

The Path to Happiness

Divine Principle Lecture Series

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Lecture 13

Salvation through the Cross

SLIDE 1

Welcome back to our series on the Unification Principle. I'm your host, Tyler Hendricks. As we discussed in the last session, for the ones who are facing the last days, more than anything, now is the time to realize the divinity deep inside through prayer with a humble heart. We should not cling to conventional notions, but prepare to work with new perspectives from God.

When Jesus came, he was the Son of God and Messiah who ministered and taught, but no one truly recognized him. In the last days, the Messiah comes, but will you recognize him? This session will talk about what exactly happened when Jesus came, to help us recognize him when he comes again.

SLIDE 2

Today, I will talk about salvation through Jesus' death on the cross.

- The word messiah means the "anointed one," signifying a king.
- Jesus Christ came as the Messiah.
- Jesus came for the complete salvation of fallen man 2,000 years ago—be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect. (Matthew 5:48)
- The purpose of Jesus' providence of restoration was to establish the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. This is why he proclaimed, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."(Matthew 4:17)

SLIDE 3

→ How would we describe a person who is perfect as our Father in Heaven is perfect? It is a person who has realized the purpose of creation. He or she is fully attuned to God and experiences God's Heart within their innermost self.

- They possess a divine nature and live their life inseparable from God.
- They do not have the original sin, and hence are not in need of redemption or a savior. They do not need religious practices, which are necessary for fallen people, and
- they will give birth to children who are free of original sin.

SLIDE 4

Safe to say, there has not been one person, even the most devout Christian, who fulfills these criteria.

- No one lives in oneness with God;
- we need a life of prayer and faith,
- we have original sin and
- give birth to children with original sin, who also need the salvation of a Savior. This teaches us that after the grace of redemption by the cross there is something more to come.

SLIDE 5

This does not mean that Jesus' sacrifice on the cross was in vain.

→ The grace of redemption by the cross is evidently great.

→ However, belief in the cross does not entirely purge us of our original sin or completely restore us.

→ Paul's words teach that the cross has brought spiritual salvation.

SLIDE 6

→ Therefore, he lamented over his inability to prevent sin from infiltrating his flesh saying, "So then I of myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin." Rom. 7:22-25

→ John also confessed in John 1:8-10, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.... If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." Jesus said, "be perfect" and "the kingdom is at hand." And yet we are not perfect, and the world still suffers. We will see that God and Jesus did everything for us, but human beings failed in their responsibility. The Bible shows us what their responsibility was, and the mistakes they made. We study it so we fulfill our responsibility this time.

First, I will examine the position of Jesus' religious community, Judaism.

SLIDE 7

Jesus came to the Jews.

→ God prepared them for thousands of years and they were fervently waiting for the Messiah. They were under the rule of many empires

→ the Assyrian Empire (the northern kingdom of Israel collapsed in B.C.722),

→ Babylonian Empire (the southern kingdom of Judah fell in B.C.586),

→ the Persian Empire (from BC 539),

→ the Hellenistic Empire (from B.C. 322), and

→ the Roman Empire (from BC 63). The Jews had been desperately hoping for righteousness and holiness before God. They eagerly waited for a great king like David, who could rule with goodness in fulfillment of the Law.

→ The whole purpose of this prophetic tradition from God was to create a culture that would have the spiritual maturity, wisdom and humility to follow the Messiah when he came.

→ Why? Because he brought the love and word of the new era,

→ but they judged him by the externals of the old era. The lesson is: don't cling to the external form of the old era.

SLIDE 8

Second, let us examine God's providence of salvation.

→ Jesus came to fulfill God's three blessings and not only

→ to bring humanity complete salvation spiritually and physically, but also to establish the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

→ Therefore, Jesus should have married and become true parents, to bring salvation to all spiritually and physically, and

→ establish the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. He was not supposed to die before he fulfilled the three blessings.

→ The lesson is that the Messiah lives a full and complete life, but centered completely on God, with no trace of sin or Satan, and shows us how to do the same.

SLIDE 9

Third, we can understand further by looking at the reaction of Jesus' disciples to his death on the cross:

→ they were grief-stricken and indignant. They burned with indignation over the ignorance and disbelief of the Jewish leaders, and condemned their actions, calling them murderers and rebels. (Acts 7:51-53). And yet it was they who betrayed Jesus, denied Jesus and ran away when the authorities seized him.

