

WHY DID GOD KILL SO MANY PEOPLE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT?

PEOPLE'S
choice

Widespread World View: God is loving and kind. Love trumps righteousness, holiness. Our sin is really not a big deal to God.

Less Common World View:

“The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction: jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control-freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully.”

- Richard Dawkins, The God Delusion

Common Church View:

Common Church View:

- **God of the Old Testament – Demanding, Cruel, Vengeful, Mean**

Common Church View:

- **God of the Old Testament – Demanding, Cruel, Vengeful, Mean**
 - **The Flood**

Common Church View:

- **God of the Old Testament – Demanding, Cruel, Vengeful, Mean**
 - The Flood
 - **Red Sea drowning Egyptian soldiers**

Common Church View:

- **God of the Old Testament – Demanding, Cruel, Vengeful, Mean**
 - The Flood
 - Red Sea drowning Egyptian soldiers
 - **Israelites commanded to destroy others**

Common Church View:

- **God of the Old Testament – Demanding, Cruel, Vengeful, Mean**
 - The Flood
 - Red Sea drowning Egyptian soldiers
 - Israelites commanded to destroy others
 - **Lots of people get killed**

Common Church View:

- God of the Old Testament – Demanding, Cruel, Vengeful, Mean
- **God of the New Testament = Jesus – Loving, kind, gracious, forgiving**

Common Church View:

- **God of the Old Testament – Demanding, Cruel, Vengeful, Mean**
- **God of the New Testament = Jesus – Loving, kind, gracious, forgiving**
 - **Turn the other cheek**

Common Church View:

- God of the Old Testament – Demanding, Cruel, Vengeful, Mean
- **God of the New Testament = Jesus – Loving, kind, gracious, forgiving**
 - Turn the other cheek
 - **Forgive 7 times 70**

Common Church View:

- God of the Old Testament – Demanding, Cruel, Vengeful, Mean
- **God of the New Testament = Jesus – Loving, kind, gracious, forgiving**
 - Turn the other cheek
 - Forgive 7 times 70
 - **Love your enemies**

Attempts to solve:

Attempts to solve:

- **God changed from OT to NT**

Attempts to solve:

- God changed from OT to NT
- **God did not change, but did modify His standards for dealing with people**

Attempts to solve:

- God changed from OT to NT
- God did not change, but did modify His standards for dealing with people
- **Israelites, OT authors didn't hear God accurately**

Attempts to solve:

- God changed from OT to NT
- God did not change, but did modify His standards for dealing with people
- Israelites, OT authors didn't hear God accurately
- **Deny**

Attempts to solve:

- God changed from OT to NT
- God did not change, but did modify His standards for dealing with people
- Israelites, OT authors didn't hear God accurately
- Deny
- **Ignore**

Liability: Less accurate view of God.

Biblical solution:

Biblical solution:

Truths About God –

Biblical solution:

Truths About God –

- **God never changes. (Immutable)**

Biblical solution:

Truths About God –

- God never changes. (Immutable)
- **God gets to do what He wants to do.**
He alone is God. Life and death are
appropriately, because He is God, always
ultimately in His hands.

Biblical solution:

Truths About God –

- God never changes. (Immutable)
- God gets to do what He wants to do. He alone is God. Life and death are appropriately, because He is God, always ultimately in His hands.
- **God acts lovingly and righteously. Always.**

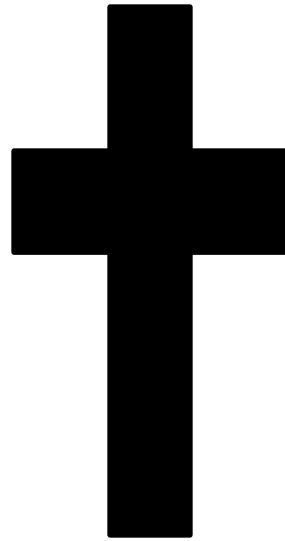
Biblical solution:

Truths About God –

- God never changes. (Immutable)
- God gets to do what he wants to do.
- He alone is God. Life and death are appropriately, because He is God, always ultimately in His hands.
- God acts lovingly and righteously. Always.

