**Paradox Conference Chariot Ride**

Welcome to our chariot ride.

So… What is a chariot ride?

Acts 8:26-38 It is about the story of the Ethiopian eunuch… A proselyte.

v. 29 The Spirit told Philip… Q: How? A deep voice? How does the Holy Spirit speak to us and do we listen when he does?

v. 30 Philip ran

v. 30 God had prepared the heart of the Ethiopian Eunuch.

God set up the whole situation. Acts 17:27 God determined the times and the places… so that men would perhaps reach out for him and find him.

A Chariot Ride is an opportunity for an individual to be confronted with the Cross of Christ. v. 32-33.

In this story, who is Philip? He is the one God sent to you to bring the message. He is the one who …. Began from that very passage

Who is the Eunuch? The Eunuch is a person on a journey with an open heart. He does not know where he is going, but God has been leading him/her to the cross. It is no accident he was reading Isaiah 53.

Hopefully, that person will stop the chariot, get down, go into the water and be baptized.

Isaiah 53:1-12

What will draw us to Christ? The cross!!!! We meet God at the foot of the cross.

He began there… (slaughter, humiliation,life taken) and told him the good news.

Acts 2:20-22 That is where Peter began as well.

Acts 2:36-41

Isa 53:1-3 The Messiah/Suffering Servant:

Who would believe it? This is amazing. Stupendous. No one ever would have imagined it. Messiah is the arm of the Lord. “Arm” represents agency or power. Isaiah 40:10 “The Sovereign Lord comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.

So, what is this powerful arm of the Lord like?

v. 2 Like a tender shoot. A child. He begins as a baby. A helpless little one. Not a very auspicious beginning!

v. 2 “no beauty or majesty.” Not what the world expects. The ultimate anti-hero. An average Joe/Jose Like Samuel and Jesse…

v. 3 Despised and rejected. Held in low esteem. This is Jesus! This is the arm of the Lord. Who would have believed it?

Isa 53:4-6 v. 4a He took on our pain and suffering.

Q: How did that work?

Hebrews 2:14-18 He shared our humanity. “Fully human in every way.” (v. 17) He suffered when he was tempted (v. 18) Heb 4:15 tempted in every way just as we are.

v. 4 He took it up. He took the suffering on himself. It was not thrust in him.

v. 4b But we got it all wrong. We did not see it that way at all. We thought it was a sign of weakness. How foolish we thought! Submit to humiliation at the hands of your enemy? How weak?

Who would have believed it!?

v. 5 cause: Our transgressions effect: led to his piercing

 cause: Our iniquities effect: led to his being crushed.

But…

Cause: His being punished (instead of us), effect: led to our peace

Cause: His wounds effect: led to our healing.

v. 6 We left God, but he did not leave us. We were the Prodigal Son.

Here is the reason that Jesus sweat blood in Gethsemane. ALL of our sins were put on him.

Look at this !!! the Lord laid on him the iniquity of us all. What was that like? Imagine the pressure!!!

Like 53:1 Could anyone have believed this? Do you have any concept what Jesus did for you?

How can his suffering, pain, piercing, and wounds bring us peace and healing? See 1 Peter 2:23-25

Isa 53:7-9

Oppressed, afflicted, led like a lamb to the slaughter. Sounds helpless, but was he helpless? No! Yet he went like a lamb. He did not resist at all. He did it willingly. See John 10:17-18 “No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.”

He was not the typical sacrificial lamb at all.

Jesus was silent: See Matt 26:59-63 for example.

Assigned a grave with the wicked (plural) and the rich (singular: Joseph of Arimathea, an interesting prophetic note): See Luke 23:32-33 (crucified with criminals—the wicked). See Luke 23:50-56 (with the rich. Joseph of Arimathea)

Read Isa 53:10-12

Verse 10, the King James Version says “it pleased the Lord to bruise him”, why would God be pleased by Jesus being crushed?

53:1 Who would have believed it?

God was not “pleased” (ie happy) by Jesus suffering directly but by the reconciliation it produced.

53:11 But that is not the end of the story, is it? After all this suffering, “He will see the light of life.” He will be resurrected after his suffering and death.

Verse 12, what is Jesus’s portion among the great?

God raised him from death.

He raised him to his side in the throne room of God. See Philippians 2:5-11

Back to Acts 8:35 Beginning with Isaiah 53, Philip explained the entire gospel.

What is the gospel? In a nutshell it is 1 Cor 15:1-7

So, what should our response be?

Acts 2:36-41

Two commands

Two promises

Matt 22:1-14 Parable of banquet

Gal 3:26

Acts 22:2-16 esp. v. 12-16 And now, what are you waiting for…

So, what are you waiting for?...

Acts 8:36-39