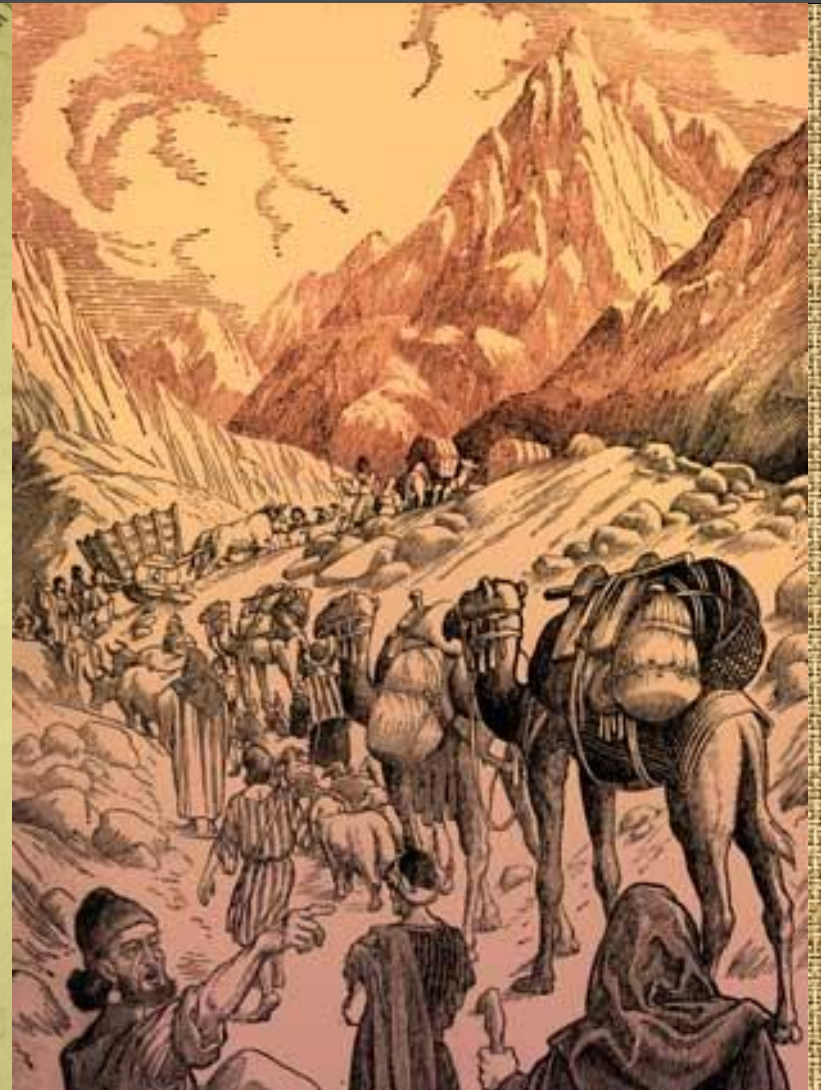
