



Justified

Romans 3-4, Part 1

Rome

Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt

Justified by Faith

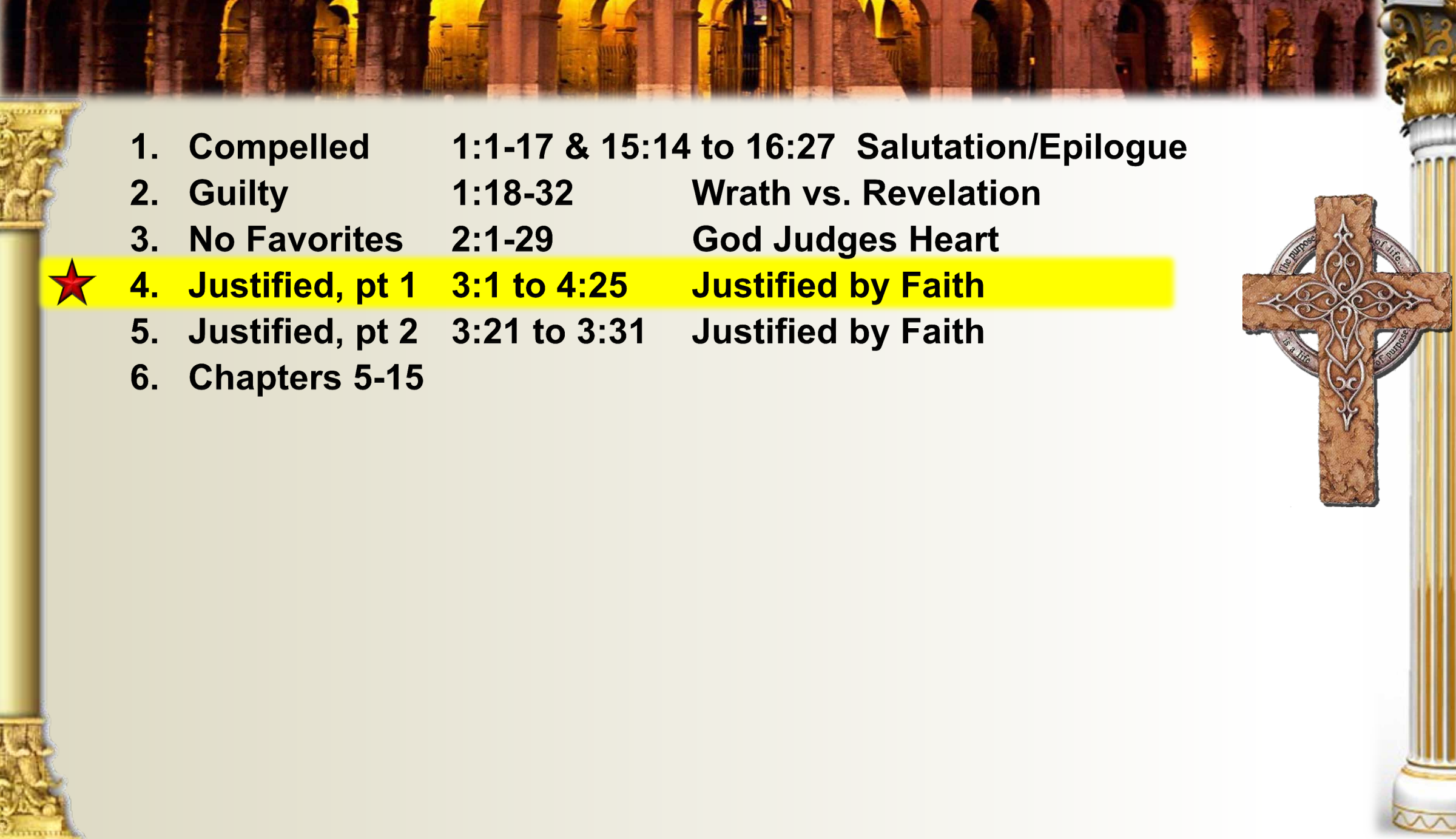
Romans 3:28

El Capitan

FBC Woodville
Sunday School Class
Michael G. Maness
see
PreciousHeart.net/SS



William Henry Jackson's 1899 photograph

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- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Compelled | 1:1-17 & 15:14 to 16:27 | Salutation/Epilogue |
| 2. Guilty | 1:18-32 | Wrath vs. Revelation |
| 3. No Favorites | 2:1-29 | God Judges Heart |
| ★ 4. Justified, pt 1 | 3:1 to 4:25 | Justified by Faith |
| 5. Justified, pt 2 | 3:21 to 3:31 | Justified by Faith |
| 6. Chapters 5-15 | | |



From Sue Shaw

One Minute After A Believer Dies:

An Angel ushers your soul to Heaven,
(Luke 16:22)

You immediately enter God's presence
(2 Corthians 5: 6-8)

You are conscious , in command of your
thinking, feeling, speech, and memories.
(Luke 16: 19-31)

You participate in magnificent worship
with angels & believers before the throne
God and Christ.
(Revelations 4-5)

You are aware to some degree of activities
and events on earth.
(Revelations 6: 9-10)

You will recognize & communicate with
believers who preceded you to Heaven.
(Luke 9: 28-36)

