

The People of The Way

John the Baptist introduced Jesus with these words "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare **The Way** of the Lord; Make His paths straight". It was Jesus who blazed for us **The Way** to the Father.

It was this same Jesus who said "I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. ⁴ And where I go you know, and **The Way** you know."

⁵ Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know **The Way?**"

⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am **The Way**, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. Who also said "follow Me that where I am you may be also" for us to recognize our journey.

You see Jesus came to fulfill all the law and the prophets as well as that whole culture. Meaning His followers had to depart from that Jerusalem because God was done with it. He said "if they persecute Me, they will persecute you too, and they did. They killed Him. They were not welcome there.

After Christ's resurrection and right before He was taken up, He told the disciples not to depart from Jerusalem "until you have heard from Me". Then they were to depart because that Jerusalem had expired in purpose for God. The disciples were on **The Way**.

Right before Paul's conversion scripture says, Then Saul/Paul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of **The Way**, whether men or women, he might bring them bound (back) to Jerusalem." Of whom Christ immediately came to their defense and said "Saul why do you persecute Me?. Meaning if you come against one of Mine you come against Me. Christ was defending the people of **The Way**. It was here followers were first called **The Way**.

Then there was a demon possessed girl who saw Paul after his conversion "and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us **The Way** of salvation". It was seen here first that Paul was converted and now known as one of those among the people of **The Way**.

It was Aquila and Priscilla who explained to him **The Way** of God more accurately.

At Paul's first visit to Ephesus he prayed for them to receive the Holy Spirit, then he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God. ⁹ But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of **The Way**, showing us that the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and The Kingdom of God at Hand were part and parcel of the Gospel, and harmonious with the believers of **The Way**.

In Paul's self defense to Felix he said "this I confess to you, that according to **The Way** which **they** call a sect, so I worship **the** God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in **the** Law and in **the** Prophets." Meaning that they had been expired.

Peter in his writings called the people of "**The Way**", "**The pilgrims of the Dispersion**" of those who departed from Jerusalem having heard from Jesus. The message of **The Way** was to be preached to all the Nation's.

It started with the Jews first because the Covenant associated with that culture was over, and The New Covenant started with the Judgment of that Jerusalem so their time frame was short. For many on The Way, it was the persecution of the Jews that dispersed them like Paul did. But God chose Paul first as a prototype so that the other Jews could understand that it wasn't too late to repent and they could leave the coming persecution as well. If Paul could be saved anyone could, which is important for us today too because Today is the day of salvation.

Even the writer of Hebrews attested to old testament people on the way calling them "strangers and **pilgrims** on the earth, which is a quote from David who after finishing the temple preparations for his son Soloman said in prayer "we are ^[e]aliens and ^[f]pilgrims before You, As **were all** our fathers;

Our days on earth *are* as a shadow" showing us that David knew that his journey and the temple we're of a Heavenly sort, for they looked for a City whose builder and maker was God, and not Solomon or the Jews. Didn't Jesus fulfill the promise that David's Son would build Him a Temple? And even beggars in Jerusalem on the time of Christ said "son of David have mercy on me" for us to know that Christ fulfilled that prophecy too.

For they looked for the City whose builder and maker is God" whose composition and design was of a Heavenly sort.

So knowing that the believers were called "The Way"