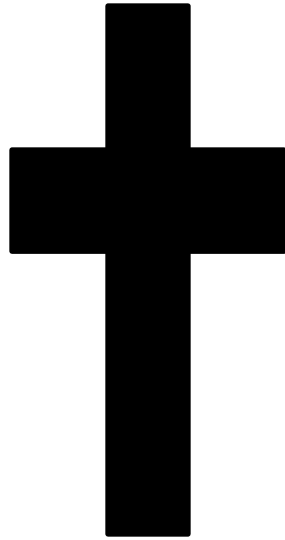
- **Both the OT and NT promote the same truths about God. He is love and He is righteous. However, there is an increasing clarity as we move from the OT to the NT. The Old Testament lays the foundation for Jesus, THE SAVIOR. The Old Testament points to the essential nature of Jesus' death and resurrection.**

PEOPLE'S
choice



PEOPLE'S
choice

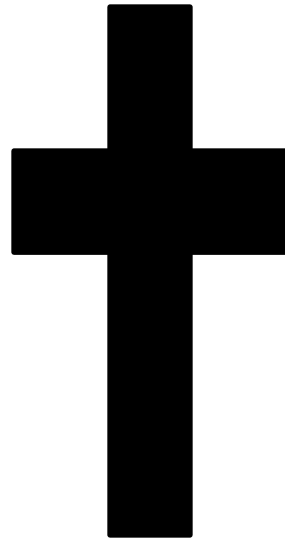
OT



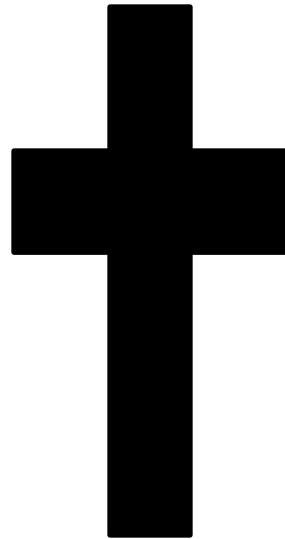
PEOPLE'S
choice

OT

Jews



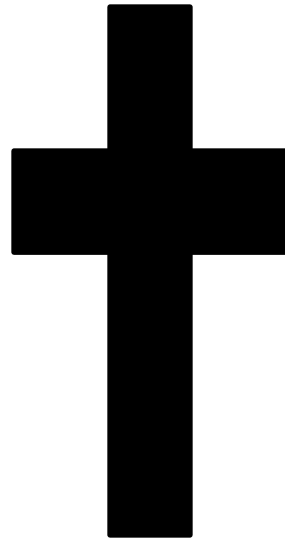
OT



Jews

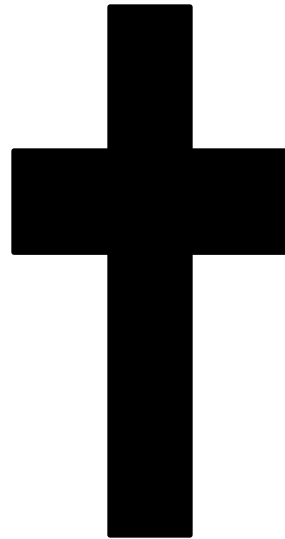
OT

NT

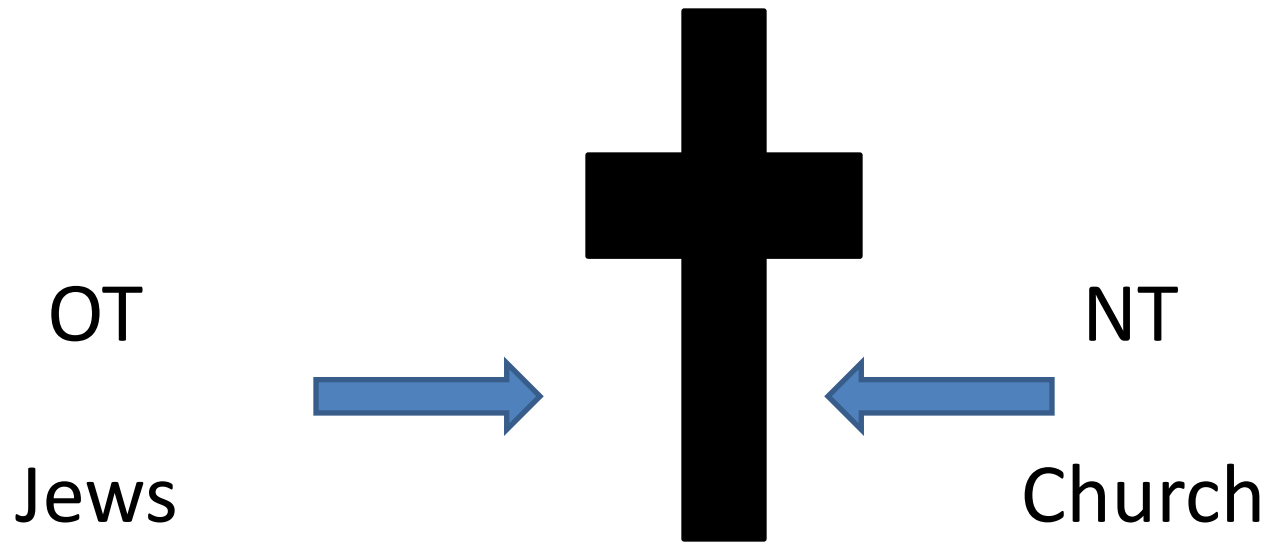


Jews

OT
Jews



NT
Church

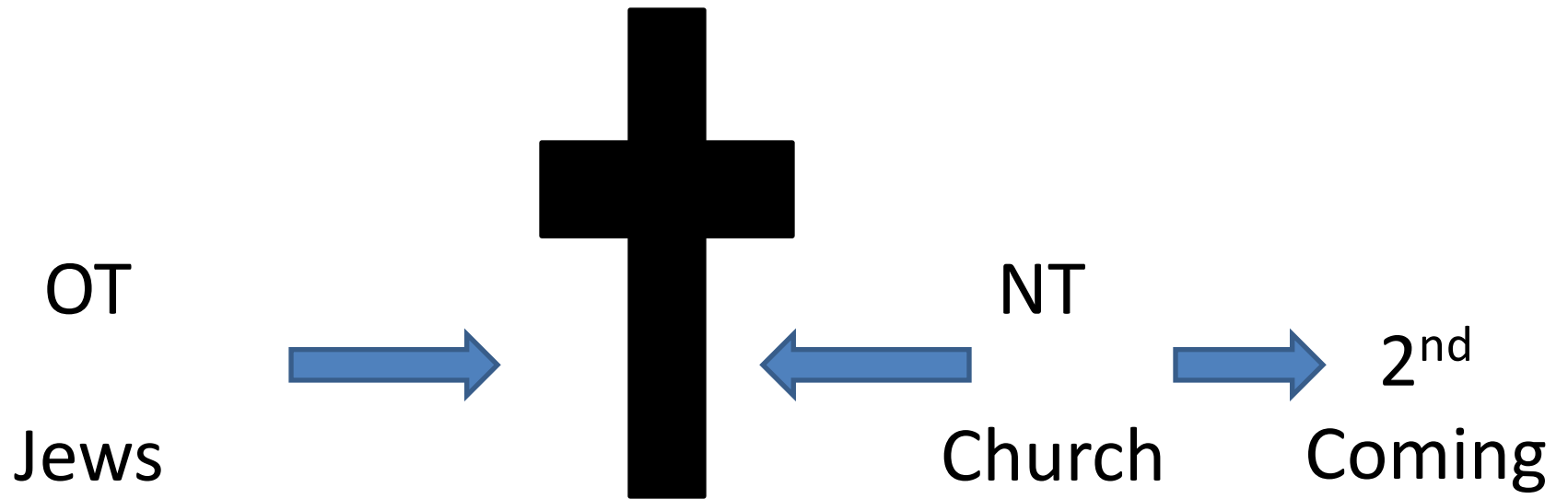


OT
Jews



NT
Church

**2nd
Coming**



Biblical solution:

Truths About God –

- God never changes. (Immutable)
- God gets to do what he wants to do.
He alone is God. Life and death are appropriately, because He is God, always ultimately in His hands.
- God acts lovingly and righteously. Always.

- **Both the OT and NT promote the same truths about God. He is love and He is righteous. However, there is an increasing clarity as we move from the OT to the NT. The Old Testament lays the foundation for Jesus, THE SAVIOR. The Old Testament points to the essential nature of Jesus' death and resurrection.**

Biblical solution:

Truths About God –

- God never changes. (Immutable)
- God gets to do what he wants to do.
- He alone is God. Life and death are appropriately, because He is God, always ultimately in His hands.
