

## Chapter 4

His name was **Yeshua**.

(The Anglicised form of that name is "Jesus". We use "Yeshua" in this booklet, because it's what people actually called him in those days, but it's also okay to say "Jesus".)

He had been sent from God to usher in **God's Kingdom**.

He was the Word of God, or we could say, the Shakhina. That means, he is God, just like the rays of the sun are the sun.



To fulfil his mission, he had to be born as a human being.

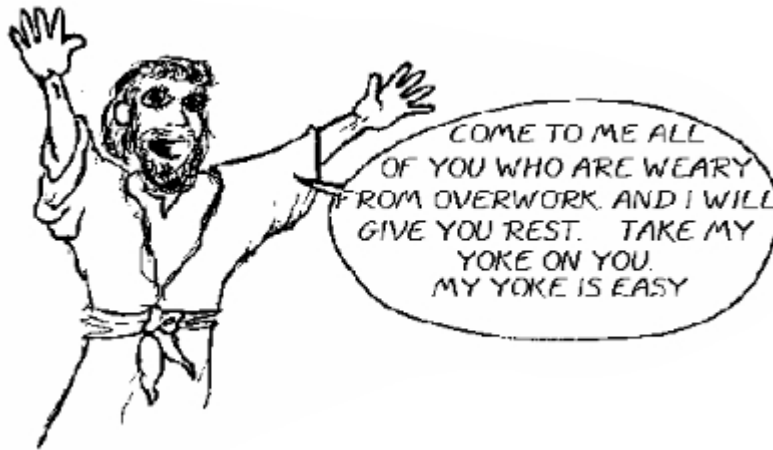
Since God had given authority over the earth to **humanity**, only a human could ultimately take that authority back from Satan.



But – to keep from inheriting the sinful nature of his first father – he had to be born of a virgin.

*He was the offspring of the woman just as God had promised.*

So Yeshua grew up and began to fulfil his destiny.



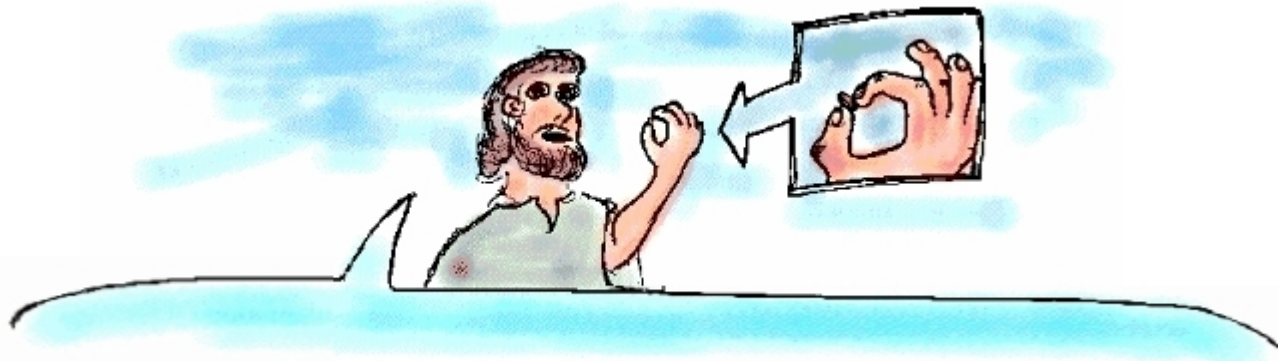
Those who believed Yeshua was from God remembered the covenant promises that the messiah would set up God's Kingdom and reign as king.

They expected Yeshua to take over as king.



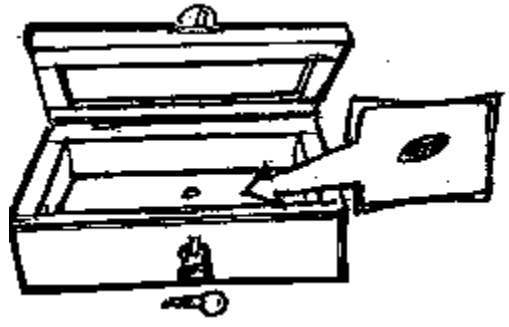
Others had different ideas.

But Yeshua never made any move to gain kingship. Instead, he spent a lot of time explaining the kingdom of God in a much different way:



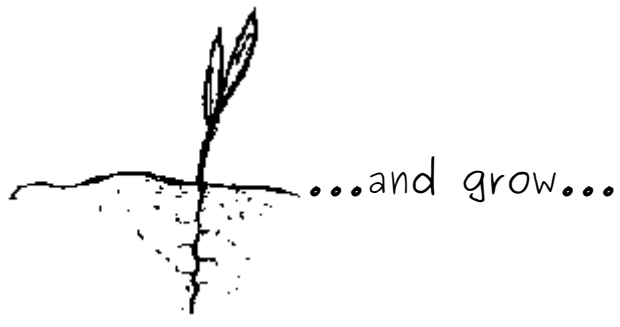
The Kingdom of God is like a seed.

