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The Promise of Salvation

You Are Predestined

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You Are Predestined

From Ephesians 1: 3-14

In love He predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ……

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our sins, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will …

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Predestined

This isn't a cold-hearted determination or pre-set fate

It is a loving choice on God's part

And God had and continues to have a plan for us

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The Thread of Salvation

Starting at Genesis 3:15

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy
Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1,2 Samuel
1,2 Kings
1,2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Ester
Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon
Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel
Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi
Matthew
Mark
Luke
John
Acts
Romans
1,2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1,2 Thessalonians
1,2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews
James
1,2 Peter
1,2,3 John
Jude
Revelation

Ending at Revelation 22:21

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God's Thread of Salvation

From the beginning it has been a battle

- Adam
- Cain murders Abel
- Noah and the flood
- Abraham and his promise
- Isaac
- Joseph
- Moses
- Joshua
- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Daniel
- David

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Amos the Sheep Breeder

- The Hebrew word for sheep breeder indicates he was a owner of flocks of sheep, not a hired shepherd
- Amos describes himself in Amos 7:14 as “a dresser of sycamore figs”.
- Western Judah, the oasis of Jericho and lower Galilee were places where sycamore figs grew abundantly
- The shepherds brought their flocks here in late summer after the desert pastures dried up.
- They could watch their flocks while sitting in the broad limbs of the sycamore piercing its fruit

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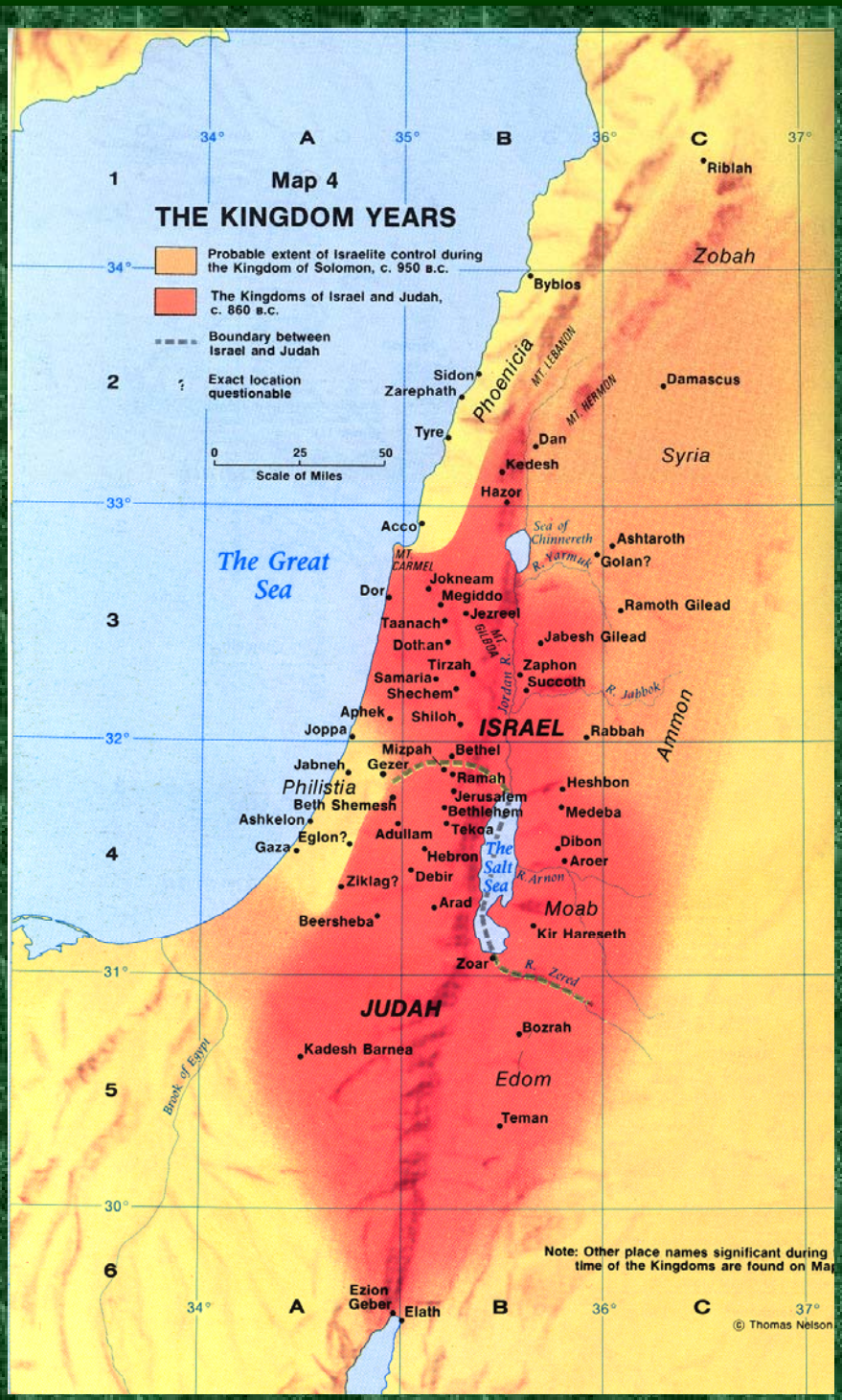

