14 - New Testament Salvation History

I The Old Testament prefigures the New

 A Events in the old testament shed light on the events in the new testament

 B the Old covenants are building up to the new covenant of Jesus

 C Examples

 1 Isaac sacrifice – son, carries the wood, uncomplaining, exchange at the last minute by a ram (sheep) – foretells Jesus!

 2 The arch of the Covenant – foretells Mary

 a the Holy Spirit overshadowing the ark and the Holy Spirit overshadowing Mary

 b the Ark of the Old Covenant as the dwelling place of God and Mary as the new dwelling place of God

 c David went out to retrieve the ark (1 Sm 6:1-2). After a man named Uzzah was struck dead when he touched the ark, David was afraid and said, “How can the ark of the Lord come to me?” He left the ark in the hill country of Judea for three months – Mary was greeted by Elizabeth in the hill country of Judea an stayed for three months

 d When David approached the ark he shouted out and danced and leapt in front of the ark. He was wearing an ephod, the clothing of a priest. When Mary, the Ark of the New Covenant, approached Elizabeth, John the Baptist leapt in his mother’s womb—and John was from the priestly line of Aaron

 e The ark returns to its home and ends up in Jerusalem, where God’s presence and glory is revealed in the temple (2 Sm 6:12; 1 Kgs 8:9-11). Mary returns home and eventually ends up in Jerusalem, where she presents God incarnate in the temple

 D At each new covenant, God enlarges the circle of those included, and makes it more personal

II Jesus the Christ

 A The last full expression of the Word of God (revelation)

 1 Jesus is God Himself, so there can be no clearer or more of a full disclosure

 2 Jesus is the fulfillment of the promises of God

 3 Jesus is the Messiah (anointed one, Christos in Greek)

 B Jesus came to set us free from sin and death

 C God came to dwell among us (Emanuel, God is with us)

III The life of Jesus

 A Birth, escape, escape, foreign land, return to Nazareth

 1 Born in Bethlehem – house of bread

 2 Placed in a manger – feeding trough for animals

 3 Wrapped in swaddling clothes

 a strip of cloth from used vestments in the temple

 b used to bind the new lamb so that it would remain “unblemished” – wouldn’t harm itself – later sacrificed in the temple

 4 Given three gifts

 a Gold for a king

 b Frankincense (best incense) for God

 c Myrrh – for a burial

 d given by non-Jews (gentiles)

 B 30 years of “normal” living

 C Public ministry – building a community, an assembly (Church)

 1 Teaching is not always obvious, but often in complex parables

 2 often pulled the 12 aside to explain the meanings of the parables

 3 Affirmed the fundamentals of Jewish worship but cut away the unnecessary parts

 4 showed a firm belief in the Hebrew Scriptures, including Maccabees

 5 always aimed at His upcoming death in Jerusalem

 6 culminates in the upper room

 D Pasion and death

 1 claimed to be God (Blasphemy!)

 2 critical of some groups

 3 Said He was the Mesiah, the King of Israel

 4 Jewish leaders handed Him over to the Roman authorities because the were not allowed to apply the death penalty on their own

 5 Flogged (40 lashes, often killed by itself)

 6 Crucified – one of the mot painful ways to die

 7 Died teaching his followers (My God, My God, why have you abandoned me?”

 8 willing victim

 E Resurrection

 1 on the third day – truly dead

 2 The same yet changed

 a still has the wounds of the cross

 b able to eat and be touched – not a ghost or spirit!

 C recognizable as Himself, yet different enough that some miss

 3 spent days teaching the Apostles – making sure they understood

 4 Ascended into heaven and sent the Holy Spirit to enlighten and build the Church

IV I will send the Paraclete….

 A Sacraments continue the life of Jeus in us

 B Make present God incarnate through signs and wonders

 C Fulfill His mission in new places and times

 D The Church understands that we are all sinners in need of a savior (Rom 5:12-21). We are inheritors of original sin and all its consequences, and by actual sin we distance ourselves from God. We can’t save ourselves, but we don’t need to: Jesus Christ has paid the price for our sins. The Catholic Church teaches that salvation comes through Jesus alone (Acts 4:12), since he is the “one mediator between God and man” (1 Tm 2:5-6).

 E The saving grace won by Jesus is offered as a free gift to us, accessible through repentance, faith, and baptism. We turn away from our sins, we are sorry for them, and we believe in Jesus Christ and the gospel. Repentance shows our willingness to turn from things that keep us from God, and baptism renews us, filling us with the grace necessary to have faith and to live it. This belief is more than just “head knowledge.” Even the demons have that (Jas 2:19). It’s more than just believing you’re saved. Even the Pharisees had that (Jn 5:39). True, saving faith is one lived and exhibited daily: It is “faith working through love” (Gal 5:6, cf. Jas 2:1-26).

 F Sometimes the Church is accused of teaching “salvation by works,” but this is an empty accusation. This idea has been consistently condemned by the Church. Good works are required by God because he requires obedience to his commands (Mt 6:1-21, 1 Cor 3:8, 13-15) and promises to reward us with eternal life if we obey (Mt 25:34-40, Rom 2:6-7, Gal 6:6-10, Jas 1:12). But even our obedience is impossible without God’s grace; even our good works are God’s gift (Rom 5:5, Phil 2:13). This is the real biblical plan of salvation.