- God acts lovingly and righteously. Always.
- Both the OT and NT promote the same truths about God. He is love and He is righteous. However, there is an increasing clarity as we move from the OT to the NT. The Old Testament lays the foundation for Jesus, THE SAVIOR. The Old Testament points to the essential nature of Jesus' death and resurrection.
 - **He is loving and He is righteous.**

Biblical solution:

Truths About God –

- God never changes. (Immutable)
- God gets to do what he wants to do.
He alone is God. Life and death are appropriately, because He is God, always ultimately in His hands.
- God acts lovingly and righteously. Always.
- Both the OT and NT promote the same truths about God. He is love and He is righteous. However, there is an increasing clarity as we move from the OT to the NT. The Old Testament lays the foundation for Jesus, THE SAVIOR. The Old Testament points to the essential nature of Jesus' death and resurrection.
 - **He is loving and He is righteous.**
 - **God loves everyone.**

OT - Genesis 12:1-3

¹ Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

NT - John 3:16

¹⁶ “**For God so loved the world**, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Biblical solution:

Truths About God –

- God never changes. (Immutable)
- God gets to do what he wants to do.
- He alone is God. Life and death are appropriately, because He is God, always ultimately in His hands.
- God acts lovingly and righteously. Always.
- Both the OT and NT promote the same truths about God. He is love and He is righteous. However, there is an increasing clarity as we move from the OT to the NT. The Old Testament lays the foundation for Jesus, THE SAVIOR. The Old Testament points to the essential nature of Jesus' death and resurrection.
 - **He is loving and He is righteous.**
 - God loves everyone.
 - **God hates sin.**

OT – Isaiah 59:2

² but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.

NT – 1 Corinthians 6:9-10

⁹ Or do you not know that the **unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God**? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers **will inherit the kingdom of God**.

Biblical solution:

Truths About God –

- God never changes. (Immutable)
- God gets to do what he wants to do.
He alone is God. Life and death are appropriately, because He is God, always ultimately in His hands.
- God acts lovingly and righteously. Always.
- Both the OT and NT promote the same truths about God. He is love and He is righteous. However, there is an increasing clarity as we move from the OT to the NT. The Old Testament lays the foundation for Jesus, THE SAVIOR. The Old Testament points to the essential nature of Jesus' death and resurrection.

○ **He is loving and He is righteous.**

- God loves everyone.
- God hates sin.

- **God's righteousness demands that sinners be punished. His righteous wrath poured out.**

OT – Exodus 34:6-7

⁶ The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.”