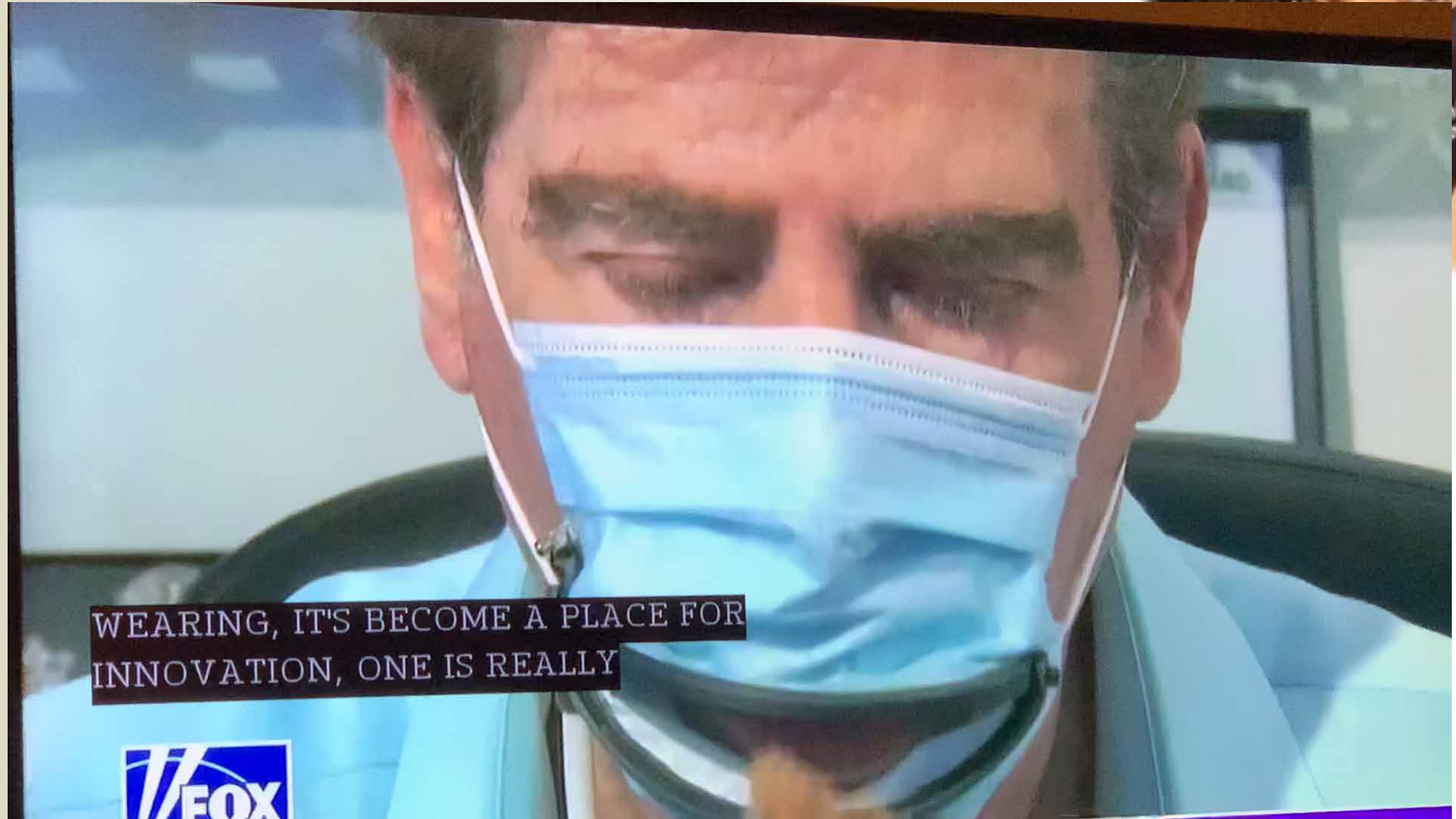
Hebrew Exile versus Tyler County Exile

We went through an historic exile

Face Masks ran low ...



Learned new skills



Hebrew Exile versus Tyler County Exile

We went through an historic exile

Face Masks ran low ...

Learned New term “Social Distancing”—new to most
Murder Hornets

Topped it all off with

Mayhem and Riots in all the major cities



B.C. Timeline of Hebrew Exile & Return

1020 Jewish monarchy established; Saul, first king.

1000 Jerusalem made capital of David's kingdom.

960 First Temple, the national and spiritual center of the Jewish people, built in Jerusalem by King Solomon.

930 Divided kingdom: Judah and Israel

722 Israel crushed by Assyrians; 10 tribes exile

586 Judah conquered by Babylonia; Jerusalem and First Temple destroyed; most Jews exiled.

538-515 Many Jews RETURN from Babylonia ... Temple Rebuilt

332 Land conquered by Alexander the Great; Hellenistic rule.

1 Kings 22 – Good King Josiah repairs temple, finds Law

Huldah prophecies destruction

1 Kings 23 – King Josiah renews covenant – Josiah destroys Idolatry

**1 Kings 23:6 Took ... Asherah pole from the temple ... burned it ...
ground it to powder and scattered the dust over the graves.**

**1 Kings 23:25 – Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like
him who turned to the LORD as he did—with all his heart
and with all his soul and with all his strength, in
accordance with all the Law of Moses.**

Josiah dies ... two bad kings follow .. Then ...

1 Kings 24 – Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon invaded the land

**Babylon ...
How do you
suppose the
Hebrews FELT**



Briton Rivière - *Daniel in the Lions Den*
Manchester City Art Gallery
published by Thomas Agnew and Sons, 1892

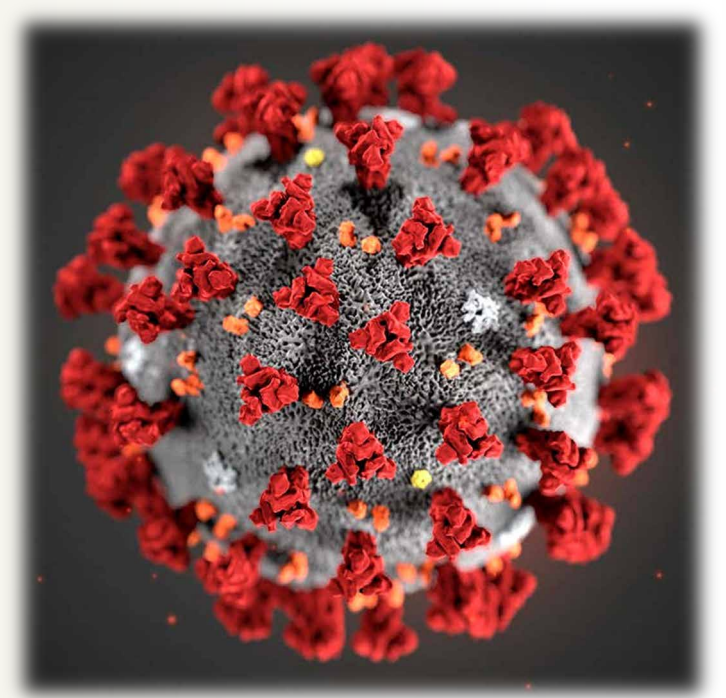
Babylon ...

**How do you suppose the
Hebrews FELT**



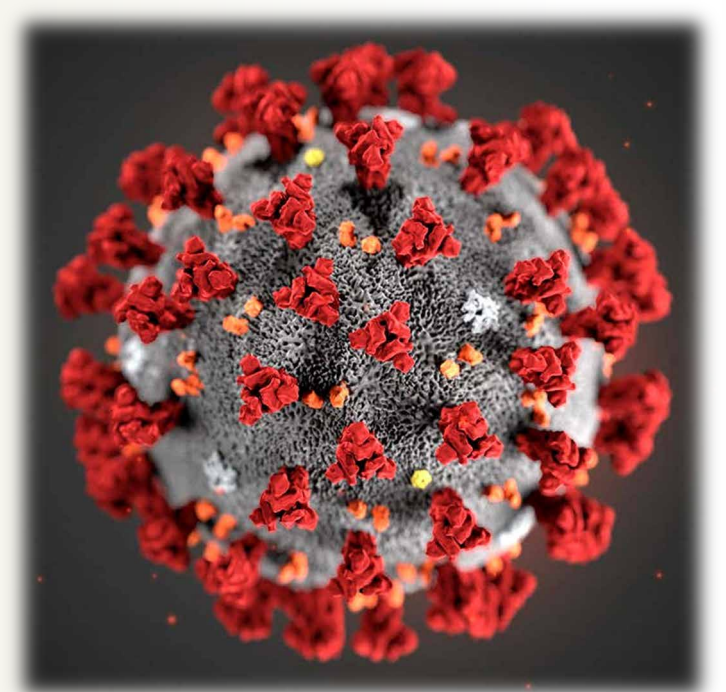
How did YOU feel in exile?
What was your first news?
What was your thought WHEN
you found out it was going
to be a LONG exile?

What was the worst part of it?



