



The **BIBLE'S** AMAZING **STORY**



The Bible's Amazing Story
Copyright 2004 by David W. Cloud
ISBN 978-1-58318-123-2

This book is published for free distribution in eBook format. It is available in PDF, MOBI (for Kindle, etc.), and ePUB formats from the Way of Life web site. We do not allow distribution of this book from other web sites.



Published by Way of Life Literature
PO Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061
866-295-4143 (toll free) - fbns@wayoflife.org
www.wayoflife.org

Canada: Bethel Baptist Church
4212 Campbell St. N., London Ont. N6P 1A6
519-652-2619

Printed in Canada by
Bethel Baptist Print Ministry

Contents

Introduction.....	1
The Old Testament	6
Genesis	6
Exodus.....	41
Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy	58
Joshua, Judges, Samuel.....	63
Psalms, Proverbs.....	67
Kings, Chronicles	76
Prophets.....	79
The New Testament	92
The Gospels	92
Acts.....	116
Epistles	125
Revelation.....	136
Conclusion	144

The Bible has been likened to a body of water in which a lamb can walk and an elephant can swim. To understand the Bible requires more than intellect and education and religion. It requires spiritual enlightenment.

Introduction

This book is for those who are interested in the Bible and who want to know what the Bible teaches.

The Bible is amazing and unique. It is the world's best selling and most popular book. It has been translated in whole or in part into 2,300 languages and has converted the hearts of men and women from every race and nation. Through the power of its message, drunkards have become sober, thieves have become honest, murderers have laid down their knives and guns, atheists have become believers in God, and the tongue of the blasphemer has been converted into an instrument of worship.

The Bible is a large book composed of 66 smaller books. It was written by 40 different men over a period of 1,600 years, beginning in about 1,500 B.C. and ending in about 95 A.D., yet it tells one consistent story and contains no contradictions in its facts or teaching.

This is a great and amazing miracle. When men living even in the same lifetime try to describe something they have all seen and experienced, there are always many contradictions. For example, when Krakatoa exploded off the western tip of Java in August 1883, it was the largest, most devastating volcanic eruption in known history. Almost 40,000 people were killed. The sound of the explosion could be heard 3,000 miles away! One historian observed: “Thousands of people, far and wide, suddenly became aware of the events, *but their accounts of it, like the accounts of any monstrous and traumatizing event, present today a morass of conflict and confusion*” (Simon Winchester, *Krakatoa: The Day the World Exploded*, p. 210; emphasis added).

Thus we see that apart from a divine miracle, men's testimonies disagree even when they are reporting about the same event in their own lifetime. In this light it is obvious that the Bible is an incredible miracle, when it was written

over a period of 1,600 years by more than three dozen authors yet gives a unified message.

The main theme of the Bible is the creation, fall, and salvation of mankind. The main Person presented in the Bible is Jesus Christ.

The Bible is composed of two major parts, the Old Testament (composed of 39 individual books) and the New Testament (composed of 27 individual books). The Old Testament prepared the way for the coming of Jesus Christ to die for man's sins. The New Testament tells of Christ's birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension back to Heaven. It also tells the story of the establishment of the first Christian churches and God's instructions for Christians.

Some people today think that the Bible and Christianity is a "western religion." Actually the events of the Bible take place in the Middle East and the first Christian churches were in Israel and Asia Minor. From there Christian churches spread throughout the world.

In the Bible we see God's pattern for Christian churches. Many churches that have called themselves "Christian" through the past 2,000 years did not follow the Bible. They followed their own thinking, instead. This has often given "Christianity" a bad name. Some "churches" even persecuted Jews and Bible believers and some "church" leaders have lived in great wealth, wore crowns, and even ruled over kings. None of this is supported by the Bible. The Lord Jesus warned that many false teachers would come into the world after His departure, and they would teach and do many false things in His name. History bears this out, and because of this, many have been confused about what true Christianity is.

We have seen one reason why we know the Bible is God's Word, and that is its amazing unity and composition. Another reason is **ITS PROPHECIES**. The Bible is unique in that it contains hundreds of prophecies of the future. These are not vague prophecies such as those commonly made by astrologers and fortune tellers. The Bible's prophecies are clear

and specific. The Bible's prophecies name the names of people and places; they contain exact dates and details. Many of the prophecies have already been fulfilled, and each of these was fulfilled exactly as written.

For example, the Bible has hundreds of ***prophecies about the first coming of Jesus Christ***. Consider just a few of these:

The Bible prophesied exactly when Jesus would be born. This prophecy is in Daniel 9:22-27, which was written about 530 years before Jesus came. The prophet Daniel said the Messiah would come 483 years after the commandment was given to rebuild Jerusalem, and that is exactly when He was born.

The Bible prophesied exactly where Jesus would be born, in the little town of Bethlehem in the province of Judah in Israel. That is in Micah 5:2, "But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." That amazing prophecy was written down 700 years before Jesus was born.

The Bible prophesied that Jesus would be rejected by His own people, the nation Israel. This was written in the prophet Isaiah about 710 years before Jesus was born: "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not" (Isaiah 53:3).

The Bible prophesied that Jesus would die by crucifixion. This was written in Psalm 22:14-16 about 1,000 years before Jesus was born. "I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death. ... they pierced my hands and my feet." This is an amazing and perfect description of death by crucifixion, and when the prophet David wrote it, crucifixion was not practiced!

The Bible prophesied that the soldiers would gamble for Jesus' garment at the foot of the cross. This was written in Psalm 22:18. "They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture." The callous soldiers did this as Jesus was suffering.

The Bible prophesied that none of Jesus' bones would be broken during the crucifixion. This was prophesied in Psalm 34:20 about 1,000 years before Jesus was born: "He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken."

The Bible prophesied that Jesus would be buried in the tomb of a rich man. This was written in Isaiah 53:9 about 710 years before Jesus was born. "And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death..." This was fulfilled when Jesus was taken down off the cross by a wealthy disciple and buried in that disciple's own tomb.

The Bible prophesied that Jesus would rise from the dead. This was written in Psalm 16:10 about 1,000 years before Jesus came. "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption."

These are only a few of the wonderful Bible prophecies that have already been fulfilled.

Another way that the Bible is unique is in **THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST** who is presented therein.

Everything about Him is unique: His virgin birth, His sinless life, His amazing miracles, His wonderful teaching, His sacrificial death on the cross for man's sin, His bodily resurrection, His ascension back to Heaven, His offer to grant forgiveness of sins and eternal life to any sinner of any race or nation who will believe on Him.

Indeed, the Bible is an amazing and unique book. And yet it is also a large book with many individual parts and when a person picks up the Bible for the first time, its message doesn't always seem simple.

This book presents a summary of the Bible for those who are not familiar with its message.

The following passages are lifted directly from the pages of the Bible and are presented in an orderly fashion so that a new reader can more easily understand its wonderful message and can put his or her faith in the Lord Jesus Christ presented therein.

The Old Testament

Genesis

The Creation of the World

Genesis 1:1 - 2:3

God Made Light

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.¹ And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

God Divided the Earth from the Sky

And God said, Let there be a firmament² in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were

¹ The Bible begins with the account of creation. This first chapter of the Bible is contrary to many popular philosophies. It is contrary to *Atheism* and *Agnosticism* and *Rationalism*, because it says God exists. It is contrary to *Materialism*, because it says the material things of the creation are not eternal but had a beginning. It is contrary to *Polytheism*, because it says there is only one God. It is contrary to *Pantheism*, because it says that God is above and distinct from the creation. It is contrary to *Fatalism*, because it says man was created for a purpose, to know and serve God. It refutes *Deism*, because it says that God is actively involved with His creation and He can be known by man. It is contrary to *Evolution*, because it says God personally created the world in six days and that every living thing reproduces “after its own kind” and does not evolve into different things.

² “Firmament” means an expanse; it refers to the great arch or expanse over our heads, where the atmosphere and clouds reside. It also refers to the heavens above which contain the stars.

under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.

God Made the Dry Land and the Plants and Trees

And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the third day.

God Made the Sun, Moon, and Stars

And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

God Made the Fish and Fowl

And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which

the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth. And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

God Made the Animals and Man

And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

And God said, Let us make man in our image,³ after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.

³ The Bible says that man is different from the animals, that he is made in God's likeness.

And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.⁴

God Rested from His Work

Genesis 2:1-4

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

The Garden of Eden and God's Commandment

Genesis 2:8-17

And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden⁵; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads. The name of the first is Pison: that is it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold; and the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone. And the name of the second river is Gihon: the same is it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia. And the name of the third river is Hiddekel: that is it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river is Euphrates.

⁴ According to the Bible, God created everything in six days. That these are normal 24-hour days and not indeterminable lengths of time is shown by the wording of Genesis 1. Each day was composed of an evening and a morning.

⁵ The exact location of the Garden of Eden is not known today, but its general location was in the Middle East near the river Euphrates.

And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.⁶

The First Marriage

Genesis 2:18-25

And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; and the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be

⁶ The Bible teaches that there are three types of death: *spiritual death*, which is man separated from God because of his sin; *physical death*, which is when the body dies and the spirit departs; and *eternal death*, which is when the unsaved sinner is cast into the lake of fire forever. Adam and Eve died spiritually as soon as they disobeyed God and ate the fruit. Every person born into this world since then is spiritually dead and separated from God because of sin. Only through faith in Jesus Christ can the sinner be restored to God's fellowship.

one flesh.⁷ And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Man's Sin Against God and Its Consequences

Genesis 3:1-24

Now the serpent⁸ was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.⁹

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were

⁷ We see that marriage is not a man-made institution; it was ordained by God and He presided over the first marriage. According to the Bible, marriage is for one man and one woman. Both polygamy and homosexuality are condemned in the Bible.

⁸ In other places the Bible tells us that the serpent that tempted Eve was the Devil. He is also called *Satan* and *Lucifer*. He was created as a high and glorious angel, but he became proud and wanted to be like God. He led many other angels in a heavenly rebellion and was defeated; but God allowed them to continue to exist as fallen creatures. That happened before the creation of man. The Devil hates God and he therefore hates man, who is made in God's image. Thus he tempted man to sin against God. As for the serpent in Genesis 3, it appears that Satan possessed the creature in order to accomplish his wicked purposes. Apparently the serpent originally was a beautiful, upright creature that looked different than it does today.

⁹ This was the devil's original lie to man. He told Eve that she would be like god, and men today are still trying to become gods.

naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?¹⁰ And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?¹¹

And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.¹²

And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity

¹⁰ God knew that man had sinned, because the Bible says that He knows all things, but He sought after man in order to provide salvation for him. God has a great love for man even in his sinful condition.

¹¹ God knew, of course, what the man and woman had done; He was asking them this question in order to get them to confess their sin.

¹² Note that the first man and woman made excuses for their sin. People are still doing this today.

between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.¹³

Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children;¹⁴ and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread,¹⁵ till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living. Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.¹⁶

¹³ This is the first prophecy in the Bible about Jesus Christ. God promised that the woman's seed would bruise the head of the serpent, the devil. Jesus is called "the seed of the woman" because He was born of a virgin. He bruised the devil's head when He died on the cross for man's sin.

¹⁴ Here we see why women have so much pain when they bear children.

¹⁵ After man sinned God decreed that he must earn his living by toiling; prior to man's sin he lived in the beautiful garden and everything was provided for him.

¹⁶ Men and women have to wear proper clothes today because of the sinfulness and lust of their hearts. After Adam and Eve sinned God clothed them in coats to cover their nakedness. The clothing of Adam and Eve also typifies the salvation that God provides for sinners. The coats of skins were obtained by killing animals and shedding their blood. Throughout the Bible, beginning here in Genesis 3, the animal sacrifices symbolize the Sacrifice that Jesus Christ made on the cross for man's sins. Jesus is called the "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (Jn. 1:29).

God Puts Sinful Man Out of the Lovely Garden

Genesis 3:22-24

And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims,¹⁷ and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

The First Boys Born to Adam and Eve

Genesis 4:1-11

And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. And she again bare his brother Abel.

And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:¹⁸ But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the

¹⁷ Cherubims are angels who serve God. The Bible says that they are very powerful and that they have wings and can move with amazing speed. They are often mentioned in association with God's throne.