→ The lesson is: it will not be easy to follow the Messiah; everything in the world will try to get people to deny and betray him, even though he is full of love and truth, and does nothing wrong.

SLIDE 10

Fourth, look at Jesus himself. Jesus' words and deeds were meant to engender belief on the part of the people that he was the Messiah.

→ When the people asked him what they must do to be doing the works of God, Jesus replied, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." John 6:29

SLIDE 11

When Jesus was agonizing over the Jews' disbelief and having no one with whom to share his heart,

→ Jesus looked at the city and as he wept, he lamented the fate of the Jewish people, whom God had so laboriously and lovingly guided for two thousand years. Jesus prophesied that the city would be so utterly laid waste that not one stone would be left upon another. He clearly pointed to the ignorance of the people, saying, "You did not know the time of your visitation." (Luke: 19:41-44)

SLIDE 12

Jesus also lamented the stubbornness and disbelief of the people of Jerusalem, saying:

→ "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, killing the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not!" Matt. 23:37

Jesus reproached the ignorance of the people who refused to believe in him, even though they were familiar with the Scriptures that testified to him:

→ "You search the scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness to me; yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life." John 5:39-47

SLIDE 13

How many miracles and signs did Jesus perform in his desperate efforts to lift the people from their disbelief!

→ Yet, even as they were witnessing the wondrous works of Jesus, the religious leaders mocked him as one possessed by a demon. (Matthew 12:24)

→ In the midst of such a wretched situation, Jesus cried out: "Even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." John 10:38

SLIDE 14

Christians accept the greatness of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, and the redemption we receive through faith in it. This is good.

→ But they go one more step to say that the cross was the best thing that could have happened, that there was no other way to forgive sins. But Jesus himself forgave many people of their sin while on earth; he said the Son of man has the authority on earth to forgive sin.

→ Jesus went to the cross because of the failure of human responsibility.

SLIDE 15

If Jesus to death on the cross was the best way, then why did he pray three times, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt?" (Matt 26:36-46).

→ Because he was afraid?

→ Or because he knew the suffering that God and humankind would endure as a result of the Messiah's rejection? We think the latter.

SLIDE 16

If Jesus' death on the cross were not predestined as necessary for the complete accomplishment of his purpose as the Messiah, why was it prophesied in Isaiah 53 that he would suffer the ordeal of the cross?

→ The Bible always presents two possible outcomes, one based on us fulfilling our responsibility, and one based on us failing to do so.

→ Some passages express the crucifixion as an inevitable event (Isaiah 53, Matthew 12:23, John 19:30) and

→ others express that Jesus would become the king of the Jews in his lifetime and establish an everlasting kingdom on the earth. (Isaiah 9, 11, 60; Luke 1:31)

→ God gave contrasting prophecies because the outcome would depend on whether human beings would fulfill or fail to fulfill their responsibility. It was very clear with Moses, when God said: here's my commandment: obey it and you will be blessed; disobey it and you will be cursed.

SLIDE 17

If we had believed in and followed Jesus as the Messiah, all humankind would have been saved both spiritually and physically and God's nation would have been established.

→ But, in the case that we did not believe in Jesus, all was lost. So Jesus went to the cross to achieve spiritual salvation, which we will explain later.

→ Jesus said, "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up." (John 3:14) When the children of Israel disobeyed God, God told Moses to lift up a bronze serpent on a pole, and that those who looked upon it would be saved. Jesus used this as a parable of what would happen if the people rejected him.

→ When Peter tried to dissuade Jesus from the path of crucifixion, Jesus said, "Get behind me, Satan!" (Matthew 16:23) This was because Peter's dissuasion could have hindered Jesus from paving the way for spiritual salvation through the cross.

Jesus' last words on the cross, "it is finished," meant that he had finished laying the foundation for spiritual salvation.

SLIDE 18

→ As we can see above, it is clear that Jesus came to make us perfect and bring God's kingdom.

→ Thus we can understand God's broken heart as He watched His Son die on the cross, and the grief of Jesus, who came to bring salvation to humanity.

SLIDE 19

→ We surely do not want this tragedy to happen when Jesus comes back.