NT – Matthew 25:41

41 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’

NT – 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10

⁵ This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering—
⁶ since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, ⁷ and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels ⁸ in flaming fire, **inflicting vengeance** on those who do not know God and on those who do

NT – 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10

not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ **They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord** and from the glory of his might, ¹⁰ when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.

Biblical solution:

Truths About God –

- God never changes. (Immutable)
- God gets to do what he wants to do.
He alone is God. Life and death are appropriately, because He is God, always ultimately in His hands.
- God acts lovingly and righteously. Always.
- Both the OT and NT promote the same truths about God. He is love and He is righteous. However, there is an increasing clarity as we move from the OT to the NT. The Old Testament lays the foundation for Jesus, THE SAVIOR. The Old Testament points to the essential nature of Jesus' death and resurrection.

○ **He is loving and He is righteous.**

- God loves everyone.
- God hates sin.
- God's righteousness demands that sinners be punished. His righteous wrath poured out.

- **God's love and righteousness moves Him to provide a sacrifice for our sin.**

OT – Isaiah 53:4-7, 10

⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But **he was pierced for our transgressions;**
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that
brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.

OT – Isaiah 53:4-7, 10

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the **LORD has laid on him**
the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.

OT – Isaiah 53:4-7, 10

¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him;
he has put him to grief;
when his soul makes an offering for guilt,
he shall see his offspring; he shall
prolong his days;
the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

NT – 2 Corinthians 5:21

²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Biblical solution:

Truths About God –

- God never changes. (Immutable)
- God gets to do what he wants to do.
He alone is God. Life and death are appropriately, because He is God, always ultimately in His hands.
- God acts lovingly and righteously. Always.
- Both the OT and NT promote the same truths about God. He is love and He is righteous. However, there is an increasing clarity as we move from the OT to the NT. The Old Testament lays the foundation for Jesus, THE SAVIOR. The Old Testament points to the essential nature of Jesus' death and resurrection.

○ **He is loving and He is righteous.**

- God loves everyone.
- God hates sin.
- God's righteousness demands that sinners be punished. His righteous wrath poured out.
- God's love and righteousness moves Him to provide a sacrifice for our sin.

- **Faith is the key to a relationship with God.**

OT – Genesis 15:6

⁶ And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

NT – Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith.
And this is not your own doing; it is the gift
of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one
may boast.

Biblical solution:

Truths About God –

- God never changes. (Immutable)
- God gets to do what he wants to do.
He alone is God. Life and death are appropriately, because He is God, always ultimately in His hands.
- God acts lovingly and righteously. Always.
- Both the OT and NT promote the same truths about God. He is love and He is righteous. However, there is an increasing clarity as we move from the OT to the NT. The Old Testament lays the foundation for Jesus, THE SAVIOR. The Old Testament points to the essential nature of Jesus' death and resurrection.

○ **He is loving and He is righteous.**

- God loves everyone.
- God hates sin.
- God's righteousness demands that sinners be punished. His righteous wrath poured out.
- God's love and righteousness moves Him to provide a sacrifice for our sin.
- Faith is the key to a relationship with God.

- **God does hold unforgiven sinners accountable for their lack of faith.**

OT – Isaiah 66:15-16

¹⁵ “For behold, the LORD will come in fire,
and his chariots like the whirlwind,
to render his anger in fury,
and his rebuke with flames of fire.

¹⁶ For by fire will the **LORD enter into judgment,**
and by his sword, with all flesh;
and those slain by the LORD shall be many.

NT – Revelation 20:11-15

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them.

¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead who were

NT – Revelation 20:11-15

in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Biblical solution:

Truths About God –

- God never changes. (Immutable)
- God gets to do what he wants to do.
He alone is God. Life and death are appropriately, because He is God, always ultimately in His hands.
- God acts lovingly and righteously. Always.
- Both the OT and NT promote the same truths about God. He is love and He is righteous. However, there is an increasing clarity as we move from the OT to the NT. The Old Testament lays the foundation for Jesus, THE SAVIOR. The Old Testament points to the essential nature of Jesus' death and resurrection.