¹⁸ The Bible elsewhere says that Abel was a prophet and God showed him the way of salvation through Jesus Christ. God taught him to symbolize this salvation by offering a lamb. God did not accept Cain's offering because Cain wanted to make his own religion. He wanted to approach God in his own way rather than by the way that God had ordained. Cain refused to accept the way of salvation through faith in the blood and death of Jesus Christ. Multitudes have followed in Cain's rebellious steps.

door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.¹⁹ And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper? And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground. And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand.²⁰

Man Turns Away from God and God Destroys the World with a Flood

Genesis 6:5-22; 7:6-24

And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.²¹ And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

¹⁹ God pleaded with Cain to turn away from his anger and jealousy against his brother, but he ignored God. God still pleads with sinners. He does this through man's conscience and through the Bible and through the witness of believers.

²⁰ God knows everything that every man does and even the thoughts in his heart, and every man is accountable to God and will be judged by God.

²¹ In the early days of man's history before the great flood of Noah's day, men lived long lives. Adam, for example, lived 930 years. One of Adam's great grandsons, Methuselah, lived 960 years. After Adam and Eve were put out of the Garden, men quickly multiplied on the earth, but most of them rejected the true God. They began to worship idols in those days and to pursue every evil thing. By Noah's day, which was about 1,600 years after man's fall, the world was filled with evil.

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.²² These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God. And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.

And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make thee an ark²³ of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.²⁴ And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits.²⁵ A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it. And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die. But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark,

²² The truth has been in the extreme minority in this world ever since before the days of Noah, and Jesus Christ warned that the conditions in the world just prior to His return will be similar to Noah's day.

²³ A boat.

²⁴ This made the boat watertight.

²⁵ A cubit was about 18 inches; thus the ark was 450 feet (137 meters) long, 75 feet (22.8 meters) wide, and 45 feet (13.7 meters) high. The total available floor space on the ark would have been over 100,000 square feet, which would be more floor space than in 20 standard-sized basketball courts. Noah's ark would have had a cubic volume equal to 569 modern railroad stock cars. Thus the ark could easily have carried 50,000 animals and the necessary food and supplies.

thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee. And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female. Of fowls after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after his kind, two of every sort shall come unto thee, to keep them alive. And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and thou shalt gather it to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them.

Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.²⁶

And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth. And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood. Of clean beasts, and of beasts that are not clean, and of fowls, and of every thing that creepeth upon the earth, there went in two and two unto Noah into the ark, the male and the female, as God had commanded Noah. And it came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth. In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of

²⁶ The Bible elsewhere says that Noah worked for 120 years in building the ark, and that all during that time he also preached to men and warned them of the great judgment that was coming. Instead of believing God's warning, mankind in that day mocked Noah and refused to believe and continued to live in sin as if nothing were going to happen to them. Only Noah's family believed.

heaven were opened.²⁷ And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights. In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark; They, and every beast after his kind, and all the cattle after their kind, and every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind, and every fowl after his kind, every bird of every sort. And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life. And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in.²⁸

And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth. And the waters prevailed, and were increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters. And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were

²⁷ The flood of Noah's day was caused by water coming up from under the earth and down from the sky all at once. It was a great worldwide cataclysm that permanently changed the topography and climate of the earth. It was probably during this time that the great mountain ranges were formed and great canyons like the Grand Canyon in America. There is evidence for this worldwide flood throughout the earth, and organizations such as the Institute for Creation Research in California, which is composed of believers who are scientists, have examined and documented this evidence.

²⁸ The flood of Noah's day was a real worldwide flood; it also fore views the great judgment that will befall the world in the last days. The Bible says that God will again destroy the world, but this time it will be by fire. As in the days of Noah, most men in the last days will mock God and reject His offer of salvation until it is too late. Noah typifies the remnant in our day who believe the gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ and who will be saved from destruction.

covered.²⁹ Fifteen cubits³⁰ upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered.

And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died. And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark. And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days.

The Flood Stops

Genesis 8:1-14

And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters asswaged;³¹ The fountains also of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained; And the waters returned from off the earth continually: and after the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters were abated. And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat.³² And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month: in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, were the tops of the mountains seen.

And it came to pass at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made: And he

²⁹ This was a worldwide flood that covered even the mountains and destroyed every man and creature on the face of the earth.

³⁰ 15 cubits is about 22.5 feet or about 6.8 meters.

³¹ Subsided.

³² This is in modern day Turkey.

sent forth a raven, which went forth to and fro, until the waters were dried up from off the earth. Also he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters were abated from off the face of the ground; but the dove found no rest for the sole of her foot, and she returned unto him into the ark, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth: then he put forth his hand, and took her, and pulled her in unto him into the ark. And he stayed yet other seven days; and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark; and the dove came in to him in the evening; and, lo, in her mouth was an olive leaf pluckt off: so Noah knew that the waters were abated from off the earth. And he stayed yet other seven days; and sent forth the dove; which returned not again unto him any more.

And it came to pass in the six hundredth and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from off the earth: and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and, behold, the face of the ground was dry. And in the second month, on the seven and twentieth day of the month, was the earth dried.³³

God Blesses Noah after the Flood

Genesis 8:15 - 9:17

And God spake unto Noah, saying, Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee. Bring forth with thee every living thing that is with thee, of all flesh, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth; that they may breed abundantly in the earth, and be fruitful, and multiply upon the earth. And Noah went forth, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him: Every beast, every creeping thing, and every fowl, and whatsoever creepeth upon the earth, after their kinds, went forth out of the ark.

And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt

³³ Noah and his family were in the ark for 1 year and 10 days.

offerings on the altar. And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done. While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth. And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered. Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things. But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat. And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man. Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man. And you, be ye fruitful, and multiply; bring forth abundantly in the earth, and multiply therein.

And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying, And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you; and with every living creature that is with you, of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you; from all that go out of the ark, to every beast of the earth. And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.³⁴

³⁴ God's covenant with Noah is another evidence that the flood of that day was worldwide. God promised that there will never again be such a flood, yet there have been many serious local floods that have caused the death of hundreds of thousands. If the flood of Noah were only a local flood, God's promise would have been untrue.

And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud: And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, This is the token of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth.

God Divides Men by Language at the Tower of Babel

Genesis 10:32; 11:1-9

These are the families of the sons of Noah, after their generations, in their nations: and by these were the nations divided in the earth after the flood.³⁵

And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them throughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and

³⁵ After the flood, the world was re-populated by the children of Noah's three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.³⁶

And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.³⁷ Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

God Calls Abraham, the Father of the Nation Israel

Genesis 12:1-8

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:³⁸ And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless

³⁶ God had commanded Noah's sons to multiply in the whole earth, but their children rebelled against God's plan and determined to establish a one-world government and idolatrous religion centered in the tower of Babel. Ancient Babel is a forerunner of the one-world government and religion that will be established prior to Jesus' return from heaven. This is described in the last book of the Bible.

³⁷ Because men could no longer speak to one another, they separated into groups based on the various languages. This is the beginning of the linguistic and racial divisions we see in the world today.

³⁸ This was the beginning of the nation Israel. God chose Abraham and called him out from among his people so that he could become a new nation. It was through the nation Israel that God gave the Bible and the Saviour Jesus Christ to the world.

thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.³⁹

And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land. And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him. And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD.

God Promises a Son for Abraham

Genesis 15:1-6

After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward. And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus? And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir.

And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the

³⁹ Haran was located somewhere in the north central part of modern day Syria, and Abraham traveled down to the southwest into what is modern day Israel.

stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.⁴⁰

Abraham and Sarah Were Old

Genesis 18:10-14

And he said, I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son. And Sarah heard it in the tent door, which was behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in age; and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.

Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?

And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old? Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.

The Promised Son Arrives

Genesis 21:1-3

And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken. For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac.⁴¹

⁴⁰ Salvation has always been by faith in God's promise. Because Abraham believed what God told him, God put righteousness to his account. Man cannot come to God in his own righteousness because he is sinful and does not live up to God's laws. True salvation in Jesus Christ is a gift that God gives to those who believe.

⁴¹ Isaac was the son that God promised to Abraham, and Isaac inherited Abraham's promises.

Isaac Bears Two Sons, Esau and Jacob

Genesis 25:19-27

And these are the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham begat Isaac: And Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah to wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padanaram, the sister to Laban the Syrian. And Isaac intreated the LORD for his wife, because she was barren: and the LORD was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived. And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the LORD. And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.

And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb. And the first came out red, all over like an hairy garment; and they called his name Esau. And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob: and Isaac was threescore years old when she bare them. And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents.

Jacob Journeys Away from Home, Marries, and Bears Children

Genesis 29:1-35

Then Jacob went on his journey, and came into the land of the people of the east. And he looked, and behold a well in the field, and, lo, there were three flocks of sheep lying by it; for out of that well they watered the flocks: and a great stone was upon the well's mouth. And thither were all the flocks gathered: and they rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the sheep, and put the stone again upon the well's mouth in his place. And Jacob said unto them, My brethren, whence be ye? And they said, Of Haran are we. And

he said unto them, Know ye Laban the son of Nahor?⁴² And they said, We know him. And he said unto them, Is he well? And they said, He is well: and, behold, Rachel his daughter cometh with the sheep.

And while he yet spake with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep: for she kept them. And it came to pass, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, that Jacob went near, and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother. And it came to pass, when Laban heard the tidings of Jacob his sister's son, that he ran to meet him, and embraced him, and kissed him, and brought him to his house. And he told Laban all these things. And Laban said to him, Surely thou art my bone and my flesh. And he abode with him the space of a month.

And Laban said unto Jacob, Because thou art my brother, shouldest thou therefore serve me for nought? tell me, what shall thy wages be? And Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah was tender eyed; but Rachel was beautiful and well favoured. And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter. And Laban said, It is better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man: abide with me. And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her.

And Jacob said unto Laban, Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in unto her. And Laban gathered together all the men of the place, and made a feast. And it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter, and brought her to him; and he went in unto her. And Laban gave unto his daughter Leah Zilpah his maid for an handmaid. And it came to pass, that in the morning, behold, it was Leah: and he said to Laban, What is this thou hast done

⁴² Nahor was Abraham's brother.

unto me? did not I serve with thee for Rachel? wherefore then hast thou beguiled me? And Laban said, It must not be so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn. Fulfil her week, and we will give thee this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years. And Jacob did so, and fulfilled her week: and he gave him Rachel his daughter to wife also.⁴³ And Laban gave to Rachel his daughter Bilhah his handmaid to be her maid. And he went in also unto Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and served with him yet seven other years.

And when the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel was barren.⁴⁴ And Leah conceived, and bare a son, and she called his name Reuben: for she said, Surely the LORD hath looked upon my affliction; now therefore my husband will love me. And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Because the LORD hath heard that I was hated, he hath therefore given me this son also: and she called his name Simeon. And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Now this time will my husband be joined unto me, because I have born him three sons: therefore was his name called Levi. And she conceived again, and bare a son: and she said, Now will I praise the LORD: therefore she called his name Judah; and left bearing.

Jacob Returns to His Father

Genesis 31:1-3

And he heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, Jacob hath taken away all that was our father's; and of that which was our father's hath he gotten all this glory. And Jacob beheld the countenance of Laban, and, behold, it was not toward him as

⁴³ In the beginning when God established marriage, he established that it be one man and one woman. Because of sin and rebellion, men changed God's plan and took multiple wives. Jacob only wanted one wife like his father and grandfather had, but he was tricked by Laban into taking two wives.

⁴⁴ We see that God is in control of conception.

before. And the LORD said unto Jacob, Return unto the land of thy fathers, and to thy kindred; and I will be with thee.

God Changes Jacob's Name to Israel

Genesis 35:9-13

And God appeared unto Jacob again, when he came out of Padanaram, and blessed him. And God said unto him, Thy name is Jacob⁴⁵: thy name shall not be called any more Jacob, but Israel shall be thy name: and he called his name Israel.⁴⁶ And God said unto him, I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins; and the land which I gave Abraham and Isaac, to thee I will give it, and to thy seed after thee will I give the land.⁴⁷ And God went up from him in the place where he talked with him.

Jacob's (Israel's) 12 Children

Genesis 35:22b-26

Now the sons of Jacob were twelve:⁴⁸ The sons of Leah; Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, and Simeon, and Levi, and Judah, and Issachar, and Zebulun: The sons of Rachel; Joseph, and Benjamin: And the sons of Bilhah, Rachel's handmaid; Dan, and Naphtali: And the sons of Zilpah, Leah's handmaid; Gad, and Asher: these are the sons of Jacob, which were born to him in Padanaram.

