

The background is a painting in a classical style. It depicts the lower half of a person, specifically their legs and feet, wearing simple sandals. The person is walking on a sandy beach. In the foreground, several fish are visible in the shallow water. The overall color palette is warm, dominated by browns, tans, and reds. The lighting is soft, creating a serene atmosphere.

"A GUIDE TO HELP YOU GROW"  
IN THE LORD

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*A WALK  
THROUGH  
THE NEW  
TESTAMENT*

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WRITTEN BY  
RODNEY HAUN



# A Walk Through the New Testament

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Rodney Haun

Rodney Haun  
2020

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# Dedication

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I dedicate this book to my parents, Richard and Louise Haun who gave me the foundation to study the Word of God.

And to my wife, Michelle, for whom it was initially written.



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# Foreword

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The purpose of this book is not to substitute the actual reading of the New Testament, but to supplement it. The intent is to provide you a condensed summary or overview of each chapter of every book of the New Testament. While the summaries may not convey every aspect mentioned in each chapter, they will convey key details to help you as you read the full text in the bible. In some instances, commentary, recommendations, and/or references are provided to lead you to other resources to help as you grow in the knowledge of the Lord. I am not affiliated with any resource I may recommend.

As you read this book envision yourself being on a guided tour of a museum. The guide will point out things here and there – a short quick reference – as you continue your walking tour. At various points throughout the tour the guide will stop and ask you to gather around. This is where the guide will go into a more detailed overview about an item that perhaps has some importance or historical significance. This is how this book is designed. Some chapter summaries will be a short message, so you have an idea of what the chapter is about before you read it fully: Jesus called the remaining disciples to join him. Whereas, other chapter summaries may have a long synopsis with commentary, recommendations, and/or references.

It is my hope that this content will provide you some guidance that as you read the complete text of the New Testament you will come to the realization that each book is easy to follow, and they are intertwined with other New Testament books, as well as, the Old Testament. Together, the Holy Bible presents the complete picture of fallen man, our need for a redeemer, and how Jesus the Christ [Messiah], God himself, fulfilled that role to bring us back unto himself after Adam and Eve's sin which brought a curse [death, destruction, despair] upon the whole world.

Seek and ye shall find. **Matthew 7:7**



# Preface

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Now, you may ask, “Is the Word of God reliable?” It contains 66 books, written by about 40 people over a 1500-year period. Is the text accurate? I have come to conclusion that the answer is, yes.

Let’s treat the bible like we would any other historical document. It mentions people, places, and events that took place long ago. Can that information be validated through other documents, reliable sources, and archaeology? Again, I would say, yes.

The Old Testament has some incredible history and along with the Dead Sea scrolls and other parchments that have been found, archaeology continues to uncover evidence of the consistency of the text, the history contained within, and prophecies foretold fulfilled.

**RECOMMENDATION:** There are many websites that will help you with archaeological questions but here is one to start: <https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/> Isaiah name found, Pilate, tombs, overview of the consistency of the Dead Sea Scrolls to today’s version, etc.

## *Part 1 – Handing Down the Story of Creation*

I’ll be brief. Do you wonder why the genealogies [i.e. Lamech lived a hundred eighty and two years and began Noah **Genesis 5:28-29**] are spelled out in the bible? I believe it is so you can you use reason and logic to understand how this information was kept and passed down through generations, as well as, map out their family tree to notice that they some of them could have easily have known Adam.

Are you aware that Noah’s grandfather, Methuselah should have known Adam? Methuselah was about 240 years old when Adam died, and he lived another 700 years, and died just before the flood. Noah was 600 years old at the time of the flood. Even his father, Lamech, would have been about 90 years old when Adam died.



Clearly, Adam had plenty of time to convey the story of creation to Methuselah and Lamech to pass on to Noah and his sons.

### *Part 2 – Handing it down to Abraham*

Noah was 600 years old when the flood came. One of his sons, Shem, was 98 years old at the time. Noah lived another 350 years after the flood and following the “begats” could have still been alive when Abraham was alive. Shem, though, was still alive and possibly even knew Isaac and Jacob. Why isn’t this referenced in the bible? Likely because it is irrelevant to salvation but using the begats and reasoning one can surmise that they passed this information down to the grandchildren. The bible isn’t a history textbook, per se. It is completely logical though, that God would have ensured that Adam handed down the knowledge to his grandchildren, including Methuselah to get to Noah and Shem and for Shem to hand it down to Abraham [Shem’s seventh great grandson].

The point to be made, though, is that from an historical document perspective, reliable eyewitnesses: Adam, Noah, and Shem had ample time to learn and hand down the story of creation, the flood, the tower of Babel, and other events documented in Genesis to other reliable people, such as Abraham and his two sons to keep the content as accurate as possible until it began to be compiled or consolidated about four hundred years later by Moses in what is called the Torah or the first five books of the Old Testament.

### *Part 3 – The New Testament Accuracy*

As for the New Testament we have an even more unique perspective. Let’s compare the New Testament to Plato’s works. We’ve all read or heard of Plato’s Republic. How are you so certain that Plato wrote it? How are you so certain that what it says is what he originally wrote?

We accept it as accurate through reliable sources who state that it is his work via a preponderance of evidence. Are you aware that Plato wrote it around 380 B.C? Are you aware that the earliest

copy of his work is dated back to 900 A.D? This means there is a gap of nearly 1300 years from the original to the oldest known manuscript. And there are only seven copies, and none of them match.

**RECOMMENDATION:** See **Carm.org** to see other details about this comparison and other historical figures and writings we've learned about in school and accept as accurate. Yet, when we look at the New Testament many don't give it the same opportunity to be analyzed from an historical document perspective.

The gospels and the epistles [letters] that comprise the New Testament were written between 35 to 95 A.D. The oldest known copy [manuscript] is from around 130 A.D. Less than one hundred years from the original, not 1300 years. There are over 5600 full manuscripts [not a mere 7 copies], 20,000 partial manuscripts, and over a million citing references from early church leaders.

One reference from an early church leader was Tertullian who wrote in 190 A.D., "If you do not believe me go read Paul's letters for yourself. They are in Hierapolis." Paul's letters were available for anyone to read nearly a hundred years after he wrote them and were being cited by others. They were not written on poor paper we have today. Evidence shows that writing of these times lasted 200-300 years. And these 5600+ manuscripts and 20,000 partials are in 99.5% agreement, unlike Plato's mere seven, that don't agree or match.

So, if we will accept that Plato wrote Plato's Republic and what we read is still the original words or at least very close [Carm.org has many more examples just like this.] then there is more evidence to accept the accuracy of the words of the New Testament from an historical document perspective.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Check out Christ 101 study by Scott Sullivan on studying from an historical perspective.

Granted, this doesn't prove, per se, Jesus was the Son of God, but it does mean those who wrote this information are credible witnesses and that their words have remained virtually unchanged from

their original text. Therefore, arguments that it is not the original text or consistent with the original text is without merit.

The bible is unique if you really think about it. What other book have you read about a nation or a people from the people themselves that documented their own failures versus writing only the positive side of their history? Noah may have been a drunk, Moses a whiner and a murderer, David an adulterer and murder, Peter denied Christ three times, Saul renamed to Paul had Christians killed before he converted, and the list goes on. And yet, God used these fallible people to lead, prophecy, and spread the message of redemption.

To me, though, that negative aspect adds credibility to the words. The New Testament writers, for the most part all, were killed for their beliefs and remained faithful to the Lord and to their testimony. If this was all made up, if they had not spent years with Jesus and seen the Risen Christ, and saw him ascend into heaven and being told by angels that he would return the same way he left, do you really think they would have all kept their mouths shut to die via torture for a lie? For what purpose?

That is where your faith will need to step in, and in using reason and logic you will come to a conclusion, but don't let the world's animosity toward the Word keep you from reading and studying it. As God's Word was made flesh and that is Jesus

**1 Peter 3:15** says, *“But sanctify the Lord God in our hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a **REASON** of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”*

Our hope and faith is not a “feeling” but by logic and reasoning we have come to the conclusion that the Word of God, is reliable, and he has Risen and he is Lord, and his name is Jesus. **Philippians 2:9-11**

# Brief History

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Books in the New Testament: 27

Original Language: Koine Greek

Total Chapters: 260

Canonized: A letter from 367 by Bishop Athanasius listed the books out, but the New Testament was not officially canonized until 393 A.D. at the councils of Hope and 397 A.D. at the Synod of Carthage.

## Authors:

- Matthew, a tax collector, and disciple eyewitness wrote Matthew.
- Mark, Peter's son, wrote Peter's stories of Jesus which is Mark.
- Luke, a physician, who followed Paul and interviewed eyewitnesses wrote Luke, and the book of Acts.
- John, a fisherman, and disciple eyewitness wrote five books: John, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John and Revelation.
- Paul, formerly known as Saul until his conversion on the road to Damascus wrote 13-14 books [aka letter / epistles]: Romans, 1 Corinthians, II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I Thessalonians, II Thessalonians, I Timothy, II Timothy, Titus and Philemon. There is debate if he wrote Hebrews.
- James, a younger half-brother to Jesus, didn't initially believe until after Jesus' resurrection. He wrote James.
- Peter, a fisherman, disciple eyewitness, wrote I Peter and II Peter.
- Jude, a younger brother to James and half-brother to Jesus, who like James believed after Jesus' resurrection wrote the book of Jude.

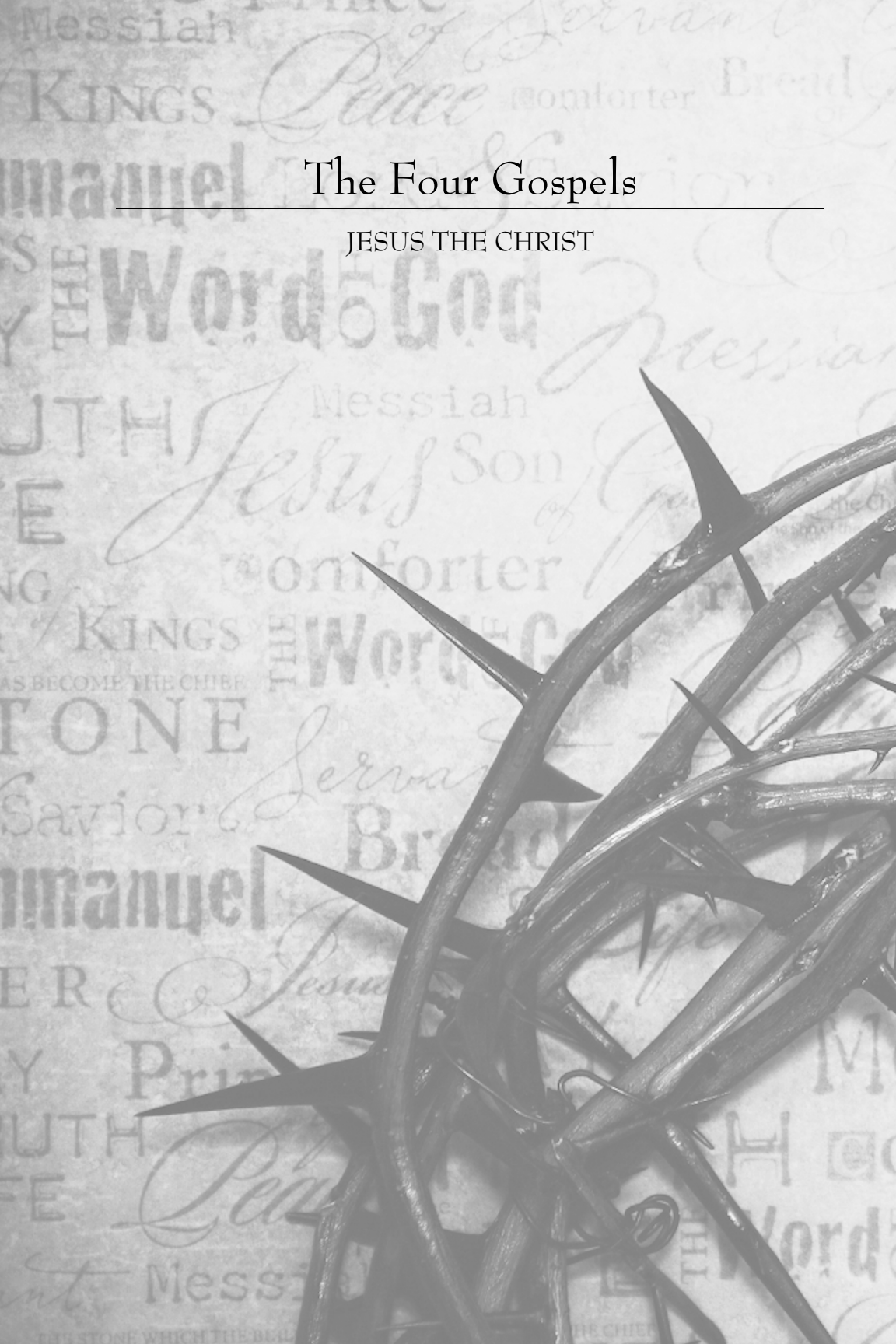
**REFERENCE:** This is a good page to get some more details about the authors of the bible. <https://overviewbible.com/authors-who-wrote-bible/>



# The Four Gospels

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JESUS THE CHRIST







## *Why are there four gospels?*

Some argue that the gospels should say the same thing, and that in some instances they conflict with each other. With study, reading the full texts completely, and review of this book, you'll find that there is no conflict, and, in most instances, they say the same thing. The variances are that each gospel was written to a different audience with a different goal or purpose in mind.

Look at it this way: How many books have been written about Abraham Lincoln? Do they all say the same thing? No. One may be about his earlier life as an attorney. Another about his debates with Stephen Douglas, and another about the Gettysburg address or Emancipation Proclamation. Yet, they were all about Abraham Lincoln. Each book was written with a different goal or purpose in mind that the author wanted to convey.

The bible was not written to be a chronological history or biographical document, per se, the purpose is to show the world our need for a savior and that savior is none other than God himself in the Trinity of his Son, Jesus, as prophesied.

Matthew wrote to the Jews, who knew the Torah and Old Testament [Hebrew Bible]. He shows that Jesus is the Messiah and King of Israel as prophesied.

Mark wrote to the Romans. He shows the servant aspect of Jesus doing the will of God the Father. He focuses on the miracles of Jesus.

Luke, a physician, interviewed eyewitnesses, and for the book of Acts followed Paul. He wrote in a storytelling form for the Greeks and wrote in a chronological order. Luke shows how Jesus is the Son of Man, and the perfect man.

John did not follow any chronology and scholars say his Gospel only covers twenty-one days out of Jesus' entire three-and-a-half-

year ministry. John presents Jesus not just as the Son of God, but that he is Eternal – God.

Viewed as a whole, they bring together various aspects of Jesus' life to show that he was the Messiah as prophesied, the servant who performed miracles, the Son of Man, and the Son of God. The Everlasting Father.

**NOTE:** To avoid duplication or repetition of a summary, if one Gospel references the same event that has already been mentioned then you will see, “This chapter is like [Book, Chapter].” If there are some noticeable differences or additional information worth noting, then it will be mentioned.

# The Gospel According to Matthew

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THE MESSIAH / KING OF ISRAEL







Author: Matthew  
Chapters: 28  
Written: 50-70 A.D.

## *Chapter 1 – Genealogy, Birth*

The Gospel according to Matthew begins with the genealogy of Jesus. Matthew details the lineage from Abraham to David then to Joseph and then to Jesus. Joseph, of course, was not Jesus' biological father, but it was unusual to trace a lineage from the maternal side. Although Luke does so in his gospel.