→ So we can benefit by what the Bible reveals about the turning point between Jesus being accepted

→ and rejected.

→ I look forward to sharing this with you in the next session. Thank you for listening, and may God bless you.

Salvation through the Cross

Messiah

Anointed One

King



Jesus
Christ

Be perfect, therefore,
as your Father in Heaven
is perfect. Matt 5:48

Repent, for the kingdom
of heaven is at hand.
Matt 4:17

God



A person who has realized
the purpose of creation



Inseparable from God

No original sin

Bear children of goodness, free of original sin

God



People of This Age



~~Inseparable from God~~

~~No original sin~~

~~Give birth to children of goodness who are free of original sin~~



The grace of redemption

Not restored completely

Paul teaches spiritual salvation



So then I of myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. **Rom 7:22-24**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. . . . If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. **1 John 1:8-10**

We study so we can fulfill our responsibility this time.

The 4,000-Year History of Israel



God prepared
Israel to
recognize the
Messiah

Wisdom and humility?
Cling to the old external form?

Jesus' Mission

To fulfill the **three great blessings**, the ideal of creation

To bring **salvation** to all **spiritually and physically**

To become the True Parents of **humankind**

To establish the Kingdom of **Heaven on Earth**

Live complete life, free us from sin and show us how to do the same

The reaction of Jesus' disciples

They burned with indignation over the ignorance and disbelief of the Jewish leaders and condemned their actions, calling them murderers and rebels.

- Acts 7:51-53

It will not be easy to follow the Messiah; the world will try to get people to deny and betray him, even though he is full of love and truth and does nothing wrong.

Jesus' words and deeds

When his disciples asked him what they must do to be doing the works of God,
Jesus replied,



“This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” - John 6:29

Jesus' words and deeds

Jesus prophesied that the city would be so utterly laid waste that not one stone would be left upon another.



“because you did not know the time
of your visitation”

Luke 19:41-44

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem,
killing the prophets and stoning those
who are sent to you! How often would I have
gathered your children together as a hen
gathers her brood under her wings,
and you would not!” **Matt 23:37**

“You search the scriptures, because you
think that in them you have eternal life; and
it is they that bear witness to me; yet you
refuse to come to me that you may have
life.” **John 5:39-40**

