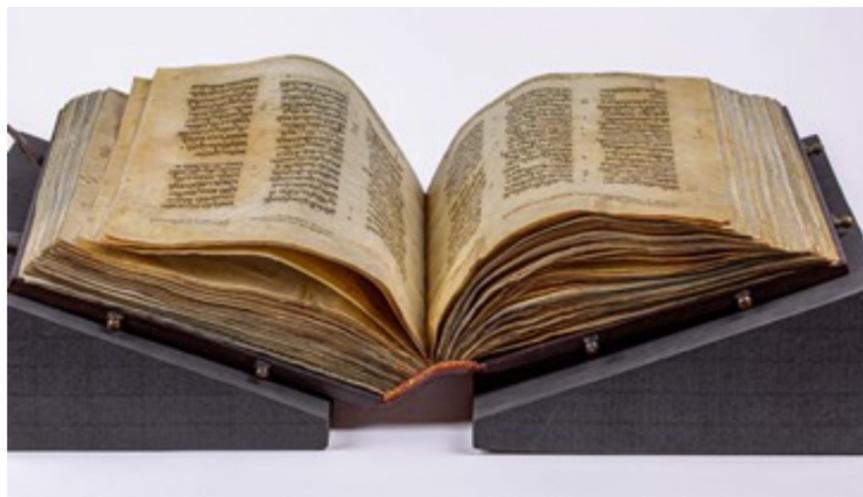


Love Stories in the Bible for Disappointed People

Chapter 1 The Greatest Love Story in Hebrew Scripture



The LORD Jesus Christ is a Jew, so His life, actions and teachings were in the context of Hebrew Scripture and Jewish culture.

If we only read the New Testament, we can understand enough to be very blessed. However, His early followers did not have the New Testament. Their Bible was the Hebrew Scriptures. Therefore, if we study what the Hebrew Scriptures said about Him, we receive more blessing. Here, we look at what the Hebrew Scriptures foretold about the greatest love story.



First, the people whom the LORD Jesus Christ selected had formerly been like lost sheep, gratifying their flesh and following its desires and thoughts (Isaiah 53:6). But when they became very disillusioned with the things of this world, He sought them out, as a shepherd seeks out lost sheep (Ezekiel 34:11,12).



When He found them, He preached good news to them. He healed the sick and cast out evil spirits. He healed the broken hearted, proclaimed liberty to people in spiritual bondage, comforted those who mourned, and helped many turn to righteousness so that the LORD would be glorified. (Psalm 147:3; Isaiah 61:1-3).

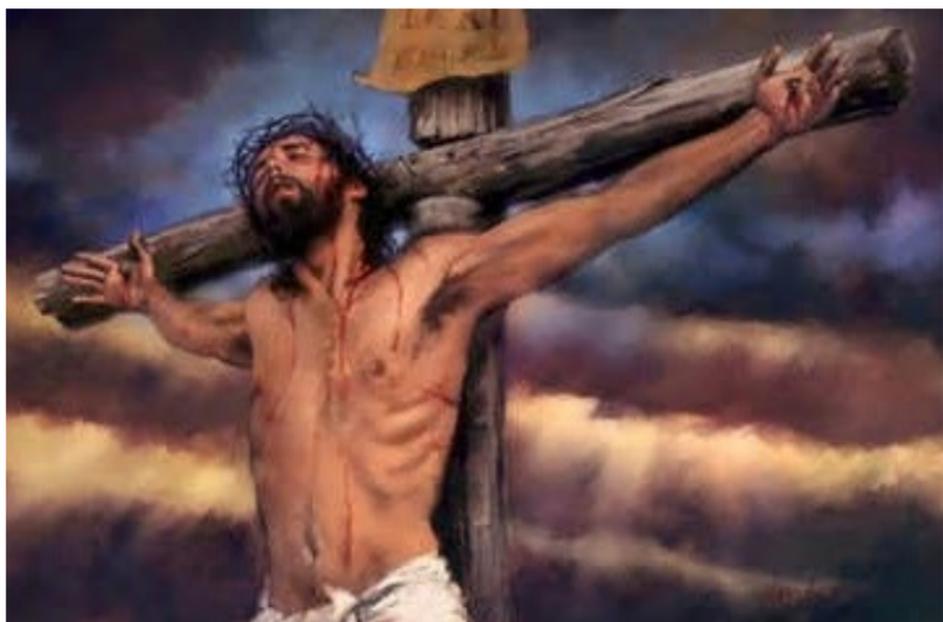


He put God's Law in them and wrote it on their hearts; He was their God, and they were His people; He was confirming the everlasting covenant of peace spoken of in Isaiah 55:3; 61:8, Jeremiah 31:31-33 (quoted in Hebrews 8:8-12), and Ezekiel 37:26-28 (quoted in 2 Corinthians 6:16).



Basically, He gave people hope transplants – they exchanged temporal hope for eternal hope (Job 19:25,26, 1 Samuel 2:6, Isaiah 26:19 and Daniel 12:2).

Then, in order to obtain them as His bride and betroth them to Himself forever (Hosea 2:19,20), He paid a necessary dowry – His own life (Psalm 22:1-21; Isaiah 43:1; 52:13-15; 53:1-12; 59:16).



After that, He rose from the dead (Psalm 16:10; Hosea 6:2; Jonah 1:17; 2:6).

Then, He instructed His followers about what to do during the time of their necessary separation prior to their wedding. He told them that during His physical absence they should be witnesses for Him (Psalm 98:1-9; Isaiah 43:10-12; 52:6-12) and continue to do His priestly work (Isaiah 61:6). Then, according to Jewish custom, He returned to His Father's house to prepare a new house for his bride.



As the time for the wedding is now close, He has arranged for beauty treatment and purification for His bride (Esther 2:8,9,12; Daniel 11:35; 12:10).



Part of the purification process will include completing His mission of confirming the everlasting covenant. Some will even go the ends of the earth (Isaiah 45:20-23; 52:7).



When the work is done, the LORD Jesus will return to take His bride to their wedding (Psalm 45).



After the wedding, He will return to Jerusalem, destroy all kingdoms, and establish His everlasting kingdom. And His saints will reign with Him (Daniel 2:44; 7:26,27; Zechariah 14:4,9).

