

# Reading Scripture with Paul

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For Instruction...

# Structure

- Examine the 5 main ways that Paul found Scripture useful for instruction
  - The grand story of Scripture
  - The call of Scripture
  - The underlying morals of Scripture
  - The examples of Scripture
  - Scripture speaks to us
- Examine how Paul saw the Law of Moses fitting in with the gospel

# How did Paul view the Law?

- On one hand
  - Galatians 6v15 NEB *“Circumcision is nothing; uncircumcision is nothing; the only thing that counts is new creation.”*
  - Galatians 3v23-25 Young’s Literal *“The law became our child-conductor - to Christ”*
- And on the other
  - Romans 3v31 *“Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law”*
  - Romans 15v4 *“For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ”*



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# 1. The Grand Story of Scripture

The 4 books Paul quotes from the most are

- Isaiah (30 times)
- Psalms (36 times)
- Genesis (21 times)
- Deuteronomy (19 times)

# 1. The Grand Story of Scripture

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says, “In a favourable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the favourable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. ” 2 Corinthians 5v17-6v2 ESV*



# 1. The Grand Story of Scripture

- The big picture
  - *“In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself” – 2 Corinthians 5v19*
- What time is it?
  - *“Now is the day of salvation” – 2 Corinthians 6v2*
- Proof?
  - Isaiah 49v8 *“Thus saith the LORD, in an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee.”*
- What time is Isaiah speaking of?
  - Isaiah 49v6 *“It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.”*

# 1. The Grand Story of Scripture

- What is God doing right now?
  - Creating – 2 Corinthians 5v17 *“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”*
- The new creation, and the old passing away
  - Isaiah 43v18-19 *“Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.”*
  - Isaiah 65v17-18 *“For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice forever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.”*



# 1. The Grand Story of Scripture

- Where do we fit in?
- Called to become the righteousness of God
  - 2 Corinthians 5v21 *“in him [Christ] we might become the righteousness of God”*
- Called to be the visible manifestation of the God who is reconciling the world to himself

## 2. The Call of Scripture

- The Law is instruction to righteousness and love
  - Galatians 5v14, “For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”
- Those in Christ can fulfil the Law
  - 1 Corinthians 7v19 “Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but what matters is the keeping of the commandments of God.”

## 2. The Call of Scripture

- True circumcision is of the heart; true Jewishness hasn't anything to do with physical appearance
  - Romans 2v26-29, Philippians 3v2-3
- Being circumcised of heart is what God wanted all along
  - Deuteronomy 30v6-8, Jeremiah 31v31-33



## 2. The Call of Scripture

- The summary
  - Romans 8v3-4 ESV *“For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for [a] sin [offering], he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the righteous [or just] requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the spirit.”*

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### 3. The underlying morals of Scripture

- Paul assumes standards of behaviour based on Scripture
    - Galatians 5v19-21, 1 Corinthians 6v9-11
  - Paul could have used Scripture to support his statement that homosexuality is wrong
    - Leviticus 18v22, Leviticus 20v13
- but he doesn't
- Paul assumes his readers have read Scripture, picked up on its general flavour and arrived at the same conclusions



## 4. The examples of Scripture

- Scripture provides examples, both good and bad, for believers to be instructed by
- The example of Israel in the wilderness - 1 Corinthians 10
- The example of Christ from Scripture - Romans 15v1-13
  - Psalm 69v9 *"The reproaches of them... fell on me"*
  - Scripture describes Christ welcoming Jews and Gentiles into his body – Psalm 18v49, Deuteronomy 32v43, Psalm 117v1 and Isaiah 11v10
  - Therefore *"welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God"* Romans 15v7 ESV

## 5. Scripture speaks to us

- Does Paul use Scripture to prove that Jesus is the Messiah?
  - Romans 1v2-3 “he [God] *promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son*”
  - 1 Corinthians 15v3-4 “Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures”
- Apart from in the letter to the Hebrews, not really