Covid-19 Virus

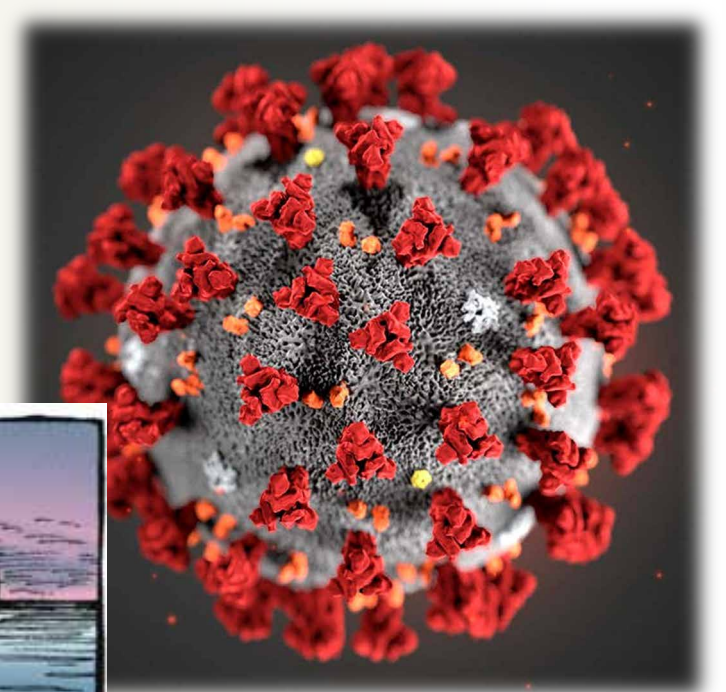
How did YOU feel in exile?



Covid-19 Virus

**What was your thought WHEN
you found out it was going
to be a LONG exile?**

**What was
the worst
part of it?**



Covid-19 Virus

A wide-angle photograph of Yosemite Valley. In the foreground, a dense forest of green and brown trees covers the valley floor. In the background, steep, rocky mountains rise, with the prominent, sheer face of El Capitan visible on the right. A red arrow originates from a blue text box on the right and points towards El Capitan. The top of the image shows a row of arches, likely part of a bridge or tunnel, with light shining through them.

Yosemite Valley

- If the Yosemite Valley is the New Testament
- Then El Capitan is the book of Romans
- Rocky ... not the most beautiful
- Yet alone, stunning
- Only for the daring



We finish the ascent in 2 parts

El Capitan

Romans is El Capitan
of the New Testament
Summit of El Capitan
Romans 3:28

Therefore we conclude
that a man is **JUSTIFIED**
by **FAITH**
WITHOUT the deeds
of the Law.

Theme

Justified before God through FAITH in Christ

Romans 3 & 4

Pt 1

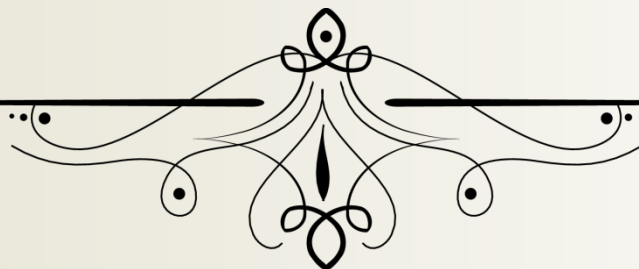
3:31 Last Verse First ... Upholding the Law

4:1-25 Abraham – Father of the Faithful, David too

3:1-8 Final Ascent – God True, Other Liars

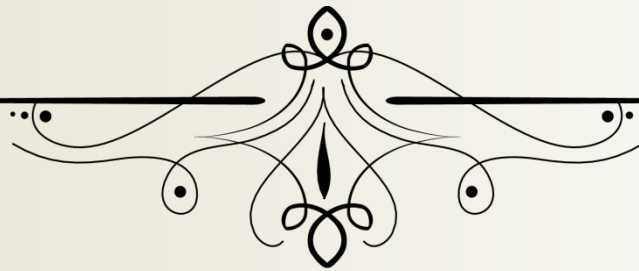
3:9-20 Near the Top – No One Righteous, Not One

Pt 2 3:21-31 Summit – Righteousness Through Faith



Key Verse – Romans 3:28

**Therefore we conclude that
a man is JUSTIFIED by FAITH
WITHOUT the deeds of the Law**



Romans 1 ... we talked about to WHOM Paul wrote
Romans 15:14-33 ... describes WHO

14 I myself am convinced ... you're full of goodness

19-21 I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ... *ALL OVER* ...



- | | |
|----|---|
| 50 | First Epistle to the Thessalonians |
| 51 | Second Epistle to the Thessalonians |
| 52 | |
| 53 | Epistle to the Galatians |
| 54 | First Epistle to the Corinthians |
| 55 | Epistle to the Philippians
Epistle to Philemon |
| 56 | Second Epistle to the Corinthians |
| 57 | Epistle to the Romans |

Romans 16:1-27 – **WHO?** Greet ... Greet ...

These are DEAR people to Paul ...

1 ... commend to you our sister Phoebe ...
receive her in the Lord in a way worthy ...

3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my co-workers ...

Greet my dear friend Epenetus, who was the first convert
to Christ in the province of Asia.

6-10 Greet Mary ... Andronicus and Junia ... Ampliatus ... Urbanus
... and my dear friend Stachys ... Apelles ...

Greet those who belong to the household of Aristobulus.



Romans 16:1-27 – Greet ... and Greet ...

11-12 Greet Herodion, Narcissus, Tryphena, Tryphosa,
those women who work hard in the Lord.

Greet my dear friend Persis, another woman
who has worked very hard in the Lord.

13 Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother,
who has been a mother to me, too.

14 Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas and the
other brothers and sisters with them.