The second half of this chapter talks about the birth of Jesus, but in a very condensed version. Mary is told she would be with child from the Holy Spirit. Joseph is informed by an angel of the virgin birth in fulfillment of the prophecy of **Isaiah 7:14**, and that he should take her as his wife, but not have relations with her until after she gives birth.

**COMMENTARY:** Are you aware that the bible prophesied about the virgin birth all the way back in **Genesis 3:15**? “*And I will put enmity between thee [Satan] and they woman, and between thy seed and her seed [Jesus]: it [her seed] will bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. [crucifixion]*”. We know from science that the man, not the woman has the seed. The woman has the egg. Therefore, in this verse we learn that this would be a virgin birth.

## *Chapter 2 – Birth, Magi, Egypt, Nazareth*

The chapter begins with Jesus having already been born and the wiseman [Magi or Maji] asking if King Herod knew where the King of the Jews was so they could worship him.

They inform Herod of the star they followed that brought them there, and Herod's wiseman confirm there was prophecy stating that the ruler of all Israel would be born in Bethlehem. [**Micah 5:2**]



**COMMENTARY:** What is interesting to note here is that Herod's wisemen should have known about the star or they chose to ignore it. Some scholars believe Daniel's knowledge had been passed down to the Magi to watch for the Messiah. When the Jews were exiled in Babylon and then freed to return to Jerusalem it was prophesied by Daniel [Daniel 9:25] that from the going forth to rebuild the temple until the Messiah would be a certain amount of time.

During Christmas we reference three wiseman. The bible doesn't specifically call out three wiseman. Matthew only states they came from the east, and brought three gifts: Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. Luke, the only other gospel that talks of Jesus' birth does not mention the wisemen. As you'll read in Luke, only the shepherds came to the manger.

The chapter continues and shows the fulfilment of prophecy from Jeremiah of Herod's killing of the boys ages 2 years and under as his attempt to kill the Messiah. [Jeremiah 31:15] The chapter ends with Herod's death and Joseph bringing Jesus and Mary back home to Nazareth, which is in Galilee.

### *Chapter 3 – John the Baptist, Baptism of Jesus*

This chapter is about John the Baptist, a voice of one crying in the wilderness. He baptizes Jesus in the river Jordan and the Spirit of God descends as a dove and announces to John that Jesus is his beloved son.

**COMMENTARY:** In Luke I'll provide a bit more narrative as to Jesus' birth, why Herod tried to kill him, and his connection to John. Luke goes into much greater detail and it will make more sense to comment at that time.

### *Chapter 4 – Wilderness, Disciples, Ministry begins*

Jesus spends 40 days and nights in the wilderness fasting. He is tempted by the devil. We are told of three main events: food, pro-



tection, offering of the world. After the temptations are over angels come and minister to him.

Upon leaving the wilderness Jesus goes from Nazareth to Capernaum and begins to preach repentance. While walking by the sea of Galilee he gathers his first four followers: Peter and Andrew, who are brothers, and James and John, who are also brothers. Jesus' fame begins to increase as he heals the sick and drives out demons.

### *Chapter 5 – Beatitudes, The Law*

This is the chapter with the Beatitudes, “*Blessed are...*” He also tells us to be the salt and light of the world. Salt making things better for seasoning and the light to shine for others to see.

Jesus also tells us that he came not to abolish the law, but to fulfill it. The Old Testament law was not abolished by Jesus, but instead he fulfilled it, because we are unable to.

**COMMENTARY:** Later in James, we’ll read that even if you kept the whole entire law, but error in one then you are guilty of all. God’s law is not like man’s law. There are no misdemeanors levels, felony levels, etc. With God, it is an all or nothing. And no matter what we may consider “sin”, none of us can deny we have lied, cheated, lusted or stole. We are guilty, but Jesus fulfilled all the law and then took the punishment due to us so that we can be saved through him. This shows that no amount of works, nothing we do can save us. The only means of salvation is the full reliance on the work of Jesus on the cross.

Jesus then talks about the law. He shows us that breaking the law is not just the actual breaking of the law, such as killing someone, or committed adultery. Instead, it is the condition of our heart. Lust-ing after someone is the same as if we committed the act adultery.

This chapter also talks about divorce, taking of oaths, and retaliation, but finishes with the law of love.





Love your enemies as God makes it rain on the just and the unjust. Be perfect like your Father in heaven.

### **Chapter 6 – In Secret, Prayer, Treasures, and More**

This chapter is interesting in that it talks about how to give, fast, where to store your treasures or focus your attention and that you must choose whom you will server. God or the things of this world. [Money]

In giving of alms Jesus suggests that you do it in secret.

**COMMENTARY:** Basically, this is about keeping things between you and the Lord, otherwise, if you make it known, “Hey, I give money to this charity or this group.” You’ll get the honor of men. While I am not saying you shouldn’t recommend to others who to help, but in the examples Jesus gives it is to have us seek the honor from God, not from man. Like fasting, you should do it to and for the Lord and keep yourself from appearing to be fasting. Like alms, keep it between you and the Lord. For there is your reward.

This chapter also provides the model prayer: [**Matthew 6:9-13 & Luke 11:2-4**]

Serve the Lord and not your money, your job, or anything else that takes away your attention from getting to know the Lord.

Then stop being anxious and worrying. In short, worry and being anxious has no value. You cannot change anything with worrying. Deal with today and forget tomorrow as tomorrow is not even guaranteed.

### **Chapter 7 – Judging, Asking, Golden Rule and more**

The first six verses deal with judging others.

**COMMENTARY:** You do not know who has accepted Christ and who has not. Words, actions and deeds do not necessarily show what



is truly in the heart. You don't know if at some point in their life they had accepted Christ. We are all sinners so we should love each other. Verse 1, though, does not say we can't call out sin. It simply says we can't know who will or will not go to heaven. We can say the bible says, you shouldn't steal.

Verses 7-11 deal with asking, seeking and knocking. Seek the Lord and you will find him. Ask and you shall receive. Knock and door will be open. If it be in his will, and you seek those things in his will, and you believe he will supply. Does a father give a child a serpent when they ask for a fish?

Verses 12 – Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. The Golden rule.

Verses 13 – 29 – talks about the narrow gate, which is Jesus, relying on him and his work on the cross alone. It tells us to beware of those who come to us in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves. Read verse 21 – only those who do the will of the Father will enter the kingdom of heaven. What is God's will?

#### **REFERENCES:**

**John 6:40** “*And this is the will of him that sent me, that everyone which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.*”

**John 6:29** “*Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.*” [That would be believing in Jesus.]

**2 Peter 3:9** “*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.*”

Others will come and knock on the door claiming they had cast out demons in his name, but Jesus will say he knew them not.



**COMMENTARY:** Verses 22-23 can be best summed up by reading **Ephesians 2:8-9**. We are saving by grace not by works. These people that Jesus is referring to were relying on their works, their deeds for salvation and not the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross.

### *Chapter 8 – Healings, Storms, and Casting out Demons*

This chapter covers healing of a leper, a Captain's servant, Peter's mother in law, and casting out demons. One of the more noted events is the man in Gergesene who was possessed by so many demons they named themselves, "*Legion*". Jesus rebukes them to come out of the man and into the swine that then go over the cliff.

**COMMENTARY:** Matthew does not provide the demons name, but in **Luke 8:30** and **Mark 5:9** they reference the name as, "*Legion*". Also, Luke and Mark refer to the area as the country of the Gadarenes, whereas, Matthew calls it the country of the Gergesene.

There were two towns that adjoined each other at the sea where this took place. Gadera, and the residents would be known as the Gadarenes. Gergasas, the other town were Gergesenses.

### *Chapter 9 – Healing, Additional Disciples, Faith*

Jesus heals a paralyzed man and is accused of blasphemy by the scribes for saying to the man thy sins are forgiven. Jesus refers to himself as the "*Son of Man*" and that he has the power to forgive sins.

**COMMENTARY:** The Son of Man is not a term to be glanced over. In fact, it is a term of reference from a prophecy of Daniel that refers to the Messiah who would rule the world. Jesus calling himself the "Son of Man" to the Scribes was the same as calling himself the Messiah.

**Daniel 7:13-14.** *"I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the SON OF MAN came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was*



*given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.”*

The Scribes were Jewish leaders whose role was to copy the sacred manuscripts. The rules were very strict to ensure proper duplication. Therefore, for one whose job it was to read and copy the Word as their career then that would mean they also read it and knew it like no other person would. This means, they knew exactly what Jesus was saying to them.

Another group of Jewish leaders were the Pharisees. They were a prominent religious sect of Judaism that followed the law to its strictest detail.

The Pharisees criticize Jesus for eating with tax collectors, considered the dregs of society, and with other “sinners” as they considered them. Jesus replies that he didn’t come to call the righteous to repentance, but the sinners. Matthew, a tax collector then follows Jesus.

A woman touches Jesus’ garment and is healed. He tells her it was her faith that healed her. A ruler’s daughter is raised from the dead, although Jesus refers to her as being asleep. Two blind men receive sight and a mute speaks. In this healing, the Pharisees claim that Jesus is using the devil to cast out demons.

### *Chapter 10 – The completion of the 12 Disciples*

The remaining 12 are selected and Jesus begins to teach them and sends them out to spread his message. He tells them to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. He also warns them of the enemy and the hatred they will encounter for his name’s sake.

This chapter also includes the message for all of us not to fear, as God knows the number of hairs on our head, and sees a sparrow fall. We are of more value than many sparrows. He also warns the disci-



ples of the animosity they will face in their own family but reminds them that the reward is great.

### **Chapter 11 – The Baptist, Judgment, Deity, Invitation**

John the Baptist is in prison and has his followers ask Jesus if he [Jesus] is the one or if they should look for another.

**COMMENTARY:** If you read the actual text of the New Testament, Matthew, Chapter 3 you will note that John said that he needed to be baptized by Jesus and not the other way around. John heard the voice of God calling Jesus his son. So why is John asking if there is another? Again, there is so much to learn...

The Jews knew of both a suffering servant and a King: To them there were to be two Messiah's. That is why John is asking this question.

The Jews, primarily the religious leaders, were not looking for a suffering servant. They wanted freed from their bondage, and they see that bondage as the rule of Rome. Whereas, the bondage we are all in is the bondage of sin. That was what Jesus had to conquer first before coming as the King. That will be the second coming.

**REFERENCE:** <https://gracethrufaith.com/ask-a-bible-teacher/was-john-the-baptist-delerious/>

Jesus then answers, the blind can see, the lame walk, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. The chapter continues with him telling of the destruction of unbelieving cities, and how God has hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them unto babes.

Jesus goes on to claim that all things were delivered unto him by the Father and that only he and Father know each other and to those to whom he [The Son] will reveal. Showing his divinity.

This leads to his invitation to come unto him all ye and I will give you rest.



## *Chapter 12 – Sabbath, Healing, Pharisees, Jonah*

You should read Matthew 12 slowly and several times. The Pharisee, strictly adhered to the law, criticize Jesus for healing on the Sabbath. He then tells them he, the Son of Man, is Lord of the Sabbath. Again, Son of Man, referencing himself to them that know the Word, that he is the Messiah.

Many are healed and he continues to cast out demons. Again, being criticized as having Beelzebub [Satan] to cast them out. Jesus says, *“If Satan casts out Satan, he is dividing himself, how shall then his kingdom stand”*. Basically, showing the absurdity of their words.

Jesus then begins to predict his death by referencing Jonah being in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights.

Near the end of the chapter Jesus is told that mother and brethren [brothers, and sisters] are waiting for him. He replied that whosoever shall do the will of his Father is his brother, sister, and mother.

**COMMENTARY:** In reference to Jonah. Jonah did not want to preach to Nineveh. He wanted God to destroy them. He got onto a ship and went the opposite direction and God raged a storm and Jonah told the men to throw him over and the storm would end. **Jonah 1:17** *“Now the LORD has prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.”*

Matthew refers to it as a whale, but Jonah a great fish. Whether a whale or great fish God created just for this situation we don’t know and it probably doesn’t matter much, but if you do read Jonah and the connection to Jesus dying on the cross it is more than likely Jonah was dead those three days, and God then raised him from the dead.

## *Chapter 13 – Parables*

Jesus spoke in parables – stories that people could relate to and get his point across. Chapter 13 is very long and talks about how



people who hear the Word treat it differently and that you need a solid foundation, don't let trouble cause you fear, and in time you will grow and flourish and produce fruit / seeds – a harvest.

Jesus talks of the mustard seed as faith. It is a very small seed and grows to be very large that birds lodge in it.

There is also reference to the “wheat and tares”. Remember this should you get into prophecy studies as there is a connection to the book of Revelation.

The chapter concludes with Jesus being rejected in his own town. *“Isn't this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon and Judas?”*

**COMMENTARY:** What I want to point out is the Jesus had brothers and sisters, albeit half-siblings in relation as Jesus was a virgin birth. Growing up folks tried to tell me he had no siblings. Yes, he did. Jesus was just the first born of Mary, who at that time of Jesus' birth was still a virgin.

### **Chapter 14 – John the Baptist, 5000 Fed, Walk on Water**

Herodias, Herod's niece dances for him and as payment he offers her whatever she wants. Her mother has her ask for John the Baptist's head. Herod tries to refuse, but for this oath's sake he orders it to be done and John is beheaded.

A great multitude has followed Jesus and instead of telling them to leave to go get food, he gets five loaves of bread and two fishes and blesses it. Five thousand men, besides women and children are fed.

After that he tells his disciples to go on the ship and go before him. Later that evening they see something walking on the sea. They think it is a spirit, but Jesus tells them to be of good cheer. Peter then asked to join him and he does, but then get scared and starts to sink. Jesus asked, *“Why did he doubt?”*





### *Chapter 15 – Scribes, Pharisees, Defilement, 4000 fed*

The Scribes and Pharisees criticize Jesus for not rebuking his disciples for not washing their hands before they eat. Jesus then rebukes them with examples of their own hypocrisy and then talks of what defiles a person. It is not what goes into the mouth, but what is in the heart and what you say.

He heals a Canaanite woman, they are not Jews, due to her faith and then feeds another multitude of four thousand people starting with seven loaves and a few little fishes. At the end, the disciples picked up seven baskets full.

### *Chapter 16 – Pharisees, Peter the rock, Death foretold*

Jesus begins to rebuke the Pharisees for not understanding or recognizing the signs of the times. They can predict the weather by the color of the sky and yet cannot recognize the signs given to them by the prophets.

**REFERENCE:** Again, **Daniel 9:25**. The Magi knew to look for him, why didn't those who knew the Word better than others?

*“The key to unlocking Daniel’s prophecy was discovered by Sir Robert Anderson, working in partnership with the London Royal Observatory. They concluded that God was using His original 360-day calendar in giving this prophecy to Daniel, so you have to convert our calendar of 365.25 days to His in making the calculations. You’ll find that 483 years on God’s calendar is only 476 years on ours. And remember, there is no year zero when moving from BC to AD. 483 years of 360 days each from 445 BC brings us to the first Palm Sunday.”* <https://gracethrufaith.com/ask-a-bible-teacher/reconciling-daniels-prophecy-palm-sunday/>

The chapter continues with Peter answering Jesus’ question of “Who do men say that I the Son of Man am?” Peter answered, “The Messiah.” But yet Jesus goes on to tell of his suffering and death to



come. Peter rebukes him that it should not happen, and Jesus says, “*Get thee behind me, Satan:...*”

### *Chapter 17 – Transfiguration, Faith, Tribute*

Jesus took only Peter, James and John up into a high mountain and there he met with Moses, and Elijah. Jesus then transfigured showing his true glory. His disciple see this and hear God’s voice. Jesus tells them to tell no one until, he, the Son of Man is risen from the dead.