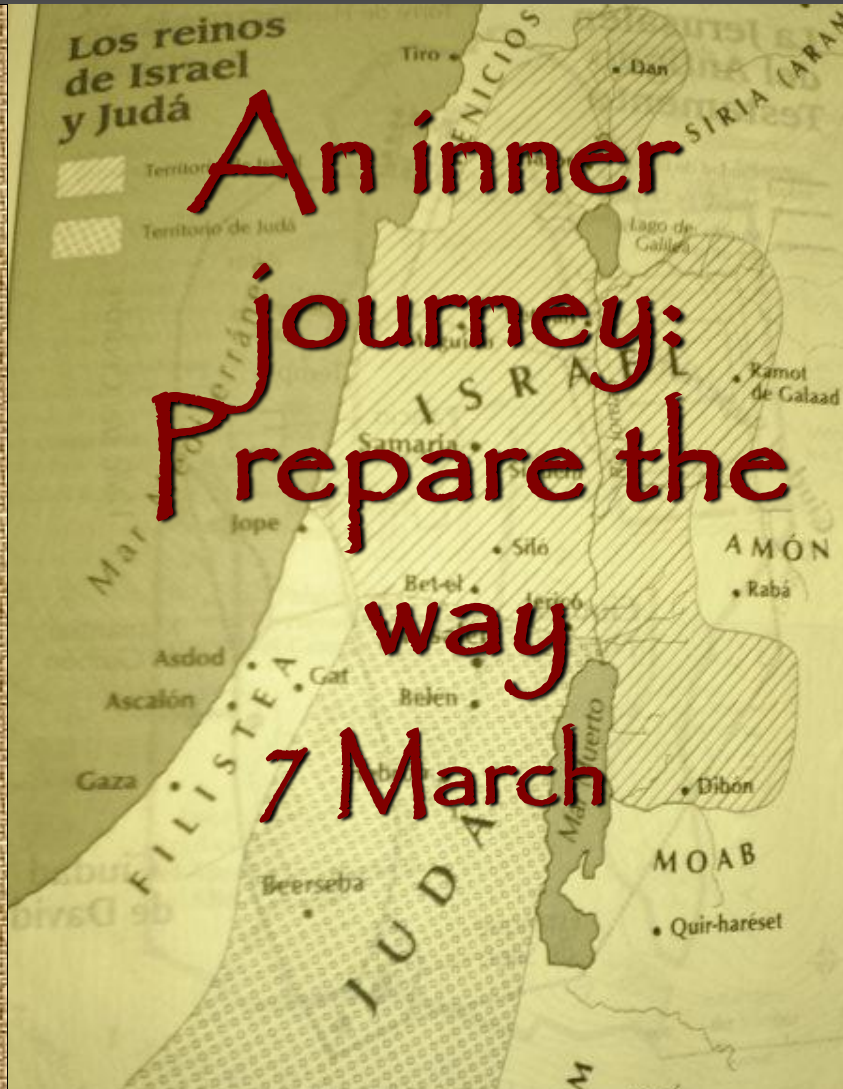