## 5. Scripture speaks to us

- Paul sees Scripture as speaking directly to the ecclesia
  - 1 Corinthians 9v9-10 Jerusalem Bible *“It is written in the Law of Moses: ‘You must not put a muzzle on the ox when it is treading out the corn.’ Is it about oxen that God is concerned or is there not an obvious reference to ourselves? Clearly this was written for our sake to show that the ploughman ought to plough in expectation, and the thresher to thresh in expectation of getting his share”*
- God speaks directly to us through Scripture



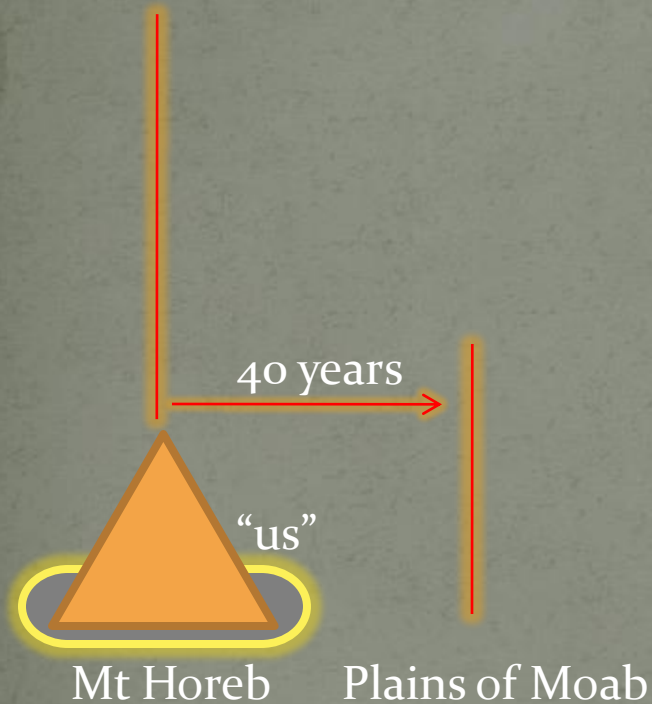
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- More examples
  - Romans 4v23-24 “Now it was not written for his [Abraham’s] sake alone, that it was imputed to him; but for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead”
  - 1 Corinthians 10v11 “all these things happened unto them [Israel] for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.”
  - Romans 15v4 “whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

## 5. Scripture speaks to us

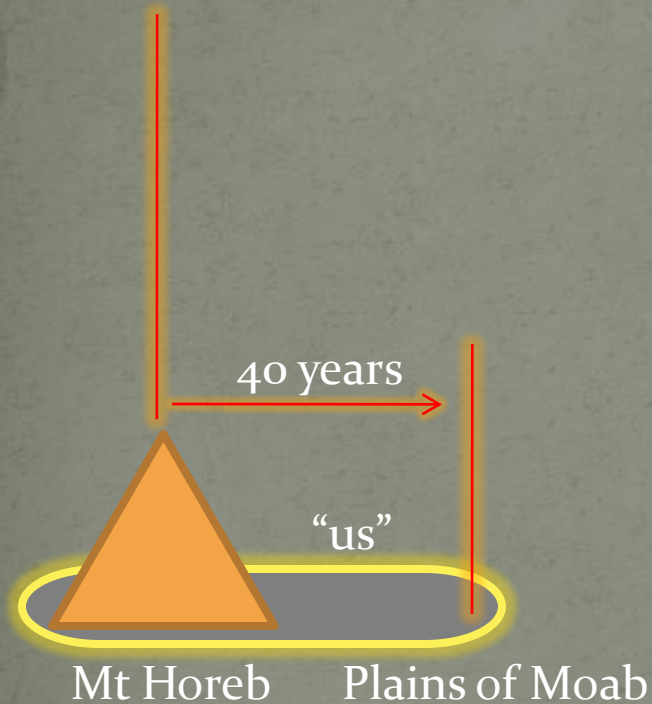
- We are reading Scripture the right way when we see it as speaking directly to us
  - In 1 Corinthians 5v7, Paul uses Deuteronomy 17v7 as words spoken directly to the Corinthians “*Drive out that evil person from among yourselves*”
  - Galatians 4v30 Sarah's demand to Abraham, becomes the direct word of Scripture to the Galatians “*Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not inherit with the son of the free-woman*”