Throughout this chapter there is talk of having faith. Even the faith of a mustard seed, so small, that even small faith they can move mountains. Such faith comes through prayer and fasting.

Jesus pays tribute [taxes]. He has Peter [known as Simon] to go cast a fishing line and from that fish they will get the money they need out of the fish’s mouth to pay the tax.

### *Chapter 18 – As a child, The Lost, Forgiveness*

There is much in this chapter. Jesus tells us to be like children, if something keeps us from seeking or serving the Lord, we need to remove it from our life. Jesus talks of leaving his 99 sheep to go find the one that has been lost and talks of giving forgiveness to others as they have been forgiven, and to forgive not up to seven times, but seventy-seven times.

**COMMENTARY:** Being like children is to have total faith and reliance on Jesus for our salvation. As a child, in most cases, you relied solely on your parents to feed and clothe you. You didn’t think about such things. It is a matter of faith that they would fulfill your needs. For salvation it is faith that only Jesus can ensure your salvation. You don’t have to do anything but believe and have faith.

The sheep are those who are already saved. Think of **Matthew 7:1** – Judge not. Some may not appear to be living a saved life and have gone astray. Jesus will bring them back into the fold.



## *Chapter 19 – Divorce, Rich*

This chapter talks about divorce and that it is harder for a rich man to enter the kingdom than for a camel go through the eye of a needle, as well as Jesus telling of his future glory and his twelve disciples sitting on thrones in heaven.

**COMMENTARY:** As you study the word and read other commentaries there is agreement that it is okay to have money. Jesus just doesn't want us to serve it. We are to use what we are given to bless others and not put our faith, reliance and trust in the money, but in the Lord who provides. The rich man in this story didn't want to give up his richness or his reliance on it.

## *Chapter 20 – Vineyard Parable, Resurrection Foretold*

This chapter explains a parable of a vineyard referring to those who have labored for the Lord, continues to inform him disciples of his impending crucifixion and resurrection, and heals more people.

## *Chapter 21 – Palm Sunday, Temple, Parable Stone builder*

This chapter begins with Jesus telling his disciples to go find a donkey and that the owner will give it to them. And with that donkey he rides into Jerusalem with the people calling out, "Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

**COMMENTARY:** These first eleven verses cover what Christians refer to as Palm Sunday. It also fulfills some prophecies such as **Zechariah 9:9**, "... thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass."

Jesus then goes into the temple and rebukes those in there as they have turned it into a den of thieves.



**COMMENTARY:** If you dig into this chapter and commentary that has been written about it and the history, you'll learn that Passover is that week. Jesus is God's Passover lamb and will be crucified on Passover. Jews were required to be here for Passover and to offer their sacrifices. Many, who did not have their own flocks would buy the animal[s] they needed when they arrived. The sellers, though, would cheat them. Money was based on weight, not the outward value like our coinage. They would change their weights and scales, scratch off part of the coin to reduce its weight, and cheat people.

This chapter continues with the parable of two sons. Who is doing the will of their father? The one who said he would, but didn't or the one who said he wouldn't, but ultimately did? Jesus goes on to refer to another parable of a vineyard that a master kept sending his representatives to come collect his portion and those who worked the vineyard would kill them. When the master's son came, they would kill him thinking they would get the inheritance. Jesus goes on to elaborate regarding a building. It needs a chief cornerstone and while they have rejected him, he is and will become that chief cornerstone. The Pharisees did not like how the crowd considered Jesus a prophet and they continued to conspire against him.

### *Chapter 22 – Wedding Feast Parable, Tribute, Pharisees*

The invitation to the Lord's wedding feast. To join with him has been rejected by those he initially called and now he goes out to call others to his supper.

**COMMENTARY:** This relates as well to the prior vineyard parable where God had sent his prophets to tell them of his coming and they rejected them, and they would even reject his son. In this parable it is referenced as a wedding. So those he called rejected to come so he sought out others. This too is part of the great mystery that Jesus didn't come to save just the Jews from their sin, but the entire world. In this case, those that are not Jews, but called Gentiles. The marriage / wedding feast though has other implications regarding the Church. Not the brick and mortar, but those how have accepted Christ as their



Lord and Savior are now part of the Church and referred to as the Bride of Christ or the Lamb's Bride.

The Pharisees, continuing to find a way to ensnare Jesus, asking him about paying taxes to Caesar. He asks whose image is on the coin. It is Caesar. Then render to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.

Jesus continues to discuss the resurrection and that God is the God of the living and not the dead. He tells us that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord thy God and second to love thy neighbor as thyself.

### *Chapter 23 – Woe to you Scribes and Pharisees*

This is the chapter on the “*Woe to Scribes and Pharisees*”. Jesus calls out their hypocrisy. They outwardly appear pious, but inwardly are like rotting tombs.

### *Chapter 24 – The End Times*

This is a prophetic chapter. Jesus' disciples ask him when the end of the age or end of time will be and what will it look like. Wars and rumors of war, plagues, pestilence, false teachers, lack of love, and then gets into prophetic references from Daniel and others. He talks of the “abomination of desolation” where the antichrist will enter the temple and proclaim to be God, and that event is followed by the Great Tribulation and then the coming of the Son of Man – Jesus' second coming.

Jesus then steps back a bit and tells us to be watchful, not disheartened and to continue in his work for we do not know the hour or the day of his return.

**COMMENTARY:** Many use this chapter and its reference to “No man knows the day or the hour” as a way to sort of ignore bible prophecy. Yet, this is not true. You must keep in mind the people to whom he was speaking. That phrase was well known by the Jews and



to those in Galilee [Galileans which Jesus and his disciples were all from. Like being from Illinois].

For the Feast of Trumpets to occur it required two witnesses, with verification from the Priest that there was a new moon. While by today's standards we have the technology to know exactly when a new moon will be visible and where, but they didn't back then, and they had to rely on eyewitnesses. This feast was known as "The Day no man knoweth". It couldn't begin until there was confirmation of a new moon.

The term or concept also relates to a Galilean marriage in that only the father knew when he would send his son to go get his bride. Jesus was God in the flesh, but he had given up his deity for a time and as man, he would not know the hour or the day either, and in relationship to a marriage only his Father, the Godhead of the Trinity will make that determination for when Jesus will return to gather his bride, the Church, which we reference as the Rapture.

As you'll read in other books of the New Testament, there is a precursor to the Tribulation period. The Rapture of the Church or the Bride, this allows the Antichrist to them come on the scene. He'll come as a wolf in sheep's clothing promoting peace but using war to accomplish it. He then proclaims to be God and sits on the Holy of Holies [Seat of God] in the temple. There is no Jewish temple yet, right? But when the Antichrist comes on the scene, he helps develop a covenant with Israel and their surrounding countries to have peace for seven years. This is when Israel rebuilds their temple. In fact, they are already preparing for the duties of the temple. After nearly 2000 years they reinstituted the Sanhedrin, they make up the Chief Priest who manage and run the Temple. Other groups like the Temple Institute are raising money to fund the rebuilding and start preparing for the items used in the temple.

#### **REFERENCES:**

<https://templeinstitute.org/>

<https://www.breakingisraelnews.com/74772/sanhedrin-appoints-high-priest-preparation-third-temple/>



## *Chapter 25 – More End-Time Parables*

Parable of the ten virgins who kept the watchful eye out and had their oil ready for their lamps in case the bridegroom would come at night for his bride. And the parable of the talents, where each man was given a talent [money] to invest and increase for his master and at some point, unknown to you, the master would come to see what you had done with the money and your time.

The chapter continues with Jesus talking about the end of the tribulation and at the judgment seat where he said, “*I was hungry and you gave me no food, etc.*” Those then at judgment say, “*When were you hungry?*” Jesus replied any stranger among you represents me. If you did it not unto the least of your brethren, you did not do it unto me and visa-versa

**RECOMMENDATION:** An eschatological docudrama to watch is, “Before the Wrath”. It is by Ingenuity Films, LLC. It will help explain a Galilean wedding and its relationship to Jesus, the last supper, the Church [Christ’s bride] and his return – the Rapture. Jesus was a Galilean and spoke in terms and concepts they would understand.

## *Chapter 26 – Betrayal and Passover*

Jesus informed his disciples that one of them would betray him. One of the women with an ointment [perfume / oil] puts it in his hair. His disciples say that is a waste and should have been sold to help the poor. Jesus replied that we you the poor with you always, as she is doing this in preparation for his burial.

**COMMENTARY:** Matthew doesn’t name the disciple[s] who complained, but in **John 12:4** he mentions Judas Iscariot by name.

Judas then betrays the Lord to the High Priests for 30 pieces of silver.



**REFERENCE: Zechariah 11:12** “... *they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver.*”

Jesus then at Passover initiates the communion. Take of the bread, representing my body being given for us, and the wine, as the blood he would shed to cover our sins as God’s Passover lamb.

Jesus then tells them they will be offended by him and while Peter was adamant he would not, Jesus tells Peter how he will deny him three times before the rooster crows.

They then go to the garden of Gethsemane and Jesus prays for several hours. There is reference to how he asked God the Father if there was any other way to save us, but there was not and that his will be done.

Then Judas arrives with a multitude of temple guards and Judas kisses him to show all them who is the one they seek. One disciple draws a sword and cuts off the ear of one of the soldiers, but Jesus rebukes them saying that he could call twelve legions of angels to protect him if he wanted. [A Roman legion was about 1000-1500 men. 12 legions would be anywhere from 12-18,000 angels].

Jesus is taken to the high priest and tried. He holds his peace and is then asked, “*Tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.*” Jesus replied, “*Thou has said: Nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall you see the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.*” To the Sanhedrin, the Chief Priest that was enough for them to find him guilty of blasphemy that had a death sentence.

Peter is recognized in the crowd, as a follower of Jesus of Galilee, and he denies it. Another says he is the follower of Jesus of Nazareth, and he denies it. Another say, surely you are [One of them] for thy speech betrayed thee, and Peter begins to curse and then the rooster crows.





**COMMENTARY:** While I don't know the cultural difference of the people in the area of Jerusalem, those from Galilee dressed, talked and acted differently than those from Jerusalem itself. They were easy to identify. It would be like the ability to identify someone who grew up in New York or perhaps someone who grew up in Tennessee. Dialect, dress, and demeanor are different. It is not a negative to either it is just a different culture or style which can generally be recognized.

### *Chapter 27 – Judas, Pilate, Crucifixion*

Judas regrets his actions and tries to give the money back. The priest cannot take it back, as it is blood money, use it to buy a potter's field. Judas hangs himself.

**REFERENCE: Zechariah 11:13:** *“And the Lord said unto me; Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was priced at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver and cast them to the potter in the house of the Lord.”*

Pilate wanted to release Jesus but gives into the crowd and lets them choose between Jesus or Barabbas. They chose Barabbas. Pilate asks what evil has he done to deserve this? And yet they press him even more. Pilate washes his hands and says that Jesus' blood is on their hands and they accept it. Jesus is then led away, crowned with thorns and nailed to the cross. He is mocked by the crowd and from the sixth to the ninth hour [Noon to 3pm] darkness covers the land then Jesus cries out to God, *“Why hast thou forsaken me?”*

Jesus then dies and there is an earthquake, graves open and some of the saints which slept arose after his resurrection and appeared unto many.

Jesus' body is prepared and put into a tomb owned by Joseph of Arimathea, and the tomb is rolled shut.



**COMMENTARY:** Matthew is the only one who references the saints rising from the dead. Some scholars say they represent the “first fruits” of the harvest offered up to God. They represent just the beginning of the rest of the harvest yet to come. Those who become saved by believing and accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Also note the veil of the temple ripped in two. **2 Kings 6:2** puts the veil at about 60 feet tall and 30 feet wide. Non-biblical sources like Josephus who wrote of Israel’s history and died around 100 A.D. referred to the thickness of the curtain as a hands length or 4-5”. Think of a curtain that thick and huge tearing in two! And on its own. Only the high priest could go behind the curtain, once a year into the Holy of Holies: The throne of God. Jesus’ death shows us that we now have direct access to God, his throne, through his sacrifice on the Cross.

### *Chapter 28 – Resurrection, The Great Commission*

Matthew’s final days of Jesus being on the earth are limited, but he does tell of Mary Magdalene finding the risen Lord and tells her to tell his disciples to wait for him in Galilee. The priest believes the disciples stole his body and paid off the soldiers.

The chapter concludes with Jesus telling his disciples to teach in all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. [Verse 19 – referencing the Holy Trinity.]

**COMMENTARY:** *Luke, John, and Acts provide more detail about the time Jesus spent from his resurrection to his ascension.*

# The Gospel According to Mark

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THE SERVANT / MIRACLES







Author: Mark  
Chapters: 16  
Written: 55-70 A.D.

### *Chapter 1 – Baptism, Tempted, Fishermen, Miracles*

The Gospel according to Mark goes right to the beginning of the ministry of Jesus as he is baptized by John the Baptist in the river Jordan and then spends the forty days and nights in the wilderness being tempted of the devil. When that ended, he calls his first four disciples and begins to preach, heal, and cast out demons.

**COMMENTARY:** Note 1:24 – the demon knows who Jesus is and calls him the Holy one of God.

### *Chapter 2 – Matthew, Healing, Fasting, Sabbath*

This chapter is an even more condensed version of Matthew's chapters 9, 10, and 12 that tell of Jesus healing a paralyzed man, calling Matthew to follow him, the Pharisees questioning him for eating with sinners, how to properly fast and that he, the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.

### *Chapter 3 – Sabbath, the 12, Pharisees, Kin*

Jesus continues to explain the Sabbath and questions the Pharisees about what is lawful to do on the Sabbath: Good or evil? Save life or kill? They couldn't answer him. He heals many by the sea of Galilee and finishes calling his twelve disciples.

The Pharisees claim he is casting out demons by Satan's power and like Matthew, Jesus said a house divided cannot stand. He also says that whosoever shall do the will of God is his kin. Like Matthew 7.



## *Chapter 4 – Parables,*

This chapter talks of the same parable of the sowing of seeds as you read in Matthew 13. Jesus explains the purpose of parables and then explains the relationship of sowing the seed to who hear the Word. This chapter also talks about the faith of a mustard seed, and while passing over the sea of Galilee a storm arose and Jesus rebukes it, again demonstrating to his followers the need to have faith.

## *Chapter 5 – Legion, Healings*

This chapter is like Matthew 8. Mark talks of the demon called, “Legion”. While Matthew said the demons went in “many” swine, Mark says there were about two thousand. A woman touches Jesus’ garment and her faith has healed her, and a man’s daughter is raised from the dead that Jesus said was just sleeping. [A metaphor for being dead.]

**COMMENTARY:** If you read Matthew, you will see that his Gospel and Mark’s is very much alike. They have the same stories, but different approaches. Some may argue they are not in the same order and therefore, not accurate. Again, these were not written to be a biography or chronology of events. People of those times thought and wrote differently than we do. Just because they don’t follow the same timing or flow their stories do not conflict, as the underlying theme is the same.