How very precious and dear were those Romans



Romans 1:18-32 – Ignoring God Leads to Destruction

1:18-20 Revealed in Nature – Eternal Power from Heaven

1:21-23 Replaced by Nonsense – Foolish in Their Hearts

1:24-28 Delivered Over – God Gave them Over

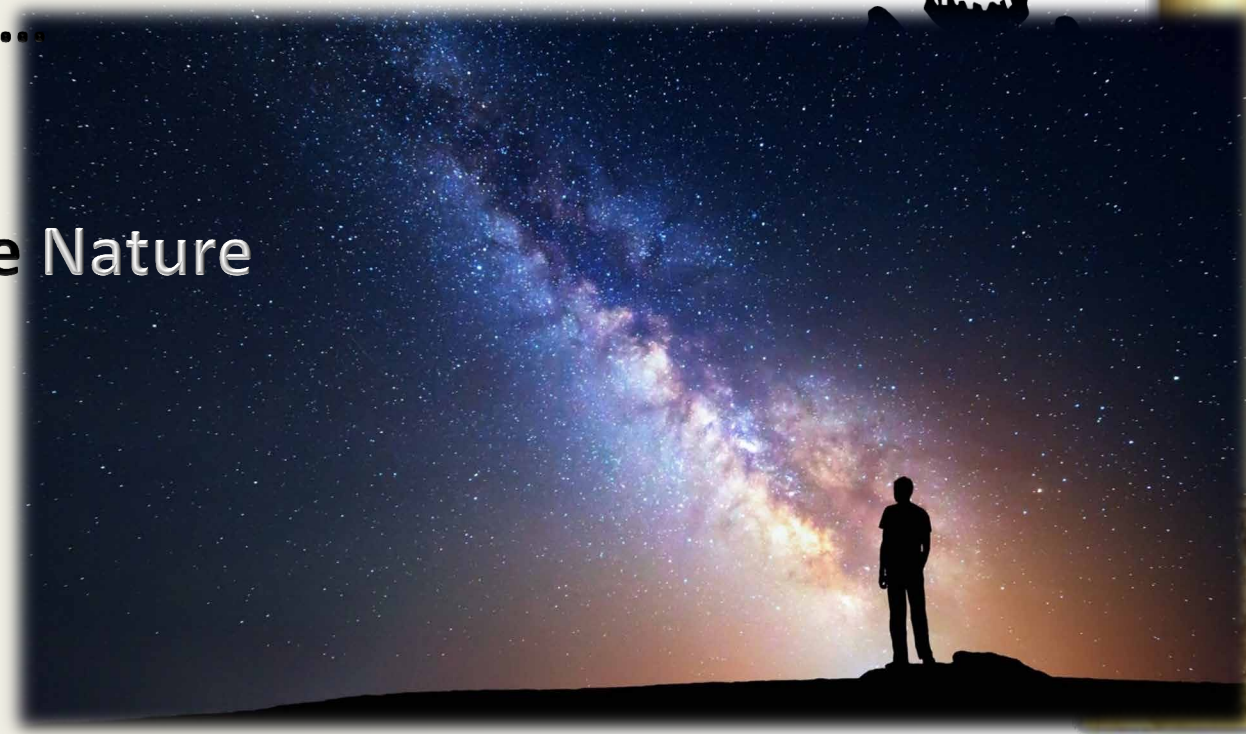
1:29-32 Deserving Death – Evil and Depravity

Dangerous climbing El Capitan ...

We touched the starry night ...

v. 20 His Eternal Power & Divine Nature

Revealed for all to see ...



Gave several examples, like
Neuroscientist Sam Harris in 2015 wrote a
New York Times best-seller
Waking Up—
A Guide to Spirituality WITHOUT Religion

Evolution as FACT corrects Religion ...

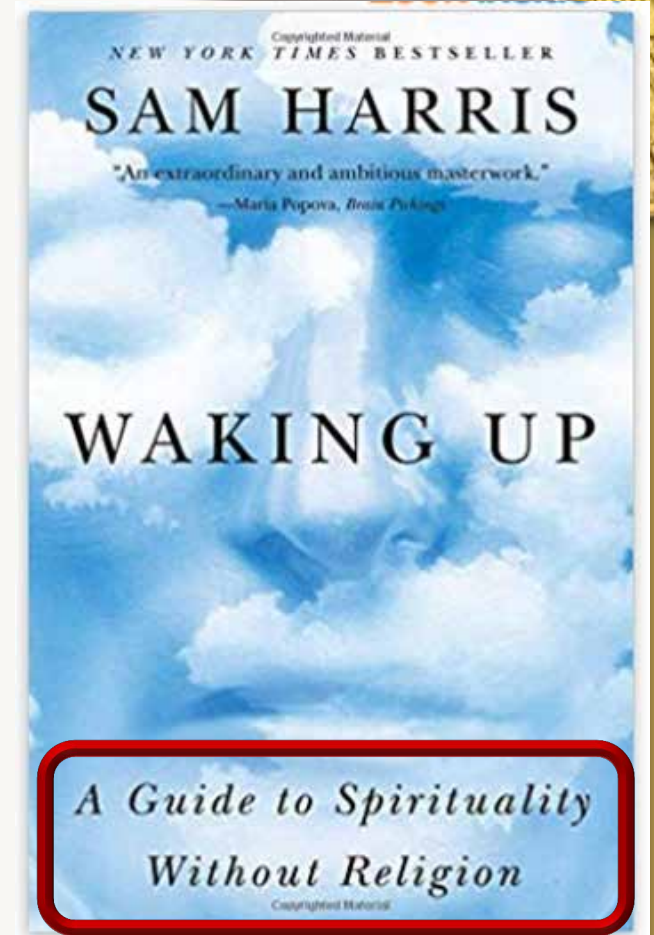
Many scientists are NOT as hostile ...

Many ARE hostile ... like Sam Harris

These SCIENTISTS assault the **Fairy Tale** of God

Sam Harris is brutal ... “Faith” is a Farce

Religion is idiocy ... a scam ... a fool’s game for the weak



1:24-28 Delivered Over – God Gave them Over

We looked hard at depravity ...

28 Furthermore, just as they did not think it
worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God,
so God gave them over to a depraved mind,
so that they do what ought not to be done.

No Justice – No Peace? ... *nothing new there*

No peace for a man/woman whom GOD abandons

and certainly ...

No Peace on Earth



For Chapter 2 ...

I coined this corny croon on the Coronavirus

Picky panicked people

Poorly picking

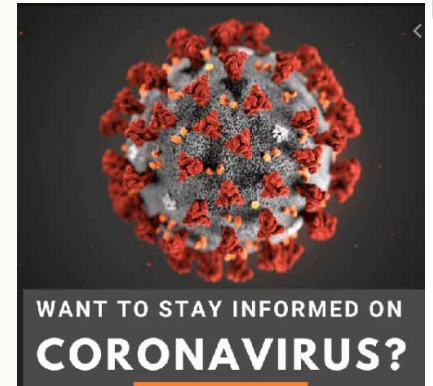
**Propounding preposterously
pitiful propositions**

Panic peaceful people planning

Prudent practical preparation

No one ^{Eleven} ~~three~~ months ago would have believed today:

“Disband the Police” ... **what lunacy lurks there?**



2:17-24 Hypocrisy Revealed

– Boasting/Breaking Law

Diatribes really takes off ... splatter on the Baby Bib

17-18 Now you, *IF* you call yourself a Jew;

IF you rely on the Law and boast in God;

IF you know his will and approve of what is superior
because you are instructed by the Law;

19 *IF* you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind,
a light for those who are in the dark,

Feel the SUPERIORITY



To deal with this boring **diatribe** ...

this tedious taunting third-person **RANT**

Part of the problem is **OUR fault** ...

Because of 2,000 years and our **CULTURE**

We think the circumcision “**ISSUE**” silly ... antiquated

We think “**Kingdom Cutter**” borders on the nasty

We ... today ... **CANNOT** ... because of our culture

We ... today ... **CANNOT** take this seriously ...

Making the **DIATRIBE** all the more boring ...

Putting this into Pitifully Prudent Perspective



This is pulling away the curtain ...

Paul continues ...

20 an instructor of the foolish,
a teacher of little children,
because you have in the Law
the embodiment of knowledge and truth—

**Feel the SUPERIORITY
of the Super Jew**



What is Paul doing?

Paul is exposing ... in THEIR own language ...

A critical point ... on salvation ...

Fairness of God

How can we make CLEAR the

Law Written on the HEART

and

***FAIR* Righteousness of God**

Let me ask you ... what you see here ...

What do you see ...

What is the meaning of **FAIRNESS?**

When someone
CUTS in line ...