## 5. Scripture speaks to us

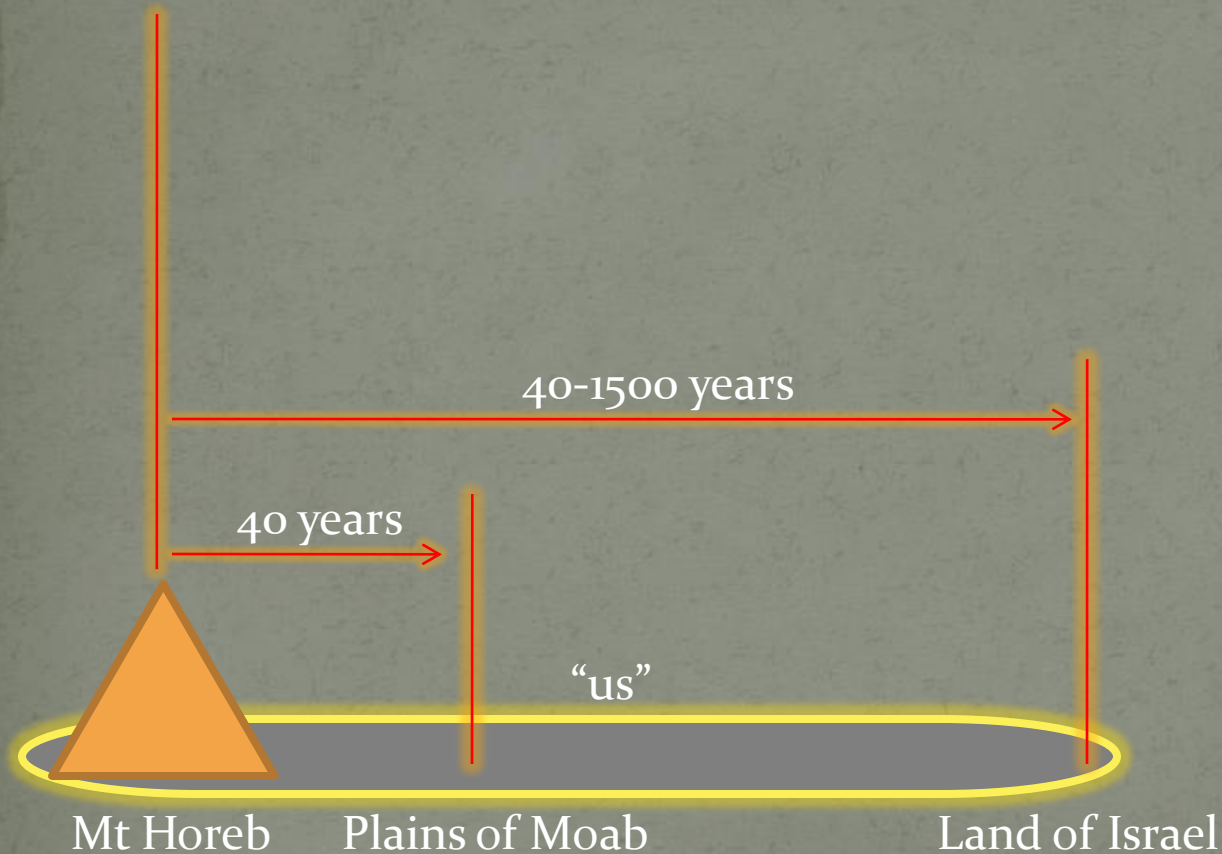




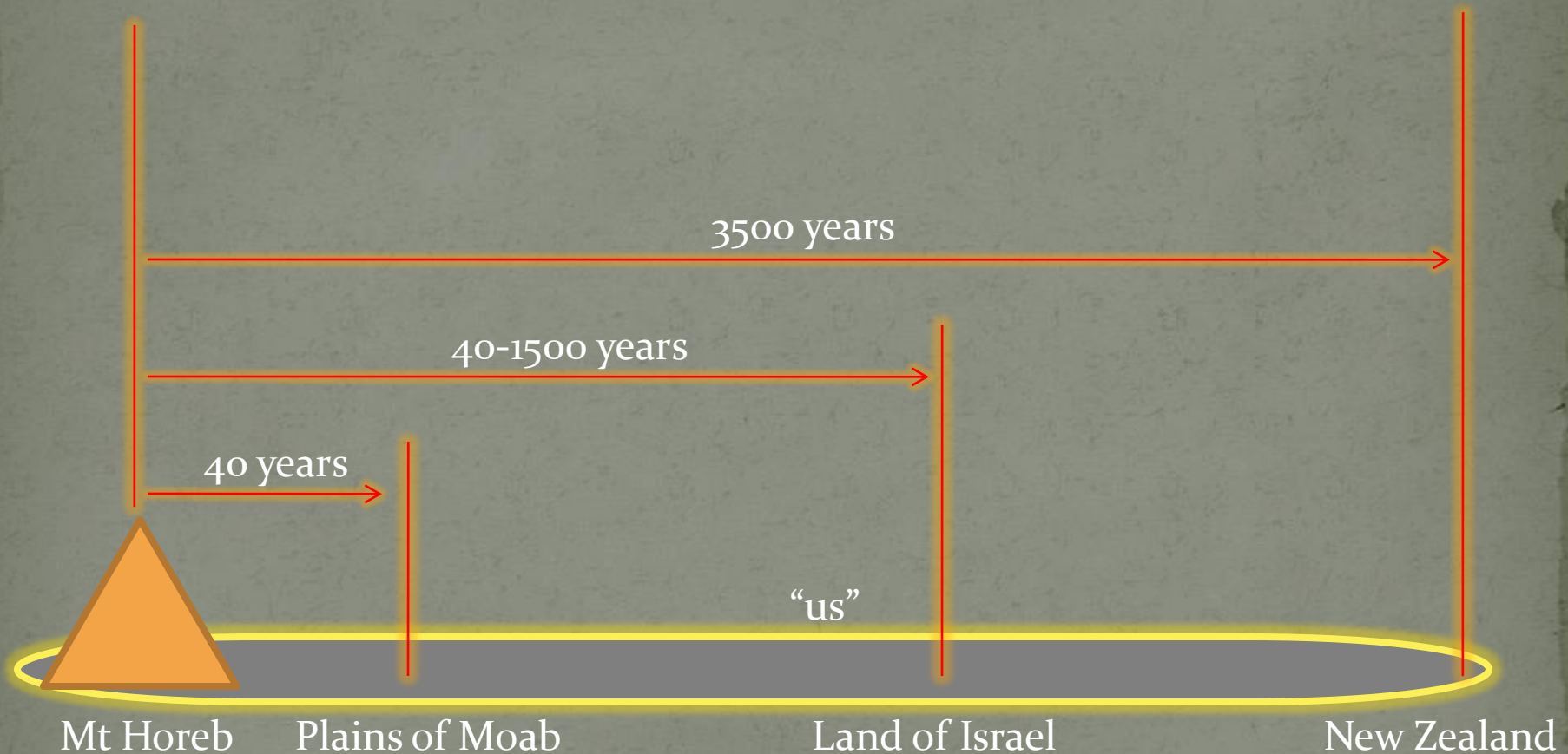
