

The *Anderson Tours* Holy Land Scripture Series; Understanding God, Scripture, & Self

Part 4: THE LAST WEEK OF THE SAVIORS LIFE

Welcome to the Anderson Tours Holy Land Scripture Series;
Understanding God, Scripture, & Self
This is Part IV...the LAST WEEK OF THE SAVIORS LIFE!

“Knowledge of ‘the only true God, and Jesus Christ’ (John 17:3) **is the most important knowledge in the Universe...**”

President Marion G. Romney of the First Presidency (“Except a Man Be Born Again,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1981, 14)

In Pt. 4 of our *Scripture Series* we get to slow down and really understand **the final moments in the Mortal Life of the Savior of the World**. This series we have entitled the *Last Week of the Saviors Life*, but a majority of the series will be centered on the final 24 hours of His life as this is where the Savior performs the Atonement on behalf of the entire human family.

The Christian world call this week; “*Holy Week*” or sometimes “*Passion Week*”. It is the week where the Savior fulfilled His mission and brought about the most significant events in human history.

Of the 1,716 weeks of the Saviors Life, the events of the Last Week of His Life compromise 30% of the material in Gospel accounts; Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John. The events of the Last hours of His life is where these Gospel writers chose to spend their time and it is very easy to understand why.

What is the greatest day in history of the world?

(President Uchdorf’s talk in April 2019 General Conference) – [VIDEO]

What is the greatest event in history of the world?

(President Ezra Taft Benson, “The Greatest Event in History” April 1964)

One of the greatest Gospel Scholars of all-time said this about the events of that week, that they are, “***the most transcendent events that ever has or ever will occur from Creation’s dawn through all the ages of a never-ending eternity.***” (Bruce R. McConkie, “The Purifying Power of Gethsemane,” *Ensign*, May 1985).

President Gordon B. Hinckley described the events of that week as “***the miracle that encompasses all who have lived upon the earth, all who now live upon the earth, and all who will yet live upon the earth. Nothing done before or since has so affected mankind as the Atonement wrought by Jesus of Nazareth***” (Gordon B. Hinckley, “The Greatest Miracle in Human History,” *Ensign*,

May 1994, 72).

Elder Gary E. Stevenson, in his April 2023 talk quoted a New Testament scholar N. T. Wright who suggested: “We should be taking steps to celebrate Easter in creative new ways: in art, literature, children’s games, poetry, music, dance, festivals, bells, special concerts. ... This is our greatest festival. Take Christmas away, and in biblical terms you lose two chapters at the front of Matthew and Luke, nothing else. Take Easter away, and you don’t have a New Testament; you don’t have a Christianity.”

(Quoted by Elder Gary E. Stevenson, April 2023 - N. T. Wright, *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church* (2008), 256.)

We can’t think of a more appropriate place to slow down and take our time than reviewing in as much detail as we can these powerful events.

It would be accurate to say that the knowledge and material we get to discuss and cover in this series fits ideally with what President Romney called, *“The most important knowledge in the Universe!”*

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT IN THIS SERIES is:

1. **17 Succinct lessons** detailing the events leading up to His death and Resurrection and including his Post-Mortal Ministry as well. This series will cover the raising of Lazarus, the Saviors Mt of Olives Discourse to His Apostles about His 2nd Coming, His Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, the Last Supper in the Upper Room, His Atoning Sacrifice in Gethsemane, the illegal trial in front of the Sanhedrin, Jesus interview and events with Pilate, His walk down the Via Dolorosa and the “Stations of the Cross”, His graphic Crucifixion, Burial, His unique Ministry in the Spirit World during His short visit there, His glorious Resurrection, and then we will have a few episodes that cover His Post-Mortal Ministry. We will take an episode to cover His visit with Peter on the shores of the Sea of Galilee where He asks Peter, “Lovest thou me?”, We will discuss Jesus’ Ascension on the Mt. of Olives (and His promise to return to that same exact spot), His Ministry to His “Other Sheep”, and we will conclude this Series with the Saviors last injunction to His Apostles that we now call *the Great Commission*. Where the Savior charges His disciples to spread the Gospel to the entire world. So...in a nutshell we will cover the Last Week of the Saviors Life including His post-resurrection ministry and will not be done until we conclude this series with the Ascension when He completes His mortal ministry there in Palestine. We might be the most excited about this part of the Series as it covers the **most transcendent events in the history of the world.**

- a. **Outline of the Course with accompanying dates (see chart)**

2. **The Second thing you can expect in this series (like the others) is you can expect to view the accompanying 360 video footage** from the sites relating to the lesson material. You will also get access to all the video footage from our *Virtual Tour of the Holy Land*, This will make it so that you can **benefit from all the insights and inspiration that come with a visit to the sacred sites** where the events took place. This will help solidify the story and events in

your heart and mind. **It will be like you are actually there on site** enjoying the visual context and insights that come with it. You will get to see Gethsemane, the Mt of Olives, the Upper Room, the Streets of Jerusalem, the 2 Theories for Golgotha; the Garden Tomb & the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, etc.