When someone STEALS
what is NOT theirs

When someone ...
decides NOT to
give up a seat to a

Bigot

Quote:

When he waved his hand and ordered us up and out of our seats,
I felt a determination cover my body like a quilt on a winter night.



Rosa Parks, Dec. 1, 1955

Days avg 58° ... Nights avg 41°
Montgomery, Alabama

Cool @ 6 pm when she boarded

She did NOT give up
her seat that day

She was **arrested**

James Blake
Bus Driver

Romans 3:31 – Last Verse First ... Upholding the Law

31 Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith?

Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law.

After summiting El Capitan ...

Chapter 4, Paul explains Abraham ... Father of Faith

Plus 13 more chapters ... 16 in all.

We will get to that in a moment ...

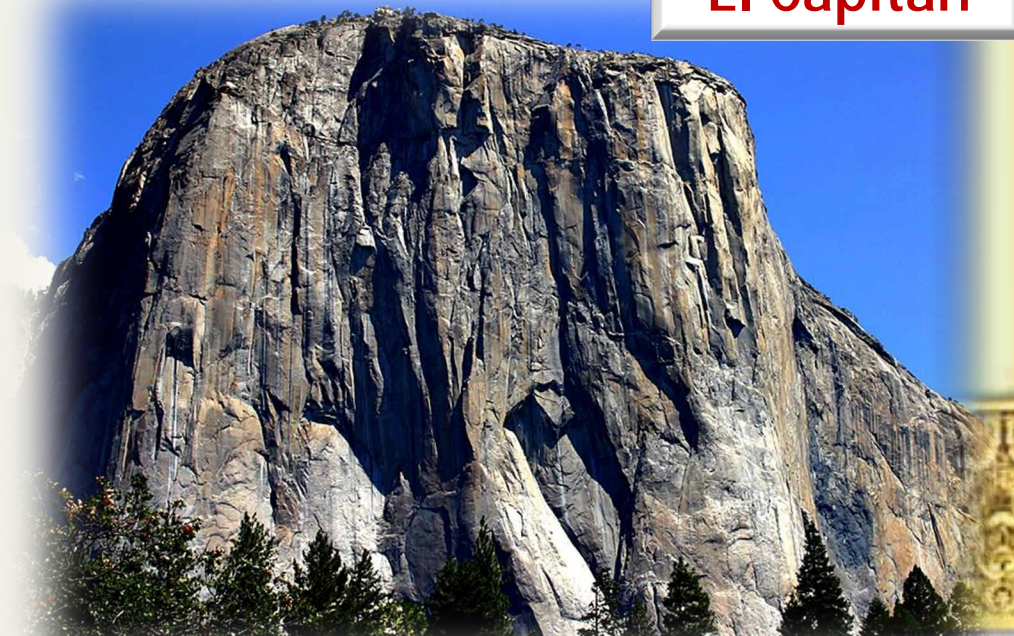
after we summit El Capitan ... 3:28

Paul notes ...

they do NOT Nullify LAW



El Capitan



Professor Nicholas Thomas Wright -

former Bishop of Durham, England ... next C.S. Lewis

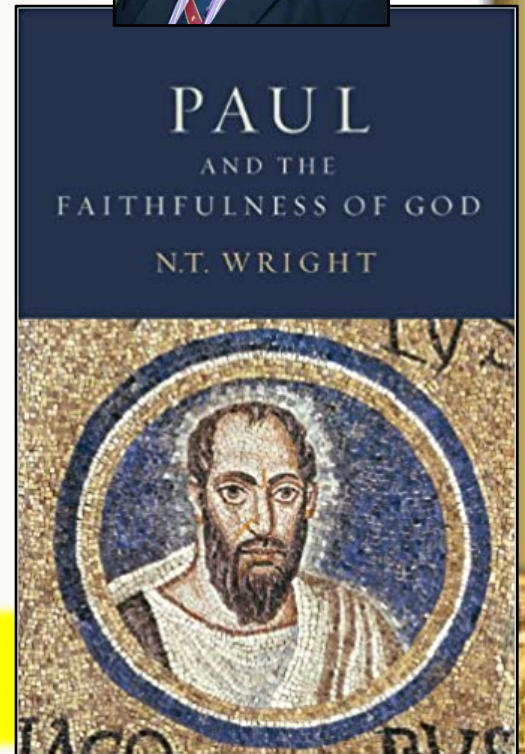
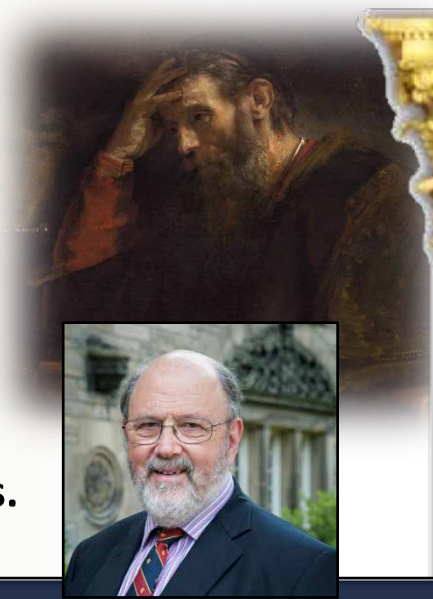
- Taught 20 years at Cambridge, McGill, Oxford

- Now Senior Research Fellow at Oxford ... dozens of books

Paul and the Faithfulness of God, Fortress Press, 2013; 1,696 pages.

Prof. Wright said the **declared “righteous”** is simply the “helpless trust in what the one God has done in Jesus.”

“Everything that comes later, the hard moral work of producing ‘the fruit of the spirit,’ the putting to death the deeds of the body and so forth—all that has a very different character from this initial utterly astonished and utterly humble spirit-inspired gospel-driven confession that the crucified and risen Jesus is **Lord**.”



Romans 3:31 – Last Verse First ... Upholding the Law

31 Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith?

Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law.