If you keep it by itself it has no value...



...but if it falls into the ground and dies...

...it will sprout...



...and grow...



...and bear fruit.

You will gain many times more than what you started out with...



...so it is with the kingdom of God.



Yes, there are many promises in the covenant book that say Messiah will reign as king of the world.

However, there are also other passages that very few people understood. One of them said that Messiah would be like a sheep being led to slaughter.



In this passage, Messiah is described as the lamb that was sacrificed for the covenant:

The Prophet Isaiah 53:4-5

*surely he has born our sickness and carried our diseases; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten of God and afflicted.*



*But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: The chastisement of our peace was on him, and by his stripes we are healed.*

This had to be fulfilled before he could reign as king. Before the kingdom of God could grow into a vast harvest field, the initial seed had to die.

Yeshua, himself, was that seed.

Before the kingdom of God could be established on the earth, the sin of the whole world had to be dealt with.

Yeshua had never done anything wrong. He had always obeyed, so he was pure. But now he was going to take on the sin of the whole world.



One day – the Establishment had had enough.

...so one night...

...they took  
Yeshua...



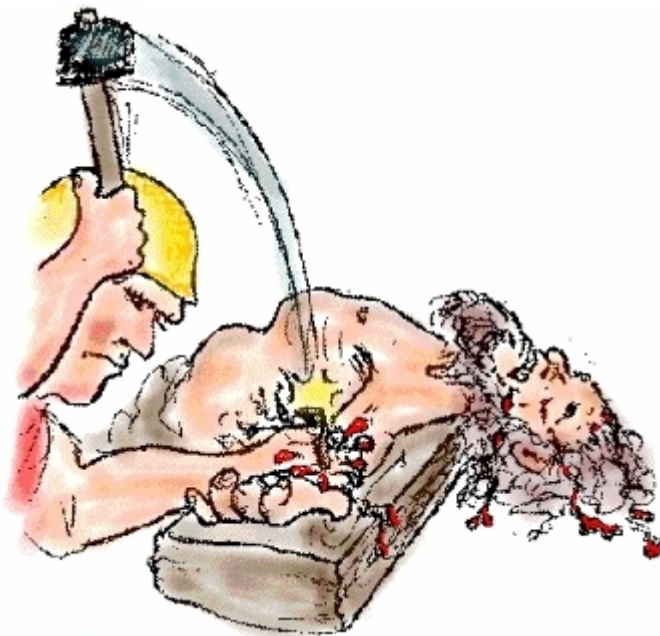
...had him tried falsely...



...had him whipped severely...



...and tortured.



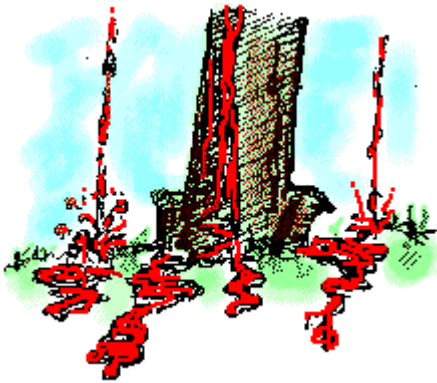
He was sentenced to a type of death usually reserved for the worst type of criminal, such as terrorists and gangsters – the type of people who would bomb a school bus...



...he was crucified.



His blood spilled to the ground.



It was the blood of a new covenant from a perfect human on behalf of a broken world.

Yes - humanity was very cruel indeed to the one who came to be our redeemer. Even so - some of his last words were:



soon afterwards he died...



... a righteous man - whose suffering atoned for the sin of that whole generation and every generation that would follow.

His body was laid in a tomb.



The mouth of the tomb was sealed with a rock.

The seed had gone into the ground...



...and died.



In dying, he took on himself the death that was supposed to fall on humanity for our sin.