○ **He is loving and He is righteous.**

- God loves everyone.
- God hates sin.
- God's righteousness demands that sinners be punished. His righteous wrath poured out.
- God's love and righteousness moves Him to provide a sacrifice for our sin.
- Faith is the key to a relationship with God.
- God does hold unforgiven sinners accountable for their lack of faith.

■ **God is devoted to the ultimate good of those who love Him.**

OT – Psalm 16:11

¹¹ You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are **pleasures forevermore.**

OT – Psalm 23:6

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

NT – 1 Peter 1:3-5

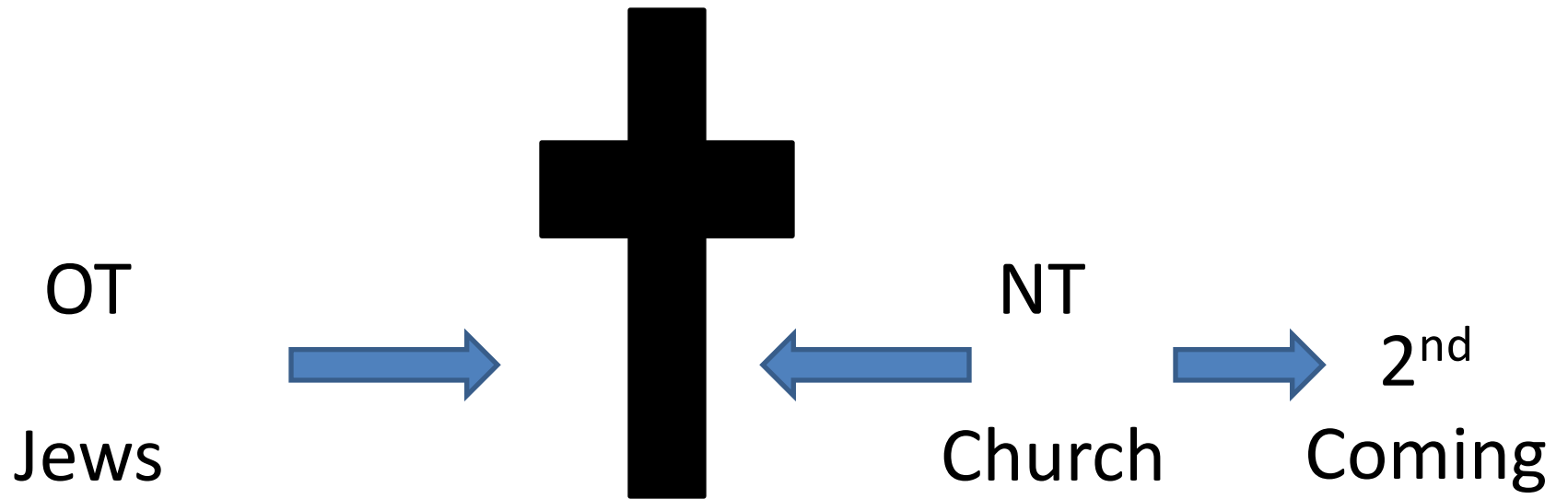
³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

NT – Revelation 21:1-4

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be

NT – Revelation 21:1-4

with them as their God.⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”



1 Peter 1:10-12

¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, ¹¹ inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

Takeaways:

Takeaways:

- **Ponder the sins of yours that caused Jesus to bear the wrath of God for your benefit**

Takeaways:

- Ponder the sins of yours that caused Jesus to bear the wrath of God for your benefit
- **Celebrate God's deep love and righteousness that makes us His**

Takeaways:

- Ponder the sins of yours that caused Jesus to bear the wrath of God for your benefit
- Celebrate God's deep love and righteousness that makes us His
- **Memorize 1 Peter 1:3-5**

1 Peter 1:3-5

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.