After summiting El Capitan ... in chapter 4

Paul explains Abraham ... Father of Faith

**4:1 What then shall we say that Abraham,
our forefather according to the flesh,
DISCOVERED in this matter?**

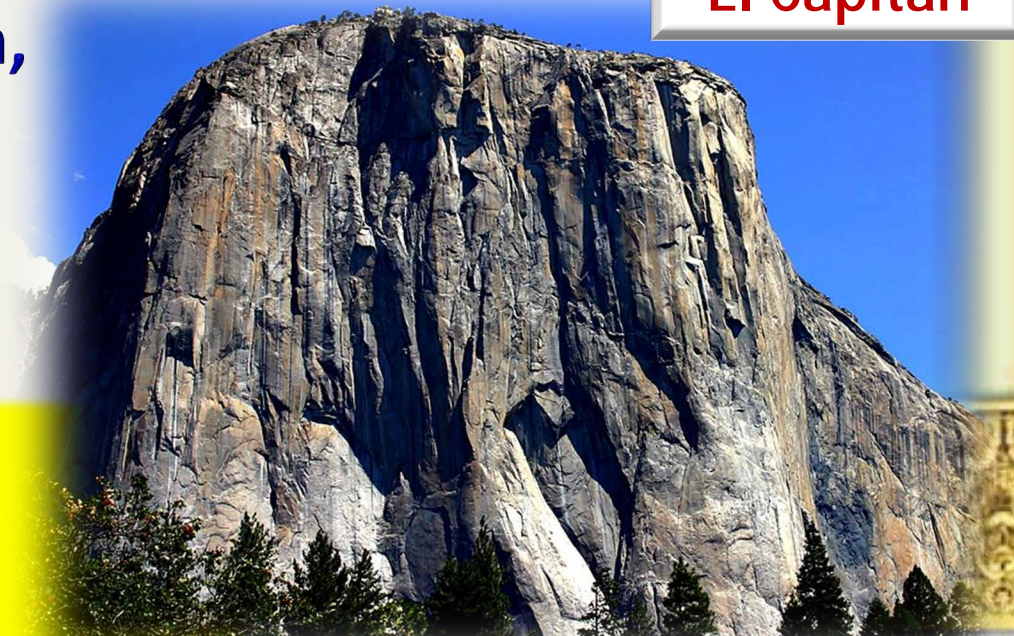
What did Abraham **DISCOVER**?

High-minded Jews are being schooled

Abraham ... Father of **FAITH**



El Capitan



Chapter 4, Paul explains Abraham ... Father of Faith

4:2 IF-if-if Abraham was justified by works,
he had something to boast about
—but not before God.

4:3 What does Scripture say?

“Abraham believed God, and it was
credited to him as righteousness.”

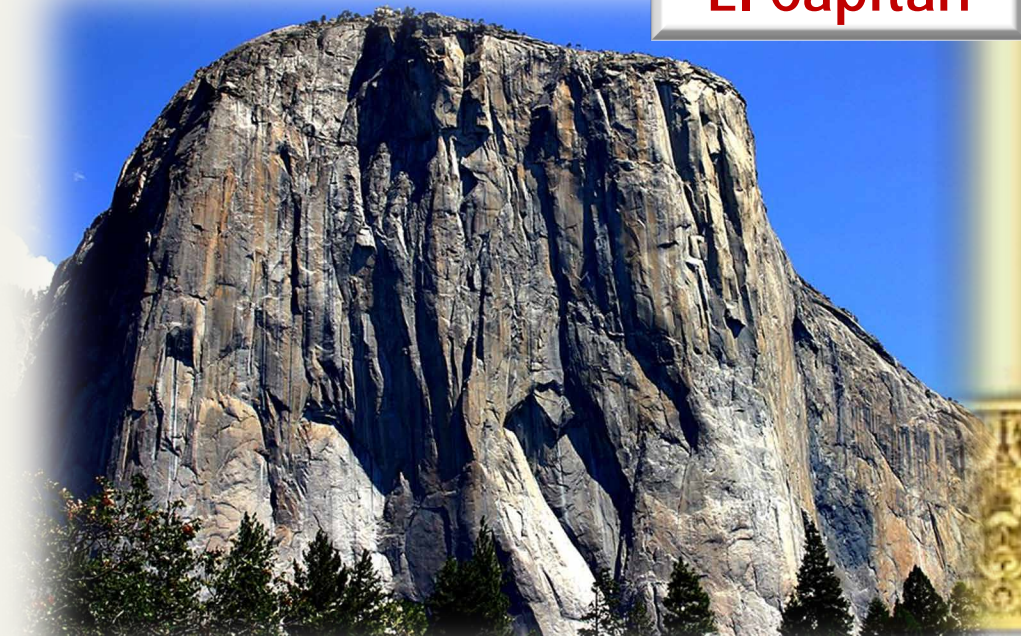
Do you see the chronology ... timing?

L o n g before Christ, Abraham was

JUSTIFIED by FAITH



El Capitan



4:5 However, to the one who does NOT WORK
but trusts God who justifies the ungodly,
their faith is credited as righteousness.

In many ways, chapter 4 could precede chapter 3

Point: Abraham BELIEVED long before he was Circumcised

Abraham's FAITH, not Circumcision was the FOUNDATION

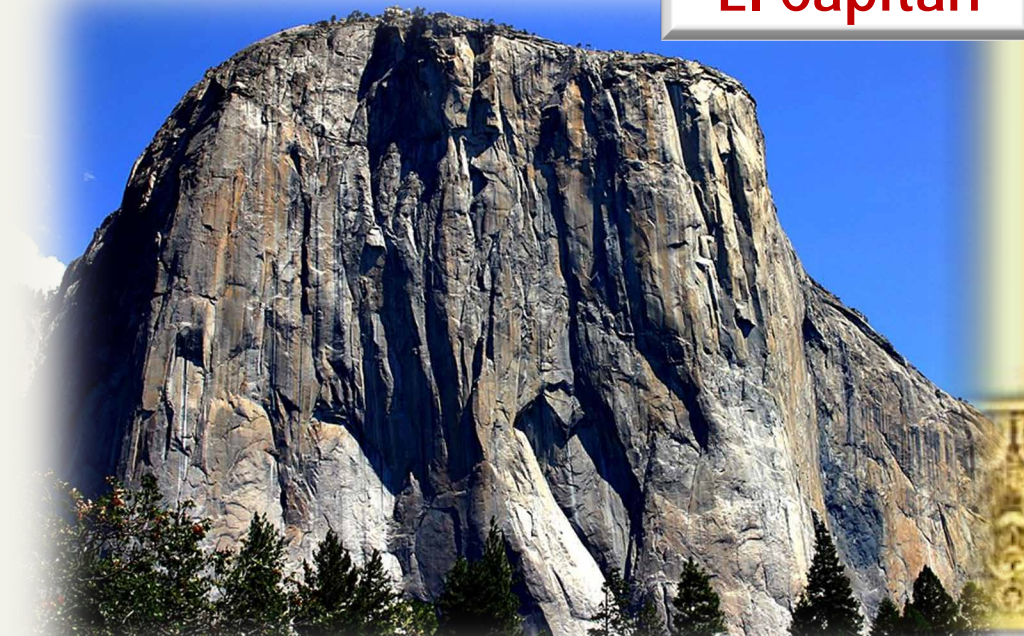
4:3 What does Scripture say?

“Abraham believed God, and
it was credited to him as
righteousness.”

Jews missed that



El Capitan



Genesis 15:5 ... God took him outside and said,
"Look up at the sky and count the stars—
if indeed you can count them."

Then God said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

Chap. 4 outlines Abraham
for Romans, Gentiles, **us** ...

Abraham's FAITH was believing
God would give an old man heirs
like the "stars of the sky"

His "FAITH" not "Circumcision"

After 4, "Circumcision" not mentioned again ...





4:16 Therefore, the promise comes by **FAITH**,
so that it may be by grace and may be
guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—
not only to those who are of the law
but also to those who have the **FAITH** of Abraham.

He is the father of us all.

Chapter 4 is a large historical study in itself ...