## *Chapter 6 – John the Baptist, 5000, Walk on Water*

Mark, too, reiterates stories we read in Matthew, but from his perspective. He goes into more detail about John the Baptist’s death and how it was Herod’s birthday where his niece danced for him. Jesus sends the twelve out to spread his word, feeds the five thousand from five fish and two loaves, as did Matthew 14, but Mark adds that in cleaning up, they had twelve baskets full remaining. The chapter continues with Jesus walking on the sea of Galilee, but he doesn’t mention Peter joining Jesus. Matthew did.



### *Chapter 7 – Pharisees, Defiles, Healing*

This chapter is like Matthew 15. Debated about washing their hands, what defiles a person, a Canaanite [Syrophoenician] woman's faith heals her, healing a man who could not speak or hear.

### *Chapter 8 – 4000, Signs, Peter, Death Foretold*

This chapter is like Matthew 16. Jesus feeds four thousand and agrees in that seven baskets full were gathered after all had eaten. Debate with Pharisees seeking a sign, Peter says that Jesus is the Messiah, and then later rebukes Peter for tell Jesus he shouldn't let die.

### *Chapter 9 – Transfiguration, Lack of Faith, As a Child*

This chapter is like Matthew 17 and 18. Jesus' transfiguration on the mountain, and that we should come to the Lord as a child and that if anything keeps us from seeking or serving the Lord we need to remove it from our life. This chapter also shows the disciples having doubts and were not able to cast out a demon and that their faith should grow and that happens through prayer and fasting.

### *Chapter 10 – Marriage, Divorce, Rich, Healing*

This chapter is like Matthew 19. The discussion on marriage and divorce and the rich entering into heaven if hard if their reliance is on their money and not on God. Jesus talks again about his crucifixion and will rise on the third day. James and John ask to be seated next to him in heaven, but Jesus responds with whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all, and that the Son of Man came not be ministered unto, but to give his life as a ransom. Jesus heals another blind man.

### *Chapter 11 – Palm Sunday, Temple, Authority*

This chapter is like Matthew 21. Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, cleanses the temple and that we should forgive one another. There is a good section on the chief priests and elders questioning



his authority. He says he will answer them if they answer his question regarding John the Baptist. Verses: 27-33. [It is worth reading.]

### *Chapter 12 – Vineyard, Tribute, Questions, Widow*

This chapter is like Matthew 21 and 22. Those who managed the vineyard for their master, and they killed everyone who came to collect for the master and even the son, to whom the inheritance would flow. It also tells of the rendering to Caesar what is Caesars. Mark goes on to explain answers to questions about the resurrection of all mankind, what is the greatest commandment and Jesus told about King David and warned others of the scribes. This chapter also tells the story of the widow who gave all that she had.

### *Chapter 13 – End times*

This chapter is like Matthew 24. One thing to note here that wasn't mentioned in the Matthew 24's summary is a prophecy by Jesus to those in the temple, "not one stone would be left upon another."

**COMMENTARY:** Around 70 A.D. Titus, a Roman general at the time and later became Emperor surrounded Jerusalem and cut off all supplies. He and his soldiers destroyed the city along with the temple. Due to the heat the gold inside the temple melted and drained into the crevasses of the stones. The soldier tore down the temple, moving every stone to get the gold, thus fulfilling this prophecy. Some scholars estimate, based on **2 Chronicles 3:8**, that the Holy of Holies section of the temple contained about 23 tons of gold. [600 talents of gold and one talent weighs about 75 pounds.] That is just that room. Overall, the temple was full of gold items, etc. It could have had up to 100,000 talents of gold, not including silver. No wonder the soldiers tore it down to get the precious metals. **Matthew 24:1-2, Luke 19:43-44** also records this prophecy.

### *Chapter 14 – Betrayal, Passover, Trial, Denial*

This chapter is like Matthew 26. The one thing extra to note is that the question asked of Jesus by the High Priest if he be the Son of





God, Jesus answer is the same, but with a very slight difference. He said, “*I AM.*”

**COMMENTARY:** I am is not just, yes, I am he, but “**I AM**” is the name God gave to Moses when he asked “*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 AM**; and he said, Thus shalt that say unto the children of Israel, **I AM** hath sent me unto you.” Exodus 3:13-14* Jesus saying, “**I AM**” was him clearly stating he was God in terms the High Priest would understand.

### *Chapter 15 – Pilate, Crucifixion*

This chapter is like Matthew 27.

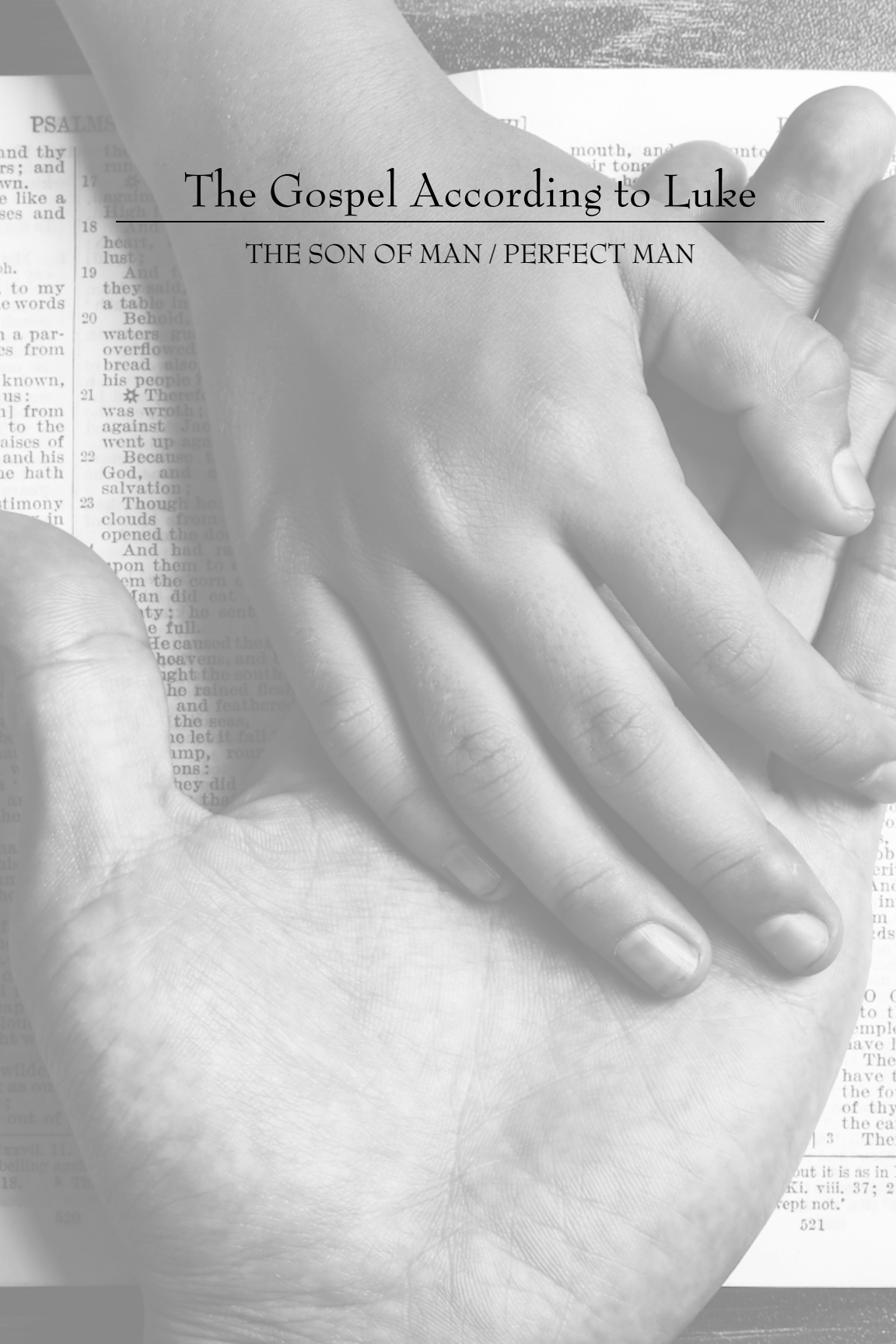
### *Chapter 16 – Resurrection, The Commission, Ascension*

This chapter is like Matthew 28.

**COMMENTARY:** Matthew doesn’t reference the ascension, but throughout the book of Matthew, Jesus references going to his father’s house. Luke references the ascension, too. There is debate for some reason that verses 9-20 of Mark were not part of the original manuscript as it was not found in copies until the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. Many think they were added later by scribes as they don’t match Mark’s writing style. That all said, many agree, that the content is compatible with the rest of the New Testament and seems to be parts of Matthew, Luke, and John. It was as if someone tried to put the final touches on Mark’s gospel as it seemed unfinished at verse 8.

Also, we later learn in **Act 1:3** that Jesus stayed on earth and showed himself to many for 40 days after his resurrection. Appeared to over 500 people **1 Corinthians 15:3**. Why 40 days? 40 days is the biblical number for testing. It was to allow Israel the opportunity to recognize the sign that he gave them proof he was their Messiah.





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# The Gospel According to Luke

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Author: Luke  
Chapters: 24  
Written: before 62 A.D.

### *Chapter 1 – John the Baptist*

Luke begins with telling his audience that he is declaring these things believed amongst them and that he thought it right to put them down and in order. He begins with the birth of John the Baptist.

John's father, Zacharias, a priest, is in the temple performing his duties when the angel Gabriel tells him he will have a son. Zacharias questions Gabriel since he and his wife, Elizabeth are old. For that doubt, Gabriel prevents him from being able to speak until John's birth.

Six months into Elizabeth's term, Mary is told by Gabriel that she will have a son, too, and to call him, Jesus. Mary goes to Elizabeth, her cousin, and stays with her until John's birth.

**COMMENTARY:** Was Jesus born in December? This is the chapter to use to try to understand when Jesus was born, along with Old Testament on priestly duties. John's father was a priest. Priest were in groups of twenty-four orders/courses/groups that rotated throughout the year, but all performed duties on special feasts. The text does not tell us which feast or special religious event John's father was serving so we are left to speculate. To me, I think that if it was relevant or important to our salvation Luke would have stated it.

If this was a fall feast, which many believe, then that would put Jesus' conception around March and his birth in December. Some argue that sheep would not be out in the winter, but others have proved that is not correct.

Ultimately, from a salvation standpoint you just need to believe that Jesus was born of a virgin and he came to take away your sins.



**REFERENCE:** A very good discussion on this topic along with understanding the priestly orders. <https://www.neverthirsty.org/bible-qa/qa-archives/question/was-jesus-born-september-or-december-25-zacharias-john-baptist/>

## ***Chapter 2 – Birth, Shepherds, Simeon, Anna, As a Boy***

Luke then tells us of the birth of Jesus starting with the news of a census and that Joseph will need to go to Bethlehem, where there is no room for them, and they will need to stay with the animals.

Shepherds tending their flock are told by an angel that their savior, Christ the Lord was born, and they went to Mary and Joseph to see Jesus.

Luke continues with Jesus' circumcision on the eight day after his birth where his parents encounter two people. Simeon, who God had promised would not die until he had seen the Lord's Christ, and prophecies that a sword would pierce through his [Jesus'] soul. Anna, a prophetess, about eighty-eight years old, spoke to all concerning Jesus as the redemption they looked for.

When Jesus was twelve, he went with his parents to Jerusalem for Passover and stayed in the temple. His parents searched for three days until they found him, and he said, "*How is it that ye sought me? Wist you not that I must be about my Father's business?*"

**COMMENTARY:** This is about all we get of Jesus' youth. While at the end of John's gospel, he says that all that could be written of Jesus the world couldn't contain it all. The Gospels were written to lead us to salvation, not provide a biography. I believe Luke's reference of Jesus as a teenager is merely to show us he knew exactly who he was and his purpose. There are books referred to as the "Lost Books of the Bible", but for the most part they cannot be confirmed for authorship, do not meet the historical documentation standards, and are not consistent with or they contradict the Holy Bible.



### *Chapter 3 – John, Baptism, Genealogy*

Luke begins to tell us more about John the Baptist. He even gets into detail of the year of the reign of Pilate and others. John tells about Jesus, whose shoes he is unworthy to untie, and that Jesus would baptize with fire [The Holy Ghost/Spirit]. John then baptizes Jesus as the Holy Ghost, in the form of a dove, descends upon Jesus and a voice from heaven calls him his son.

Luke then lists out Jesus' genealogy all the way back to Adam.

**COMMENTARY:** Matthew's genealogy from David to Jesus shows the lineage from David's son, Solomon. Luke shows it from David's son, Nathan. Matthew's followed Joseph's line, while Luke followed Mary's. Matthew says, Joseph's father is Jacob, but Luke says, Heli. Heli is Mary's father and the term, father-in-law, was not a term in those days.

### *Chapter 4 – Wilderness, Ministry Begins, Healing*

Luke, like Matthew 4 also tells of Jesus' 40 days and night in the wilderness, and the beginning of his ministry. Luke provides more detail with Jesus starting in his hometown of Nazareth and being rejected by his own countrymen. Jesus reads **Isaiah 61:1** in the synagogue, [You should go read that verse.], and then proclaims that prophecy is fulfilled. He heals a leper, casts out demons, heals Peter's mother-in-law and others.

**COMMENTARY:** Read verses 42-44. Many sought to be healed of Jesus, but like us, he needed time to rest and while he could have healed everyone, he left the area as he says his purpose is to preach the kingdom of God.

### *Chapter 5 – Peter, Healing, Matthew, Pharisees*

Jesus gets into Simon's [Peter's] boat and asked him to cast offshore and so he can speak to the crowd from there. Later he asked



Peter to cast his nets, but Peter says they have worked all night, but then relents and ends up catching so many that their nets brake and ship starts to sink from all the weight. They call out to others to come help. Peter asks Jesus to depart from him as he is a sinner. Jesus then says to Peter, “*henceforth that shalt catch men.*”

Like Matthew 9, Luke continues with healing of a paralyzed man, calling Matthew to join him and details Jesus’ interaction with the Pharisees for questioning him about eating with sinners.

**COMMENTARY:** The King James Version, which I use, does not say, I will make you fishers of men, but thou shalt catch men. A mix of versions or translations of the New Testament say fish for men/people, and others say, fishers of men.

### *Chapter 6 – Sabbath, 12, Beatitudes, Golden Rule*

This chapter is like Matthew chapters 5, 10, 12 and others, Luke details Jesus healing on the Sabbath, completes calling his twelve disciples, the Beatitudes “Blessed are” also called the, “Sermon on the Mount”, the golden rule, judging others [Luke 6:37 same as **Matthew 7:1**], and knowing a good tree by its fruit.

### *Chapter 7 – Centurion, Dead Live, The Baptist, Forgive*

This chapter has a lot of stories of faith in action. A centurion, Roman officer, asked Jesus to heal his servant. Jesus offered to go to his house and the centurion says just give the word and it will be done as he tells his men to do this or that and he knows they will do it. Jesus marvels to the Jews at how great this man’s faith is. [**Matthew 11**]

Jesus raises a woman’s son from the dead, and John the Baptist asked Jesus if he is the one or if they should look for another. He eats with a Pharisee and a woman comes in and washes his feet with her tears and then uses a parable of a creditor and two debtors to explain forgiveness and then forgives the woman of her sins.





### *Chapter 8 – Parable of the Seed, Storm, Legion, Healing*

This chapter is like Matthew chapters 8, 13, and 15 where Jesus uses seeds to represent hearing the Word and how people respond based on landing on rocks, sandy soil or good soil. He tells about Jesus calming the storm and the man possessed by a Legion of demons and how they then left the man, entered the pigs / swine, and went over the cliff. Luke adds that the man asked to follow Jesus, but Jesus told him to go into the city and shew others what great things God had done for him.