Jesus acted and spoke in an effort to lift the people from their disbelief



Ignorance,
Disbelief

Possessed by
a demon
Matt 12:24



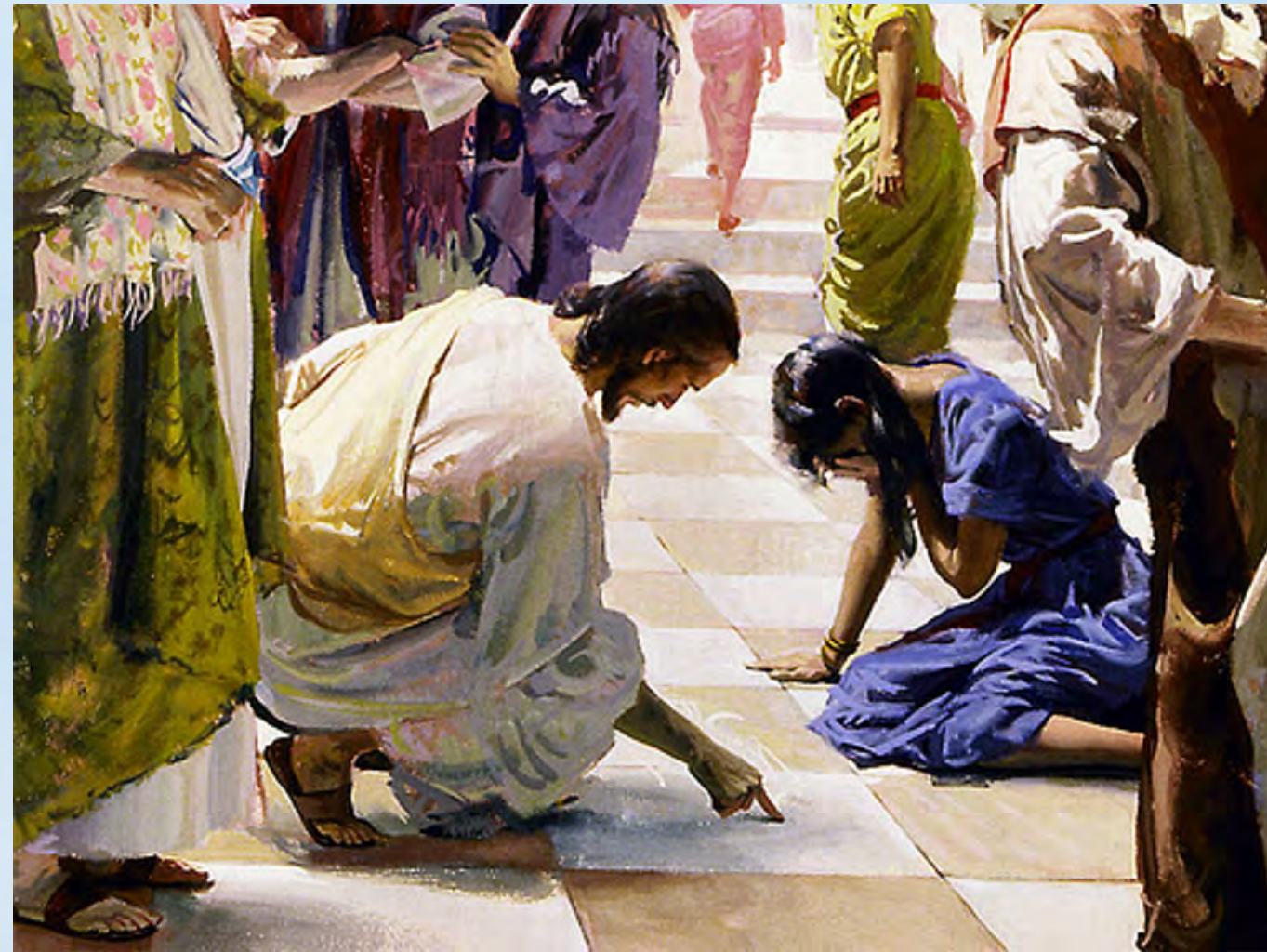
People

- Miracles and signs
- Believe the works
John 10:38

**The greatness of
Jesus' sacrifice on
the cross**



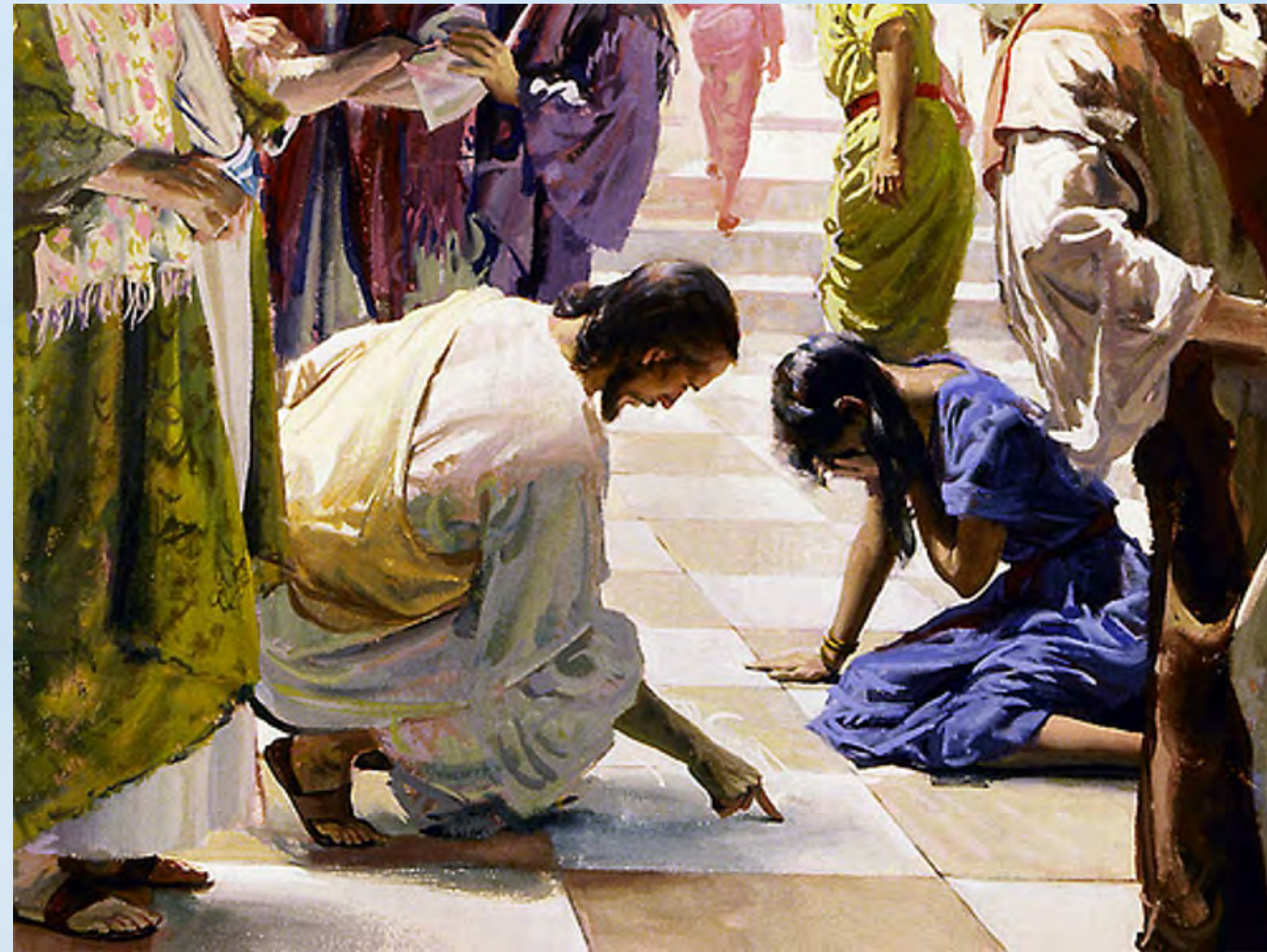
**Jesus had the
authority on earth to
forgive sin.**