⁴⁵ Jacob means "tricky, supplanter." He was so named because he took hold of his twin brother's heel in the womb, thus appearing to be attempting to come out first. Later Jacob tricked his father into giving him the blessing that should have been given to his brother, the eldest son. When Jacob believed in God's promises, God changed his character and his name.

⁴⁶ Israel means "prince who has power with God."

⁴⁷ Jacob inherited God's promises to Abraham.

⁴⁸ These 12 sons became the heads of the 12 tribes of Israel.

Isaac Dies

Genesis 35:27-29

And Jacob came unto Isaac his father unto Mamre, unto the city of Arbah, which is Hebron, where Abraham and Isaac sojourned. And the days of Isaac were an hundred and fourscore years.⁴⁹ And Isaac gave up the ghost, and died, and was gathered unto his people, being old and full of days: and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

Joseph Is Envied by His Brothers

Genesis 37:2-25

These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report. Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours. And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more. And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf.

And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words. And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.

And his brethren went to feed their father's flock in Shechem. And Israel said unto Joseph, Do not thy brethren feed the flock in Shechem? come, and I will send thee unto

⁴⁹ After Noah's flood men began to live much shorter lives.

them. And he said to him, Here am I. And he said to him, Go, I pray thee, see whether it be well with thy brethren, and well with the flocks; and bring me word again. So he sent him out of the vale of Hebron, and he came to Shechem.

And a certain man found him, and, behold, he was wandering in the field: and the man asked him, saying, What seekest thou? And he said, I seek my brethren: tell me, I pray thee, where they feed their flocks. And the man said, They are departed hence; for I heard them say, Let us go to Dothan.

And Joseph went after his brethren, and found them in Dothan. And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him. And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh. Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams. And Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him. And Reuben said unto them, Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him; that he might rid him out of their hands, to deliver him to his father again.

And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him; and they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it. And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmeelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt.

Joseph Is Sold into Slavery

Genesis 37:26-36

And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood? Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were

content. Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.

And Reuben returned unto the pit; and, behold, Joseph was not in the pit; and he rent his clothes. And he returned unto his brethren, and said, The child is not; and I, whither shall I go? And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood; and they sent the coat of many colours, and they brought it to their father; and said, This have we found: know now whether it be thy son's coat or no. And he knew it, and said, It is my son's coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces. And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days. And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and he said, For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him.

And the Midianites sold him into Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's⁵⁰, and captain of the guard.

Joseph Is Lied About

Genesis 39:1-23

And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither. And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand. And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand. And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that

⁵⁰ The Pharaohs were the rulers of Egypt in that day.

he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field. And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured.

And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth⁵¹ not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; there is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?

And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her. And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within. And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.

And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth, that she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice: And it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out. And she laid up his garment by her, until his lord came home. And she spake unto him according to these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, which thou hast brought unto us, came in unto me to mock me: And it came to pass, as I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled out.

⁵¹ "Wot" means *to know*.

Joseph Is Put into Prison and God Blesses Him There

Genesis 39:19-23

And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled. And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison. But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it. The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper.⁵²

Joseph Becomes Ruler of Egypt Under Pharaoh

Genesis 41:1-44

And it came to pass at the end of two full years, that Pharaoh dreamed: and, behold, he stood by the river. And, behold, there came up out of the river seven well favoured kine⁵³ and fatfleshed; and they fed in a meadow. And, behold, seven other kine came up after them out of the river, ill favoured and leanfleshed; and stood by the other kine upon the brink of the river. And the ill favoured and leanfleshed⁵⁴ kine did eat up the seven well favoured and fat kine. So Pharaoh awoke. And he slept and dreamed the second time: and, behold, seven ears of corn came up upon one stalk, rank and good. And, behold, seven thin ears and blasted with the

⁵² The Bible tells us that God was in control of all of these events. It was His will to take Joseph down to Egypt and make him a ruler there so that Israel would relocate and God could later bring them out with a miraculous hand. We will see this when we come to the book of Exodus.

⁵³ Cattle.

⁵⁴ Thin.

east wind sprung up after them. And the seven thin ears devoured the seven rank and full ears. And Pharaoh awoke, and, behold, it was a dream. And it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled; and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt, and all the wise men thereof: and Pharaoh told them his dream; but there was none that could interpret them unto Pharaoh.

Then spake the chief butler unto Pharaoh, saying, I do remember my faults this day: Pharaoh was wroth with his servants, and put me in ward in the captain of the guard's house, both me and the chief baker: And we dreamed a dream in one night, I and he; we dreamed each man according to the interpretation of his dream. And there was there with us a young man, an Hebrew, servant to the captain of the guard; and we told him, and he interpreted to us our dreams; to each man according to his dream he did interpret. And it came to pass, as he interpreted to us, so it was; me he restored unto mine office, and him he hanged.

Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh. And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and there is none that can interpret it: and I have heard say of thee, that thou canst understand a dream to interpret it.

And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace.⁵⁵

And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, In my dream, behold, I stood upon the bank of the river: And, behold, there came up out of the river seven kine, fatfleshed and well favoured; and they fed in a meadow: And, behold, seven other kine came up after them, poor and very ill favoured and leanfleshed, such as I never saw in all the land of Egypt for badness: And the lean and the ill favoured kine did eat up the first seven fat

⁵⁵ Joseph did not try to make himself out to be a special person; he humbly gave all credit and glory to God.

kine: And when they had eaten them up, it could not be known that they had eaten them; but they were still ill favoured, as at the beginning. So I awoke. And I saw in my dream, and, behold, seven ears came up in one stalk, full and good: And, behold, seven ears, withered, thin, and blasted with the east wind, sprung up after them: And the thin ears devoured the seven good ears: and I told this unto the magicians; but there was none that could declare it to me.

And Joseph said unto Pharaoh, The dream of Pharaoh is one: God hath shewed Pharaoh what he is about to do. The seven good kine are seven years; and the seven good ears are seven years: the dream is one. And the seven thin and ill favoured kine that came up after them are seven years; and the seven empty ears blasted with the east wind shall be seven years of famine. This is the thing which I have spoken unto Pharaoh: What God is about to do he sheweth unto Pharaoh. Behold, there come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt: And there shall arise after them seven years of famine; and all the plenty shall be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine shall consume the land; and the plenty shall not be known in the land by reason of that famine following; for it shall be very grievous. And for that the dream was doubled unto Pharaoh twice; it is because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.

Now therefore let Pharaoh look out a man discreet and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt. Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officers over the land, and take up the fifth part of the land of Egypt in the seven plenteous years. And let them gather all the food of those good years that come, and lay up corn under the hand of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities. And that food shall be for store to the land against the seven years of famine, which shall be in the land of Egypt; that the land perish not through the famine.

And the thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants. And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is? And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art: Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou. And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt. And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck; and he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt. And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I am Pharaoh, and without thee shall no man lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.

The Years of Famine Come as God Foretold

Genesis 41:47-57

And in the seven plenteous years the earth brought forth by handfuls. And he gathered up all the food of the seven years, which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities: the food of the field, which was round about every city, laid he up in the same. And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for it was without number.

And unto Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, which Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On bare unto him. And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: For God, said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house. And the name of the second called he Ephraim: For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.

And the seven years of plenteousness, that was in the land of Egypt, were ended. And the seven years of dearth began to come, according as Joseph had said: and the dearth was in all

lands; but in all the land of Egypt there was bread. And when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread: and Pharaoh said unto all the Egyptians, Go unto Joseph; what he saith to you, do. And the famine was over all the face of the earth: And Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold unto the Egyptians; and the famine waxed sore in the land of Egypt. And all countries came into Egypt to Joseph for to buy corn; because that the famine was so sore in all lands.

Jacob Sends His Sons to Egypt for Food

Genesis 42:1-3, 6

Now when Jacob saw that there was corn in Egypt, Jacob said unto his sons, Why do ye look one upon another? And he said, Behold, I have heard that there is corn in Egypt: get you down thither, and buy for us from thence; that we may live, and not die. And Joseph's ten brethren went down to buy corn in Egypt. And Joseph was the governor over the land, and he it was that sold to all the people of the land: and Joseph's brethren came, and bowed down themselves before him with their faces to the earth.⁵⁶

Joseph Reveals Himself to His Brothers

Genesis 45:1-10

Then Joseph could not refrain himself before all them that stood by him; and he cried, Cause every man to go out from me. And there stood no man with him, while Joseph made himself known unto his brethren. And he wept aloud: and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard. And Joseph said unto his brethren, I am Joseph; doth my father yet live? And his brethren could not answer him; for they were troubled at his presence. And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. Now therefore

⁵⁶ Thus we see that the dream that God gave to Joseph when he was a boy was fulfilled.

be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life. For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing⁵⁷ nor harvest. And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt. Haste ye, and go up to my father, and say unto him, Thus saith thy son Joseph, God hath made me lord of all Egypt: come down unto me, tarry not: And thou shalt dwell in the land of Goshen, and thou shalt be near unto me, thou, and thy children, and thy children's children, and thy flocks, and thy herds, and all that thou hast:

Joseph's Family Comes to Egypt

Genesis 45:25-28; 46:1-7

And they went up out of Egypt, and came into the land of Canaan unto Jacob their father, and told him, saying, Joseph is yet alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt. And Jacob's heart fainted, for he believed them not. And they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said unto them: and when he saw the wagons which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father revived: And Israel said, It is enough; Joseph my son is yet alive: I will go and see him before I die.

And Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices unto the God of his father Isaac. And God spake unto Israel in the visions of the night, and said, Jacob, Jacob. And he said, Here am I. And he said, I am God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation: I will go

⁵⁷ Plowing.

down with thee into Egypt; and I will also surely bring thee up again: and Joseph shall put his hand upon thine eyes.

And Jacob rose up from Beersheba: and the sons of Israel carried Jacob their father, and their little ones, and their wives, in the wagons which Pharaoh had sent to carry him. And they took their cattle, and their goods, which they had gotten in the land of Canaan, and came into Egypt, Jacob, and all his seed with him: His sons, and his sons' sons with him, his daughters, and his sons' daughters, and all his seed brought he with him into Egypt.

Jacob Dies

Genesis 49:1, 33

And Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days. And when Jacob had made an end of commanding his sons, he gathered up his feet into the bed, and yielded up the ghost, and was gathered unto his people.

Joseph Dies

Genesis 50:22, 24-26

And Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he, and his father's house: and Joseph lived an hundred and ten years. And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence. So Joseph died, being an hundred and ten years old: and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

Exodus

The People of Israel Become Slaves in Egypt

Exodus 1:8-17

Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph.⁵⁸ And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we: Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land. Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses. But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel.

And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour: And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, was with rigour.

And the king of Egypt spake to the Hebrew midwives, of which the name of the one was Shiprah, and the name of the other Puah: And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see them upon the stools;⁵⁹ if it be a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it be a daughter, then she shall live. But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive.

Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty. And it came to pass,

⁵⁸ The events of the book of Exodus transpire about 200 years after the death of Joseph.

⁵⁹ Though it is not certain what “the stools” were, it is obvious that the Hebrew women used them in some way in the process of childbirth.

because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses. And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive.

Moses Is Born

Exodus 1:20-22; 2:1-10

And there went a man of the house of Levi⁶⁰, and took to wife a daughter of Levi. And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months. And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river's brink. And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him.

And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river's side; and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it. And when she had opened it, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children. Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee? And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother. And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it.

And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water.

⁶⁰ Levi was one of the sons of Jacob and his children became one of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Moses Flees to the Desert

Exodus 2:11-22

And it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out unto his brethren, and looked on their burdens: and he spied an Egyptian smiting an Hebrew,⁶¹ one of his brethren. And he looked this way and that way, and when he saw that there was no man, he slew the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand. And when he went out the second day, behold, two men of the Hebrews strove together: and he said to him that did the wrong, Wherefore smitest thou thy fellow? And he said, Who made thee a prince and a judge over us? intendest thou to kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian? And Moses feared, and said, Surely this thing is known.

Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of Midian: and he sat down by a well.

Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters: and they came and drew water, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. And the shepherds came and drove them away: but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock. And when they came to Reuel their father, he said, How is it that ye are come so soon to day? And they said, An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds, and also drew water enough for us, and watered the flock. And he said unto his daughters, And where is he? why is it that ye have left the man? call him, that he may eat bread. And Moses was content to dwell with the man: and he gave Moses Zipporah his daughter. And she bare him a son, and he called his name Gershom: for he said, I have been a stranger in a strange land.

⁶¹ The Israelites are also called *Hebrews*. Abraham is the first man called a Hebrew in the Bible.

God Calls Moses to Lead Israel Out of Egypt

Exodus 2:23-25; 3:2-20; 4:10-12; 6:2-8

And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage. And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.⁶² And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them.

And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him [Moses] in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.

And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses.

And he said, Here am I. And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground. Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.

And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; and I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites. Now therefore,

⁶² This covenant was the promise that God gave to Abraham that he would inherit the land of Israel and that his children would become a great nation. The covenant was passed on to Abraham's son Isaac and to Isaac's son Jacob.

behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them. Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.

And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?

And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.

And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them?

And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM⁶³: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations. Go, and gather the elders of Israel together, and say unto them, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared unto me, saying, I have surely visited you, and seen that which is done to you in Egypt: And I have said, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt unto the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the

⁶³ This amazing name of God tells us that He has no beginning or end; he is eternal, self-existent and not dependant upon anyone or anything; He is unchanging; He is the Author and Sustainer of all that exists.

Jebusites, unto a land flowing with milk and honey⁶⁴ And they shall hearken to thy voice: and thou shalt come, thou and the elders of Israel, unto the king of Egypt, and ye shall say unto him, The LORD God of the Hebrews hath met with us: and now let us go, we beseech thee, three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God. And I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not by a mighty hand. And I will stretch out my hand, and smite Egypt with all my wonders which I will do in the midst thereof: and after that he will let you go.

And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.

And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD? Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.

And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the LORD: And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH⁶⁵ was I not known to them. And I have also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, wherein they were strangers. And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel, whom the Egyptians keep in bondage; and I have remembered my covenant. Wherefore say unto the children

⁶⁴ The land that the modern nation Israel occupies on the extreme eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea is only a small part of the land that God promised to Abraham and his seed. When Jesus Christ returns, they will occupy all of their promised inheritance.

⁶⁵ This name *Jehovah* by which God revealed Himself means “the One who keeps covenant and mercy with His people.” It tells us that God is a loving, compassionate, faithful, promise-keeping God who cannot lie and who delights to bless men.

of Israel, I am the LORD⁶⁶, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments: And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. And I will bring you in unto the land, concerning the which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it you for an heritage: I am the LORD.

Pharaoh Refuses to Acknowledge God

Exodus 5:1-2

And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness.

And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.

God Judges Pharaoh and Egypt

Exodus 7:1-7

And the LORD said unto Moses, See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh⁶⁷: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet. Thou shalt speak all that I command thee: and Aaron thy brother shall speak unto Pharaoh, that he send the children of Israel out of his land. And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt. But Pharaoh shall not hearken unto you, that I may lay my hand upon Egypt, and bring forth mine armies, and my people the

⁶⁶ The name *Jehovah* is usually translated “LORD” in all capital letters in the King James Bible.

⁶⁷ God says he made Moses “a god” (no capitalization) to Pharaoh. This means he was God’s representative in this matter; he was authorized to speak and act in God’s name and was endued with power to do God’s will in regard to Egypt’s ruler.

children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch forth mine hand upon Egypt, and bring out the children of Israel from among them.

And Moses and Aaron did as the LORD commanded them, so did they. And Moses was fourscore years old, and Aaron fourscore and three years old, when they spake unto Pharaoh.

The Water Turns to Blood

Exodus 7:19-21

And the LORD spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and stretch out thine hand upon the waters of Egypt, upon their streams, upon their rivers, and upon their ponds, and upon all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and that there may be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood, and in vessels of stone.

And Moses and Aaron did so, as the LORD commanded; and he lifted up the rod, and smote the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the sight of his servants; and all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood. And the fish that was in the river died; and the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.

Frogs Cover the Land

Exodus 8:5-6

And the LORD spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Stretch forth thine hand with thy rod over the streams, over the rivers, and over the ponds, and cause frogs to come up upon the land of Egypt. And Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt; and the frogs came up, and covered the land of Egypt.

Lice Throughout the Land

Exodus 8:16-17

And the LORD said unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Stretch out thy rod, and smite the dust of the land, that it may

become lice throughout all the land of Egypt. And they did so; for Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod, and smote the dust of the earth, and it became lice in man, and in beast; all the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt.

Swarms of Flies

Exodus 8:20-24

And the LORD said unto Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh; lo, he cometh forth to the water; and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Let my people go, that they may serve me. Else, if thou wilt not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies upon thee, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people, and into thy houses: and the houses of the Egyptians shall be full of swarms of flies, and also the ground whereon they are. And the LORD did so; and there came a grievous swarm of flies into the house of Pharaoh, and into his servants' houses, and into all the land of Egypt: the land was corrupted by reason of the swarm of flies.

The Cattle Die

Exodus 9:1-3, 6

Then the LORD said unto Moses, Go in unto Pharaoh, and tell him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me. For if thou refuse to let them go, and wilt hold them still, Behold, the hand of the LORD is upon thy cattle which is in the field, upon the horses, upon the asses, upon the camels, upon the oxen, and upon the sheep: there shall be a very grievous murrain.⁶⁸ And the LORD did that thing on the morrow, and all the cattle of Egypt died: but of the cattle of the children of Israel died not one.

⁶⁸ An infectious and fatal disease among cattle.

Grievous Boils

Exodus 9:8-11

And the LORD said unto Moses and unto Aaron, Take to you handfuls of ashes of the furnace, and let Moses sprinkle it toward the heaven in the sight of Pharaoh. And it shall become small dust in all the land of Egypt, and shall be a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast, throughout all the land of Egypt. And they took ashes of the furnace, and stood before Pharaoh; and Moses sprinkled it up toward heaven; and it became a boil breaking forth with blains⁶⁹ upon man, and upon beast.

And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils; for the boil was upon the magicians, and upon all the Egyptians.

Fiery Hail

Exodus 9:22-26, 33

And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch forth thine hand toward heaven, that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt, upon man, and upon beast, and upon every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt. And Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven: and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and the fire ran along upon the ground; and the LORD rained hail upon the land of Egypt. So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, such as there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. And the hail smote throughout all the land of Egypt all that was in the field, both man and beast; and the hail smote every herb of the field, and brake every tree of the field. Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, was there no hail.

And Moses went out of the city from Pharaoh, and spread abroad his hands unto the LORD: and the thunders and hail ceased, and the rain was not poured upon the earth.

⁶⁹ Serum-filled blisters on the skin.

Locusts

Exodus 10:12-19

And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, that they may come up upon the land of Egypt, and eat every herb of the land, even all that the hail hath left. And Moses stretched forth his rod over the land of Egypt, and the LORD brought an east wind upon the land all that day, and all that night; and when it was morning, the east wind brought the locusts. And the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt, and rested in all the coasts of Egypt: very grievous were they; before them there were no such locusts as they, neither after them shall be such. For they covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened; and they did eat every herb of the land, and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left: and there remained not any green thing in the trees, or in the herbs of the field, through all the land of Egypt.

Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste; and he said, I have sinned against the LORD your God, and against you. Now therefore forgive, I pray thee, my sin only this once, and intreat the LORD your God, that he may take away from me this death only.

And he went out from Pharaoh, and intreated the LORD. And the LORD turned a mighty strong west wind, which took away the locusts, and cast them into the Red sea; there remained not one locust in all the coasts of Egypt.

Thick Darkness

Exodus 10:21-23, 28-29

And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt. And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days. They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

And Pharaoh said unto him, Get thee from me, take heed to thyself, see my face no more; for in that day thou seest my face thou shalt die. And Moses said, Thou hast spoken well, I will see thy face again no more.

The Firstborn Killed

Exodus 11:4-7, 9-10

And Moses said, Thus saith the LORD, About midnight will I go out into the midst of Egypt: And all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sitteth upon his throne, even unto the firstborn of the maidservant that is behind the mill; and all the firstborn of beasts. And there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there was none like it, nor shall be like it any more. But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue, against man or beast: that ye may know how that the LORD doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel. And the LORD said unto Moses, Pharaoh shall not hearken unto you; that my wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt.

And Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh: and the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, so that he would not let the children of Israel go out of his land.

The Passover Is Instituted

Exodus 12:1, 3-7, 12, 13, 23

And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house: And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole

assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt. For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.⁷⁰

Israel Leaves Egypt

Exodus 12:29-32, 51

And it came to pass, that at midnight the LORD smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of cattle.

And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt; for there was not a house where there was not one dead. And he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, Rise up, and get you forth from among my people, both ye and the children of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as ye have said. Also take your flocks and your herds, as ye have said, and be gone; and bless me also.

⁷⁰ The Passover lamb typifies the Saviour Jesus Christ, who eventually would come and die on the cross for man's sin. The lamb was without blemish, which typifies Jesus' sinless life. The lamb was killed and its blood was shed, thus typifying Jesus' death on the cross. Each Israelite family put the blood of the lamb on the door of the house, and this protected them from God's judgment; likewise, those who put their faith in Jesus Christ are kept from God's judgment upon sin; they will not perish but have everlasting life.

And it came to pass the selfsame day, that the LORD did bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their armies.

Pharaoh Pursues Israel and Is Drowned in the Red Sea

Exodus 14:5-10, 13-14, 21-31

And it was told the king of Egypt that the people fled: and the heart of Pharaoh and of his servants was turned against the people, and they said, Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us? And he made ready his chariot, and took his people with him: And he took six hundred chosen chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over every one of them. And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued after the children of Israel: and the children of Israel went out with an high hand. But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and overtook them encamping by the sea,⁷¹ beside Pihahiroth, before Baalzephon. And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD.

And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. And the Egyptians

⁷¹ This was the northern part of the Red Sea.

pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians, and took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians.

And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen. And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them.⁷²

But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore. And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses.

⁷² Some modern Bible commentators have said that the Israelites did not cross over the Red Sea but instead crossed over a marshy area called the Sea of Reeds. This is contrary to the Bible's description. The sea that the Jews crossed over was large enough to drown Pharaoh's mighty army. The Bible has been proven true time and time again by archeologists and historians and it is wise to believe everything it says.

Israel Comes to Mt. Sinai, Where God Gives the Law (the Ten Commandments)

Exodus 19:1, 20; 20:1-17

In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai. And the LORD came down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and the LORD called Moses up to the top of the mount; and Moses went up.

And God spake all these words, saying,⁷³ I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and

⁷³ These are the Ten Commandments that God gave to Israel. He gave them many other laws as well, but these are foundational. If men would live by these laws the world would be a wonderful place, but sinful, rebellious mankind does not obey God's laws.

rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

Thou shalt not kill.

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Thou shalt not steal.

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

The People Agree to Obey God's Law

Exodus 24:3-8

And Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the LORD hath said will we do. And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD, and rose up early in the morning, and builded an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. And he sent young men of the children of Israel, which offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen unto the LORD. And Moses took half of the blood, and put it in basons; and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient. And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of

the covenant, which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words.⁷⁴

Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

The Offering for Sin

Leviticus 4:1-7

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a soul shall sin through ignorance against any of the commandments of the LORD concerning things which ought not to be done, and shall do against any of them: If the priest that is anointed do sin according to the sin of the people; then let him bring for his sin, which he hath sinned, a young bullock without blemish unto the LORD for a sin offering.⁷⁵ And he shall bring the bullock unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD; and shall lay his hand upon the bullock's head, and kill the bullock before the LORD. And the priest that is anointed shall take of the bullock's blood, and bring it to the tabernacle of the congregation: And the priest shall dip his finger in the blood, and sprinkle of the blood seven times before the LORD, before the vail of the sanctuary. And the priest shall put some of the blood upon the horns of the altar of sweet incense before the LORD, which is in the tabernacle of the congregation; and shall pour all the blood of the bullock at

⁷⁴ Throughout the Old Testament, the blood of animals typified the blood that was shed by Jesus Christ when He died on the cross. The Bible says that there can be no forgiveness of sin without the shedding of blood, but man cannot shed his own blood for sin because he is a sinner and his blood is unacceptable. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was born of a virgin and had no sin and He could therefore die in our stead and shed His blood to satisfy the requirements of God's law.