### *Chapter 9 – The 12, 5000, Peter, Transfiguration,*

This chapter is like Matthew chapters 6, 10, 17, and 18 where Jesus sends out his twelve disciples. He feeds the 5000 with twelve baskets left over. [Both Luke and Mark note the amount picked up afterwards – Mark 6, but Matthew does not for this miracle.].

Upon returning from their mission, Jesus asks the twelve who do men say that he is? Peter responds that he is the Messiah. Jesus instructs them on discipleship and that they must be as servants and take up their cross daily and follow him. He then leads Peter, James and John up into the mountain where his glory is revealed in what is termed the mount of Transfiguration. After coming back down, though, his disciples were unable to cast out a demon.

Another person though is casting out demons in Jesus' name and his disciples tried to stop it. Jesus told them that he who is not against us is for us.

### *Chapter 10 – The 70, Good Samaritan, Martha and Mary*

Most of this chapter is not in any other Gospel. Luke tells about other disciples of Jesus beyond the twelve main apostles / disciples. They too were given the same commission and authority: Heal the sick, preach the kingdom of God is come. When they returned from their mission, they rejoiced in that even demons were subject



unto them, but Jesus said rather rejoice that your names are written in heaven.

A lawyer asks Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life? Jesus tells him to love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and love thy neighbor as thyself. A lawyer [religious scholar] asks, Who then is my neighbor? Jesus tells him a story of a Samaritan, a Priest, and a Levite. Jesus described their response to a person in need, left for dead along the road. Then Jesus asks him which of the three was a neighbor to this person? The lawyer selected the Samaritan and Jesus told him to do likewise.

**COMMENTARY:** A lawyer here is a religious scholar who studied and interpret the Law of Moses. Therefore, Jesus is more than likely not trying to convey to him the need to “do good” but understand [interpret] who the Law says is his neighbor. Who wouldn’t help a person in need like this? It is showing that a social outcast, a Samaritan, who to the Jews was even below a tax collector, is their neighbor. Some scholars add that in short Jesus is saying, action speaks louder than words.

Luke then tells us about Martha and Mary. They are sisters to Lazarus, whom Jesus will eventually raise from the dead.

### *Chapter 11– Model Prayer, Satan, Jonah, Woe*

This chapter is like Matthew chapters 6, 7, 12 and 23. While Luke tried to follow a chronological order you can see that Matthew did not, but the overall events and themes are the same. Here, Luke presents Jesus’ model prayer, talks in more detail about a house divided when he is accused of using Satan to cast out demons [Satan]. Luke provides a bit more insight into Jesus comparing his upcoming death to Jonah being in the belly of the fish for three days and nights and presents more details regarding Jesus’ Woes to the scribes and Pharisees for their hypocrisy.

**COMMENTARY:** It is important to read all four Gospels. As you have probably noticed by now, Matthew, Mark, and Luke describe,



for the most part, the same events. Their detail varies based on their perspective. As a whole, you should be able to see the entire event more clearly and hopefully understand it more fully.

### *Chapter 12 – Covet, Worry, Steadfast, Division, Signs*

This chapter details sayings of Jesus that can be found in both Matthew and Mark, but Luke's overview is in greater detail. Jesus begins with telling his disciples and the multitude around him that everything we have said or done will be revealed. There are no secrets from God as he knows when a sparrow falls and knows the hairs on our head. That we should therefore fear no man who can only kill us, but fear God with reverence as he can cast us into hell.

Do not worry about the future or have anxiety about your life. God knows your needs, so make them known until him and have faith. Store up your treasures in heaven where moth doesn't corrupt. And then stand fast in the Lord and be found being watchful for his return.

Jesus goes on to say how following him will bring division into a man's house as not all will accept and follow him. Then he turns to the Pharisees, who should have known of his coming as the Messiah as prophesied by Daniel and yet while they can discern the face of the sky, but not the signs of the times.

### *Chapter 13 – Repent, Sabbath, Words, Death Foretold*

Some begin to tell Jesus about some Galileans whom Pilate had killed. Jesus said you believe they died because they were sinners. Yet, if you do not repent you will likewise perish. He goes to use the parable about bearing fruit to get his point across.

In the synagogue he heals a woman who has had an infirmity for eighteen years. Jesus refers to her being bound by Satan for all this time and when the Pharisees accuse him of healing on the Sabbath, which was forbidden, he reminds them that on the Sabbath they



loosen the reigns on their animals and lead them to water. Should not this daughter of Abraham be loosed from her bonds on the Sabbath?

Then Jesus tells us about merely professing to know him, and many will strive to enter the gate via their own means instead of reliance on him.

The chapter concludes with Jesus being warned that if he comes to Jerusalem that Herod will kill him and he responds that a prophet cannot perish out of Jerusalem and that they shall not see until they shall say, “*Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.*” [Palm Sunday, which leads to his crucifixion.]

### *Chapter 14 – Sabbath, Humility, Wedding Feast*

Jesus is having a meal with a Pharisee on the Sabbath and heals a man with dropsy [disease where the limbs and body are distended with water – possibly renal / liver issue]

The rest of the chapter is like Matthew 22 regarding the call from the Lord being like a request to come to a wedding. He also talks about being humble. When you are asked to come do not go sit at the front in the best or choice room / table, but go to the lowest room so that those who bid thee to come see thee they will move you to the choice spot in the presence of the others.

### *Chapter 15 – Lost Coin / Sheep, The Prodigal Son*

In response to the Pharisees and Scribes murmuring about him being with sinners and eating with them Jesus begins to tell the parable about a lost coin and a lost sheep. When one of them has lost a sheep or a coin they will leave the rest and go find it and when they have found it they will call their friends and neighbors to come rejoice with them for they have found that which was lost. Jesus goes on to say, so likewise there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repents.



Jesus then tells of the prodigal son. He wanted his inheritance and received it and left his father's house and squandered it all. He was to the point of fighting for food living with pigs. He then remembered that even in his father's house the servant ate well and that if he went home, he could become a servant. Instead, when he returned his father welcomed him back with open arms saying my son was dead, but now is alive. He was lost, but now is found.

**COMMENTARY:** In Matthew 7 we referenced **2 Peter 3:9** – The Lord... is not willing that any should perish, but that all come to repentance. It is an appropriate reminder here too.

### *Chapter 16 – Unjust, Serve, Story of another Lazarus*

This chapter begins with a parable of an unjust servant and worth reading. He is told his master is not happy with him and to win favor of others in case his master cast him out he works out deals to get his master's debts paid, even if not at the full amount. The key is that he knows his master is a generous person.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Read this overview / study on the unjust servant. <https://carm.org/parable-unjust-steward>

Jesus then talks about serving money or God and that you cannot serve both. He tells a story about a beggar named Lazarus and a rich man who both died. One goes to be in Abraham's bosom [Paradise] and the other into hell [tormented in flames]. The rich man asks for Lazarus to give him water, but a great gulf is fixed between neither can pass. The rich man then asks to let him go warn his brothers, but the response is, *"If they hear no Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead."*

**COMMENTARY:** "Neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead" – let that sink in.

The other items to note here is that this is not the Lazarus who was brother to Martha and Mary whom Jesus will raise from the dead.



This parable is likely a true story of someone the people knew. In most parables Jesus would say “a certain man”, etc. Here he uses a specific name.

Also note that before Jesus’ death and resurrection on the cross, when those who believed in the coming Messiah died, they did not go straight to heaven. They instead went to what they called, “Abraham’s Bosom”. Sheol [Hebrew] Hades [Greek], was or is split into two parts. In **Luke 16:26** a great gulf or gap separated Lazarus from the rich man. Likely, the pleasant side was paradise and the other side those there waited in torment - hell. Jesus told the thief on the cross that together he would be with him in paradise. **Luke 23:43** Not heaven. It would be several more days before Jesus was resurrected to where he could go up to heaven and sprinkle his blood on the altar for the remission of the sins of the world. Until then the spirits of the departed could not yet enter heaven. We then learn in **2 Corinthians 5:8** – to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. We know by this point Jesus is in heaven and from his sprinkling his blood on the altar we now go straight to heaven.

### *Chapter 17 – Forgiveness, Faith, Lepers, Second Coming*

This chapter begins with forgiveness. If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. Even if it is seven times in a day. Have faith the size of a mustard seed.

Ten lepers were healed by Jesus. He told them to go show yourselves unto the Priests and as they went one noticed he was healed and turned and glorified God and fell at Jesus’ feet. He was a Samaritan. None of the others thanked him.

**COMMENTARY:** Forgiveness: Matthew has it as 77 times. Luke just seven. Whatever the case, the point is forgive. Leprosy: The law required the priest to confirm they had been healed. Jesus here is following the law. Also note, the only one who came back to thank Jesus was a Samaritan. A stranger in their land. A person of low stature in society.



The Pharisees then ask Jesus when the Kingdom of God should come. He says the Kingdom of God is within you and then tells of his second coming when the days will be like they were in the days of Noah. Jesus goes on to tell about Sodom and Lot's wife saying whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it, and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.

**COMMENTARY:** As in the days of Noah. There is so much about that statement that it would take another book to fully explain what was going on in Noah's day that God had to destroy all the world yet save eight people. In short, the corruption of mankind as led by the fallen angels who had commingled with the daughters of men were an attempt by Satan to thwart the birth of the Messiah as told in **Genesis 3**.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Here is a start to help analyze the Days of Noah:

<https://gracethrufaith.com/topical-studies/prophecy/as-it-was-in-the-days-of-noah/>

### *Chapter 18 – Parables, Death Foretold, Healing*

A parable not read in the other Gospels tells of an unjust judge, who after persistence by a widow, finally avenges her of her adversaries. How much more so will a just God do for those who love him. Jesus goes on to tell of a Pharisee and a publican [tax collector] both in the temple. The Pharisee is thankful he is not a publican, whereas the publican asks God for mercy as he is a sinner. Showing humility.

Jesus tells the story as you have read in the other Gospels of the rich man and then foretells his death, but elaborates more here in Luke and references that all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man shall be accomplished.

This chapter concludes with Jesus healing a blind man.



### *Chapter 19 – Zacchaeus, Parable, Palm Sunday, Temple*

A chief tax collector, Zacchaeus sought to see Jesus and since he was small, he climbed a tree. Jesus sees him and says to come down as he will abide with him. Others around refer to Jesus eating with sinners and Zacchaeus says that if I have done any wrong, he will repay fourfold. Jesus then tells the story of the talents [money], Luke uses the term pounds. And Jesus explains the just servants using it wisely for their master and being rewarded with great honor and more authority upon his return.

The chapter continues with Jesus having his disciples get the donkey, and colt and his entry into Jerusalem. The Pharisees tell him to quiet the crowd, but Jesus says that if they should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.

After entering the city, he goes to the temple and cleanses it from the money changers who sell the animals for the sacrifices who have turned it into a den of thieves.

### *Chapter 20 – Authority, Vineyard Parable, Tribute,*

This chapter is like Matthew 20 – Vineyard Parable and chapter 22 for Tribute. And like Mark 11 for Authority.

As in Matthew and Mark, Luke shows how Jesus asks the Pharisees how the Christ is David's son? None could answer him, and Jesus then told the disciples to beware of the scribes who make a show to others of their prayers and sit in the highest seats, as the same shall receive greater damnation.

### *Chapter 21 – Widow, End Times*

This chapter is like Mark 12 regarding the widow's mite [gave all she had] and Mark 13 and Matthew 24 where Jesus foretells the destruction of the temple and signs of the end times. And like those two Gospels, Luke reminds us that when we see these things starting





to take place, we should know that the Kingdom of God is nigh at hand. Watch and pray for we know not what hour he cometh.

### *Chapter 22 – Betrayal, Last Supper, Arrest, Denial*

This chapter is like Mark 14, and Matthew 26 with Judas betraying Jesus, the preparation for the Passover and their last supper together instituting what we refer to as “Communion” and remembrance of Jesus, the foretelling of Peter denying him three times. Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane praying to God the Father as he awaits his arrest. The arrest, and Peter’s denial when the cock crows.

### *Chapter 23 – Pilate, Crucifixion, Thief on the Cross*

This chapter is like Mark 15 and Matthew 28. The main point to bring out here is the addition of the thief on the cross. Jesus is crucified with two thieves. As the crowd mocks Jesus to come down from the cross one thief says to the other who is also mocking Jesus, *“Doth thou not fear God? We indeed justly, receive the due reward of our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.”* He then asks Jesus to remember him when he goes to his kingdom. Jesus says to that thief, that today he would be with him in paradise.

**COMMENTARY:** To me, the thief on the cross is the perfect example of salvation. No works. No baptism. No good deeds. Nothing you can do of yourself can save you. Only the cross of Chris.

This thief admitted he was a sinner [we receive justly our reward for our deeds], admits that Jesus is not only sinless [has done nothing wrong], but acknowledges Jesus’ Lordship and resurrection [remember me when you go into your kingdom.] How can you go into your kingdom if you are dead?

I believe this verse sums up the thief on the cross message. **Romans 10:9** – *“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.”*



## *Chapter 24 – Resurrection, Commission, Ascension*

This chapter is like Mark 16 and Matthew 28. Additionally, Luke tells us of Jesus talking to others after his resurrection, and asks why they are sad, as Jesus made it so they would not recognize him. They told them about Jesus and what had happened. Jesus then questions why they are slow to believe what the prophets had spoken that the Christ would suffer these things and enter his glory. He then expounded on the prophets and all things concerning himself. Jesus then shows himself to his disciples, have a meal with them. Before he ascends, he tells them he sends the promise of my Father upon them [Holy Spirit], but they are to wait in the city of Jerusalem until they be endued with power from on high.

Leading them out to Bethany, he raises his hands and blesses them and is carried up into heaven.

# The Gospel According to John

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THE SON OF GOD / EVERLASTING FATHER

FOR GOD  
SO LOVE  
THE WORLD  
THAT HE  
GAVE HIS  
ONLY BEGOTTEN SON

THAT  
WHOSOEVER  
BELIEVETH  
IN HIM  
SHOULD NOT  
PERISH  
BUT HAVE  
EVERLASTING  
LIFE

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JOHN 3:16





Author: John  
Chapters: 21  
Written: 80-90 A.D.

### *Chapter 1 – Eternal God, John the Baptist, Disciples*

John's first chapter jumps around a bit at first as he first mentions the Word was from the beginning and all things were made by the Word, and the Word was God. Then he references John as witness to the Light and then back to the Word became flesh [Jesus] and dwelling amongst us that whosoever believeth on him gave he the power to become the children of God.

John then tells how the Baptist said he was not the Christ, nor Elijah, but a voice of one crying in the wilderness and that he that comes after him will baptize with fire.

Jesus is then baptized by John the Baptist and begins to call his disciples.

**COMMENTARY:** A prophecy in **Malachi 4:5** states that the Lord will send the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the Lord. Day of the Lord, also known as Jacob's Trouble, is what is referred to in Revelation as the Great Tribulation. Elijah never died but was taken up into heaven. **2 Kings 2:11** Many believe he will be one of the two witnesses mentioned in **Revelation 11:3-14**. Along with Moses based upon those two appearing with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration **Matthew 17:4, Mark 9:5, and Luke 9:30**.