**The cross resulted from
human failure.**

**Asked God to let the cup
pass from him (Matt 26:39)
From fear?**

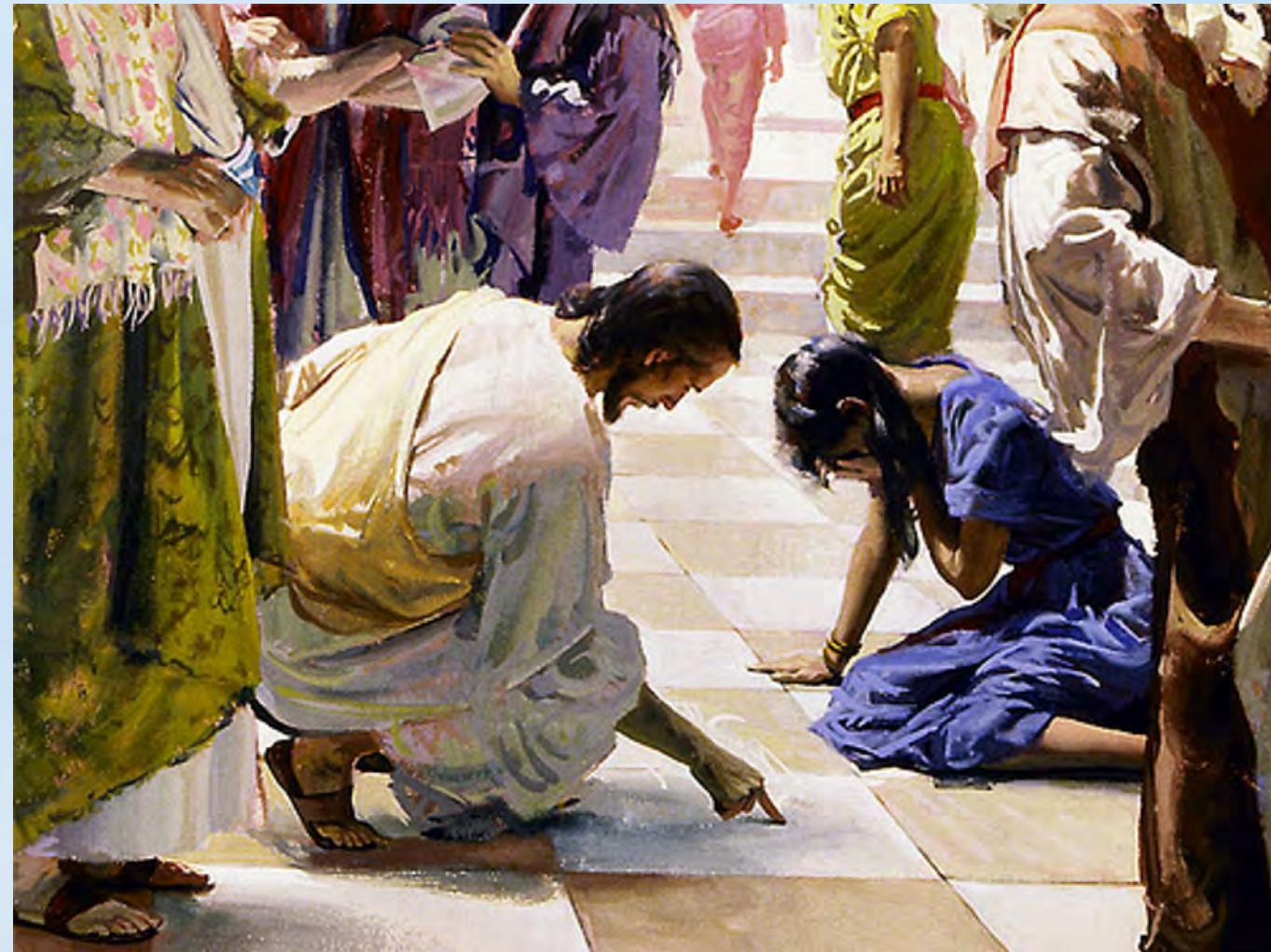
**Or from the suffering
that would come upon
the world?**