⁷⁵ This was yet another depiction of Jesus Christ who died for man's sin. Here He is typified by the offering of a bullock, depicting His great strength whereby He endured the shame and torment of the cross in order to purchase man's salvation.

the bottom of the altar of the burnt offering, which is at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.⁷⁶

Shedding of Blood Required for Forgiveness

Leviticus 17:11

For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.

The Book of Hebrews Explains the Meaning of the Old Offerings⁷⁷

Hebrews 10:1-4, 10-14

For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.⁷⁸

By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; from henceforth expecting till his enemies

⁷⁶ The tabernacle was the place where Israel worshipped God. It was a tent that they carried with them through the wilderness. This is where they made their animal sacrifices.

⁷⁷ The book of Hebrews is in the New Testament part of the Bible, and it explains the meaning of the sacrifices in the Old Testament.

⁷⁸ We see that the animal sacrifices themselves did not take away man's sins; they only typified the coming of Jesus Christ. Sins are only forgiven when men put their faith in Christ.

be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.⁷⁹

God Judges the People for Complaining

Numbers 21:5-7

And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.⁸⁰ And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died. Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.

God Provides Salvation

Numbers 21:8-9

And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.

⁷⁹ “Sanctified” means set apart for God; here it refers to those who believe in Jesus Christ. They are forgiven of their sins and made children of God and given eternal life. Sinners are made perfect and acceptable to God through the blood of Christ.

⁸⁰ God had given them bread that fell from heaven every day. It was called “manna,” but instead of being thankful, they complained continually and murmured against God. This is a warning to us today.

Jesus Christ Was Also Lifted Up to Provide Salvation for Men⁸¹

John 3:14-16

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.⁸²

Israel Wanders in the Wilderness for Forty Years

Deuteronomy 8:1-5

All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers. And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.⁸³ And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live. Thy raiment waxed

⁸¹ The following verses from the New Testament explains the meaning of the fiery serpents in the Old Testament. Just as Moses made a brass image of a fiery serpent and lifted it up on a pole so that the afflicted Israelites could look upon it and be healed, Jesus Christ was lifted up on the cross to die for man's sins, and every sinner who believes on Him is forgiven and given eternal life. The serpent is that old Devil, Satan, and he caused men to sin in the Garden of Eden. Yet his poisonous, deathly bite can be healed through faith in Jesus Christ.

⁸² Even though men have sinned against God since the Garden of Eden, God has loved man and has provided a way for his salvation.

⁸³ Israel refused to believe God's promises, so they had to wander in the wilderness between Egypt and the land of Canaan for 40 years as a judgment.

not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years. Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee.

God Warns Israel That After They Go into the Promised Land They Will Be Judged if They Depart from His Law⁸⁴

Deuteronomy 8:10-20

When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he hath given thee. Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; and when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint;⁸⁵ who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end; and thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day. And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish. As the

⁸⁴ God gave them these instructions and warnings just before they left the wilderness and went into the promised land of Canaan.

⁸⁵ God miraculously provided water for the Israelites while they were wandering in the wilderness.

nations which the LORD destroyeth before your face, so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the LORD your God.

Joshua, Judges, Samuel

Joshua Is Made Leader after the Death of Moses and Leads Israel into the Promised Land

Joshua 1:1-9

Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast. There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

God Gives Order to Joshua

Joshua 6:2-5

And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour.⁸⁶ And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days. And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets. And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.

Israel Conquers the City of Jericho

Joshua 6:6-10, 14-16, 20

And Joshua the son of Nun called the priests, and said unto them, Take up the ark of the covenant,⁸⁷ and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD. And he said unto the people, Pass on, and compass the city, and let him that is armed pass on before the ark of the LORD. And it came to pass, when Joshua had spoken unto the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns passed on before the LORD, and blew with the trumpets: and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them. And the armed men went before the priests that blew with the trumpets, and the rereward came after the ark, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets.

⁸⁶ Jericho was the first city that the Israelites came to as they entered the land of Canaan. It was surrounded by massive walls.

⁸⁷ This was a wooden box covered with gold plate that symbolized God's presence with Israel. It was kept in the tabernacle.

And Joshua had commanded the people, saying, Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout. And the second day they compassed the city once, and returned into the camp: so they did six days.

And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city after the same manner seven times: only on that day they compassed the city seven times. And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city. So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

Israel Conquers the Promised Land

Joshua 11:23

So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD said unto Moses; and Joshua gave it for an inheritance unto Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. And the land rested from war.

Israel Forgets God after Inheriting the Promised Land, Is Ruled by Judges

Judges 2:11-19

And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim:⁸⁸ And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger. And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth.⁸⁹

And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies. Whithersoever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for evil, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn unto them: and they were greatly distressed.

Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them.⁹⁰ And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the LORD; but they did not so. And when the LORD raised them up judges, then the

⁸⁸ “Baalim” is the plural of Baal, the name of an idol. The worship of Baal was frequently connected with immorality. Baal was associated with the worship of the sun and planets. The *American Tract Society Dictionary* says, “The worship of Baal was established in Babylon in the famous tower of Babel, the uppermost room of which served at the same time as an observatory, and as the repository of a collection of astronomical observations.”

⁸⁹ “Ashtaroth” was an idol, the female counterpart of Baal. She was known variously as the moon-goddess and a goddess of love and war.

⁹⁰ Israel was ruled by judges for 450 years after the death of Joshua. Samuel was the last judge.

LORD was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge: for it repented the LORD because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them.

And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they returned, and corrupted themselves more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down unto them; they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way.

David Is Crowned as King of Israel⁹¹

2 Samuel 5:3-5

So all the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron; and king David made a league with them in Hebron before the LORD: and they anointed David king over Israel. David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months: and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty and three years over all Israel and Judah.

Psalms, Proverbs

David's Psalm, The Lord Is My Shepherd

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely

⁹¹ During the judgeship of Samuel, Israel chose a king to rule over them. The first king's name was Saul. After Saul, David was the king of Israel for 40 years. He was a good king who loved the true Jehovah God. He wrote many of the wonderful Psalms that are in the Bible.

goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Proverbs: A Book of Wisdom⁹²

Proverbs 1:1-4, 7

The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel; to know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; to receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; to give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

What Proverbs Says about Obeying Parents

Proverbs 1:8-9

My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.

What Proverbs Says about Finding the Right Way in Life

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

What Proverbs Says about One's Neighbor

Proverbs 3:29-30; 25:9-10

Devise not evil against thy neighbour, seeing he dwelleth securely by thee. Strive not with a man without cause, if he have done thee no harm.

⁹² The book of Proverbs in the Old Testament part of the Bible was written mostly by one of Israel's kings named Solomon. It contains concise truthful statements that help men understand how to be wise and how to conduct themselves in this world. These Proverbs should be taught in every school, so children can learn practical wisdom. The following are a sampling of these Proverbs.

Debate thy cause with thy neighbour himself; and discover not a secret to another: Lest he that heareth it put thee to shame, and thine infamy turn not away.

What Proverbs Says about Wicked Men

Proverbs 4:14-17

Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away. For they sleep not, except they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause some to fall. For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence.

What Proverbs Says about the Heart

Proverbs 5:23-27

Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee. Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.

What Proverbs Says about Laziness

Proverbs 6:6-11; 20:4

Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest. How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.

The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing.

What Proverbs Says that God Hates

Proverbs 6:16-19

These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, an heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

What Proverbs Says about the Danger of Immorality

Proverbs 6:23-29; 23:26-28

For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life: To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman. Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids. For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life. Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned? So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent.

My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways. For a whore is a deep ditch; and a strange woman is a narrow pit. She also lieth in wait as for a prey, and increaseth the transgressors among men.

What Proverbs Says about Mercy

Proverbs 11:17

The merciful man doeth good to his own soul: but he that is cruel troubleth his own flesh.

What Proverbs Says about a Beautiful Woman Who Lacks Wisdom

Proverbs 11:22

As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion.

What Proverbs Says about the Fool

Proverbs 12:15; 26:11

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.

As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly.

What Proverbs Says about the Tongue

Proverbs 12:19; 15:1-2; 21:23

The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment.

A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.

Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.

What Proverbs Says about God's Eyes

Proverbs 15:3

The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

What Proverbs Says about Anger

Proverbs 15:18; 16:32

A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife.

He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.

What Proverbs Says about Hearing Instruction and Correction

Proverbs 15:32

He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding.

What Proverbs Says about Pride

Proverbs 16:18

Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

What Proverbs Says about Bribes

Proverbs 17:23

A wicked man taketh a gift out of the bosom to pervert the ways of judgment.

What Proverbs Says about Talebearing and Gossip

Proverbs 18:8; 20:19

The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips.

What Proverbs Says about Friends

Proverbs 18:24

A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

What Proverbs Says about a Good and Wise Wife

Proverbs 19:14; 31:10-12

House and riches are the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife is from the LORD.

Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

What Proverbs Says about Beauty vs. Godliness in a Woman

Proverbs 31:30

Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.

What Proverbs Says about the Rich and the Poor

Proverbs 18:11, 19:17; 21:13; 23:4-5; 28:6, 22, 27

The rich man's wealth is his strong city, and as an high wall in his own conceit.

He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.

Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom. Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

Better is the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich.

He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him.

He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.

What Proverbs Says about Training Children

Proverbs 19:18; 22:6, 15; 29:15, 17

Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.

Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.

What Proverbs Says about Alcoholic Beverages and Drunkenness

Proverbs 20:1; 23:20-21, 29-35

Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh: For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.

Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things. Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast. They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.

What Proverbs Says about Kings

Proverbs 21:1; 24:21-22; 25:5

The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.

My son, fear thou the LORD and the king: and meddle not with them that are given to change: For their calamity shall rise suddenly; and who knoweth the ruin of them both?

Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness.

What Proverbs Says about Lying

Proverbs 26:28

A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin.

What Proverbs Says about a Brawling Woman

Proverbs 21:9

It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.

What Proverbs Says about an Unfaithful Man

Proverbs 25:19

Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.

What Proverbs Says about Interfering in Problems That Aren't Your Business

Proverbs 26:17

He that passeth by, and meddleth with strife belonging not to him, is like one that taketh a dog by the ears.

What Proverbs Says about Boasting about What Will Happen Tomorrow

Proverbs 27:1

Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

What Proverbs Says about Praising Oneself

Proverbs 27:2

Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.

What Proverbs Says about the Eyes of Man

Proverbs 27:20

Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.

What Proverbs Says about Trying to Hide One's Sins

Proverbs 28:13

He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

What Proverbs Says about Children Who Hate their Parents

Proverbs 30:17

The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.

Kings, Chronicles

The Prophet Elijah Battles Against the False Prophets of Baal

1 Kings 18:17-39

And it came to pass, when Ahab⁹³ saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel?

And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim.⁹⁴ Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.

So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto mount Carmel.

And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred

⁹³ Ahab was a king in Israel during the days when Israel had turned from the true and living God and was worshipping false gods. Elijah was God's prophet to call the people back to the truth. He invited the idolatrous priests to a contest.

⁹⁴ Baalim is the plural of Baal, a false god.

and fifty men. Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.

And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first; for ye are many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire under.

And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made.

And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked.

And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them. And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded.

And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down. And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Israel shall be thy name: And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed. And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the

wood. And he said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time. And he said, Do it the third time. And they did it the third time. And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water.

And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.

Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.

Israel Refuses to Turn from Idols and Is Carried Away Captive to Babylon

2 Chronicles 36:14-20

Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the LORD which he had hallowed in Jerusalem. And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place: But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.

Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees,⁹⁵ who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them

⁹⁵ Babylon.

all into his hand. And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes; all these he brought to Babylon. And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof. And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia.

Prophets

Isaiah's Prophecy of Jesus' Virgin Birth ⁹⁶

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.⁹⁷

Isaiah's Prophecy of Jesus' Authority

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Isaiah the Prophet Speaks about the One True and Living God

Isaiah 45:5-6, 16-22

I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:

⁹⁶ The Old Testament part of the Bible contains large numbers of prophecies about the coming of Jesus Christ. These were written down hundreds of years before He was born. The prophecies in the Bible are given in great detail, even naming the names of people before they were born.

⁹⁷ Immanuel means "God with us."

That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else.

They shall be ashamed, and also confounded, all of them: they shall go to confusion together that are makers of idols.