### *Chapter 2 – Wine, Temple, Sign*

John tells of the first miracle performed by Jesus. It was at a wedding in Galilee, and he turned water into wine. John then jumps to Jesus cleansing the temple from the den of thieves, and then telling the Jews, who sought a sign, that destroy this temple and in three days he would raise it back up. They didn't realize or understand he was telling about his death and resurrection.



### *Chapter 3 – Born Again, John the Baptist*

Nicodemus, a Pharisee, who believed that Jesus could not do his miracles unless God be with him, asked how could a man be born again? Jesus told him that to be born again is of the spirit. Here Jesus provides that God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever **BELIEVETH** on him would have everlasting life.

John tells us more about John the Baptist, who also preached that we must believe on the Son to have everlasting life, and that Jesus must increase, while he must decrease.

**COMMENTARY:** We all know or should know **John 3:16** by heart but you should read the rest of the chapter. The point to be noted is that nowhere does it say believe, pay tithes, do good words, etc. etc. It merely says, believe. Our belief that saves us not our actions. Only the action of Jesus, who died on the cross for our sins and was resurrected saves us and our belief in that alone is our saving grace. You do good works, get baptized to say thank you and to show the world you are set apart from it.

### *Chapter 4 – Samaritan Woman, Dead Raised*

John tells of Jesus going through Samaria and stopping at a well where he asks a woman for a drink. She questioned him asking her for a drink as Jews and Samaritan's do not deal with one another. Jesus goes on to tell her about the living water and tells her about herself. She is astonished that she says he must be a prophet and says how her fathers worshipped in this place. Jesus says that true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit.

She tells Jesus that she knows the Messiah must come and when he does, he will tell us all things. Jesus tells her, "*I that speak unto thee am he.*" She goes to town and tells others to come meet him and Jesus preaches unto them for several days and many believe.



Jesus then goes on to Galilee and raises from the dead a son of a nobleman.

### *Chapter 5 – Pool of Bethesda, Equal to God*

A pool, that was thought to be healing waters when at certain times an angel would move or trouble the water, and he who entered would be healed. Jesus sees a man, who had no one to help him into the water, and asks, “*Wilt thou be made whole?*” And the man told him he could not get into the water. Jesus told him to take up thy bed and walk. And he was healed.

The Jews sought to kill Jesus, as he had healed this man on the Sabbath, but Jesus goes on to explain that he does all things through the Father and that the Father hath committed all judgment unto the Son. Jesus goes on to say that he that hearth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life. Jesus also talks about his voice being heard by the dead and they shall come forth. He also tells them that Moses wrote of him.

### *Chapter 6 – 5000, Walk on Water, Bread of Life*

This chapter is like Matthew 14 regarding the feeding of the 5,000 and walking on water.

Jesus is asked what the works of God and his will is. Jesus discussed that he is the bread of life and that the works of God and his will is to believe on him [Jesus] whom he [God] hath sent. And that his [God's] will is that everyone that seeth the Son and **BELIEVETH** on him may have everlasting life and that he [Jesus] would lose none of them. Jesus then talks about the manna God sent down from heaven when they wandered in the desert. They ate, but are now dead, but this new bread that God has sent will give them life eternal. bread that cometh down from heaven and if any man eateth this bread he will live forever.



In this chapter, it is also mentioned that Jesus, who picked the twelve, knows that one is a devil. Speaking of Judas, who would betray him.

### *Chapter 7 – Feast in Secret, Sabbath, From God*

The Feast of Tabernacles was at hand at Jesus told his disciples to go. He later went in secret to listen to what people were saying, but then goes and preaches in the temple. He then questions why there are those who want to kill him for healing on the Sabbath when they have the Law of Moses and yet do not follow it. And the Law of Moses says to circumcise on the Sabbath, yet, he [Jesus] cannot heal a man on the Sabbath? The Pharisees questioned how a man from Galilee, whom they considered unlearned, could know the law as he does? He tells them that his doctrine was not his own, but from God.

### *Chapter 8 – Adulterer, Light of the World, I AM*

The Pharisees bring a woman to Jesus who was caught in the act of adultery. They remind him that that law says such a one must be stoned. Jesus then says, he that is without sin cast the first stone. They all left but Jesus and he told her there are none her to condemn her and nor does he. Go and sin no more.

Jesus then tells them that he is the light of the world and that he is not of this world, as they are of this world. And that the Father who sent him bears witness of him. Then he tells them of his crucifixion that when they have lifted up the Son of Man then shall they know that I am he.

Jesus then talks about them being Abraham's seed and that they are of their father, the devil, while he, is of the Father, God. They should know the truth and the truth will set them free. And if they knew the Father, they would know him [Jesus]. Jesus goes on to say that Abraham rejoiced to see my day, and he saw it and was glad. "Verily verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I AM." They then sought to stone him, but he eluded them.





**COMMENTARY:** Like in **Mark 14:61** and **John 8:58**, Jesus again is shown to say that he proclaims himself to be God. “**I AM**”. In your studies you will find scoffer who will say that Jesus never said he was God. Refer back to the Commentary on Mark 14, page 27. To the Jews, saying **I AM** was the same as saying, he is God.

### *Chapter 9 – Blind man*

This is a good chapter to read as it is about a blind man that was healed by Jesus and the Pharisees began to question the man as to who had healed him. They asked his parents but fearing they would be kicked out of the synagogue for saying it was Christ they said, their son is of age let him speak.

The man who was healed then began to lecture them. “*He knew not from where the man who healed him came, but since the world began it was not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. If this man, who healed me, were not of God, he could do nothing.*” This infuriated the Pharisees that he taught them that they cast him out.

The blind man then finds Jesus and Jesus asks, “*Do you believe on the Son of God?*” The man says, “Who is he that I might believe on him?” Jesus says, “*Thou has both seen him, and it is he that talked with thee.*” The man believed.

### *Chapter 10 – The Good Shepherd*

Jesus then tells them a parable about sheep, their barn and shepherd and how those that do not enter the doorway are thieves. He then explains the parable. He is the good shepherd who knows his flock and they know his voice. He enters through the doorway and protects them. So much so that he will lay down his life for them and has the power to take it up again. Giving his disciples more details about his death and resurrection.



The Jews then say tell us plainly if thou be the Christ and Jesus replies that he has told them and they believed him not, because they are not of his sheep, and then ends with I am my Father are one.

They again seek to stone him, and he questions them why? If you do not believe me, believe the works that I do that you may know that the Father is in me and I in him.

### Chapter 11 – Lazarus

The brother to Martha and Mary is taken ill and they call for Jesus to come heal him, but Jesus says that his sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God and does not go to them.

Later, another group comes and tells Jesus and his disciples that Lazarus has died. Jesus then goes to them in Bethany.

Jesus tells Martha that Lazarus will rise again and she says we all will at the last day, but Jesus tells he that, *“I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth, and believeth in me shall never die.”* Jesus goes to the tomb and orders Lazarus to come forth.

The Pharisees then feared that many would believe in Jesus and the Romans would come take their temple and their nation, so they sought to kill Jesus to save their nation.

### Chapter 12 – Anointing, Palm Sunday, Prophecy

The anointing and Palm Sunday are like Matthew 26, but John gives some more specifics. It is six days before Passover when Mary took ointment of spikenard and anointed Jesus. Judas complained that it should have been sold to help the poor. The Pharisees also plot to kill Lazarus, because of him being raised from the dead, many have believed on Jesus.

Jesus then begins to tell them that his hour has come and says, *“Father, glorify thy name.”* Then those around him hear a voice from



heaven, as if thunder, say, “*I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.*” He then tells how his miracles should have had men believe, but they didn’t and some that did and do believe remain quiet for they love the praise of man more than the praise of God. Jesus says I have come not to judge the world, but to save it.

**COMMENTARY:** His second coming, he will come to judge the living and the dead. **Acts 10:42, 2 Timothy 4:1, 1 Peter 4:5.** His first coming, as the Messiah, the suffering servant, the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world, will return the Lion, The King of Judah to rule and reign.

Also note, Verse 31 – Jesus says the prince of this world be cast out. Speaking of Satan.

### **Chapter 13 – *Passover, Betrayal, Commandment, Denial***

This chapter is like Matthew 26, but additionally Jesus washed the feet of his disciples to show they must be servants of all. He commands them to love one another, as he has loved them. And he tells Peter that he will deny him three times.

### **Chapter 14 – *Promises***

Jesus tells them that he goes to prepare a place for them and will return. In verse 14 he tells them that he is the way, the truth and the life and no man cometh unto the Father, but by him.

Jesus promises that they that believe on him and the works that he has done they will do even greater and that the Comforter, his Holy Spirit will dwell in those who believe. The Spirit will teach them all things and bring all things he [Jesus] has said and taught them to remembrance.

**COMMENTARY:** It is worth noting here that Jesus is telling his disciples that the Holy Spirit will teach them even more than he has while with them and they will also remember what he has told them.



Scoffer say they made this all up, but Jesus says, they are being instructed by what they learned and are taught by the Holy Spirit, part of the Trinity of God. **2 Timothy 3:16**, *All scripture is given by inspiration of God.* **2 Peter 1:21**, “...*holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*”

### *Chapter 15 – Branch, Fruit*

Jesus, on his way to the garden to pray uses a branch and vine to talk to his disciples about bearing good fruit. He [Jesus] is the vine and they are his branches and to abide in him they will produce much fruit. He also tells about his upcoming crucifixion in that no greater love than for a man to lay down his life for his friends.

### *Chapter 16 – Persecution, Holy Spirit, Ask, Cheerful*

Jesus tells about how they will be persecuted and that the Comforter [The Holy Spirit] will be with them. He tells them to ask and they shall receive and tells that he will soon leave this world. And while they will face tribulation, to be of good cheer, he has overcome the world.

### *Chapter 17 – Prayer*

Jesus prays that they may know the only true God and Jesus Christ whom God has sent. He prays for his disciples, for the unity of believers, to keep them from evil and sanctify them through thy word, which is truth. And he prays for all those who will believe, and they will come to know that the Father is in Jesus and he is in us.

### *Chapter 18 – Betrayal, Arrest, Denial, Condemned*

This chapter is like Matthew 27, Mark 14 and Luke 22.

**COMMENTARY:** I would like to call out here, verse 36 where Jesus says, My Kingdom is not of this world, if my kingdom were of this world then my servants would fight. Keep in mind that while God is in control of all things, Satan is the current god, ruler, prince of the air



of this world. God allows things to happen for a reason we cannot understand, other than he has given us freewill to choose his Son, or Satan. **Eventually, the time to choose will run out.**

### *Chapter 19 – Crucify Him, Death, Burial*

This chapter is like Matthew 27, Mark 15, and Luke 23. In addition, due to the sun to be going down and their days start at sun-down they besought Pilate that Jesus' legs be broken to expedite his death, but when the soldiers came to Jesus, he was already dead. Just to make sure they pierced his side and blood and water flowed.

### *Chapter 20 – Resurrection, Doubting Thomas, Purpose*

This chapter is like Matthew 28, Mark 16 and Luke 24, but a thing to note here is Jesus telling Mary not to touch him as he had not yet ascended unto his Father.

**COMMENTARY:** At Passover the High Priest would then sprinkle the blood of the lamb on the altar of God for the remission of sins for the people. The priest had to go through a ceremony so that he would be clean [holy] when entering the Holy of Holies [Throne of God]. As the Epistles will further explain, Jesus was our High Priest, who sprinkled his own blood on God's altar in heaven for the salvation of all mankind, therefore, had Mary touched him prior to that he would not have been clean to enter the throne.

John also tells us Thomas [Doubting Thomas]. He would not believe that Jesus had risen unless he had seen him himself. Jesus tells him to touch his hands and to thrust his hand into his side. Thomas then believes, but Jesus says, "*because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.*"

**COMMENTARY:** I believe Jesus is also referring to those who will believe as the Gospel is spread across the world and down through time.



This chapter finishes with John stating his purpose. Verse 30-31, “*And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing ye might have life through his name.*”

**COMMENTARY:** As noted earlier in this book, the four Gospel all have an underlying theme, but each had their own purpose and perspective. Here, John, states his purpose. He then expounds on it in Chapter 21, verse 24-25 “*if these things should be written everyone, I suppose, that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written.*”

John did not write everything that he could have but wrote of select events and sayings of Jesus to lead us to believing in Jesus’ name.

### *Chapter 21 – Sea of Galilee, Peter*

John finishes his Gospel, not by telling us of the ascension, but telling us of Jesus meeting his disciples by the sea of Galilee and telling them to cast their nets on the right side of the ship. When Peter realized it was Jesus he jumped from the boat and swam to shore. There, Jesus asks Peter if he loves him. Peter answers that he does love him. Jesus then says, feed my sheep. This is repeated three times, as if to repeat the three times he denied him.



# The Early Church History

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BIRTH OF THE CHURCH





### *An overview.*

The book of Acts was written by Luke and along with his Gospel they make up over twenty-five percent of the New Testament. It covers the time from Jesus' resurrection, provides more detail about what he did prior to his ascension and then leads to the day of Pentecost with Jesus sending the Comforter: The Holy Spirit. Scholars tend to see this event as the birth of the church. The bride of Christ. Believers, not the brick and mortar buildings.

Acts provides details of the early formation of the church, how the disciples initially thought about when Christ would return, and many conversions, especially that of Saul who became known as Paul after his conversion on the road to Damascus.

The book of Acts, the beginning of evangelism that changed the world could probably be looked at, for the most part, as the history of the early church.



# Acts

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HE HAS RISEN







Author: Luke  
Chapters: 28  
Written: 58-63 A.D.

### *Chapter 1 – Holy Spirit, Ascension, Judas Replaced*

Jesus stayed forty days with them preaching until his ascension. He told them that they would be baptized with the Holy Ghost and receive power so they may witness unto the utter most part of the earth. And when he ascending, two men in white stood by them and asked why ye men of Galilee are gazing up into heaven? The men in white [angels] said, Jesus shall come in like manner as ye have seen him go.

In the upper room, the twelve pray and talk of Jesus and then cast lots as to who would be numbered among them as the twelve apostles. There were about a 120 people with them. The lot fell to Matthias.

**COMMENTARY:** In **1 Corinthians 15:3** we also learn over 500 people saw Jesus during this time.

As for the Apostles: There is much debate about whether Matthias is in fact the twelfth or if Jesus gave that position to Paul. The rest of the New Testament does not mention Matthias. While it is not a matter of salvation, I tend to believe man's actions are not always prudent or what God intended. Example: God told Abraham that he would have an heir and his offspring would be as countless of the stars. **Genesis 15:4-5.** Instead of waiting on the Lord, as his wife Sarah was past child-bearing years, they took it upon themselves to fulfill God's promise and Abraham had a child through Sarah's handmaid, Hagar.

Later, though, God fulfills his promise and Sarah became pregnant. **Genesis 18:10.**



Therefore, I suspect Paul is one Jesus had chosen to be his twelfth, just like he had chosen the original twelve. But that is just my opinion.

### *Chapter 2 – Pentecost, 3000*

A sound from heaven as of a rushing might wind filled the house where the apostles were and there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire and sat upon each one. They began to speak in tongues. Languages that could be understood by all those around them. The men were astonished as they were hearing their languages being spoken by Galileans. Some suggested they were drunk, but Peter tells them they are not drunk as it is only the third hour of the day.

Peter then begins to preach that this is the prophecy from Joel that the Lord will pour out his spirit upon his sons and daughters and they will prophecy. Peter continues with talking about the end time prophecies and then begins to tell them the story of Jesus. Who he was, what he did, his crucifixion and resurrection and being at the right hand of God. Over 3000 people repented and were baptized.