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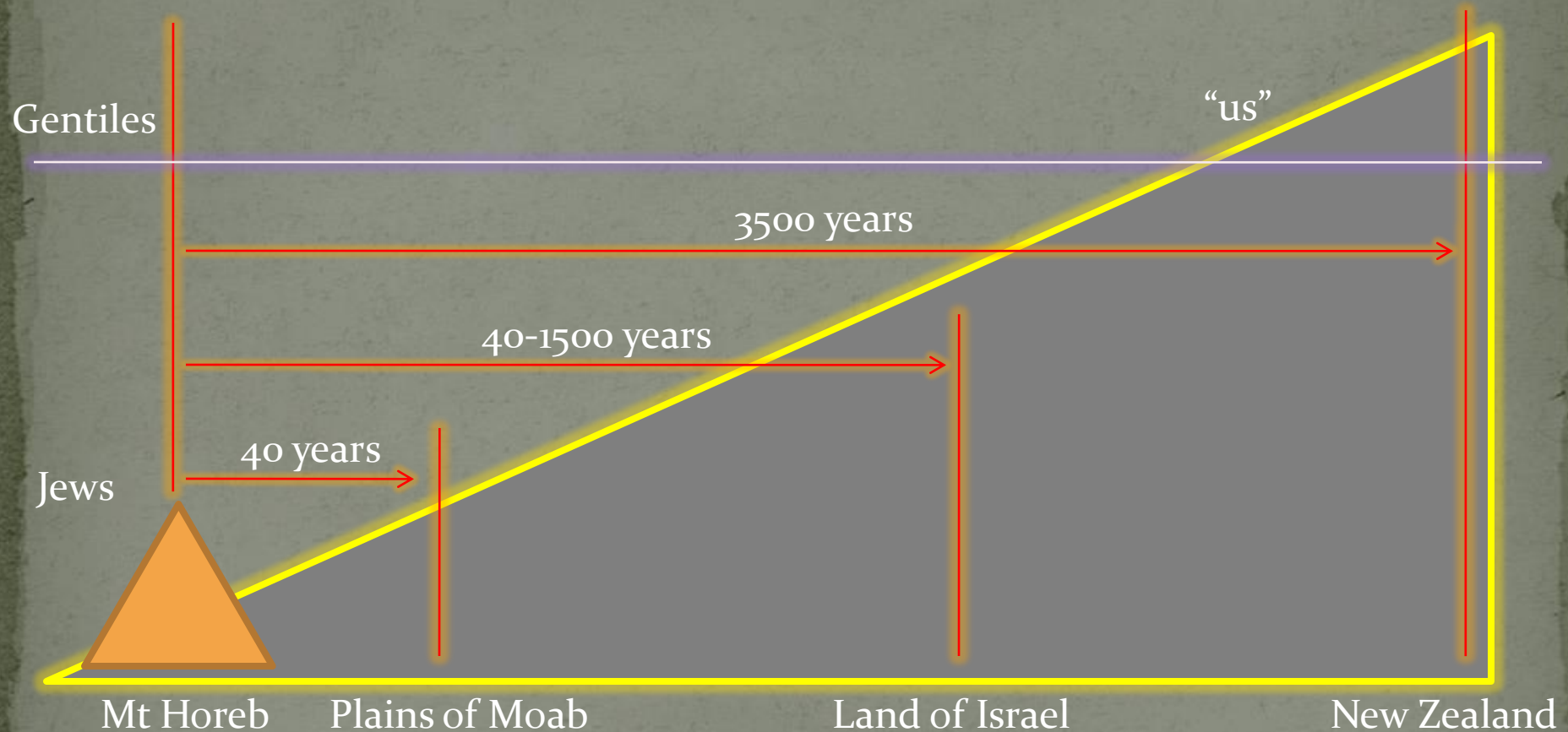


# 5. Scripture speaks to us





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# Summary

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