The New Covenant book says:

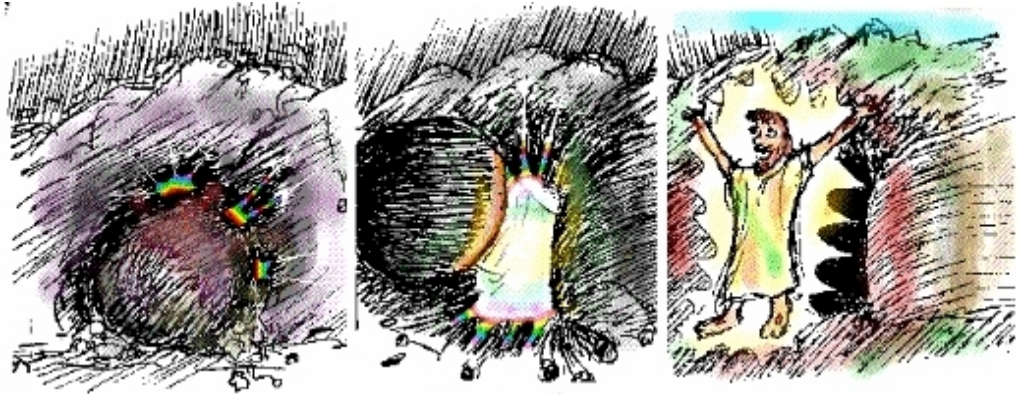
*He who knew no sin, became sin for us so that we should become the righteousness of God in Him.*

*(II Corinthians 5:21)*

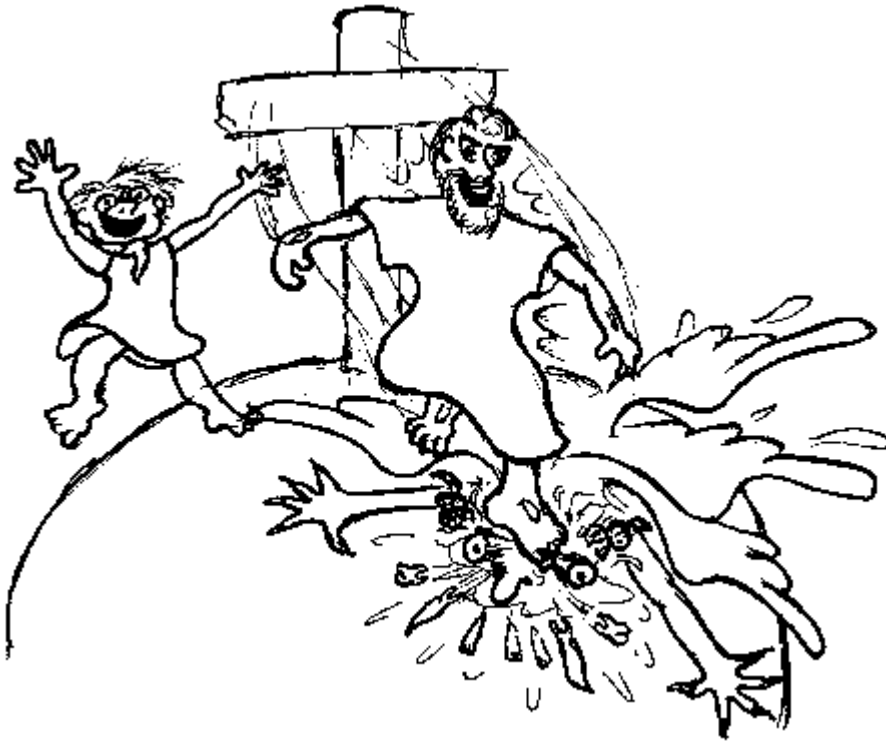




BUT. . .



After three days - Yeshua won the victory over death by rising from the dead



In doing so - he effectively crushed satan's head.



satan has had a terrible headache ever since.

All his friends were delighted...



...but they still missed the point.



Yeshua had planted himself as one seed, but now he has reaped many seeds.



To this day the seeds of the kingdom of God are being planted all over the world – all from that one seed.



Wherever people proclaim God's Kingdom, the same power is present that was with Yeshua as he was proclaiming God's kingdom...



...The sick are healed...

...demons are cast out...





...the lame walk...

...the blind see...

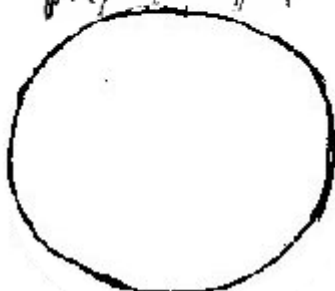


...but most important – people's lives are changed. Bad habits drop off...

...families are transformed...



Remember – the Kingdom of God is anywhere where God is recognised as King. We recognise His Kingship by being in submission to Him.



When we are submitted to Him, some pretty amazing things can happen.



Mind you – things won't suddenly go all perfect on you overnight. That won't happen until the seeds that we are planting now, come to maturity, and it's time for the harvest (see the end of this booklet)

In the remainder of this booklet, we'll talk about how you can make the most of the Kingdom of God in it's present form.