**COMMENTARY:** At this time, the disciples / apostles believed that Jesus would return very soon.

### *Chapter 3 – Healing, Sermon*

Peter tells a man, that silver and gold has he none, but such as he has, he gives to thee, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. He grabbed the man's hand and helps him up and he went walking and leaping and praising God. The people marveled, but Peter said, why marvel as this was done through the name of him whom you delivered up to Pilate. He then goes on to tell them to repent.

### *Chapter 4 – Peter and John Arrested, Believers*

While preaching to about 5000 people, the captains of the temple arrested Peter and John and brought them before the council.



They ask how they had done this, and Peter tells them through him whom ye crucified. The stone which has become the head of the corner. For neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

The council marveled at how well they spoke and told them to not to teach in Jesus' name anymore. Peter said, we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

And after they were let go, they went out and continued to preach and many were saved.

### *Chapter 5 – Ananias / Sapphira, Signs Wonders, Arrest*

Most of the new believers were selling their possessions and giving it for all. Yet, Ananias and Sapphira sold their possessions and kept some of it. They told everyone that in fact they had given everything. When they were both questioned about it separately, they both died.

**COMMENTARY:** Studies on this topic suggest that with the church so new they needed to deal with hypocrisy swiftly. No one was required to sell and give all and they could have easily said, we sold, but kept some or only gave a portion. It was their lying – the boasting of giving more was their sin.

The apostles were able to heal the sick and cast out unclean spirits. They high priest had then arrested. Yet, an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and led them out. The next morning when they learned they were no longer in the prison they searched them out and found them preaching and took them and beat them. A Pharisee, named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, told the others of stories of men like Theudas and a Judas who drew many people to them, but in the end they all perished. He went on to say that they should leave these men alone, too. If this be the work of men it will come to naught, but if from God ye cannot fight against God. They let them go and told them to stop preaching in Jesus' name.



## *Chapter 6 – Deacons, Stephen*

The twelve disciples knew they must be about spreading the word, so they appointed others to help with the administrative work.

Stephen, the first deacon chosen, who is full of faith has been performing miracles, but false witnesses claim he speaks blasphemous words and he is arrested.

## *Chapter 7 – Stephen Stoned to Death*

Stephen, standing before the high priest recounts the history of their nation from Abraham to the time in Egypt to the law from Moses to Jesus. Then asks them which of the prophets have your fathers not persecuted and slain? With that they cast him out of the city and order him to be stoned to death. Saul, later to be renamed Paul, stands by as witness while the others kill Stephen. Stephen says, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing on the right hand of God. Before he died, he said, “*Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.*”

**COMMENTARY:** Can you imagine being stoned to death? Can you imagine that if Stephen, the first deacon, didn’t believe and didn’t see the risen Christ that he would have allowed this to happen? If this was all made up [a lie] wouldn’t he had asked for mercy and denied Jesus to save himself?

## *Chapter 8 – Saul, Philip*

Saul began his great persecution of the church entering homes and putting people in prison, thus scattering everyone abroad where they continued preaching the Word.

Philip went to Samaria preaching and healed many, cast out demons, converted Simon a sorcerer. Yet, Simon then wanted the power of the Holy Spirit, and offered to pay money for it. Peter told him you cannot buy a gift from God and to repent for this wickedness.





Philip later encounters a eunuch reading the prophet Isaiah and he helped him understand what he was reading and told him about Jesus and this man was saved. After Philip baptized him the Lord carried him off to Azotus to continue preaching there.

### *Chapter 9 – Saul’s Conversion, Raising the Dead*

Saul’s anger for the disciples was strong and he sought letters or permission from the high priest to seek them out in Damascus. One his way, Jesus blinded him and asked why he was persecuting him? Paul then understands it is Jesus and asks what is his will?

The Lord then comes to Ananias in a vision telling him to go find Saul of Tarsus and that he [Jesus] has chosen Saul to bear his name to the Gentiles.

Saul receives his sight after meeting with Ananias and begins preaching Christ. This confounds many as Saul is now preaching that which he was trying to destroy. The Jews then try to kill him but is helped and taken to the apostles and he tells them all that had happened to him.

The chapter goes on to tell of Peter healing a paralyzed man and raising a woman named, Tabitha from the dead.

### *Chapter 10 – Visions of Cornelius and Peter, Gentiles*

Cornelius, a centurion, a non-Jew, receives a vision from God to go find Peter. Peter receives a vision three times of the Lord lowering down from heaven a blanket with unclean animals on it. Peter and Cornelius meet. Peter says it is unlawful for him, a Jew, to keep company with a non-Jew. Then Peter then realizes the meaning of the vision. That no man is unclean to him now.

Peter then begins to preach about Jesus and how he fulfilled the scripture and rose again on the third day, and that anyone who believeth on his shall receive remission of their sins. The Gentiles, too,



believed, and were saved and were filled with the Holy Ghost and spoke in tongues.

### *Chapter 11 – Gentiles Saved, Christians in Antioch*

Peter goes to Jerusalem and is questioned why he is preaching to the Gentiles who are uncircumcised. He told them the vision and Cornelius' vision, and how they were all filled with the Spirit. And Peter said, God gave them the gift as he gave us and who am I that I could withstand God? Then they agreed and said, God has also granted repentance unto to the Gentiles.

The disciples, like Barnabas, traveled around as they scattered based on the persecution of those that believed and in Antioch they were first called, Christians.

### *Chapter 12 – Peter Rescued, Herod Dies*

James, John's brother is killed and Herod arrests Peter. Peter is in prison, chained with two guards, but an angel came to Peter, in what he thought was a vision, and led him out of the prison. Once through the city Peter realizes it was all true and goes to Mark's house. Those present didn't believe the girl who answered the door, as they surmised that it was his ghost.

The next morning, Herod learns of Peter's escape and has the guard's killed. Then Herod is with others and they say he [Herod] speaks as a God and since he would not give the glory to God, an angel of the Lord kills him.

### *Chapter 13 – Paul's First Mission*

Paul and Barnabas went to Cyprus and one sorcerer tried to stop them, but Paul said he should be blind for a season. They then began to preach at Pisidia and told the story of Israel through the prophets to John the Baptist to Jesus, died, and resurrected. The Gentiles there requested the words be taught to them too and so Paul taught them. This infuriated the Jews who began to slander Paul and Barnabas.



Paul then said, that since you judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles, for the Lord said to me, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that they should be saved. Many were saved.

### *Chapter 14 – Iconium, Lystra*

Paul and Barnabas journeyed to these towns, but the inhabitants were not as open to hearing the good news as they were in Cyprus and Pisidia. Here they questioned people sacrificing to false gods and yet the Jews followed them stirring up the people to stone them. Finally, they left and returned to Antioch, but on their way back they checked in on those who were saved in these cities and guided them on forming their churches to continue to spread the Gospel.

### *Chapter 15 – The Law, Gentiles, Paul & Barnabas*

Questions arose about the Gentiles. Should they keep the Law of Moses and be circumcised? Some Pharisees, who strictly followed the law, who had become believers, suggested Gentiles need to follow the law. Peter rose up and defended the Gentiles saying that God knows their hearts and put no difference between us and them. Why put a yoke on their neck that not even our fathers could keep? We believe though the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul and Barnabas spoke and told of the miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles. The council then agreed to send letters to tell them to abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood and other things strangled and from fornication.

Paul and Barnabas part ways as Barnabas wants to return with Mark to check on those they had witnessed to, but Paul chooses Silas to join him to continue to spread the Word to new places.



### *Chapter 16 – Timothy, Europe, Divination, Jailer*

Timothy joins Paul and Silas and they preach in areas then known as Phrygia, and Galatia, which is now modern-day Turkey. And to the north west of this land to Troas to spread the Word into Europe.

In the city of Thyatira, a damsel, possessed with spirits of divination followed them and called, “These men are servants of the most high God which shew unto us the way of salvation.” Paul then commands the spirit to leave her in the name of Jesus. Her master though is upset, and he earned money from her divinations.

They were beaten and cast into prison. At night an earthquake happened, and all the jail doors opened, and their shackles loosened. The guard feared they had all escaped was about to kill himself when Paul tells him to stop. This man and his family then became saved and he fed and tended to their wounds. The next morning the leaders of the city ordered them to be let go, but Paul refused. Paul said we are Romans and you beat us openly, un-condemned and try to usher us out in secret. The magistrate then came and besought them to leave and they did.

### *Chapter 17 – Thessalonica, Athens, Mars Hill*

Paul and Silas preached at Thessalonica, and the Jews followed like in other cities stirring up dissent. Paul goes on to Athens and Barnabas and Timothy stay behind in Berea and then are called to join Paul. While in Athens, Paul notices how the Athenian’s are open to hearing new things, but he questions them worshiping all these gods, especially the one that have an altar to, “TO THE UNKNOWN GOD”. Paul then declares I will declare him unto you, and begins to tell them of God, repentance, and of Jesus raised from the dead. Some scoff, others want to hear more and others believe.



## *Chapter 18 – Corinth*

Silas and Timothy rejoin Paul in Macedonia and then he goes to Corinth. There, the Lord speaks to him in a night vision to remain there and speak boldly. Paul is there for about eighteen months. Afterwards he sailed to various locations spreading the good news.

**COMMENTARY:** The book of Act is telling about the missions. The epistles will get more into the details of the biblical truths.

## *Chapter 19 – Ephesus, Tyrannus, Silversmith*

Paul is in Ephesus and encountered those who were followers of John the Baptist. Paul then baptizes them in the name of Jesus and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

Paul is then in Tyrannus for two years and God wrought special miracles by the hand of Paul. People were healed and demons cast out simply by handkerchiefs and aprons of Paul, and many believed. Many that had worshiped the Great Diana. They then brought their idols and books and burned them. There were over fifty thousand pieces of silver.

This action brought concern to the silversmith who made his living crafting items for worship to Diana and Jupiter.

## *Chapter 20 – Dead Raised, Better to Give*

Paul spends time in Greece and then goes back to Troas. There while preaching a man sat in a window and went to sleep. He then fell to his death. Paul fell on him and the man's life returned.

Paul continues to preach throughout the area and back in Ephesus he tells them of Jesus and his salvation. Then says, remember the words of Jesus, "*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*"



## *Chapter 21 – Jerusalem, Gentiles*

Paul is warned not to go to Jerusalem as he will be bound by the Jews and the Gentiles, but he would not be persuaded not to go, and that the Lord's will would be done. There in Jerusalem he tells James and the elders present of that the Lord has done teaching both Jew and Gentile.

Paul is in the temple and the Jews stirred up all the people and laid hands on him and began to beat him. Soldiers then broke it up and took Paul and then Paul asked to be allowed to speak to the people.

## *Chapter 22 – Defense*

Paul then begins to speak to them in Hebrew. He tells them he was born in Tarsus and was a zealot for God. He tells of his persecution of the Christians and then his conversion and call to preach to the Gentiles.

The centurion bade that Paul should be brought into the castle to be examined by scourging and Paul asked if it was lawful to scourge a man who is a Roman and un-condemned? The chief captain was afraid for they had bound a free man. They then took him to the Sanhedrin.

**COMMENTARY:** When you read this think about the United States Constitution. Such as the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment Due Process of Law. A Roman citizen was considered free and entitled to certain rights.

## *Chapter 23 – To Caesarea*

Paul tells them he is a Pharisee, a son of a Pharisee and is called into question because he has the hope of the resurrection of the dead. This caused division among the Sanhedrin as many were also Pharisees. They and the scribes found no fault in him.



The Lord then tells Paul, be of good cheer, thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem and now you must bear witness of me in Rome.

The soldiers protect Paul and learn of a plot to kill him. Therefore, the chief captain orders two hundred soldiers to escort Paul to Felix the Governor. Felix said he will hear Paul's case when his accusers arrive.

### *Chapter 24 – Two Years*

Paul gave his defense to Felix, but to keep the Jews happy he left Paul bound for two years.

### *Chapter 25 – To King Agrippa*

The Jews continue to lodge their complaint against Paul and Festus asked if Paul is willing to go back to Jerusalem to be judged. Paul said, neither against the law of the Jews, neither against the temple, nor yet against Caesar, have I offended anything at all. Paul then appeals to Caesar.

Festus write to King Agrippa that he has found no wrong in Paul, but that he has appealed to Caesar.

### *Chapter 26 – Paul before Agrippa*

Paul tells of his life and then of his conversion. He was not disobedient to his vision but spread the good news of Jesus rising from the dead for the remission of sins. Paul appeals to Agrippa, but he almost accepts Christ. King Agrippa says he might have set Paul free had he not appealed unto Caesar.

### *Chapter 27 – To Rome*

Sailing to Rome they run into a storm and there is a shipwreck.



### *Chapter 28 – Melita, Viper, In Rome*

The swim to shore on an island called Melita. The people there treat them well. While sitting around a fire a viper bites Paul and yet was not harmed. They are there three months and people are healed.

In Rome, he talks to Jews there and explains Jesus through the prophets, yet they didn't seem to want to hear. He, therefore, says that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it.

Paul is kept in a hired house and receives all that will come to him for two years preaching the kingdom of God and teaching those things concerning the Lord Jesus.

<p><b>COMMENTARY:</b> In his epistles we will hear more of what Paul preached, and accomplished while on house arrest in Rome.</p>
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# The Epistles

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LETTERS OF INSTRUCTION







### *What are the Epistles?*

Variants of the word “epistle” means to send a message. For the most part, think of them as letters. Romans to Jude are considered epistles and can be sub-categorized as follows:

- Paul’s epistles to the churches: Romans to 2 Thessalonians
- Paul’s pastoral and personal epistles: 1 Timothy to Philemon
- Christian epistles [Not by Paul]: Hebrews to Jude \*Although many believe Paul wrote Hebrews.