But Israel shall be saved in the LORD with an everlasting salvation: ye shall not be ashamed nor confounded world without end. For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else. I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain: I the LORD speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.

Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, ye that are escaped of the nations: they have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god that cannot save. Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me.

Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.

Isaiah the Prophet Warns about Idolatry

Isaiah 44:6-20, 24

Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God. And who, as I, shall call, and shall declare it, and set it in order for me, since I appointed the ancient people? and the things that are coming, and shall come, let them shew unto them.⁹⁸ Fear ye not, neither be

⁹⁸ God revealed the future in the Bible's prophecies so that men can know that He is the one true and living God.

afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses.⁹⁹ Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any.

They that make a graven image are all of them vanity; and their delectable things shall not profit; and they are their own witnesses; they see not, nor know; that they may be ashamed. Who hath formed a god, or molten a graven image that is profitable for nothing? Behold, all his fellows shall be ashamed: and the workmen, they are of men: let them all be gathered together, let them stand up; yet they shall fear, and they shall be ashamed together. The smith with the tongs both worketh in the coals, and fashioneth it with hammers, and worketh it with the strength of his arms: yea, he is hungry, and his strength faileth: he drinketh no water, and is faint. The carpenter stretcheth out his rule; he marketh it out with a line; he fitteth it with planes, and he marketh it out with the compass, and maketh it after the figure of a man, according to the beauty of a man; that it may remain in the house. He heweth him down cedars, and taketh the cypress and the oak, which he strengtheneth for himself among the trees of the forest: he planteth an ash, and the rain doth nourish it. Then shall it be for a man to burn: for he will take thereof, and warm himself; yea, he kindleth it, and baketh bread; yea, he maketh a god, and worshippeth it; he maketh it a graven image, and falleth down thereto. He burneth part thereof in the fire; with part thereof he eateth flesh; he roasteth roast, and is satisfied: yea, he warmeth himself, and saith, Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire: And the residue thereof he maketh a god, even his graven image: he falleth down unto it, and worshippeth it, and prayeth unto it, and saith, Deliver me; for thou art my god.

They have not known nor understood: for he hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; and their hearts, that they

⁹⁹ The nation Israel was God's witness in the Old Testament times so that the world could know the true God.

cannot understand.¹⁰⁰ And none considereth in his heart, neither is there knowledge nor understanding to say, I have burned part of it in the fire; yea, also I have baked bread upon the coals thereof; I have roasted flesh, and eaten it: and shall I make the residue thereof an abomination? shall I fall down to the stock of a tree? He feedeth on ashes: a deceived heart hath turned him aside, that he cannot deliver his soul, nor say, Is there not a lie in my right hand?¹⁰¹

Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb,¹⁰² I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself;

Jeremiah the Prophet also Warns about Idolatry

Jeremiah 10:1-16

Hear ye the word which the LORD speaketh unto you, O house of Israel:

Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.¹⁰³

For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs

¹⁰⁰ The Bible says that men are deceived because they do not want to know the truth.

¹⁰¹ When men reject the true God they become spiritually blind so that they believe lies.

¹⁰² Here God is speaking to Israel, the nation that He created to show His wisdom and glory to the world.

¹⁰³ Man is not supposed to fear and worship the heavenly bodies such as the Sun and the stars. These things do not have life and they cannot control man's life. Man is to fear and worship only the one true and living God who made all of these things.

be borne, because they cannot go.¹⁰⁴ Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good.¹⁰⁵

Forasmuch as there is none like unto thee, O LORD; thou art great, and thy name is great in might. Who would not fear thee, O King of nations¹⁰⁶? for to thee doth it appertain: forasmuch as among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their kingdoms, there is none like unto thee.

But they are altogether brutish and foolish: the stock is a doctrine of vanities. Silver spread into plates is brought from Tarshish, and gold from Uphaz, the work of the workman, and of the hands of the founder: blue and purple is their clothing: they are all the work of cunning men.

But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.¹⁰⁷

Thus shall ye say unto them, The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, even they shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens. He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion. When he uttereth his voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens, and he causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends

¹⁰⁴ An idol stands upright but it cannot speak or walk.

¹⁰⁵ An idol is vain because it has no life and cannot do anything, good or evil.

¹⁰⁶ The one true and living God who created all things is the King of all nations. He is not merely the god of one group of people. He is not merely “another of the gods.”

¹⁰⁷ At this present time God is inviting men to be saved and He is patiently waiting for men to come to Jesus Christ, but the time will come when the opportunity of salvation will be over and God will judge the world for its sin and idolatry.

of the earth; he maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of his treasures.¹⁰⁸

Every man is brutish¹⁰⁹ in his knowledge: every founder is confounded by the graven image: for his molten image is falsehood, and there is no breath in them. They are vanity, and the work of errors: in the time of their visitation they shall perish.

The portion of Jacob¹¹⁰ is not like them: for he is the former of all things; and Israel is the rod of his inheritance: The LORD of hosts is his name.

Micah's Prophecy of Jesus' Birthplace

Micah 5:2

But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

¹⁰⁸ The one true and living God made all things and He is in control of all things. He is in control of the weather.

¹⁰⁹ “Brutish” means dumb like an animal. Men were made in the image of God that they might know and walk with God; animals are not made in God’s image and cannot know and worship God. Because of sin and idolatry, men have become like unknowing animals in the sight of God.

¹¹⁰ “The portion of Jacob” refers to the true and living God who revealed Himself to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The Prophecy of Jesus' Crucifixion ¹¹¹

Psalm 22:14-18

I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. My strength is dried up like a potsherd;¹¹² and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death. For dogs have compassed me;¹¹³ the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me. They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.

Isaiah's Prophecy of Jesus' Death ¹¹⁴

Isaiah 53:3-7

He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from

¹¹¹ This amazing prophecy was given by God to King David about 1,000 years before Jesus was born. It describes His crucifixion whereby His hands and feet were nailed to a wooden cross and He was lifted up on the cross to die. It was a method of capital punishment used in the Roman Empire of Jesus' day. The prophecy describes how Jesus' hands and feet were pierced; how his bones were pulled out of joint; how his strength flowed away; it describes his great thirst because of shock and the severe loss of blood; how the people stood around and stared at him and mocked him; how that none of his bones were broken; how the soldiers gambled for his garments at the foot of the cross as He was dying. All of this is described in the New Testament Gospels Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which give us the life of Jesus.

¹¹² "Potsherd" is a piece of clay pottery. Thus Jesus was so dry and thirsty that he felt like a piece of pottery that has gone through the kiln and all of the moisture removed.

¹¹³ The Bible likens those who crucified Jesus to "dogs," because they were so cruel and lacking in compassion.

¹¹⁴ This prophecy by Isaiah was written down in the Old Testament about 700 years before Jesus was born. It describes how Jesus was rejected by His people, the nation Israel, how He willingly suffered in order to save men from their sins. No one forced Jesus to go to the cross; He went there willingly as a sacrifice for sin.

him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem 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 upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

The King of Babylon Makes an Idol ¹¹⁵

Daniel 3:1a, 4-6

Nebuchadnezzar¹¹⁶ the king made an image of gold.

Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages, That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up: And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

¹¹⁵ We have seen how that the nation Israel rebelled against God and worshipped idols and were judged by God and taken captive to Babylon. The book of Daniel in the Old Testament tells the story of four young Jews in Babylon who served God. Their names were Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Following are two of the stories from the book of Daniel. The first describes how Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow down to an idol in Babylon and were thrown into a furnace. The second is about Daniel being thrown into the lion's den.

¹¹⁶ The king of Babylon.

Godly Jews Refuse to Bow to the Idol

Daniel 3:8, 12-18

Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans¹¹⁷ came near, and accused the Jews. There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king. Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up? Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

God Protects Them in the Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3:19-29

Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was

¹¹⁷ The Babylonians were also called Chaldeans.

wont to be heated. And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?

They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither.

Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire.

And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God. Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and

language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.

God Protects Daniel in the Lion's Den

Daniel 6:3-23

Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm. Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him. Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.

Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius¹¹⁸, live for ever. All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions. Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree.

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

¹¹⁸ Darius was the king of the Persian empire, which conquered Babylon during the days of Daniel.

Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God. Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.

Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him. Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.

Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee. And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.

Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting; neither were instruments of musick brought before him: and his sleep went from him.

Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions. And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions? Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever. My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions'

mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

The New Testament

The Gospels

The Angel Announces the Birth of Jesus to Mary¹¹⁹

Luke 1:26-35, 37-38

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David.¹²⁰ And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be

¹¹⁹ Now we come to the New Testament part of the Bible and the birth of Jesus Christ and the fulfillment of the types and prophecies in the Old Testament.

¹²⁰ This refers to King David in the Old Testament. God promised him that the promised Messiah, Jesus Christ, would be of his lineage and would inherit his throne over Israel. Jesus Christ is therefore called the son of David, and when He returns to earth to establish His kingdom, He will re-establish David's throne.

born of thee shall be called the Son of God. For with God nothing shall be impossible.

And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

The Birth of Jesus Christ

Matthew 1:18-23; Luke 2:1-7

Now the birth of Jesus Christ¹²¹ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.¹²²

Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

¹²¹ “Christ” means “Anointed One.” It refers to Jesus as the one foretold in the Old Testament Scriptures. He is the One chosen by God to die for man’s sins and also to establish God’s kingdom in this world. *Christ* is Greek and *Messiah* is the Hebrew word that means the same thing.

¹²² The name “Jesus” means Saviour.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem;¹²³ (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

The Angel Appears to the Shepherds

Luke 2:8-14

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David¹²⁴ a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

The Shepherds Visit the Baby Jesus

Luke 2:15-18

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is

¹²³ Jesus was born in the little town of Bethlehem in fulfillment of the prophecy that was given by Micah 700 years before the Saviour's birth.

¹²⁴ King David was also from Bethlehem.

come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

Jesus Grows Up

Luke 2:52

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Jesus Is the Eternal God

John 1:1-2; 1 Timothy 3:15

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.

God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

Jesus Is the Creator of All Things

John 1:3

All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Jesus Is the Light of the World

John 1:4-5, 9-12

In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.

John the Baptist Prepares the Way for Jesus and Tells the People that Jesus is the Lamb of God

Matthew 3:1-6; John 1:29

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, and saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias,¹²⁵ saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.¹²⁶ And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, and were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

Jesus Tells the Jewish Ruler He Must Be Born Again

John 3:1-3

There was a man of the Pharisees,¹²⁷ named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

¹²⁵ "Esaias" is the same as Isaiah.

¹²⁶ The Old Testament prophesied that John the Baptist would prepare the way for Jesus.

¹²⁷ The Pharisees were a prominent religious sect of the Jews. Most of them rejected Jesus as the promised Saviour and called for His crucifixion.

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again,¹²⁸ he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Jesus Explains How to Be Born Again

John 3:16-18

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,¹²⁹ that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.¹³⁰ He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Jesus Calls His 12 Apostles ¹³¹

Matthew 10:1-4

And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; the first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James

¹²⁸ When we are born the first time, physically, we are separated from God because of sin. Jesus taught that men must be born again. This means to be born spiritually into God's family. This happens when I believe on Jesus Christ and my sins are forgiven and I am accepted by God. Thus I cannot go to heaven through my religious works or my good deeds; I can only go to heaven by believing in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour.

¹²⁹ God's "only begotten Son" is Jesus Christ, who came into the world through the virgin birth.

¹³⁰ Jesus Christ did not die for the sins of only a few men but for the whole world. All people who believe on Him can be saved.

¹³¹ The apostles were trained by Jesus, and after He died and rose from the dead and ascended back to heaven, the apostles started the first churches. Jesus' apostles also wrote most of the New Testament part of the Bible.

the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

Jesus Preaches about the Kingdom

Matthew 5:1-12, 43-48

And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the

publicans¹³² so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Jesus Warns That Sin Is a Matter of the Heart

Matthew 5:27-28

Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Jesus Teaches about Prayer

Matthew 6:1-8

Take heed that ye do not your alms¹³³ before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.

And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen¹³⁴ do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not

¹³² Publicans were tax collectors and they were greatly despised and hated by the Jewish people.

¹³³ Giving to the poor.

¹³⁴ According to the Bible, the “heathen” refers to people who worship false gods and who do not know and serve the one true and living God.

ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

Jesus' Teaching About Possessions

Matthew 6:24-34

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.¹³⁵ No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory¹³⁶ was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow

¹³⁵ “Mammon” refers to money and possessions.

