ROOTED

Basic Christianity

Five weeks exploring the foundations of the faith

ROOTED

Rooted: Sunday, 7-8pm, 14 April – 12 May 2024

Teaching, then Q&A.
All welcome. All questions welcome!

Five big questions:

1. *How can we know about God?*
   - *Revelation: God speaks to humanity in Jesus, and in his Word.*
2. *When did it all start?*
   - *Roots: God made us to know him.*
3. *Why did it go wrong?*
   - *Rebellion: we did it our way, otherwise known as sin.*
4. *Who will save us?*
   - *Rescue: God sends Jesus to be our Saviour.*
5. *What does the future hold?*
   - *Renewal or ruin? Heaven and hell are coming.*

Basic Christianity

Revelation (week 1)

Rebellion (week 3)

Ruin

Roots (week 2)

Rescue (week 4)

Renewal (week 5)

Basic Christianity

Revelation (week 1)

Rebellion (week 3)

Ruin

Roots (week 2)

Rescue (week 4)

Renewal (week 5)

Last week … why did it go wrong?

- Sin and judgement:
  - *We did it our way. Adam and Eve set the pattern: rejecting God's word, and receiving God's curse. Like them, we are all sinners. We don't love God or each other as we should.*
  - *God will punish us for rebelling against him.*

- The question we should be asking …
  - *Who will save us? We cannot save ourselves.*
  - *Rescue: God sends his Son, Jesus, as our Saviour.*

Who will rescue us?

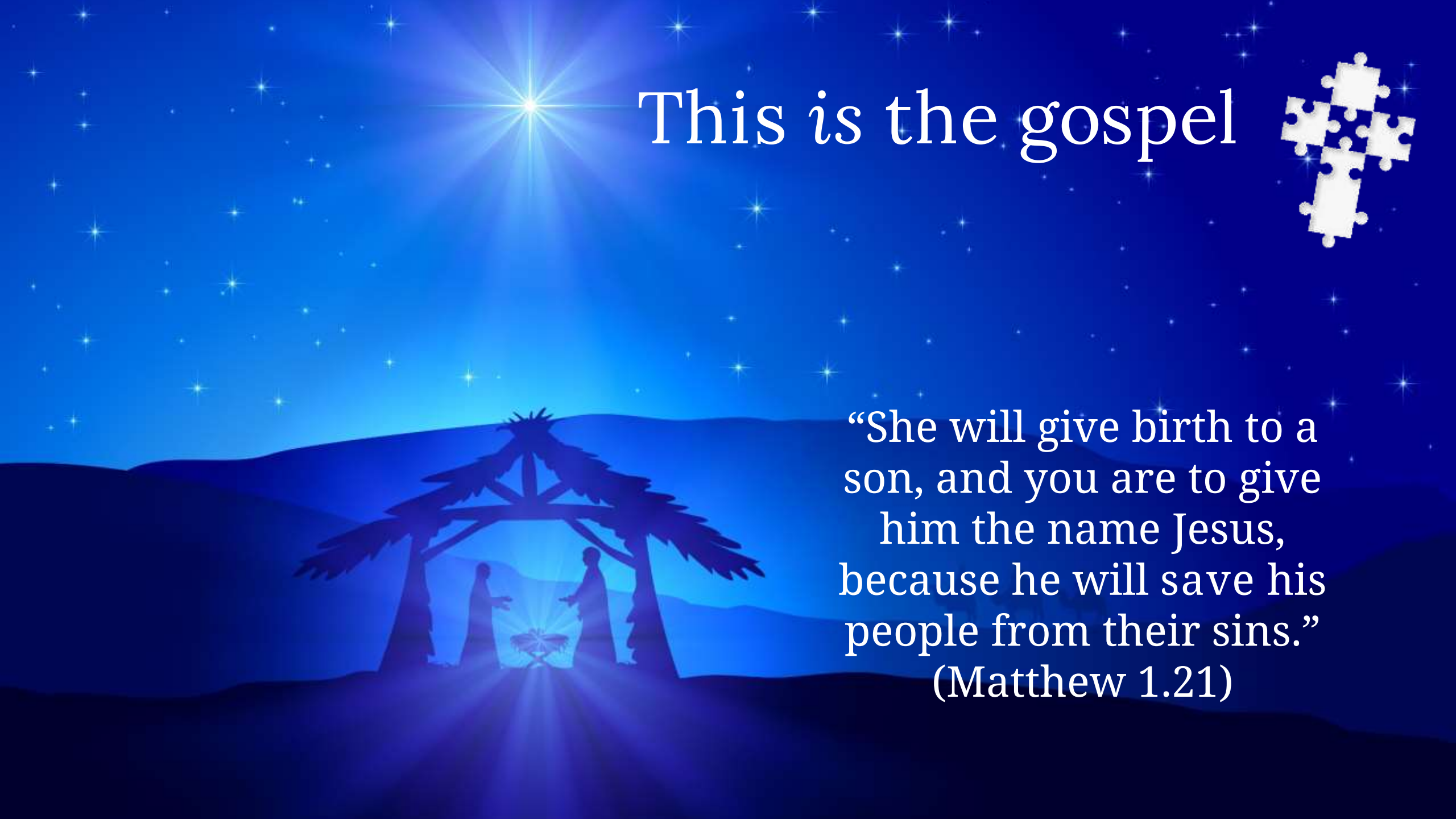
- Paul's question:
  - *"What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?" (Romans 7.24)*
- How does the Bible enable us to say with him?
  - *"Thanks be to God – through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (Romans 7.25)*

Who will rescue us?

