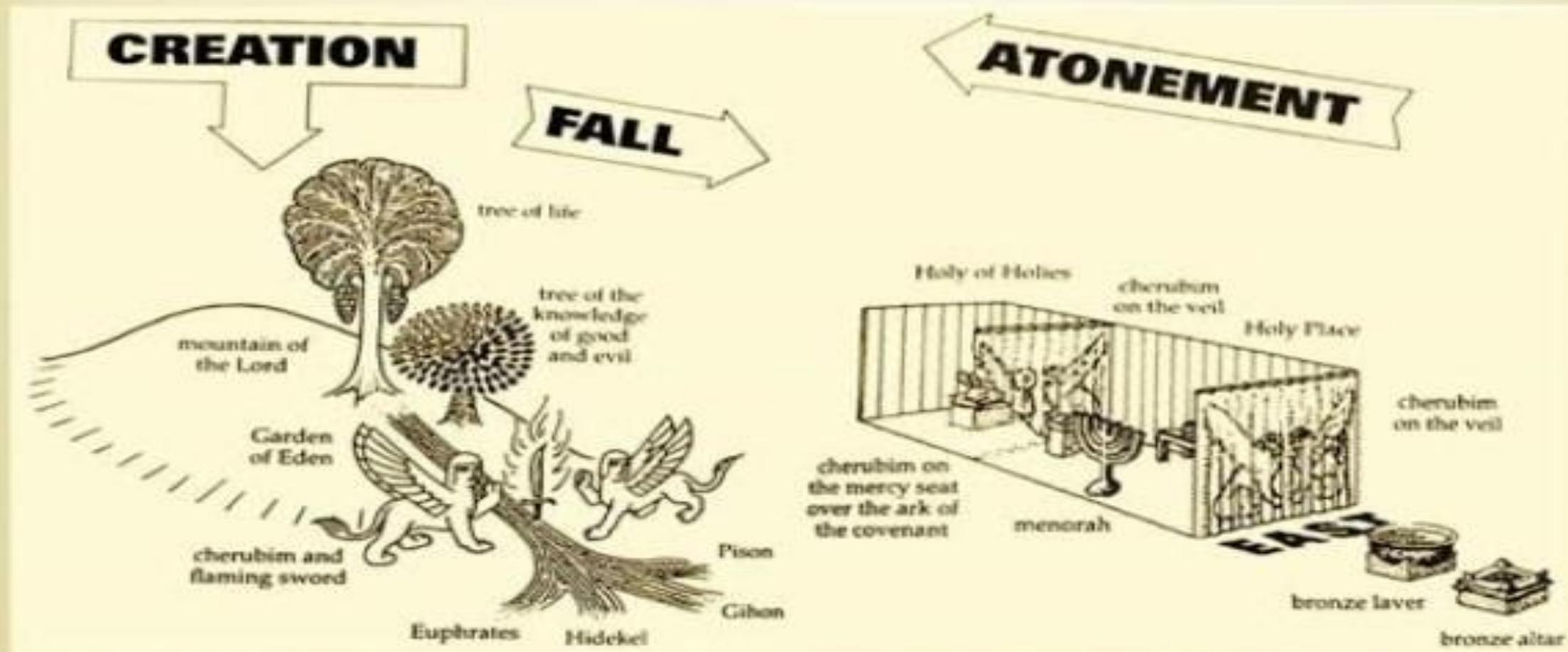
Genesis 2:1-3

- *Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.*

Psalm 132:13-18/2 Chron. 6:42

- *For the LORD has chosen Zion;
he has desired it for his dwelling place:
“This is my resting place forever;
here I will dwell, for I have desired it.
I will abundantly bless her provisions;
I will satisfy her poor with bread.
Her priests I will clothe with salvation,
and her saints will shout for joy.
There I will make a horn to sprout for David;
I have prepared a lamp for my anointed.
His enemies I will clothe with shame,
but on him his crown will shine.”*
- *“And now arise, O LORD God, and go to your resting place, you and the ark of your might. Let your priests, O LORD God, be clothed with salvation, and let your saints rejoice in your goodness.*

THE GARDEN OF EDEN AND THE TEMPLE



- The *Temple* is to sacred space what *Sabbath* is to sacred time

Scene 1: Jesus Heals (Matt. 12:9-14)