¹³⁶ This is King Solomon, the son of King David. He was the richest and wisest king that ever lived.

shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Jesus' Teaching about Judging Others Hypocritically

Matthew 7:1-5

Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote¹³⁷ out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam¹³⁸ is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

Jesus Warns About False Prophets

Matthew 7:15-20

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.¹³⁹ Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good

¹³⁷ A small splinter of wood.

¹³⁸ A large piece of wood used in the construction of houses.

¹³⁹ Jesus warned that false teachers would come in His name pretending to be true teachers. They appear to be true, but their teaching and their lives show them to be false. In other parts of the New Testament the Lord's apostles give more information about this. They tell us that there will be many false churches that will not follow the teaching of the Bible. They also tell us that many of the false teachers will live wicked lives and will thus bring reproach upon the name of Christ. Some people are confused by the many different types of churches, but this should not be confusing. Jesus and His apostles warned that there will be many divisions and many false churches. We can discern a true church from a false one by comparing its teaching to the Bible.

fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Jesus Teaches about the Wise Man

Matthew 7:24-29

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Jesus Invites Men to Come to Him and Promises Rest

Matthew 11:28-30

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Jesus Heals a Leper

Luke 5:12-15

And it came to pass, when he was in a certain city, behold a man full of leprosy: who seeing Jesus fell on his face, and besought him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And he put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will: be thou clean. And immediately the leprosy departed from him. And he charged him to tell no man: but go, and shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing, according as Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

But so much the more went there a fame abroad of him: and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities.

Jesus Raises Girl from Dead

Luke 8:41-42, 49-55

And, behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue:¹⁴⁰ and he fell down at Jesus' feet, and besought him that he would come into his house: For he had one only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she lay a dying. But as he went the people thronged him. While he yet spake, there cometh one from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, Thy daughter is dead; trouble not the Master. But when Jesus heard it, he answered him, saying, Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole. And when he came into the house, he suffered no man to go in, save Peter, and James, and John, and the father and the mother of the maiden. And all wept, and bewailed her: but he said, Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn, knowing that she was dead. And he put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, Maid, arise. And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway: and he commanded to give her meat.

Jesus Feeds the Multitude

Luke 9:10-17

And the apostles, when they were returned, told him all that they had done. And he took them, and went aside privately into a desert place belonging to the city called Bethsaida. And the people, when they knew it, followed him: and he received them, and spake unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing.

¹⁴⁰ The synagogue was where the Jewish people in Jesus' day worshipped God and studied the Bible.

And when the day began to wear away, then came the twelve,¹⁴¹ and said unto him, Send the multitude away, that they may go into the towns and country round about, and lodge, and get victuals: for we are here in a desert place. But he said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they said, We have no more but five loaves and two fishes; except we should go and buy meat for all this people. For they were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, Make them sit down by fifties in a company. And they did so, and made them all sit down. Then he took the five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them, and brake, and gave to the disciples to set before the multitude.

And they did eat, and were all filled: and there was taken up of fragments that remained to them twelve baskets.

Jesus Heals the Blind Man

Luke 18:35-43

And it came to pass, that as he was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the way side begging: And hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant. And they told him, that Jesus of Nazareth¹⁴² passeth by. And he cried, saying, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me. And they which went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace: but he cried so much the more, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me.

And Jesus stood, and commanded him to be brought unto him: and when he was come near, he asked him, Saying, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight.

And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee.

¹⁴¹ The 12 apostles.

¹⁴² Jesus was born in Bethlehem, but Mary and Joseph moved back to Nazareth after that and He grew up in Nazareth.

And immediately he received his sight,¹⁴³ and followed him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God.

Jesus Has Power over the Storm

Matthew 8:23-27

And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him. And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!

Jesus' Parable of the Rich Fool

Luke 12:15-21

And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

¹⁴³ Jesus' miracles were always perfect and complete. He never failed to heal any type of disease, and the healings were instantaneous.

Jesus' Parable of the Sower

Matthew 13:3-8, 18-23

And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; and when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.

Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

The Tax Collector Comes to Jesus

Luke 19:1-10

And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich. And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he

was little of stature. And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way.

And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house. And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully.

And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner.

And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.¹⁴⁴

And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Jesus Foretells the Events of the End Times

Matthew 24:3-8, 11, 21-24, 29-31; 25:13, 31-32

And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?¹⁴⁵

And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars

¹⁴⁴ Here we see why the publicans were so hated by the Jews. They had great authority under the Roman government that ruled Israel in that day and oftentimes they robbed the people by making false accusations about how much money they owed for taxes. Zacchaeus became a changed man after he believed on Jesus Christ, and he was no longer dishonest. In fact, he started giving his money away!

¹⁴⁵ The New Testament's prophecies are amazing. They describe in great detail the events that will occur on earth just before Jesus returns to establish His kingdom. This prophecy from Matthew 24-25 describes just a few of these things. As we will see, the book of Revelation, the last book in the Bible, describes more of these events.

and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

Jesus Is Betrayed and Arrested

Matthew 26:36, 39, 45-50, 55-57

Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane,¹⁴⁶ and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.

And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve,¹⁴⁷ came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast. And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him.

And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took him.

In that same hour said Jesus to the multitudes, Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me. But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.

And they that had laid hold on Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled.

¹⁴⁶ This was a garden just outside of Jerusalem, the capital city of Israel.

¹⁴⁷ Judas betrayed his Master for 30 pieces of silver.

The Jewish Leaders Obtain False Witnesses against Jesus

Matthew 26:59-68

Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death,¹⁴⁸ But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses. And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days. And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee?

But Jesus held his peace.

And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.

Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

Then the high priest rent his clothes,¹⁴⁹ saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy. What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death.

Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands, Saying, Prophecy unto us, thou Christ, Who is he that smote thee?

Judas the Betrayer of Jesus Kills Himself

Matthew 27:1-5

When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death: And when they had bound him, they led him away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

¹⁴⁸ Everything about Jesus' "trial" was a mockery of justice. There was no evidence against Him of any crime whatsoever.

¹⁴⁹ God's law forbade the high priest to tear his clothes.

Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood.

And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that.

And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

Jesus Is Tried by Pilate

Matthew 27:11-26

And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, Thou sayest. And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing. Then said Pilate unto him, Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee?

And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly.

Now at that feast the governor was wont to release unto the people a prisoner, whom they would. And they had then a notable prisoner, called Barabbas.¹⁵⁰ Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ? For he knew that for envy they had delivered him.

When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.

But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus.

The governor answered and said unto them, Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you?

They said, Barabbas.

¹⁵⁰ Barabbas had committed many crimes, including theft, insurrection, and murder.

Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?

They all say unto him, Let him be crucified.

And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done?

But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified.

When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it.

Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children.

Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

Jesus Is Mocked and Beaten

Matthew 27:27-31

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head.

And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him.

Jesus Had Foretold That He Would Lay Down His Life¹⁵¹

John 10:17-18; 15:13

Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but

¹⁵¹ Jesus Christ is the Son of God and He knew everything that was going to happen to Him. He willingly allowed the Roman government and the Jews to crucify Him so that He could die for man's sins.

I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Jesus Had Foretold That He Would Die and Rise from the Dead

John 2:19-22

Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building,¹⁵² and wilt thou rear it up in three days? But he spake of the temple of his body.

When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

Jesus Is Crucified

Matthew 27:33, 35

And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull, and they crucified him.¹⁵³

Jesus Saves the Thief on the Cross

Luke 23:32, 39-43

And there were also two other, malefactors, led with him to be put to death.

And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.

But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said

¹⁵² The Jews are referring to their temple in Jerusalem.

¹⁵³ Jesus was crucified at 9 a.m. and died at about 3 p.m.

unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.¹⁵⁴

Jesus Asks God to Forgive His Enemies

Luke 23:34a

Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.

Jesus Dies

Luke 23:46-47

And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

Now when the centurion¹⁵⁵ saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man.

The Bones of the Others Are Broken, But Not Jesus' Bones

John 19:31-37

The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

¹⁵⁴ Here we see that Jesus promised the believing thief that he would to go Paradise or Heaven in spirit the same day that he died. The Bible says that when men die they go immediately either to Heaven or to Hell, depending on whether they have trusted Jesus Christ. Death is referred to as a journey.

¹⁵⁵ A centurion commanded a unit of 100 soldiers in the Roman armies.

And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe. For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken. And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.

Jesus Is Buried in a Rich Man's Tomb

Matthew 27:57-60

When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple: He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered.

And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.

Jesus Rises from the Dead

Luke 24:1-9

Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they¹⁵⁶ came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.

And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.

¹⁵⁶ Some of the women who believed in Jesus were the first ones to come to the tomb and find it empty.

And they remembered his words, and returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven,¹⁵⁷ and to all the rest.

Jesus Commands His Followers to Go into All the World and Preach the Gospel¹⁵⁸

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations,¹⁵⁹ baptizing¹⁶⁰ them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.

Acts

Jesus Ascends Back to Heaven

Acts 1:9-12

And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

¹⁵⁷ With the death of Judas, there were 11 apostles instead of 12.

¹⁵⁸ Jesus appeared to His disciples for 40 days after the resurrection, before He ascended to Heaven. During this time He gave them many instructions.

¹⁵⁹ This commandment is why Christians attempt to preach the gospel throughout the world.

¹⁶⁰ Baptism is immersing believers in water. Baptism depicts the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus and symbolizes the believer's identification with Jesus for salvation.

Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.¹⁶¹

The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

Acts 2:1-6

And when the day of Pentecost¹⁶² was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

Peter Preaches to the Jews and the First Church Is Started in Jerusalem

Acts 2:14, 22-24, 36-43

But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: whom

¹⁶¹ A sabbath day's journey was the distance of a little less than half a mile. According to Jewish tradition, it was not proper to travel more than this distance on the sabbath day.

¹⁶² "Pentecost" was a major annual Jewish festival, and on this occasion Jews returned to Jerusalem even if they lived in other countries.

God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward¹⁶³ generation.

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

The Lame Man Is Healed

Acts 3:1-9

Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.

And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.

¹⁶³ "Untoward" means *perverse, crooked*.

And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.

Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

And all the people saw him walking and praising God.

Peter and John Are Arrested

Acts 4:1-4, 7-10

And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees,¹⁶⁴ came upon them, being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide.

Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is

¹⁶⁴ The Sadducees were another religious sect of the Jews. They did not believe in supernatural things such as angels and the bodily resurrection.

none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Paul the Apostle Is Saved

Acts 9:1-20

And Saul,¹⁶⁵ yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, and desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: and he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.¹⁶⁶ And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man. And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.

And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, and hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that

¹⁶⁵ Saul was a zealous Pharisee who hated the followers of Jesus Christ and persecuted them.

¹⁶⁶ God had been convicting Saul about his sin; his heart and conscience was being pricked, yet he had been trying to ignore God's conviction.

he might receive his sight. Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus. And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

The People Try to Worship Paul and Barnabas ¹⁶⁷

Acts 14:8-18

And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked: The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.

And when the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in the speech of Lycaonia, The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men. And they called

¹⁶⁷ Paul and Barnabas traveled together on a missionary trip to Asia Minor, where this event occurred.

Barnabas, Jupiter;¹⁶⁸ and Paul, Mercurius,¹⁶⁹ because he was the chief speaker. Then the priest of Jupiter, which was before their city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done sacrifice with the people.

Which when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out, And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein: Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways. Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

And with these sayings scarce restrained they the people, that they had not done sacrifice unto them.

Paul Preaches in the City of Athens about the Unknown God

Acts 17:16-34

Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry. Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him.

¹⁶⁸ Jupiter was supposed to be the most powerful of the pagan false gods. Another name for him was “Jove,” which means father. He was depicted as a large impressive man with a beard.

¹⁶⁹ Mercury was another false Greek god. He was the son and messenger of Jupiter. Mercury was also called Hermes.

Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans,¹⁷⁰ and of the Stoicks,¹⁷¹ encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection. And they took him, and brought him unto Areopagus,¹⁷² saying, May we know what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, is? For thou bringest certain strange things to our ears: we would know therefore what these things mean. (For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.)

Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.

¹⁷⁰ This philosophy was founded by Epicurus (340-272 B.C.). It taught that there is no future existence and that pleasure is the chief thing in this life. It was the false philosophy of “eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die.”

