

Psalm 46 NLT

For the choir director: A song of the descendants of Korah, to be sung by soprano voices.

¹ God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.

² So we will not fear when earthquakes come and the mountains crumble into the sea.

³ Let the oceans roar and foam. Let the mountains tremble as the waters surge!

Interlude

⁴ A river brings joy to the city of our God, the sacred home of the Most High.

⁵ God dwells in that city; it cannot be destroyed. From the very break of day, God will protect it.

⁶ The nations are in chaos, and their kingdoms crumble!

God's voice thunders, and the earth melts!

⁷ The LORD of Heaven's Armies is here among us; the God of Israel is our fortress.

Interlude

⁸ Come, see the glorious works of the LORD: See how he brings destruction upon the world.

⁹ He causes wars to end throughout the earth. He breaks the bow and snaps the spear;

he burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ "Be still, and know that I am God!

I will be honored by every nation.

I will be honored throughout the world."

¹¹ The LORD of Heaven's Armies is here among us;

the God of Israel is our fortress.

Interlude

Psalm 46 (AV)

To the chief Musician for the sons of Korah, A Song upon Alamoth.

¹ God *is* our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

² Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed,
and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

³ *though* the waters thereof roar *and* be troubled,
though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.

⁴ *There is* a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God,
the holy *place* of the tabernacles of the most High.

⁵ God *is* in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, *and that* right early.

⁶ The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted.

⁷ The LORD of hosts *is* with us; the God of Jacob *is* our refuge. Selah.

⁸ Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he hath made in the earth.

⁹ He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth;

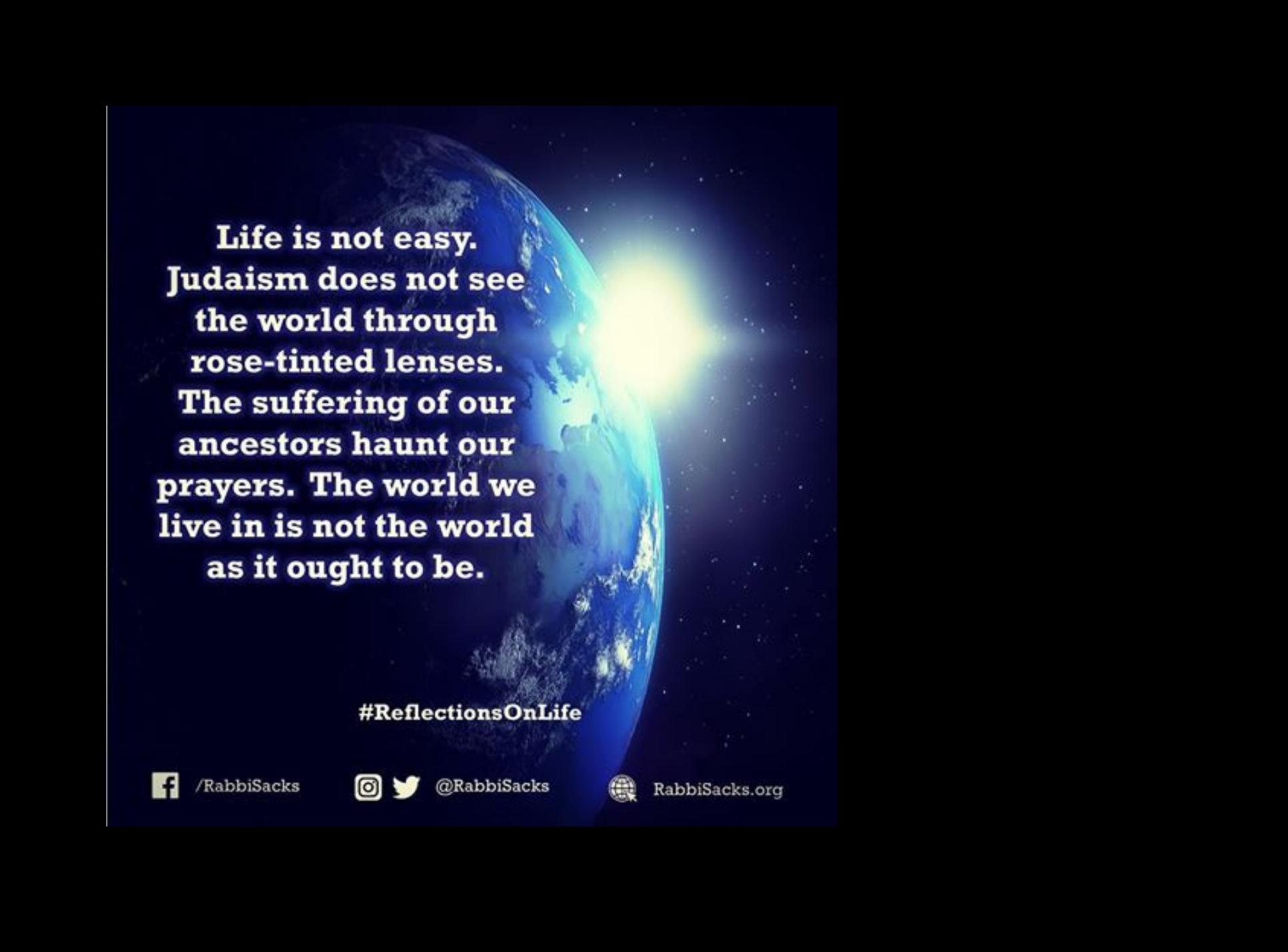
he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire.