If you can only pick one of the 4-part series this would be the one! We give this series our very strongest recommendation as it has the **greatest potential in having an impact on your life and in your worship**. The personal and powerful nature of the material make Pt 4 in our Scripture series one that you may want to start and end with. **It really doesn't get ANY better than this!**

In THIS Amazing SERIES we are going to do our very best to **bring the Power of the Holy Land to you** as you retrace the *Last Week in the Life & Ministry of Christ*. It is the capstone of His Life and of this Series. **We cannot say enough about the material in this particular series. It is just powerful in its content and impact and we look forward to this journey together.**

We maintain that once you have taken a Tour (or Virtual Tour) of the Holy Land, **"You will never read the scriptures the same way again!"** And will add...you will **never worship the Savior the same way again either**. As you get to know the Savior's Life and Ministry and get to **KNOW HIM**. It will not only change your worship of Him, but it will change your life as well.

REMEMBER...The reason why we call this the **HOLY LAND Scripture Series** is because of how significant the *Holy Land* is in Gods interactions with His people (especially the city of Jerusalem). **○** The more we understand the Jerusalem and the Holy Land, **○** the more we understand the Scriptures. **○** The more we understand the Scriptures, **○** the more we understand God. The better we understand God **○** the better we understand ourselves. **○** The more we understand ourselves **○ the more clearly we understand life and our purpose in it**. The more clear we are on our purpose in life, the happier we are and **○** the more meaningful and peaceful life is for us... knowing who we are...why we are here...

One of my very favorite and relevant scriptures is...

"This is life eternal, they might **know thee**, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou has sent." (**John 17:3**). I am a very simple minded man and appreciate scriptures that are straight forward like this one. Said in another scripture from a different Prophet, "...and if they **know me** they shall have a place eternally at my right hand." (Mosiah 26:24) Stated simply...if we **KNOW GOD** and Jesus Christ we will have Eternal Life!

In the Parable of the 10 virgins...when the unwise virgins return from obtaining oil and seek to come in to join the celebratory feast, the Bridegroom meets them at the door and denies them entrance with these piercing words, **"Depart from me...Ye never knew me!"** (Matt 25:12). Elder Oaks says the 10 Virgins represent members of the Church. That means that 50% will not be prepared when He comes.

In similar fashion...in Christ's most famous sermon (the Sermon on the Mount), Jesus describes a scenario where certain people on judgment day plead their case saying, 'Lord, Lord, have we not

prophesied in thy name and in thy name cast out devils, and done many wonderful works? Then will He profess under them with these same piercing words... Depart from me...Ye never knew me.” (Matt 7:21-23).

Getting to know God and His Son; Jesus Christ, is THE most important relationship we can develop in this life! We simply need to KNOW HIM! One of the best ways to get to know Him is to understand His revealed words to us. In our “*Holy Land Scripture Series*” we will start with Genesis and move our way all the way through Revelation (and other revealed scripture) in an effort to understand the key doctrines, stories, & events that will help us UNDERSTAND GOD and also aide in our relationship with Him!

We invite you to enjoy this special Series (pt. 4) where we go through the *Last Week of the Saviors Life*.

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President Marion G. Romney of the First Presidency (“Except a Man Be Born Again,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1981, 14)

See you soon!

Links to the Scriptures & Other Resources:

[New Testament:](#)

[The Living Christ Document:](#)

QUOTES:

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf:

“Recently I asked the internet, “What day most changed the course of history?”

The responses ranged from surprising and strange to insightful and thought-provoking. Among them, the day when a prehistoric asteroid struck the Yucatán Peninsula; or when in 1440, Johannes Gutenberg finished his printing press; and, of course, the day in 1903 when the Wright brothers showed the world that man really can fly.

If the same question were asked of you, what would you say?

In my mind the answer is clear.