¹⁷¹ This philosophy was founded by Zeno (360-260 B.C.). It taught self-mastery and hardness and promoted self-righteousness and pride of intellect. Four of their chief leaders committed suicide -- Zeno, Cleanthes, and Cato and Seneca.

¹⁷² The city of Athens features four hills. These were the Aeropolis, the Areopagus, the Acropolis, and the Pnyx. It was the Areopagus that was also called Mars' Hill (Acts 17:19, 22). This was the place where the court of Athens met.

God¹⁷³ that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; and hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; that they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.

And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter. So Paul departed from among them. Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed: among the which was

¹⁷³ The following are the truths that Paul preached about God. (1) There is one God (v. 24). This is in contrast to the idea of many gods. (2) This one God is the creator of all things (v. 24). This is in contrast to the idea that matter is eternal or that God is the sum of everything or that everything is God (pantheism). (3) This one God is Lord of all (v. 24). This is in contrast to the idea that there are competing lords and gods. (4) God does not live in man's temples (v. 24). (5) God is the source and sustainer of all life (v. 25). This is in contrast to the idea that God needs man's offerings or that man can bribe God with offerings. (6) God is intimately involved with and is in ultimate control of man's history (vv. 26-28). This is in contrast to the idea that God does not care about man's fate and it is also in contrast to the idea that God is limited in his power. (7) God is not like any idol (v. 29). (8) God is the judge of all men (v. 31).

Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.¹⁷⁴

Epistles

Men Are Without Excuse ¹⁷⁵

Romans 1:1, 16-32; 2:11-16

Paul,¹⁷⁶ a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: For it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. for therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth

¹⁷⁴ Whenever the gospel is preached there are these same three types of responses: (1) Some mocked; they openly ridiculed the gospel and the Bible. (2) Some put it off. People put off the gospel for many reasons, such as pleasure and the fear of man. Putting off the gospel is very dangerous *because you do not have any promise of tomorrow*. The Bible warns that life is like a shadow (Job 8:9) and a vapour (James 4:14). The Bible warns that “today is the day of salvation.” Putting the gospel off until later is also dangerous *because the heart can become hardened* (Heb. 3:13-15). (3) Some believed. They showed that they believed by staying with Paul. They were not ashamed to be associated with the despised gospel preacher. When someone truly believes in Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, you don’t have to manipulate them to be interested in the things of God. They desire to know more about Jesus and they want to stay around the Christians.

¹⁷⁵ Paul wrote these things in the book of Romans, which was written to believers living in Rome. It is one of the 27 books of the New Testament

¹⁷⁶ After Saul believed on Jesus Christ, his name was changed to Paul. He became a zealous disciple of Jesus and a missionary. He preached Jesus Christ to multitudes of people and planted churches all across Asia Minor and in some parts of Europe. He also wrote many of the books in the New Testament part of the Bible, including the book of Romans. This book was written to instruct believers who lived in Rome.

in unrighteousness; because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.¹⁷⁷

Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: who knowing the judgment of God,

¹⁷⁷ This passage of Scripture describes the origin of idolatry in the early history of man after the fall of Adam and Eve.

that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

All Men Are Sinners and Are Therefore Condemned by God's Law

Romans 3:9--28

What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; as it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes.

Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

God's Salvation Is By God's Free Grace Without Works

Romans 3:21-28; 4:1-8

But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; being justified¹⁷⁸ freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: whom God hath set forth

¹⁷⁸ "Justified" means *declared righteous by God* because of the sacrifice of Jesus.

to be a propitiation¹⁷⁹ through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; to declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness¹⁸⁰ without works, saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

Men Can Have Peace with God

Romans 5:1-2, 6-12

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will

¹⁷⁹ “Propitiation” means *to cover or to make satisfaction for a debt*. This is what Jesus did for sinners; in His great love He paid their sin debt to God, a debt they were unable to pay themselves.

¹⁸⁰ When the sinner believes on Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, God imputes Jesus’ very righteousness to that sinner’s account.

one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.¹⁸¹ Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:¹⁸²

God's Gift Is Eternal Life

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God's Great Love for Believers

Romans 8:31-39

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am

¹⁸¹ "Atonement" means *to be reconciled to God by the paying of a price*. The price was the blood and death of Jesus Christ.

¹⁸² Sin was passed along from Adam to all of Adam's children, which is the entire human race.

persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Calling on the Lord for Salvation

Romans 10:9-13

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

What Must I Do to Be Saved?

Acts 16:30b-31

Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

Faith Comes by Hearing God's Word

Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

God Commands All Men to Repent

Acts 17:30-31

And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:¹⁸³ Because he

¹⁸³ "Repent" means to turn, to change directions in life. It means to turn from one's false gods and receive Jesus Christ as the only Lord and Saviour and follow Him.

hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

True Believers Turn to God from Idols

1 Thessalonians 1:9b, 10

... ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

Salvation by Grace Cannot be Mixed with Works

Romans 11:6

And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

Today Is the Day of Salvation

2 Corinthians 6:2

For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

The Believer Is a New Man in Christ

2 Corinthians 5:17, 21

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

After Believing in Christ, Then Comes Baptism

Acts 8:36-39

And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch¹⁸⁴ said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

And Philip [the evangelist] said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest.

And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.¹⁸⁵

And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

It Is God's Will That Believers Live Good Christian Lives That Glorify the God They Serve

Romans 12:9-21

Let love be without dissimulation.¹⁸⁶ Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the

¹⁸⁴ This eunuch was the treasurer of Ethiopia. He had traveled to Jerusalem and had obtained a portion of the Old Testament, the book written by the prophet Isaiah. As he was traveling back to Ethiopia in his chariot, Philip, an evangelist, met him and explained to him about salvation in Jesus Christ. After the eunuch believed, he wanted to be baptized.

¹⁸⁵ Proper baptism according to the Bible is for the believer to be immersed in the water and then lifted up again, symbolizing how that Jesus died for the believer's sins, was buried, and rose from the dead for his salvation. In this passage of Scripture we see that a person must first believe in Jesus and be saved and only then can he be baptized. Some false churches baptize infants, but that is nowhere taught in the Bible.

¹⁸⁶ Hypocrisy.

Lord; rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Early Believers Preached the Gospel and Started Churches

Acts 14:21-23

And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God. And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.¹⁸⁷

¹⁸⁷ The believers were organized into individual churches, and each church had its own leaders called elders or pastors.

The Bible Was Given by Inspiration of God

2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21

And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures,¹⁸⁸ which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.¹⁸⁹ For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.¹⁹⁰

Men Die Only Once

Hebrews 9:27-28

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: so Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

¹⁸⁸ The complete Holy Scriptures contain the 66 books of the Old Testament and the New Testament. It is also called the Bible. These verses tell us that God gave the Bible and that it contains everything we need for our spiritual lives.

¹⁸⁹ This means that the writers of the Bible did not write their own thoughts and philosophies.

¹⁹⁰ The Bible was written by men but God gave them the words.

In the Last Days Men Will Mock God and Deny the Return of Christ

2 Peter 3:3-4, 8-13

Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.¹⁹¹ Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

¹⁹¹ Just as God destroyed the world by water in Noah's day, He will destroy the world by fire in the future. After that He will make a new heaven and a new earth, and sin will never again enter into God's creation.

Revelation

The Great Tribulation¹⁹²

Revelation 6:12-17; 8:7-13; 16:18, 20-21

And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; and the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:¹⁹³ For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up. And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed. And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; And the name of the star is

¹⁹² The events preceding the return of Jesus Christ are described in the book of Revelation, the last book of the Bible. Here we will give a few of these frightful events.

¹⁹³ Jesus is the lamb of God. He died for man's sins but most men ignore and reject him and will therefore perish without a Saviour.

called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter. And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise. And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent:¹⁹⁴ and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

The Antichrist Rules the World For a Short Time Before Christ Returns

Revelation 13:3-8, 11-18

And I saw one of his heads¹⁹⁵ as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the

¹⁹⁴ A talent is 75.5 pounds or 34.24 kilograms. Hailstones weighing just a few ounces can caused great damage; imagine what destruction these massive hailstones will cause on the earth!

¹⁹⁵ This is describing the Antichrist who will rule the earth for a short time just before Jesus returns to establish His kingdom. He will be wounded so that it will appear that he should die, but his wound will be healed, and because of this seeming miracle the people of the world will marvel and will follow him. The Antichrist will be a man, but in Revelation he is also described symbolically as a “beast” because he is so vicious and conscienceless.

beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.¹⁹⁶ And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them.¹⁹⁷ and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.¹⁹⁸ And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.¹⁹⁹ And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image

¹⁹⁶ The Bible's prophecies are very specific and detailed. Here we see that the Antichrist will rule for exactly three and a half years. The events described in Matthew 24 and in Revelation 6-19 will occur in a seven-year period that ends with the return of Christ.

¹⁹⁷ Multitudes of Jews and others will believe on Jesus Christ during the Great Tribulation and will be killed by the Antichrist.

¹⁹⁸ The Antichrist will have a worldwide kingdom.

¹⁹⁹ This "beast" is a depiction of the false prophet that will accompany the Antichrist and will perform miracles to cause men to follow his master. He appears like a lamb but in reality he is of that old serpent or dragon, Satan. This is a warning that religious leaders are not always what they appear to be. Jesus described false teachers as wolves "in sheep's clothing." The only way to discern between true preachers and false ones is by comparing their teachings to the Bible, God's Word.

to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.²⁰⁰

And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.²⁰¹ Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.

Jesus Returns from Heaven and Destroy His Enemies

Revelation 19:11-21

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.²⁰² And he hath on his

²⁰⁰ The Antichrist's kingdom will be idolatrous. Men will be required to worship his image.

²⁰¹ The Antichrist will be history's worst, most vicious, most controlling dictator. He will make former dictators such as Hitler look benevolent by comparison. People will not even be able to buy or sell unless they wear his mark.

²⁰² Treading the winepress of the wrath of God is a description of fierce judgment upon men for their sin and their rejection of God's salvation.

vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; that ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.²⁰³

The Devil Is Cast into the Bottomless Pit

Revelation 20:1-3

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

²⁰³ The Antichrist will gather armies in a vain attempt to destroy Jesus as He returns to earth, but those armies will be destroyed and the Antichrist and his prophet will be cast into the lake of fire where they will be tormented forever and ever.

Jesus Rules on Earth for a Thousand Years

Revelation 20:4-6

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Satan Is Loosed One Final Time Before He Is Cast into the Lake of Fire

Revelation 20:7-10

And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

The Unsaved Are Judged

Revelation 20:11-15

And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were

judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life²⁰⁴ was cast into the lake of fire.

The New Heaven and the New Earth

Revelation 21:1-5, 23-27; 22:1-3, 5

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. And there shall in no wise enter into it any

²⁰⁴ This is the book in which God writes the names of those who believe on Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. Is your name written there?

thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

How the Bible Ends

Revelation 22:20-21

He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Conclusion

We have looked at the story of the Bible from its first book, Genesis, to the last book, Revelation. We have seen that the main theme of the Bible is the creation, fall, and salvation of mankind. And the main Person presented in the Bible is Jesus Christ.

We began with the Old Testament, which prepared the way for the coming of Jesus Christ to die for man's sins. Then we looked at the New Testament, which tells of Christ's birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension back to Heaven, and which also tells the story of the establishment of the first Christian churches and God's instructions for Christians.

There is much more in the Bible. We have looked only at the highlights. The Bible is a large book consisting of 66 smaller books and 1189 chapters.

The Bible contains things that are easy to understand and also things that are difficult. The Bible has been likened to a body of water in which a lamb can walk and an elephant can swim.

To understand the Bible requires more than intellect and education and religion. It requires spiritual enlightenment. It requires being born again. We have seen that this is what Jesus Christ said to the Jewish ruler Nicodemus in John chapter 3. He said, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3 then explains that to be born again, I must believe that Jesus Christ died for my sins on the cross and that He rose from the dead and that He is the only Lord and Saviour of the world.

Have you believed this? The Bible promises that when you believe on Jesus Christ you will receive the Holy Spirit, and He will give you wisdom so that you can understand the things of God.

This book is published for free distribution in eBook format. It is available in PDF, MOBI (for Kindle, etc.), and ePUB formats from the Way of Life web site. See the Free Book tab - www.wayoflife.org.

We do not allow distribution of this book from other web sites.