According to Jews' own history, Circumcision came in Gen. 17

Gen. 17 well *AFTER* Abraham "credited" righteous for **FAITH**

As Abraham BELIEVED ... he'd be Father to a starry multitude

Abraham became the Father of Faith

3:1-8 – Final Ascent – God True, Other Liars

- 1 What advantage, then, is there in being a Jew, or what value is there in circumcision?
- 2 Much in every way! First of all, the Jews have been entrusted with the very words of God.
- 3 ... some ... unfaithful?
Will their unfaithfulness nullify God's faithfulness?
- 4 Not at all! Let God be true, and every human being a liar....
- 5-7 if our unrighteousness brings out God's righteousness ...
- 8 Why not say—as some slander claim that we say—"Let us do evil that good may result"? Their condemnation is just!

LAW brings out SINFULNESS ... *not the CURE*



Charles H. Spurgeon gave six messages on Romans 3

1. **Romans 3:3-4** **God Justified, though Man Believes Not**
#2255, Aug. 31, 1890, Vol 38
2. **Romans 3:22-23** **There Is no Difference**
#2608, Feb. 5, 1899, Vol 45
3. **Romans 3:24** **Justification by Grace**
#126, April 5, 1857, Vol. 3, Music Hall, Royal Surrey Gardens
4. **Romans 3:25** **Christ Set Forth as a Propitiation**
#373, March 29, 1861, Vol 7
5. **Romans 3:27** **Justice Satisfied**
#255, May 29, 1859, Vol 5
6. **Romans 3:27** **Grace Exalted—Boasting Excluded**
#429, January 19, 1862, Vol 8

... outstanding messages ...



Charles H. Spurgeon
by Alexander Melville

Charles H. Spurgeon gave six messages on Romans 3

1. **Romans 3:3-4 God Justified, though Man Believes Not**

#2255, Aug. 31, 1890, Vol 38

Paraphrased ... “suppose those who will not believe

Get together to proclaim to upset the gospel.

One **wing** of Satan’s army of doubters always
destroys the other **wing**.”

“Just now the great scientists say,

‘If there is no serpent, and no Adam & Eve,
no flood, no Noah, no Abraham.

All this is a myth,

then your whole old Book is a lie.’”

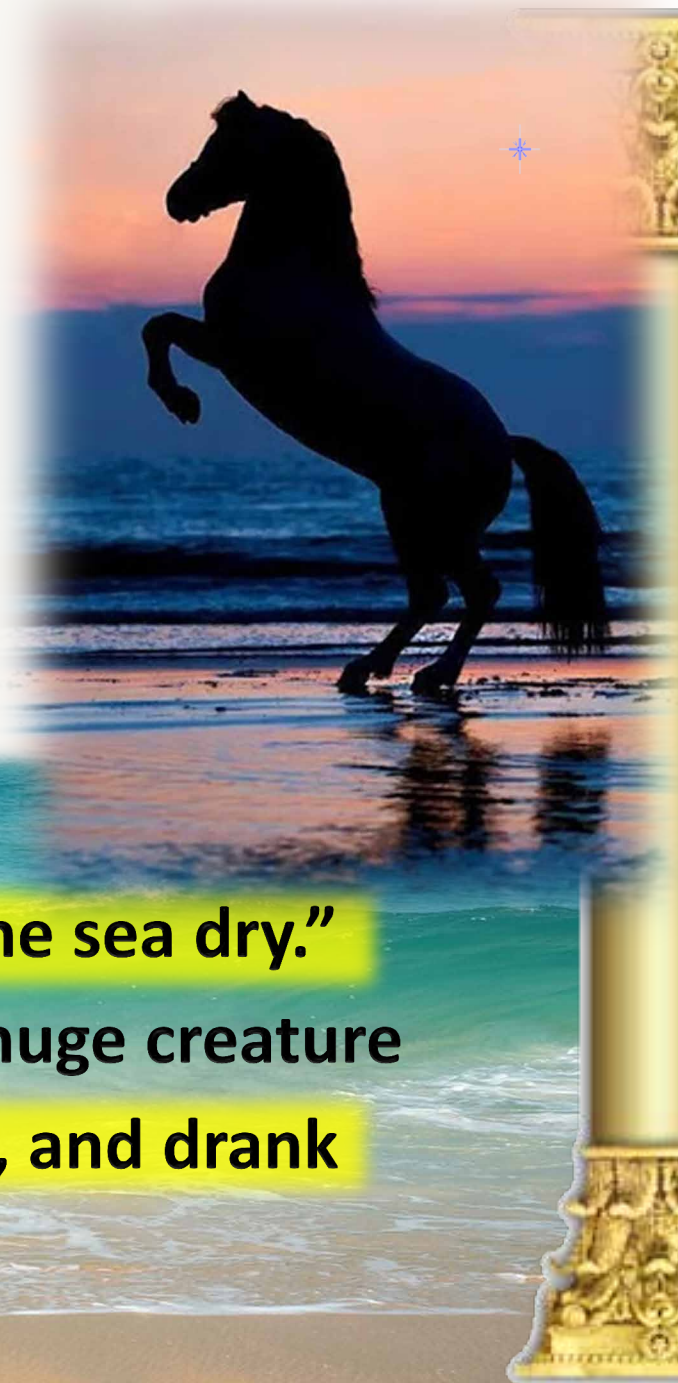


Charles H. Spurgeon 1. **Romans 3:3-4** God Justified, though Man Believes Not
#2255, Aug. 31, 1890, Vol 38

**There is a split in the enemy's camp;
Amalek is fighting Edom, and
Edom is contending against Moab.**

**I thought I saw a vision once ... by the seaside.
To my closed eyes, there seemed to come to the
beach at Brighton a huge BLACK HORSE ...
Went into the water and began to drink.**

**I thought I heard a voice that said, "It will drink the sea dry."
My great horse grew, and grew, till it was such a huge creature
that I could scarcely measure it; and still it drank, and drank**



Charles H. Spurgeon 1. **Romans 3:3-4** God Justified, though Man Believes Not
#2255, Aug. 31, 1890, Vol 38

All the while the sea did not appear to
alter in the least

Water was still there as deep as ever.

By-and-by the animal burst, and its remains were
washed up on the beach, and there it lay dead,

killed by its own folly.

That will be the end of this Big Black Horse of infidelity
that boasts that it is going to drink up this

Everlasting Gospel



Charles H. Spurgeon 1. **Romans 3:3-4** God Justified, though Man Believes Not
#2255, Aug. 31, 1890, Vol 38