We think the latter.

Prophecies of crucifixion
(Is 53, Matt 12:23, John 19:30)

Prophecies of glory
(Is 9, 11, 60, Matt 5-7,
Luke 1:31)



Two conflicting prophecies, because the outcome depends on human responsibility.

Moses: follow the law and God will bless; reject the law and curses will befall you.



Providence of
Physical Salvation

**Result of
disbelief**

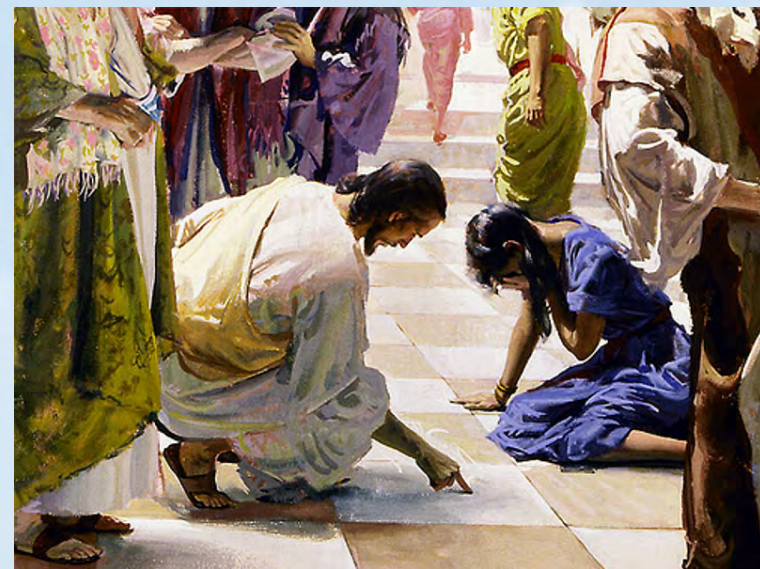
God's kingdom
on earth

Providence of
Spiritual Salvation

Disbelief leads to tragedy that only sacrifice can solve:
“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,
even so the Son of Man must be lifted up.” **John 3:14**

Jesus' commitment to salvation: “Get behind me,
Satan!” **Matt 16:23**

God



Faith

Human responsibility



Disbelief

God's broken heart



The grief of Jesus, who came to forgive, heal and save all people



• Acceptance?

• Rejection?



Return

The turning point between
acceptance and rejection