- Jesus rescues us …
  - *by dying in our place on the cross.*
  - *by turning away the anger of God that we deserve, and bearing it himself.*
  - *by buying us back from our slavery to sin.*
  - *from death itself: we share his resurrection life.*

This *is* the gospel
"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."'
(Luke 2.10-11)

This *is* the gospel



"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."
(Matthew 1.21)

Substitution

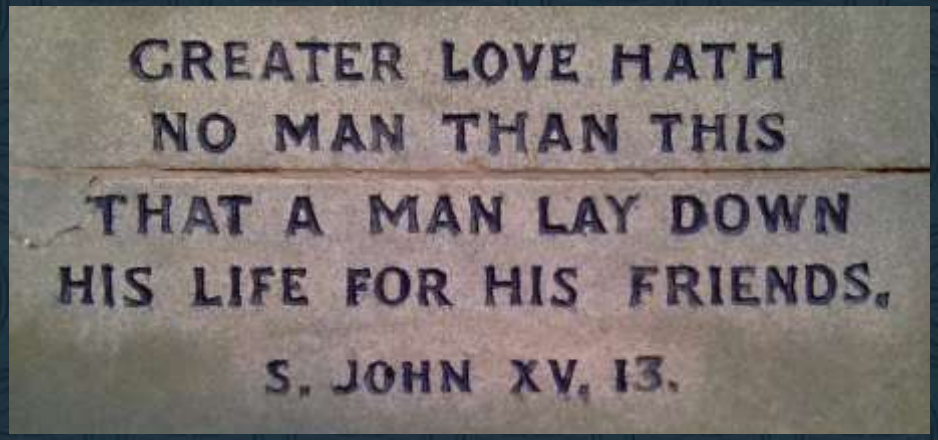
- Jesus rescues us by dying in our place on the cross. He is our *substitute*.
- This was promised in the Old Testament …
  - *"he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53.5-6)*

Substitution

- … and fulfilled in the New Testament:
  - *"… it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish." (Caiaphas, John 11.50)*
- It is Jesus' own testimony:
  - *"The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)*
  - *"This is my body given for you …" (Luke 22.19)*

Substitution

- It is the proof of God's love for us:
  - *"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5.8)*
  - *The cross is the supreme example of Jesus' own words: "Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." (John 15.13)*



Propitiation

- Jesus turns away the anger of God we deserve, and bears it himself.
- “He is the *propitiation* for our sins.” (1 John 2.2 AV)
- The apostle John says:
  - *“If anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defence – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the one who turns aside God’s wrath, taking away our sins, and not only ours but also the sins of the whole world.” (1 John 2.1-2fn)*

Propitiation

- The “cup” of God’s wrath in the prophets:
  - *“This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, said to me: ‘Take from my hand this cup filled with the wine of my wrath and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it.” (Jeremiah 25.15)*
- This is the background to Jesus’ prayer:
  - *“Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” (Luke 22.42)*
- “This is love … [God] sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” (1 John 4.10 ESV)

Redemption

- Through the cross, God “buys us back” for himself.
- “We have *redemption* through his blood.” (Ephesians 1.7)
- Remember last week:
  - *We reject God’s law, and he curses us.*
- Now hear what God has done in Christ:
  - *“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us.” (Galatians 3.13)*

Redemption

- This is the “great exchange”:
  - *“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5.21)*
  - *“For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.” (1 Peter 3.18)*
- Redemption leads to adoption:
  - *“God sent his Son, … to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, ‘Abba, Father.’” (Galatians 4.4-6)*

Resurrection

- Jesus rescues us from death itself.
- He said “I am the *resurrection* and the life.” (Jn 11.25-26)
  - *“He who believes in me will live, even though he dies …”*
    - *We will still die physically (unless he returns first): but through faith in him, we will be raised to live forever, just as he was.*
    - *“But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.” (1 Corinthians 15.23)*

Resurrection

- *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!*
  In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade – kept in heaven for you …”
  (1 Peter 1.3-4)
- *“… and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.”*
  - *In Christ, we know God and the life of God now and always.*
  - *“Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” (John 17.3)*
- *“Do you believe this?”*
  - *It is still his question: and we will explore the consequences next week.*

Who will rescue us?

- Paul's question:
  - *"What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?" (Romans 7.24)*
- The Bible's answer: it is through *Jesus'* death that we are rescued from *our* death:
  - *"Thanks be to God – through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (Romans 7.25)*

Who will rescue us?

- Because Jesus rescues us …
  - *by dying in our place on the cross.*
  - *by turning away the anger of God that we deserve, and bearing it himself.*
  - *by buying us back from our slavery to sin.*
  - *from death itself: we share his resurrection life.*

Basic Christianity

Revelation (week 1)

Rebellion (week 3)

Ruin

Roots (week 2)

Rescue (week 4)

Renewal (week 5)