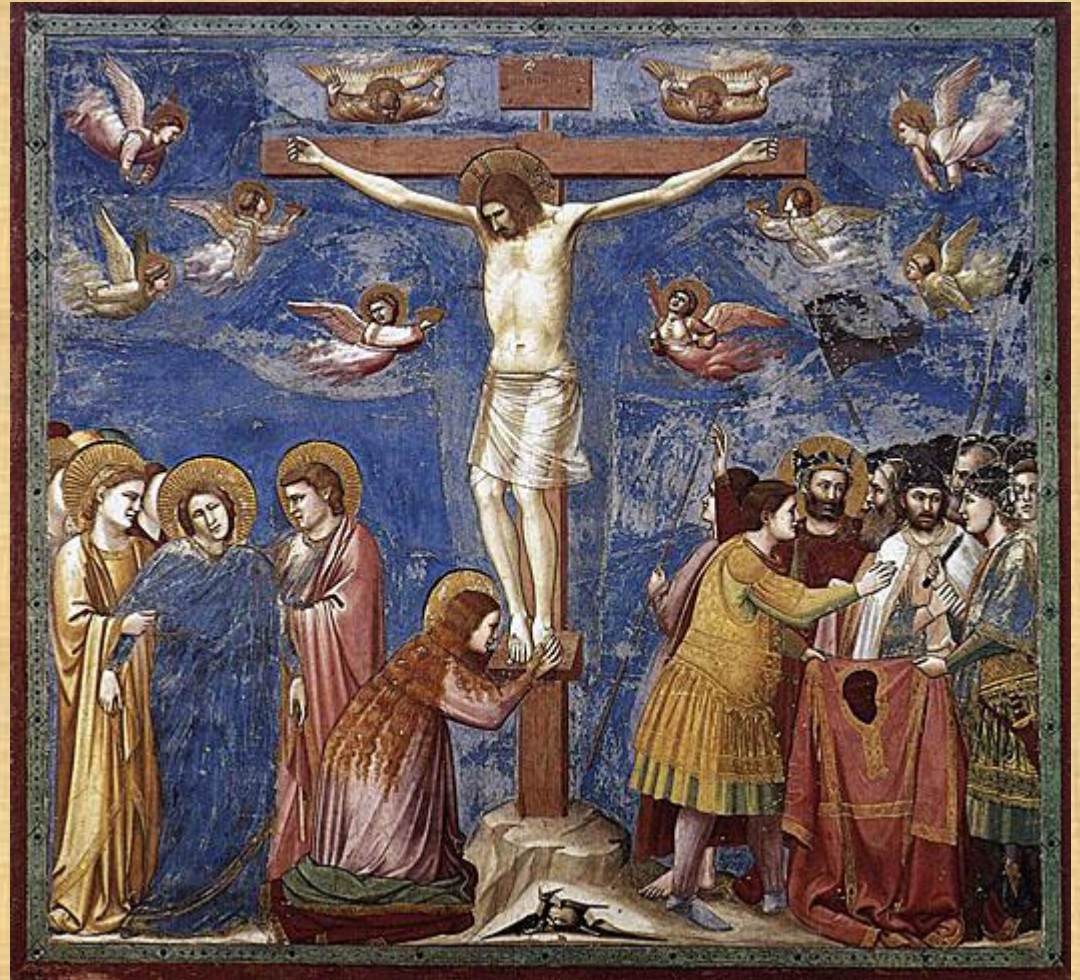
Los reinos  
de Israel  
y Judá

# An inner journey: Prepare the way 7 March





To reach the  
resurrection  
and the  
Kingdom of  
God, we need  
to remember  
the crucifixion  
and Christ's  
sacrifice.





# Reading: Mark 4:1-20



For discussion:

- What is the immediate
- meaning of the parable?
- Who is the sower?
- What are the seeds?
- What do the four kinds
- of soil mean?
- What does the harvest refer to?





- What distracts us from a whole-hearted commitment to Christ?
- Where or when in our lives do different kinds of soil appear?
- What is our hard soil?
- What is our shallow soil?
- What is our thorny soil?
- How can we create good rich soil within us?
- How can we become sowers?

## Summary of discussion

The parable need not only be about different kinds of people or kinds of situations, but about different areas of our lives.

- Our hard soil = belief that we do not need Christ, we can manage without him. Or we may be closed to the church or organised religion – often because of some kind of prejudice. Or may be anger or resentment towards someone else that is blocking the growth of the seeds.
- Our rocky soil/shallow soil = lack of commitment to Christ and Christian life e.g. starting a spiritual discipline of reading and prayer and letting it lapse. We may be shallow in our response to the needs of others e.g. ignore the homeless or poor and not apply Jesus teachings in any effective way.
- Our thorny soil = inability to prioritise Christian life; no time for Christ because of a multiplicity of interests and tasks e.g. brunch with friends on Sundays instead of church; extreme materialism; or the thorns could be worries and despair that overwhelms us. Our thorns may be our own business, where we are too busy talking, arguing and giving own opinions and not listening to what Christ is saying to us for our lives e.g. not spending quiet prayer
- Good rich soil = listening to and receiving message of Christ and nourishing it within ourselves through Bible study, prayer, learning with others. Lent is the perfect time to develop a new discipline.
- We also need to be sowers of the seed, putting Christ's message into action.



Lord Jesus, sower of the seeds of life,  
you created the soil of the earth and made all  
plants grow it in.  
We ask you tonight to sow your seeds within us.  
Fill our hearts with good, rich soil  
That all seeds may sprout and thrive  
within us.  
We lay all our hard, rocky and thorny soil  
before your cross  
And pray for healing, restoration and  
reconciliation.  
Make us whole again, Lord,  
That we too may be your sowers.

We ask this in your name, Lord,  
Amen