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Amos the Prophet

- In Hebrew Amos means “Burden-Bearer”
- He was called to warn people of their approaching doom
- Life was good, they didn’t listen
- Amos was expelled from Israel to Judah by Amaziah and Jeroboam
- But the course of judgment cannot be changed

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Gospel Lesson Mark 6: 14 - 29

- Herod has John The Baptist beheaded
  - Why? Because John publicly called Herod into account for taking and marrying his brother's wife, Herodias
- Herod feared that Jesus was the resurrected John The Baptist
- Herod was both frightened and curious

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Which Herod?

There are three Herods in the New Testament

1. Herod the Great – Died in 4 BC. Ordered the killing of all baby boys at the time of Jesus' birth
2. Herod Antipas One of his sons, the one who had John the Baptist murdered and before whom Jesus was tried
3. Herod Philip, whose wife was taken by his brother Herod Antipas

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The Crowning Glory

- The Birth
- The Life and Teaching
- The Crucifixion
- The Resurrection
- The Ascension of

Jesus Christ

Our Lord and Savior

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Spiritual Warfare

- Throughout History there has been spiritual warfare
- As long as sin exists the battle between Satan's forces and God's people will rage on
- The Christian life is a battleground – not a playground
- The sooner we accept this truth the easier it will be to win the battle

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What Can We Do?

Paul tells what to do in Ephesians 6

- We are to put on the armor and use the weapons God has given us

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The Armor of God

- The belt of Truth
- The breastplate of Righteousness
- The shoes of Peace
- The shield of Faith
- The helmet of Salvation
- The sword of the Spirit

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Our Responsibilities

1. We must stand so we do not lose the ground Jesus won for us
2. We must know our enemies
3. We must use the equipment God provides
4. We must depend on the energy God provides.

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Our Enemies

- The world, the flesh and the Devil

"We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities"

- Satan is not an abstraction. He is real
  - He uses people for his evil purposes
  - He is strong and powerful
  - His strategies and wiles are subtle and deadly
  - He is well organized
- We cannot win this battle on our own.
- We need God's power through prayer to win

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We Must Use God's Equipment

- We must use all the equipment God gives us
- When great men and women of the Bible sinned they always fell in the areas of their greatest personal strength
- We must know the basis of our belief and apply it in our everyday life
- Prayer is the greatest armor of all

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Satan's Weapons Against Us

- Crises in our lives
  - Sickness, Job or Financial Loss, Broken Relationships
- Self Importance
  - Ego, Pride, Lust for Power or Money
- How he hits us
  - Fear, anger, doubt, depression, self pity

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The Sure Defense

1. Faith in God's Person – that He exists and is actively involved in our lives.
2. Faith in God's promises – His word contains answers to every problem we face.
3. Faith in God's Providence – No matter what kind of battle we are in God is always in control and will protect us.

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Salvation is Easy

- Salvation is easy. Walking the walk is difficult
- God left a helper for us, the Holy Spirit
- God has given us His word
- God has given us the guidelines of how we are to live
- We have the forgiveness of Jesus Christ

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Victory

God's strength will allow us to
"Fight the Good Fight" and stand victorious before the throne of Jesus Christ, our Lord and God

And He will say to us

"Well done good and faithful servant"

Amen