To find the most important day in history, we must go back to that evening almost 2,000 years ago in the Garden of Gethsemane when Jesus Christ knelt in intense prayer and offered Himself as a ransom for our sins. It was during this great and infinite sacrifice of unparalleled suffering in both body and spirit that Jesus Christ, even God, bled at every pore. Out of perfect love, He gave all that we might receive all. His supernal sacrifice, difficult to comprehend, to be felt only with all

our heart and mind, reminds us of the universal debt of gratitude we owe Christ for His divine gift. Later that night, Jesus was brought before religious and political authorities who mocked Him, beat Him, and sentenced Him to a shameful death. He hung in agony upon the cross until, finally, “it [was] finished.”² His lifeless body was laid in a borrowed tomb. And then, on the morning of the third day, Jesus Christ, the Son of Almighty God, emerged from the tomb as a glorious, resurrected being of splendor, light, and majesty.

Yes, there are many events throughout history that have profoundly affected the destiny of nations and peoples. But combine them all, and they cannot begin to compare to the importance of what happened on that first Easter morning.

What is it that makes the infinite sacrifice and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ the most important event in history—more influential than world wars, cataclysmic disasters, and life-changing scientific discoveries?” (Deiter F. Uchtdorf, [“Behold the Man”, April 2018](#))

[Video Clip Montage of Quote](#)

“The greatest events of history are those which affect the greatest number for the longest periods. By this standard, no event could be more important to individuals or nations than the Resurrection of the Master. The eventual resurrection of every soul who has lived and died on earth is a scriptural certainty, and surely there is no event for which one should make more careful preparation. Nothing is more absolutely universal than the resurrection. Every living being will be resurrected. “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive” (1 Cor. 15:22). ...” (President Ezra Taft Benson, “The Greatest Event in History” [April 1964](#))

President [Gordon B. Hinckley](#) spoke of its relationship to other events in world history: “When all is said and done, when all of history is examined, when the deepest depths of the human mind have been explored, there is nothing so wonderful, so majestic, so tremendous as this act of grace.” Hinckley, *Teachings of Gordon B. Hinckley*, 28.

This was not just another great event in the chronicles of history. It was, as [Dr.] Hugh [W.] Nibley observed, “the one supreme reality of our life upon this earth!”TM

[President Hinckley](#) also described the Atonement as “the miracle that encompasses all who have lived upon the earth, all who now live upon the earth, and all who will yet live upon the earth. Nothing done before or since has so affected mankind as the Atonement wrought by Jesus of Nazareth” (Gordon B. Hinckley, “The Greatest Miracle in Human History,” *Ensign*, May 1994, 72).

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(Quoted by Elder Gary E. Stevenson, April 2023 - N. T. Wright, *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church* (2008), 256.)

Elder McConkie, in his last presentation, described the Atonement. “His Atonement is the most transcendent event that ever has or ever will occur from Creation’s dawn through all the ages of a never-ending eternity. It is the supreme act of goodness and grace that only a god could perform. Through it, all of the terms and conditions of the Father’s eternal plan of salvation became operative. Through it are brought to pass the immortality and eternal life of man—The Atonement of Christ is the most basic and fundamental doctrine of the gospel, and it is the least understood of all our revealed truths. Many of us have a superficial knowledge and rely upon the Lord and his goodness to see us through the trials and perils of life. But if we are to have faith like Enoch and Elijah we must believe what they believed, know what they knew, and live as they lived” (Bruce R. McConkie, “The Purifying Power of Gethsemane,” *Ensign*, May 1985).

Elder Callister has written, “If a survey were taken of history’s most significant events, common answers might include the harnessing of fire, the discovery of America, the splitting of the atom, landing on the moon, or the invention of the computer. Each is a wondrous event, but absent the backdrop of the Atonement each is of but transitory importance—no more than a shooting star illuminating the sky for a brief moment, and then vanishing into the night. The Atonement gives purpose and potency to every event in history” (Callister).

It was, as Hugh Nibley observed, “the one supreme reality of our life upon this earth!” (Nibley, *Hugh. Of All Things!: Classic Quotations from Hugh Nibley* compiled and edited by Gary Gallum. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Company).

Highly Recommended Talks:

["Behold the Lamb of God", Jeffrey R. Holland \(April 2019\)](#)

["None Were with Him", Jeffrey R. Holland \(April 2009\)](#)

["One in Christ", D. Todd Christofferson \(April 2023\)](#)