¹⁰ Be still, and know that I *am* God:

I will be exalted among the heathen,

I will be exalted in the earth.

¹¹ The LORD of hosts *is* with us; the God of Jacob *is* our refuge. Selah.



**Life is not easy.
Judaism does not see
the world through
rose-tinted lenses.
The suffering of our
ancestors haunt our
prayers. The world we
live in is not the world
as it ought to be.**

#ReflectionsOnLife



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Mark 12 (NLT)

The Most Important Commandment

²⁸ One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

²⁹ Jesus replied, “The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD. ³⁰ And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’^[a] ³¹ The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’^[b] No other commandment is greater than these.”

³² The teacher of religious law replied, “Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth by saying that there is only one God and no other.³³ And I know it is important to love him with all my heart and all my understanding and all my strength, and to love my neighbor as myself. This is more important than to offer all of the burnt offerings and sacrifices required in the law.”

³⁴ Realizing how much the man understood, Jesus said to him, “You are not far from the Kingdom of God.” And after that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Matthew 13: 24 – 30 (NLT): Parable of the Wheat and Weeds

²⁴ Here is another story Jesus told: “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. ²⁵ But that night as the workers slept, his enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat, then slipped away. ²⁶ When the crop began to grow and produce grain, the weeds also grew.

²⁷ “The farmer’s workers went to him and said, ‘Sir, the field where you planted that good seed is full of weeds! Where did they come from?’

²⁸ “‘An enemy has done this!’ the farmer exclaimed.

“‘Should we pull out the weeds?’ they asked.

²⁹ “‘No,’ he replied, ‘you’ll uproot the wheat if you do. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. Then I will tell the harvesters to sort out the weeds, tie them into bundles, and burn them, and to put the wheat in the barn.’”

Matthew 13: 24 – 30 (NLT): Parable of the Wheat and Weeds

²⁴ Here is another story Jesus told: “**The Kingdom of Heaven is like** a farmer who planted good seed in his field.

PARABLES

- Snapshot of the Kingdom of God
- Don't always make things clearer
- Not allegorical – usually have one key point
- Speak into a 1st Century world
(we need to try to understand the context)
- Can trip up on complacent interpretation

Matthew 13: 36 – 43 Parable of the Wheat and Weeds Explained

³⁶ Then, leaving the crowds outside, Jesus went into the house. His disciples said, “Please explain to us the story of the weeds in the field.”

³⁷ Jesus replied, “The Son of Man is the farmer who plants the good seed. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed represents the people of the Kingdom. The weeds are the people who belong to the evil one. ³⁹ The enemy who planted the weeds among the wheat is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world, and the harvesters are the angels.

⁴⁰ “Just as the weeds are sorted out and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the world. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will remove from his Kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴² And the angels will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father’s Kingdom. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!

PARABLES

- Snapshot of the Kingdom of God





v24: The field is the world...



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v24: The field belongs to
Jesus...



v38: Good seed represents the people of the Kingdom...



v38: Good seed represents the people of the Kingdom...

