

30 Oct '2016

The "manufacturing" of the Torah/Word in the OT = typology of JC, the incarnated Word

~ **SLIDE 1 (Bible):** JC is the *incarnated Word of God* (JOHN 1:1-14). The Word of God is *Life-giving and indeed God-breathed* (2 TIM 3:16). It is a *collection of "love letters" from the eternal Bridegroom to his bride/us* (EPHES 5:22 / REV 19:7), instructing "her"/us how to live as his bride and how to prepare for his return.

~ **SLIDE 2 (scroll):** *In the writing of the Torah* = making copies of it by hand (by scribes), *we can see the typology of Jesus*. Because *everything in the Old Testament pointed towards Him* (LUKE 24:44)! And even today/this morning it's all about Him - his glory!.. It took a scribe ± 4-5 years to complete a copy of the Torah.

~ **SLIDE 3 (lambskin):** The scribes *used about 80 lambskins to complete 1 copy* of the Torah. The skins were *soaked in water, in order to remove all the hair*. This produced a smooth skin for the purpose of writing on it. Then this lambskin *was stretched out on a wooden frame to dry out*. Once dry, the skin *was cut into rectangular sheets* for the sake of writing purposes. *Typology of Jesus: He was the Lamb of God = JOHN 1:29-35.*

~ **SLIDE 4 (prepared skin):** The scribe would then *use a stylus to draw lines on the skin*. (Same effect as when one uses your nail to draw a line on a piece of paper) In other words *he was "striping" the skin*. *Typology of Jesus: He was "striped" = ISAIAH 53:4-5/5b.*

~ **SLIDE 5 (ink/writing process):** They used *freshly prepared ink everyday*. Every time a letter was written, *the scribe sang it out loud to help him to concentrate and prevent any mistake* (same letter was repeated a few times to make it bold/dark). Why was it NB *not* to make a mistake? *When a mistake was made* - no matter how far this Torah had been written (even possibly 3-4 of the 5 years) - *that copy was destroyed!..* *Typology of Jesus: Christ, the incarnated Word, was without any sin/blemish = 2 COR 5:21 / 1 PET 3:18.*

~ **SLIDE 6 (completion of scroll):** Once all the "pages" were written, *they were sown together with lamb sinews* (Hebrew = *giddin*). *Then they were nailed to 2 wooden rollers, called* (listen to this!) *ezaï hayim = Trees of Life*. Incredible - the physical Torah (OT) was striped lambskins "hanging on the Tree of Life"! *Typology of Jesus: It is a foreshadow of our eternal Bridegroom, JC - the incarnated Word of God - hanging on the "Tree of Life" . By hanging on that cursed wood/cross, He brought us (the possibility of) eternal Life=1 PET 2:24... Can you believe it - even the written Word is (in itself) an introduction of the Messiah to the world!*

**MARK 10:13-16 = YOUTH (To believe/obey God with a childlike faith...)**  
*[God is looking for an "I will do it"-generation]*

**#SCRIPTURE READING:** Hebrews 11:1-6 (1,6) Mark 10:13-16 (15), Psalm 34:1-22 (15-22)

**#SERMON=BEFOREHAND:** It is estimated that about 500 000 people saw Jesus in Brazil during August this year. Did you hear that? About 500 000 people had a visual encounter with JC the Redeemer, in Rio de Janeiro during August this year... *I just wonder how many people did Jesus see?..*

**#SERMON=INTRODUCTION:** (1) The Christian author, *James Banks* writes: "On a recent flight the landing was a little rough, jostling us left & right down the runway. Some of the passengers were visibly nervous, *but the tension broke when 2 little girls sitting behind me cheered: "Yeah! Let's do that again!"* Why do you think did they say that?..

(2) Clip of *little Jordan* "being baptised = baptising himself!"

Key words: "*Ha - I will do it!*"

+**TRANSITION:** Dear Young People (YP) & B/S in CJ, may I humbly ask: *What is your definition of faith?* This "Just believe and everything will be fine" story - *does it* make sense to you = *does it* "work" for you? *If your answer is "Yes" - why? If your answer is "No" - why?..* Am I right in saying *for many of us it is a difficult journey, not only to grasp/make sense of it - but to live it with conviction?..*

+**EXEGESIS & APPLICATION:** *Why is it* that Jesus said the following in **MARK 10:15** = "**Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it**"? *What did the Son of God mean when He said these incredible words?*

*\*1st of all I think He meant exactly just that; meaning that we have to read and obey this Book "as is". 2ndly I believe He said it because little - little! - children don't ask questions, they believe, trust and do!* Referring back to the abovementioned 2 little girls on the plane - their reaction/behaviour could be part of the explanation for Jesus saying what he said. *Little children are open to new adventures and see life with humble, wide-eyed wonder.*