- *He went on from there and entered their synagogue. And a man was there with a withered hand. And they asked him, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”—so that they might accuse him. He said to them, “Which one of you who has a sheep, if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out? ¹² Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.” Then he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And the man stretched it out, and it was restored, healthy like the other. But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him.*

- Through the merciful ministry of Jesus, God's promised salvation/intervention/reign on earth is now being experienced *outside of the institutions prescribed in the Torah* (i.e. the priesthood/Temple)

Scene 2: Jesus Fulfills (Matt. 12:15-21)

Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. And many followed him, and he healed them all and ordered them not to make him known. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah:

*“Behold, my servant whom I have chosen,
my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased.
I will put my Spirit upon him,
and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.
He will not quarrel or cry aloud,
nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a smoldering wick he will not quench,
until he brings justice to victory;
and in his name the Gentiles will hope.”*

Isaiah's Servant Songs:

- Isa. 42:1-4
- Isa. 49:1-7
- Isa. 50:4-6
- Isa. 52:13-53:12
- *Isa. 61 ?? (See Luke 4)*

Who is the Isaianic Servant & Why Does it Matter?

- The Servant in Isaiah represents a *new David* (messianic king) who announces the *new time* of liberation (second “exodus”), and establishes God’s people in *new space* (renewed Jerusalem/Temple)

Matthew's (Spirit-inspired) "editing" of Isa. 42:

- Isaiah: *I have put my Spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations (or nations)*
- Matthew: *I will put my Spirit upon him,
and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles (or nations)*

What Matthew wants his readers to know about Jesus...

- *Jesus is the true Davidic and Messianic King (true Israel/true humanity)*
- *Jesus is the “resting place” where God’s presence now dwells*
- *Jesus initiates the new “time” of God’s promised salvation through healing & miracles (and eventually suffering, death, and resurrection)*

Summarizing the Main Point of Matthew 12...

- *Jesus, as Lord of the Sabbath, initiates the new “time” of God’s promised salvation in Isa. 42 by becoming the “resting place” where people can access/receive/experience His saving presence*

Thoughts on what it means to be “in Christ”

- “The whole surrounding world has assumed a new aspect and new complexion...There has been created a totally new environment, or, more accurately speaking, a totally new world, in which the person spoken of is an inhabitant and participator.” Geerhardus Vos, *The Pauline Eschatology*, 47
- “The new order begun at the cross and resurrection, which sweeps into the here and now under His lordship and in the power of the Spirit, and which will culminate in a new earth where all things are reconciled, is rooted, not in time present, but in God’s eternal desire in love to give Himself in partnership with humanity and restore a situation where we will be ‘His people’ and He will be ‘our God’ and Christ shall be all and in all.” Smedes, *Union with Christ*, 91.

So how does Matt. 12 help me get through what's coming on "Monday"?

■ Matthew 12:20-21:

“a bruised reed *he will not break*, and a smoldering wick *he will not quench*,
until *he brings justice to victory*; and in *his name the Gentiles will hope.*”

Promises from Matthew 12 to strengthen our faith...

With Jesus as your “resting place” ...

- *You may “bend” but never be (eternally) broken; your “light” may flicker but will never be (eternally) extinguished!*
- *God will faithfully bring to completion the good work He began in your life/salvation (cf. Phil. 1:6)*
- *God’s intentions toward you are always merciful*

A tip from John Owen...

- “People are afraid to have good thoughts about God – flesh and blood are apt to have very hard thoughts of Him (and) to think He is always angry, yea, implacable (i.e. never satisfied) – they think it boldness (i.e. presumptive/inappropriate) to eye God as good gracious, tender, kind, loving...is not this soul-deceit from Satan? Was it not his design from the beginning to inject such thoughts of God?”

- “Assure yourself, then, there is nothing more acceptable unto the Father than for us to keep up our hearts unto Him as the eternal fountain of all that rich grace which flows out to sinners in the blood of Jesus...AND this will be exceedingly effectual to endear your soul unto God, to cause you to delight in Him, and to make your abode with Him.” – John Owen, 17th century English Puritan Theologian (from *Communion with Triune God*, 128)