

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

S2E13

Title - The Absence Of The Presence Of God

Description - Sometimes you don't realize what you have until it's gone. Join us as we look at how God's manifest presence, the place He resided, and His prophetic voice left the people.

Last time we began to talk about setting the stage for the coming of Jesus. We talked about the presence of God departing from the people for their disobedience.

The next thing that happened was that the place where God resided would be removed from the people. The Ark of the Covenant would be taken and never return.

God didn't reside in the box, but there were things stored in the ark of the covenant.

What was in the Ark:

1. Jar of Manna - God provides
2. Aaron's staff - God leads & directs
3. The 10 Commandments - God's Word and law to his people



Illustration of the Ark of the Covenant

So God didn't reside inside the box, but His presence hovered over the ark. This is where on the day of atonement every year the priest would enter the holy of holies and sprinkle blood on the mercy seat.

John 20:11-13

11 But Mary stood outside the tomb, crying. As she was crying, she stooped to look into the tomb. 12 She saw two angels in white sitting where Jesus's body had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. 13 They said to her, "Woman, why are you crying?"



Verse 12 - a tabletop with an angel at either end of it. What is the picture that would hop immediately into a Jewish mind? The mercy seat. The Ark of the Covenant.

So God is now no longer in a singular spot, (Not that he was limited to just the Ark in the Holy of Holies before) He's risen and alive.

John 20:13-16

13 They said to her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "Because they've taken away my Lord," she told them, "and I don't know where they've put him." 14 Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know it was Jesus. 15 "Woman," Jesus said to her, "why are you crying? Who is it that you're seeking?" Supposing he was the gardener, she replied, "Sir, if you've carried him away, tell me where you've put him, and I will take him away." 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary."

God is rewriting all the wrong in the world. Just in this interaction we see God rewriting the fall in the Garden, all the way back to Adam & Eve.

“Woman, why are you crying...” - Woman, calls back to Eve in the garden,

Mary sees Jesus, but thinks He’s the gardner, likely because she was crying so much. But what was the job that God gave Adam all the way back in the garden? To be fruitful and multiply, to tend the garden.

So at the resurrection we have a picture of both Adam and Eve in Mary and Jesus.

Back to the Ark: when it’s removed and taken by the Babylonians, it’s never to be found again.

Jeremiah 3:16

16 When you multiply and increase in the land, in those days—this is the Lord’s declaration—no one will say again, “The ark of the Lord’s covenant.” It will never come to mind, and no one will remember or miss it. Another one will not be made.

So now both the presence of God and the place of God are taken and gone from the people.

God destroyed the ark, just like he allowed the temple to be destroyed.

So from the time of returning to the land with Ezra, Nehemiah, and Zerubbabel, who come back to Jerusalem to rebuild the city and the Temple, we have temple service and temple sacrifices happening with no ark.

Matthew 27:50-51

50 But Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and gave up his spirit. 51 Suddenly, the curtain of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom, the earth quaked, and the rocks were split.

The torn curtain revealed the hypocrisy of the Sadducees at the time, who were leading the religious services / priesthood of the people.

The picture of the curtain being torn from top to bottom also is deeper, as it’s a picture of a grieving Father watching his one and only son die for the sins of the world. It’s a Jewish picture of anguish.

So now we’ve seen the Presence of God depart, we’ve seen the Place of God depart, and finally we will see God’s Prophetic voice go silent.

Malachi 4:4-6

4 “Remember the instruction of Moses my servant, the statutes and ordinances I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. 5 Look, I am going to send you the prophet Elijah before the great

and terrible day of the Lord comes. 6 And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise, I will come and strike the land with a curse.”

Malachi is the last of God’s prophets to speak for God to the people. Then for 400 years God is silent.

Which helps set the stage for the angel Gabriel to appear to Zechariah and announce that he will have a son, who will be the forerunner to the Messiah. Then Gabriel would appear to Mary to tell her she will give birth to the Messiah. And then in Luke 2 you have the angel appear to the shepherds in the field at night, “Do not be afraid, for I proclaim good news to you, today in the city of David, a savior, the Messiah is born.”

Next week will go into Matthew, (maybe) by way of the Gospel of Luke.