*\*But I believe there is a 3rd reason why Jesus said it; and that is because who said the Gospel "makes sense"?* "What do you mean, Gerhard?" Dear YP & B/S: *\*Go and ask Noah who had to build an ark over a period of a 120 years - in the desert!* We're not talking about a canoe here; it's a vessel the length of 1½ football fields and as high as a four-story building. *[By the way: The boat was exactly 6 times longer than it was wide - the same ratio used by modern shipbuilders].* He had to endure mocking people (**GEN 6:13-16**). *\*Or an 80 year old Moses who had to go unarmed & tell the pharaoh that he had to allow the Israelites to leave Egypt (EXOD 6:10).* *\*Or Gideon who, with his 300 men, had to attack 130 000 opponents (JUDGES 6-7).* *\*Or David who attacked the giant, Goliath, with 5 stones (1 SAM 17: 31-54).* *\*Or Stephen, the martyr, who prayed to God to forgive those that were stoning/killing him (ACTS 7:1-60).* *\*Or Paul & Silas who, after being beaten with rods in Philippi, were thrown into jail - their feet fastened in the stocks; and yet - at midnight they were praying and glorifying God by singing hymns (ACTS 16).* *[By the way, I believe the following re them being set free by that earthquake: As they sang, glorifying God amidst their suffering, He was so pleased, that He started keeping time with his foot - resulting in the earthquake...]*

No, dear YP & B/S, *the Gospel/faith - according to worldly standards/perspectives - doesn't make sense at all.* I believe the American fiction writer, Madeleine L'Engle (†2007), summarised it beautifully when she said: *"We try to be too reasonable about what we believe. What I*

believe is not reasonable at all. *In fact, it's hilariously impossible.* But possible things aren't worth much. These crazy impossible things keep us going." May I add: *Where proof is possible - faith is impossible!*.. Dear YP & B/S in CJ, some call it "*The paradox of the Gospel*": *That if you want to live - you have to die to yourself; that if you want to be first - you have to be prepared to be last; that if you want to retain/keep what you have - you have to let go/sacrifice it; that in God's Kingdom the servant is the leader (LUKE 22:26).* Jesus washing the feet of his disciples (JOHN 13:1-17): Knowing Who He was, He took the water&towel and washed their feet. [*By the way*: Brothers, we as priests in our homes - *let's serve like kings, lead like servants*] *Illustration of the "upside-down" Gospel.*

*\*Practical application* of these abovementioned truths into "*my*" *eagle story*. During July 2007 (after 25 years of road running) no more running because of injuries; life changing = cried/wept on God's lap. Suddenly, from *Sep 2007* the verse **ISAIAH 40:27-31 (31) = "But those who wait for the Lord (who expect, look for and hope in Him) shall change and renew their strength and power. They shall lift their wings and mount up [close to God] like eagles [to the sun]. They shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint or grow tired."** Early the morning of the *6th of March 2008* - 2 fish eagles calling above our home here in town; I was so excited! Then, 5 days later, the *11th of March* a huge, mature martial eagle in a tree in front of our house = detail. From then on **ISAIAH 40:31** everywhere "in my face"... 6 months later (*Sep 2008*) - *on tour in Israel. Very NB discussion @ an ancient site (Betsaida).* There, in listening to the Holy Spirit "talking" to me through people (using an illustration about eagles), I realised God's "eagle"-journey with me during the past year *re ISA 40:31, had nothing to do with "running for fun" but all to do with "running for Life"*. That I had to be obedient to what He tells me in his Word, no matter the price - which in my case meant I would have to sacrifice my position as "dominee" in my congregation (and all the securities that went along with that)... *Testimony about the next hour*: I immediately said: "*Yes, God - I will do it.* And because of your 'track-record' with me, I know You'll take care of me. *I want to be obedient!*" Drove up the mountain pass leading to the Syrian border, to a lookout point at the Sea of Galilee. Stopped, got out, etc... Got back onto the bus - in front, next to driver (in the normal "tourguide seat"); wanted to intercede/pray silently for him = Asher... Drove off, back onto the road leading to Syria/Golan Heights. And the next moment *3 huge eagles flying right in front of the bus!*.. The best was yet to follow: *Asher, a secular Jew, drew my attention to the eagles - and started prophesying over me in terms of the eagles!*.. The rest is an incredible testimony - resulting in me standing here this morning *as a living proof that God honours childlike "I will do it" faith*..

*\*Summarize: (1) Even the written Word introduces us to the Incarnated Word. (2) 1000's of people saw Jesus "with outstretched/inviting arms" in Rio during August. (3) God looks for a "with childlike faith/an I will do it" generation. (4) But that means that we will have to believe/live "upside-down", 'cause it's a "no-sense" Gospel! (5) Illustrated by my "Eagle" story.*

+**CONCLUSION**: *Tallit* = Jewish prayer shawl. **MARK 5:27-28** x instant healing of woman. But everybody who touched "**the hem of his garment**" *were always healed (MARK 6:56).* Why?.. **NUM 15:38-39** = God commanded Jewish men to wear it *as a reminder of his laws and promises.* Greek word for fringes/corners = *kraspedon.* Hebrew words: *corner = kanaph* (garment/fold/wings) and *knotted, ritual fringe/tassel = tzitzit* (plural = *tzitziot*). End of *OT*, **MAL 4:2** = "**But to you who fear my Name, the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in his wings;**" *NT*: That's why they were healed! They grabbed onto his wings = "**the hem of his garment**"... The eagle testimony: Hebrew word for wings = *kanaph.* The "*Christ the Redeemer*" statue in Rio = *redeeming, inviting, covering, outstretched arms.* For those who make Him their hidingplace **PS 91:4** is a practical reality! And while He "covers" his children, He also sees us/looks after us - read **2 CHRON 16:9!** Halleluja & Amen! (...Preke\Jeug\Mark10v15)