

A COMMUNITY OF  
**LOVE &**  
**POWER**

AN EPHESIANS SERIES ON JESUS' CHURCH.

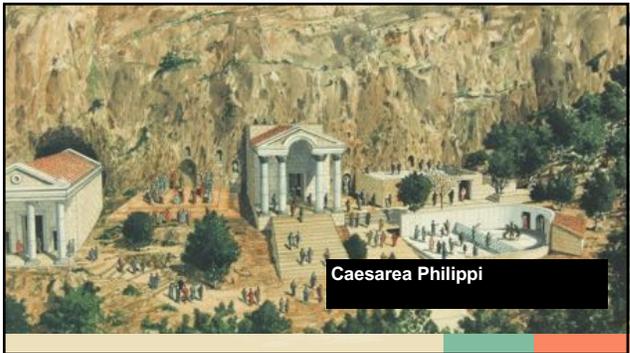
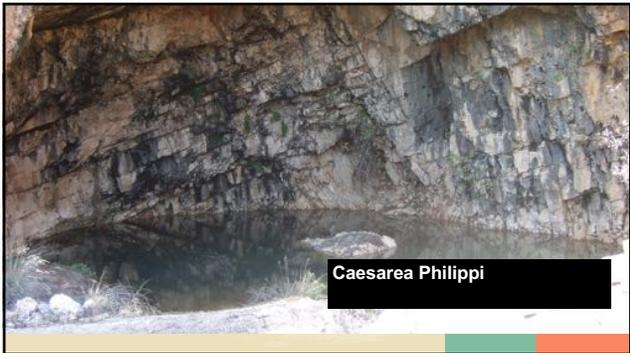


Matthew 16:30-20

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

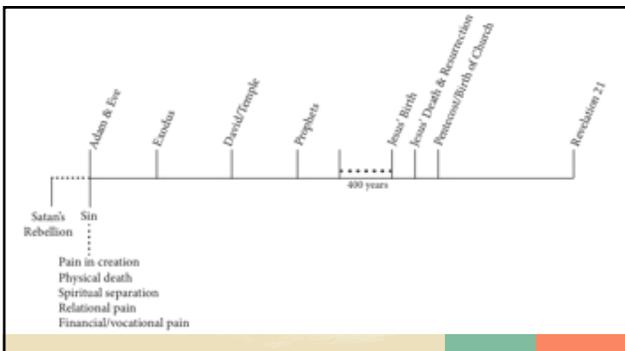
"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.



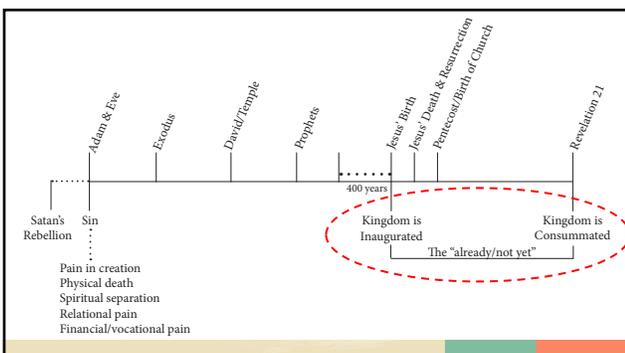
Reality #1

**If I take on Jesus as my Lord, I take on the devil as my enemy.**



Reality #2

**We live in the "in-between" times.**



Reality #3

**We fight the battle on three fronts.**

**Eph 2:1-3**

"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath."

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The Battle  
inside you:  
**FLESH**

The Battle  
around you:  
**WORLD**

The Battle  
against  
you:  
**DEVIL**

**Eph 6:10-17**

<sup>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup>Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup>Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup>and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.



Reality #4

**We are called to stand – to advance.**



**Hadrian's Wall:**  
Northern England



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**We struggle to advance the gospel when we...**

- Forget who God is
- Forget who we are...and confuse living vs. perfect examples
- Are not "ready" because of our pace of life, relationships with others
- Quit believing what God can do in -- and through -- us

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