... v37: Sown by the Son of Man







v38: The bad seed represents those who are sons of the evil one...



v38: The bad seed represents those who are sons of the evil one...

v39: Sown by Satan...



v39: Reapers are angels ...



v39: Reapers are angels, and the harvest is the end of the age ...

End of the age is a time of separation...



Wheat is the fruit of the
good seed...



Wheat is the fruit of the good seed...



Weeds are the fruit of the bad seed...

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...Certainly don't always say what we wish they said!

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Perfect World

Fall (Genesis 3)

OT Times

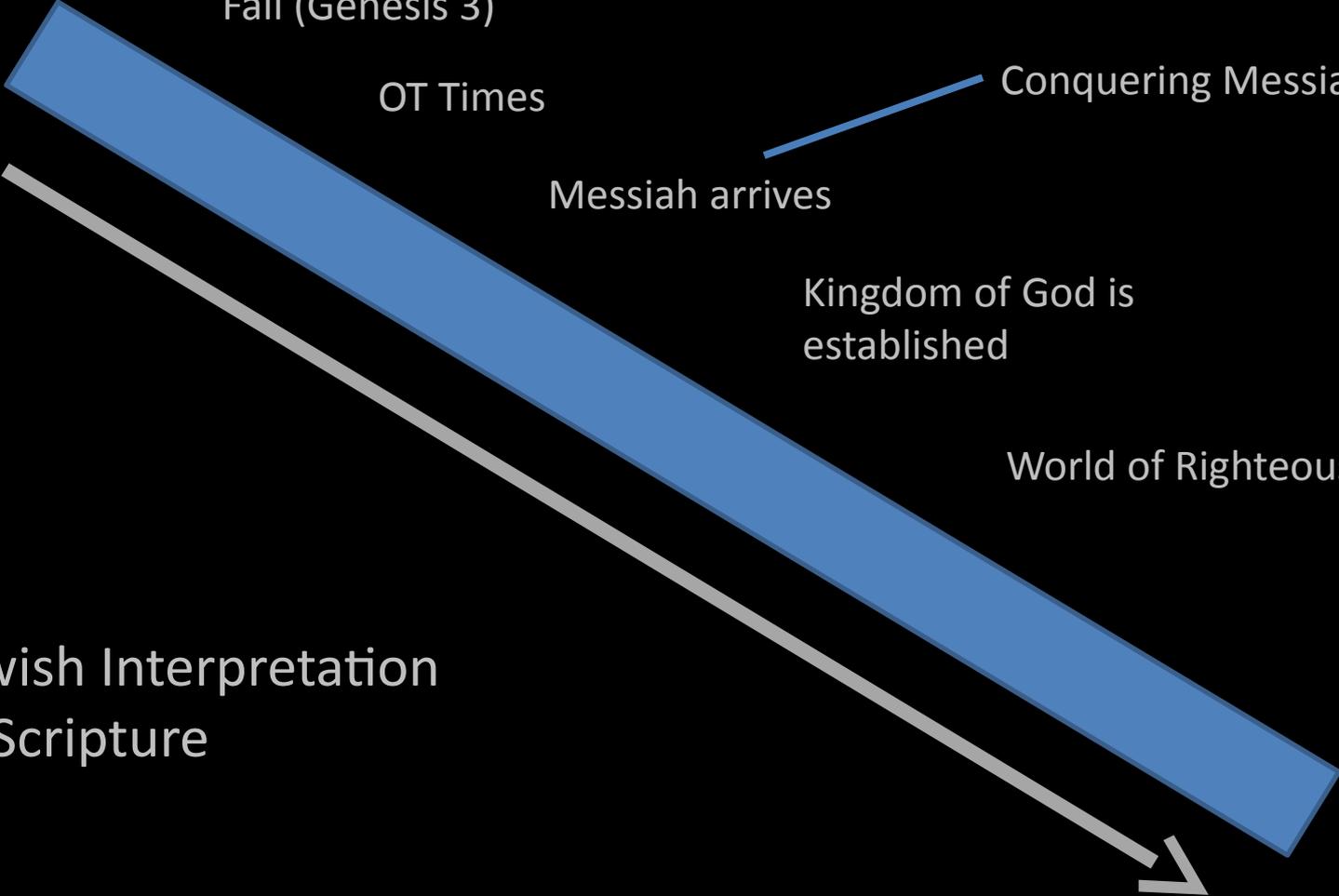
Conquering Messiah

Messiah arrives

Kingdom of God is established

World of Righteousness

Jewish Interpretation of Scripture



Perfect World

Fall (Genesis 3)

