

Citizens of Heaven

05 - 03 - 21

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1. Intro

a. **Brief Update** and **Thanks**

b. **Start with a Quiz**

i. *In the beginning...*

ii. *A long time ago, in a galaxy...*

iii. *It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness*

iv. *Who lives in a pineapple under the sea?...*

c. **Today:** *The beginning of the gospel of...*

2. Passage

a. **Mark 1:1 (ESV)**

b. *1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*

3. Message

a. **The Gospel According to the Romans**

i. **Pax Romana**

1. **27 BC to 180 AD (200 years)**

2. **Golden age: subdued enemies, unprecedented might, peace, and economic prosperity**

ii. **Augustus Caesar** was the **Savior**

iii. ***“the birthday of the god Augustus (savior and Caesar) was the beginning of the good tidings for the world”***

iv. Into this **context Christ** was being **proclaimed** as the **Son of God**

1. **Persecution** under **Nero**

2. **Crucified Christ, subjects burned as torches, fed to lions**

v. **People** still coming to **faith** in **droves**, became **dominant religion**

vi. **Mark 15:39 (ESV)**

vii. *39 And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!”*

viii. **There is a greater spiritual reality that confounds our physical reality**

b. **Prophetic Encouragement**

- i. **2020 was a crazy year, physical reality is distressing**
 - ii. **Don't place too much of your identity on the things of this world**
- c. Identity**
- i. **Definition:** *Identity is who you are, the way you think about yourself, the way you are viewed by the world and the characteristics that define you*
 - ii. **Ephesians 2:6-7 (ESV)**
 - iii. *made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus*
 - 1. **Citizens of heaven, New Jerusalem**
 - iv. **My identity**
 - 1. **Plant-based vs. Meat-eaters, Vegans, Vegetarians**
 - 2. **My story with Asian Hate**
 - a. **C.S. Lewis**
 - b. *"If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world."*
 - v. **Eric Wuresa Story**
 - 1. **Romans 6:5 (ESV)**
 - 2. *5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.*
- d. What are the benefits?**
- i. **You don't really know your true identity yet**
 - ii. **Nicknames for our kids**
 - iii. **Revelation 2:17 (ESV)**
 - iv. *To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.*
- e. Jesus takes away our identity as being cursed**
- i. **Genesis 3:17 (ESV)**
 - ii. *cursed is the ground because of you*
 - iii. **He had to be cursed to bless us**