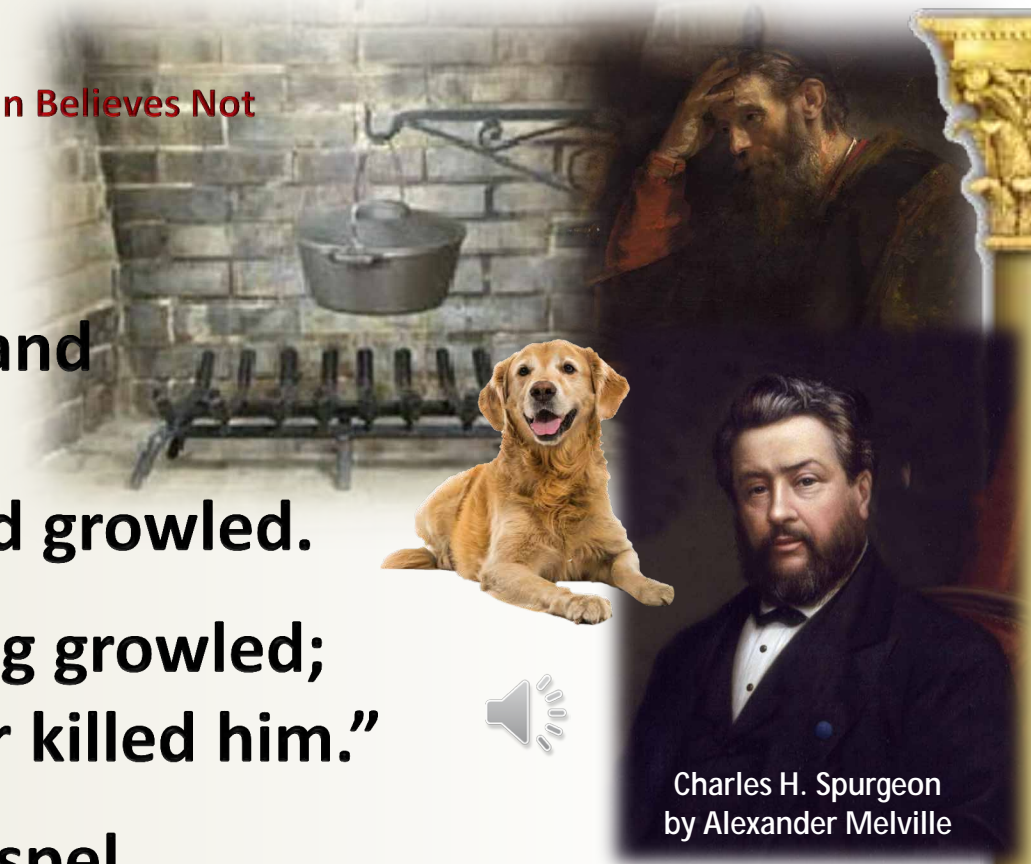
Christmas Evans put it this way

“There was a dog on the hearthrug and
kettle of boiling water on the fire.
kettle puffed steam ... dog sat up and growled.

The more the puffing ... more the dog growled;
dog seized the kettle ... boiling water killed him.”

Thus will unbelievers do with the gospel.

They **GROWL** at it today ... but if they ever really make an attack
Gospel will be a savor of death unto death to those who oppose
as it is a savor of life to those who receive it.



**3:9-20 – Near the Top of El Capitan –
No One Righteous, Not One**

Series of O.T. quotes ... Paul drills this in ...

**One CANNOT ascend El Capitan's last dangerous cleft
without ... the**

New Testament FIX

9 What shall we conclude then?

Do we have any advantage? Not at all!

**For we have already made the charge that
Jews and Gentiles alike are ALL under
the power of sin.**

Paul proceeds to *DRILL* this in ...



**3:9-20 – Near the Top – No One Righteous, Not One
Now ... today ... with all the malice and mayhem ...
Paul quotes a series of O.T. verses to drill “SIN” in:**

10-12 As it is written: Psalm 14:1-3, 53:1-3

**“There is no one righteous, not even one;
there is no one who understands;
there is no one who seeks God.
All have turned away,
they have together become worthless;
there is no one who does good, not even one.”**



3:9-20 – Near the Top – No One Righteous, Not One

- Psalm 5:9** 13 “Their throats are open graves;
their tongues practice deceit.”
- Psalm 140:3
& Duet. 32:33** “The poison of vipers is on their lips.”
- Psalm 10:7** 14 “Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.”
- Isaiah 59:7-8** 15-17 “Their feet are swift to shed blood;
ruin and misery mark their ways,
and the way of peace they do not know.
- Psalm 36:7** 18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

Jews who KNOW the Scriptures ... FORGET a LOT



3:9-20 – Near the Top – No One Righteous, Not One

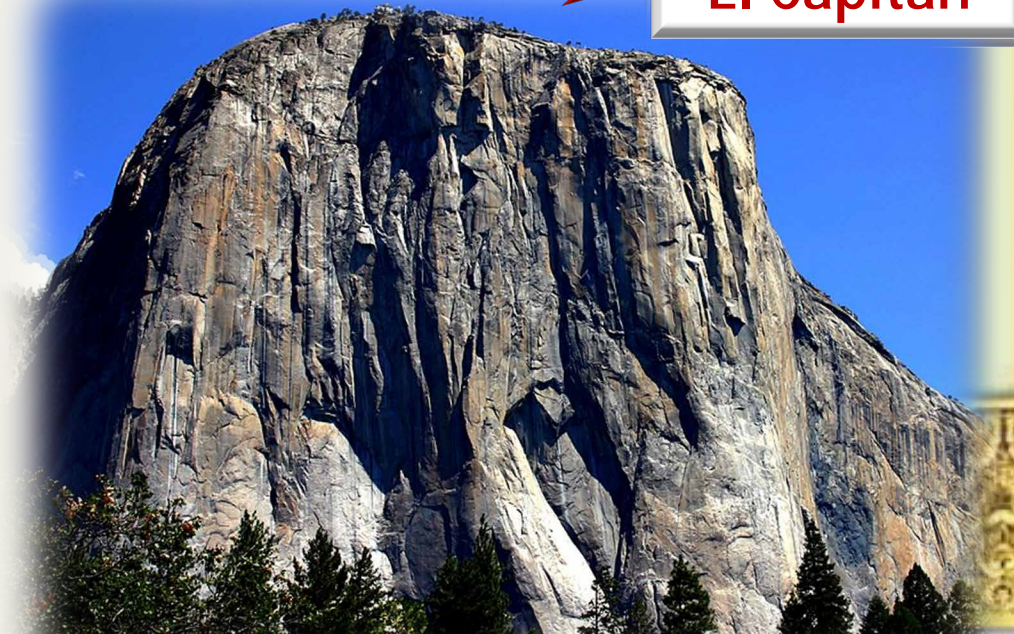
19 Now we know that whatever the law says,
it says to those who are under the law,
so that every mouth may be silenced and
the whole world held accountable to God.

20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight

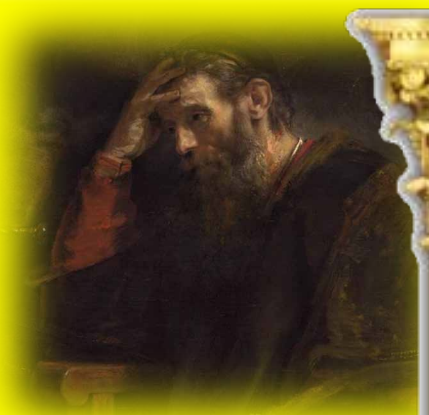


El Capitan

*Did you SEE that right ...
Our ropes are over the crest ...
We are almost to the top ...
No One ... Nada ... Zilch ...*



20 Therefore NO ONE will be
declared righteous in God's sight
by the works of the law; rather
through the LAW we become conscious of our SIN.



Galatians 2:16

know that a person is not justified
by the works of the law,
but by faith in Jesus Christ.

Galatians 3:11

no man is justified by the law
in the sight of God, it is evident: for,
The just shall live by faith.

● *Next Week ... the summit ...*

El Capitan