OT Times

Messiah arrives

Kingdom of God is established

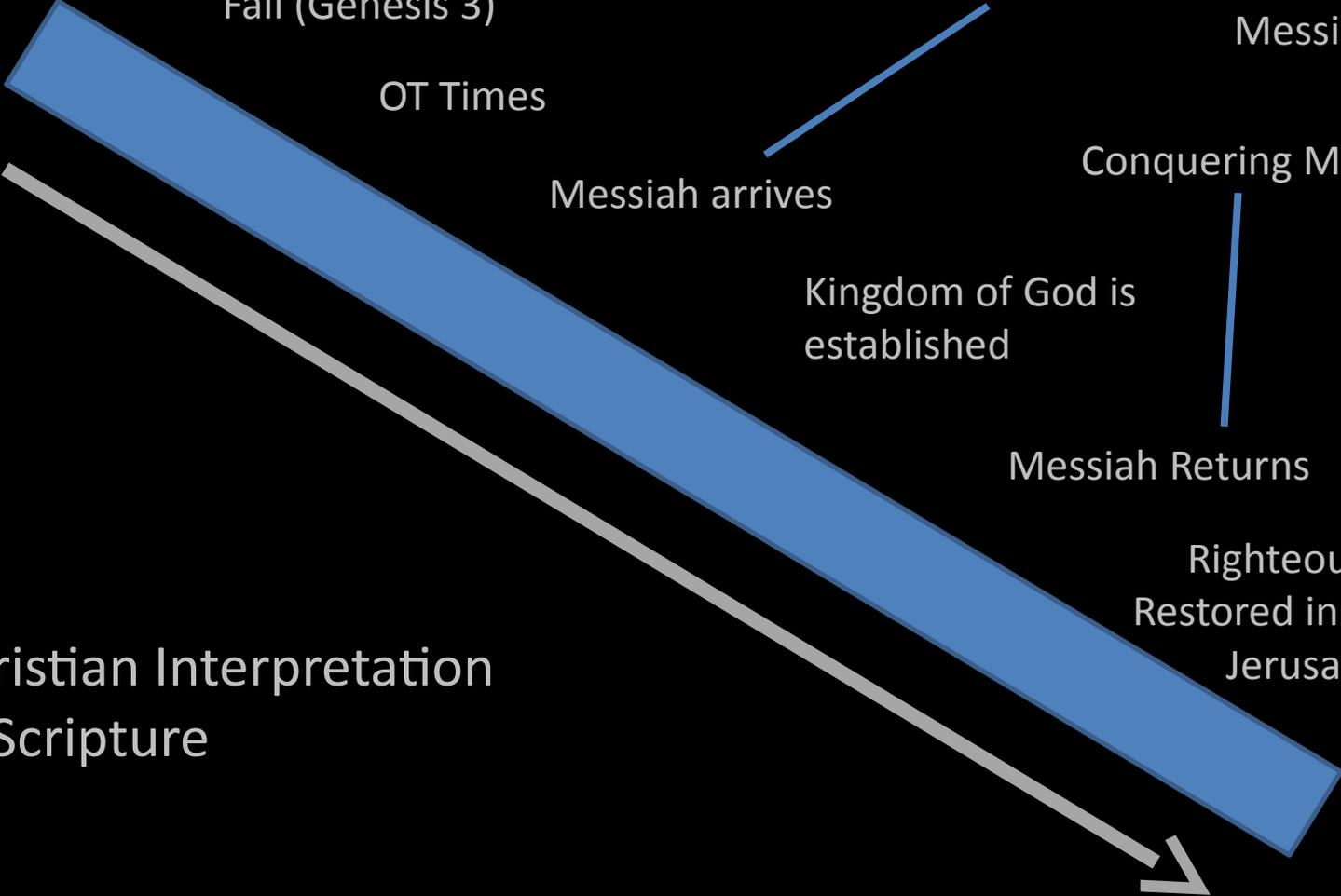
Suffering Servant Messiah

Conquering Messiah

Messiah Returns

Righteousness Restored in the New Jerusalem

Christian Interpretation of Scripture



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