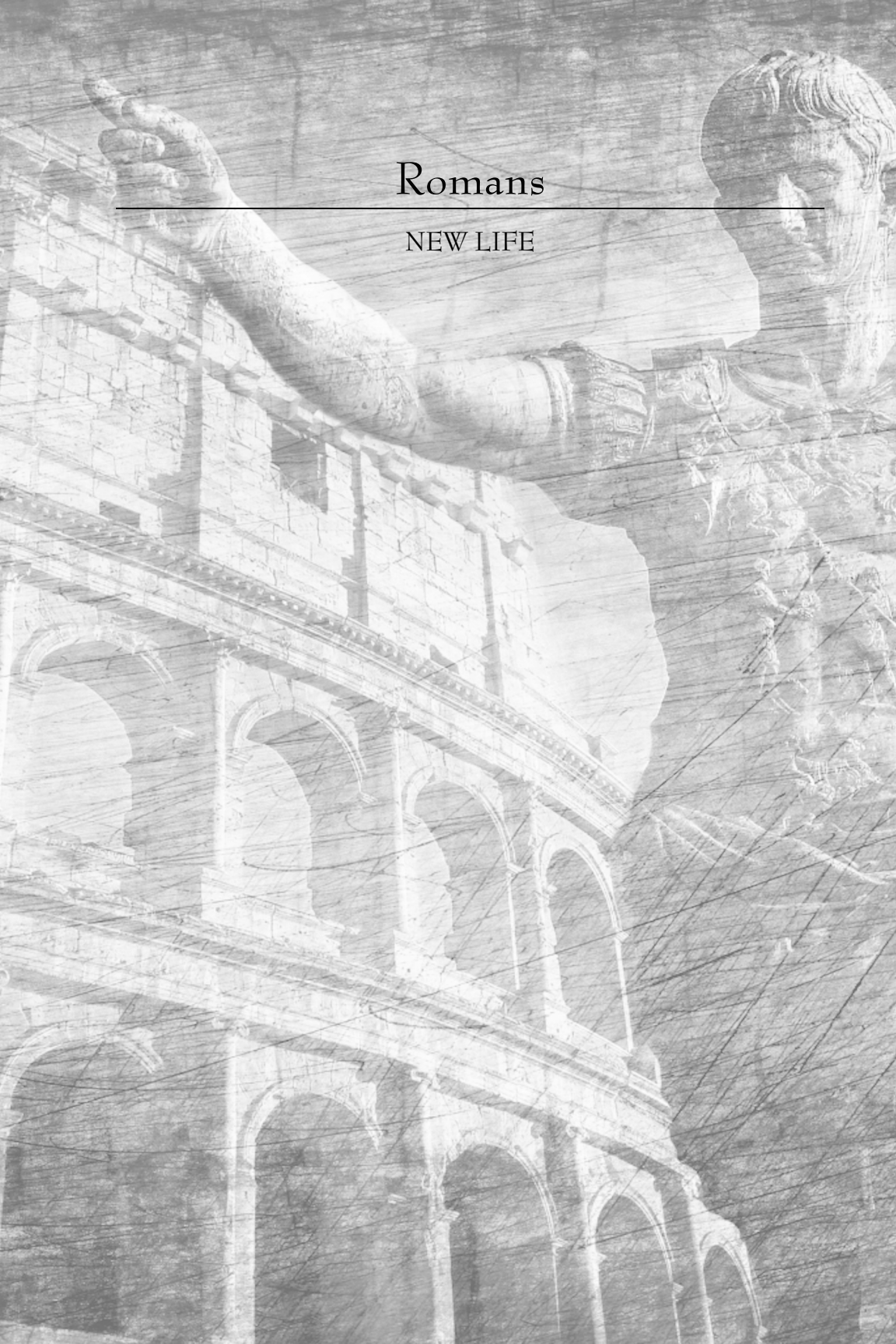
Consider them letters of instruction, hope, and guidance in the Power of the Word of God. Like today, a pastor / reverend / priest – giving a sermon or teaching on a various topic. The letters were to be read by the church leader to the congregation and communicated outward.

What you may also uncover in reading the full text of the letters, and not so much in the summaries, is that Paul makes a number of analogies to the faith and seeking the higher prize, running a race, fighting the good fight to that of an athlete. Corinth had hosted the Isthmian Games or Panathenaic Games that were still going on during these times. Even the Olympics were still beheld in Athens.

**NOTE:** Originally the Olympics were held every four years in honor of Zeus – Greek God. Emperor Theodosius of Rome in 393 A.D. suspended the games when he made Christianity the state religion of Rome.

While he makes these references in his epistles, they are more prominent in the Hebrews epistle.





# Romans

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NEW LIFE





Author: Paul  
Chapters: 16  
Written: 57 A.D.

## *Chapter 1 – Faith, Sin*

Paul begins his letter announcing that he was called of Jesus to be an apostle, and then provides a wonderful salutation filled with hope and longing to be with them and spread the word, and that it was to go to the Jews first and then to the Gentiles.

**COMMENTARY:** As you may recall in the first chapter of the Book of Acts the original eleven disciples or apostles cast lots to replace Judas who had betrayed Jesus and hung himself. Apostle means, one who is sent. An apostle is given the authority of the one who sent them. While there are many disciples Jesus only sent or gave his authority to the original twelve, and they will have specific duties in heaven judging Israel in the future. And while the other eleven appointed Matthias to replace Judas, their authority to Matthias would only make him a disciple and not an Apostle to Jesus. Paul makes the claim here, and in his other epistles that it was he who was called by Jesus to be an apostle.

He tells us to live by Faith and then tells us in Verse 20 that the invisible things of God are clearly seen and understood by the things he made, even his eternal power and God head and that we are without excuse.

Paul goes on to show how man has worshiped the creation and not the creator and given themselves over to all forms of sins, and he lists those out in verses 29-31 ending with the statement that we know we do them and know we are worthy of death, but yet take pleasure in committing them.



**COMMENTARY:** Verse 27 Paul talks about men leaving the natural use of the woman and lusting toward one another; men with men. I will not get into a debate about homosexuality being a sin or not as we have all sinned in one way or another: lie, cheat, lust, steal. I reference it here simply to point out that some say the bible doesn't talk about it, but it does.

## *Chapter 2 – Judging*

Paul begins with a similar statement as Matthew 7:1 that as you judge others you condemn yourself, and then explains it even further. God is not a respecter of persons but shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to the gospel.

Paul then criticizes the Jew for knowing the law, preaching the law, and yet not adhering to it themselves. By their own actions they blaspheme the name of God and the Gentiles see it. Their circumcision profits them nothing. Circumcision should be of the heart.

## *Chapter 3 – Advantages of being a Jew*

Paul discusses, what advantages, if any, are there for a being a Jew. There are none. Both Jew and Gentile are sinners. There are none righteous, and by the law no flesh shall be justified in the sight of God, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

The righteousness of God is by faith in Jesus Christ. For we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God. Yet, justified freely by his grace through Jesus, for the remission of our sins.

## *Chapter 4 – Belief not Works*

Paul provides examples from Abraham and David how it was not their actions that showed their righteousness, but their faith in God and his promises. Believing on him [Jesus] who justified the ungodly.





## *Chapter 5 – Patience, Wrath, Adam and Jesus*

Paul talks about how patience leads to experience and experience leads to hope. We are now justified by the blood of Jesus and saved from wrath through him. Paul then does a contrast between Adam and Jesus. How through one man, Adam, sin and death entered the world, and through one man, Jesus, life and grace that we may be made righteous.

**COMMENTARY:** Verse 9 is used often used to support that those who have accepted Christ and become his church and his bride will escape the wrath of God to come. More on that in other books.

## *Chapter 6 – New Life*

Paul gives guidance on how we are now dead with Christ. Our sins are dead and will live through him. And now that Jesus was raised from the dead, death has no more power over him as he died unto sin once and now lives unto God. And while we are now under grace and free from the bondage of sin, we should strive to yield ourselves unto God and not unto sin. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord [V23].

## *Chapter 7 – Marriage / Law, Sin*

Paul uses the analogy of marriage to show that we were once married to sin, but now that sin is dead, we can marry life, Jesus and be delivered from the law.

Paul goes on to show that we will still sin as we are carnal but being no more under the law it is no longer we that sin, but the sin nature in us. This is not to say we should sin, but that we should rely on Jesus who will deliver us from the body of death.



## *Chapter 8 – Condemnation, Contrasting Lives*

Paul admonishes us to walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit. There is no more condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.

He goes on to contrast a mind that is carnal and one that is spiritual and shows that those led by the Spirit of God are the children of God waiting for our adoption the redemption of our body. And tells of us being conquerors in Christ and that nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## *Chapter 9 – Long Suffering*

In this chapter Paul tells about the people of Israel and tells of the long suffering from God that he withheld his wrath that he might make known his Glory and that we would seek righteousness by faith and not by the law which is a stumbling block. And Jesus has now become that stumbling block, the rock of offense and anyone who believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

## *Chapter 10 – Salvation*

Jesus is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth. Verse 9 *“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”*

There are no differences between Jew or Greek / Gentile for Jesus is the same Lord over all. Verse 13, *“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”*

Paul then references prophecy where the Lord said he would provoke Israel to jealousy by them that are not a people [Gentiles] and have found me who did not seek me, but as for Israel he has stretched forth his hands to them a disobedient and gainsaying people.



## *Chapter 11 – Jealousy / Israel*

Paul elaborates on Israel and that they slumber and have eyes to see and ears to hear, but they do neither. But God would not have them fall, but rather that their fall would lead the Gentiles to salvation that they [Israel] may be jealous to come unto him and be reconciled. Yet to the Gentiles should not boast. If God cut off the natural branches and grafted you in to be partakers of the root [Jesus] and not the bearer of the root take heed otherwise ye may be cut off too.

## *Chapter 12 – Duty, Gifts*

This chapter Paul instructs us on our duty. To provide ourselves as a living sacrifice to the Lord. To be humble. He then tells how we are one body, but each has a different duty, job or task and he lists them out. Then concludes that we should give place unto our wrath as Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord, I will repay. And that we are to overcome evil with good.

## *Chapter 13 – Subject Yourselves*

In this chapter Paul talks about subjecting ourselves to high powers. Render tribute to whom tribute is due and custom to whom custom is due. He reiterates parts of the commandments stressing love, and to walk honestly in the light and not in strife and envying.

## *Chapter 14 – Judging*

**COMMENTARY:** Before I give a summary I want to say this is a great chapter to read for those with questions about do we worship on Saturday or Sunday? Do we need to follow the Feast? Can I eat meat, etc.? Other issues here to note is that those more firmly ground in their faith were eating meat that had been cooked and offered to idols. They did not partake in the ceremony but did eat the meat at a later time. Younger people in the faith could not make the reconciliation between the two. Paul make suggestions on how to ensure their actions don't make it a stumbling block for new believers.



Paul instructs us on regarding a day over another, what to eat. Some eat herbs and others eat meat. Some observe a certain day while others do not. We must be persuaded in our own mine. For those who do not eat meat they do not eat meat unto the Lord and those that do then eat meat unto the Lord. Whether we live or die we do so unto the Lord. But, he does note that our actions may be misunderstood by those new in the faith and why it is okay to eat the meat, as being in Christ nothing now is unclean to us, it may be confusing to them and make them weak.

The kingdom of God is not meat or drink, but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.

### *Chapter 15 – Bear One Another*

As Paul begins to bring this letter to the Romans to a close, he suggests that we should all bear one another and to please each other and not think about ourselves. As Christ did not think of himself but went to the cross for our sins. He continues with encouragement and how he longs to see them.

### *Chapter 16 – Commend, Salutations*

Paul ends the letter by commending certain people and telling of their actions and provides salutations to many sending his greetings and ends with avoiding those with contrary doctrine and who bring division. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.



# First Corinthians

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GUIDANCE AND PURITY





Author: Paul  
Chapters: 16  
Written: 55 A.D.

### *Chapter 1 – Thanksgiving, Division, Wisdom*

Paul, like most of his letters starts out with saying he was called of Christ to be an apostle and this letter is directed to the church of God, which is in Corinth. He gives God thanks, and then talks about the division he heard of them as to whose baptism they are under. They are under Jesus, not man. Paul then talks about the foolishness of God, the preaching until salvation is a stumbling block to the Jews, but unto those who believe it is the power and wisdom of God. God has chosen the foolish things of this world to confound the wise that no flesh should glory in his presence.

### *Chapter 2 – Wisdom, Spirituality*

Paul tells about the fact that what he says is not based on his wisdom or eloquence of speech, but by the power and wisdom of God. And that God has revealed unto us through his Spirit these things that we speak not as the wisdom of man, but as the Holy Spirit teaches.

### *Chapter 3 – Carnal, Laborers, Temple*

Paul talks about the carnality of the Corinthians in that they are still like babes not yet able to eat meat. Meaning they are hearing the Word, but still carnal minded and not spiritually minded by their continued strife and division. He tells that they are all co-laborers together with God and that it is God who planted and waters.

Paul says he merely laid upon the foundation of Jesus and tells how we are the temple of God and that no man should deceive himself to thinking he is wise. We are Christ's and Christ is God's.



### *Chapter 4 – Humility*

This chapter talks about not judging until the appointed time and that we should be humble and not puffed up.

### *Chapter 5 – Sin*

This chapter deals with sin within the church and that it should be purged out to not corrupt the entire congregation. [Leaven – sin]

### *Chapter 6 – Law, Sin*

Paul talks about in-fighting and that they should handle their affairs internally and not let unbelievers judge them, but better yet take the wrong and do not defraud each other. He goes on to say that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God, and lists out various sins saying such were some of you, but we have been washed, sanctified and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of God. We are now a member of the body of Christ and are now one flesh and should not join that member with a harlot. We were bought with a price, we should glorify God in our body and our spirit, which belong to God.

### *Chapter 7 – Advice to Married and Unmarried*

Paul provides advice to both married and unmarried and that if we desire to have sexual relations we should marry and that we no longer have power over ourselves, except that from our spouse. He goes on to provide guidance to those who are married and then come to faith and whether they can or should remain in that marriage if their spouse does not convert too. As well as, advice to virgins and widows/widowers.

### *Chapter 8 – Food, Freedom*

This chapter is like Romans chapter 14 where Paul told them about nothing is unclean to them, but eating foods sacrificed to idols,





while okay since not party to the ceremony, but it can make those newer in the Word weak.

### *Chapter 9 – Apostleship*

Paul uses this chapter to provide support for him being an apostle from those that are likely questioning his being so called. He provides evidence and show how he does not take any gain. He has become like all men, Jews, weak, without the law to win them to the Lord. Woe unto me, he says, if I preach not the gospel.

### *Chapter 10 – Israel Contrasted, All Things to God*

Paul then uses the time of Israel in the desert of the rock that was smote by Moses was the Rock – Jesus. They still murmured, tempted and followed idols as an example to us of things we should not do. We have become one with the communion of the blood and body of Jesus. We are to be partakers of God and not of devils. Whatever we do we should do all to the glory of God.

### *Chapter 11 – Custom, Division, Lord's Supper*

Paul talks about the custom of a woman covering her head to pray and that a man should not have long hair. He then talks about the division in the church and how people attend the communion of the Lord is not to be used as a meal. If they are hungry, they should go and eat first, but while we are sinners, they should be in reverence of this.

### *Chapter 12 – Spiritual Gifts*

Paul discusses the nine gifts of the Spirit. We are all one body together in Christ, but like your hand or foot or eye or leg, etc. each has a different duty and function.

<p><b>COMMENTARY / RANT:</b> This, to me, is a very important chapter in the New Testament along with Chapter 14. Not everyone will have the same gift[s]. Just because a person doesn't speak in tongues does</p>
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not mean they don't have other gifts or that there is something wrong with their relationship with God. I was raised in a Pentecostal church. I have heard farmers, who clearly should not know a foreign language speak well, and I have heard those who created false gibberish, to me, to be pious. As you'll read in Chapter 14, which is about the gifts of tongues, not everyone will have this gift, and if you do, you should hold your peace if no one is there to interpret. I have seen people use this against others to say, "something is wrong with you and your relationship with God since you don't speak in tongues". No, they speak not as that is not their gift.

### *Chapter 13 – Value of the Gifts*

Gifts are of no value unless exercised in love. If I could speak in tongues, move mountains and feed the world without love it is nothing.

### *Chapter 14 – Speaking in Tongues*

Paul provides much insight and guidance on speaking in tongues, and yes, while it is a much sought-after gift to have there are limitations and restrictions and again, not everyone will get this gift.

What value is it if there is no one to interpret and understand the saying that all that listen may be edified by the message?

### *Chapter 15 – Message of the Resurrection*

Paul uses this chapter to talk more about Jesus' resurrection and how over 500 people saw him during those forty days before he ascended into heaven, and was seen of him, as well. He tells that the importance of the resurrection as some are saying he did not rise from the dead. If that were so, then their preaching is in vain. And if Christ be not risen, then there is no hope for each of us and we are dead in our sins. But Christ did rise, and God put all things under his feet, including death.



**COMMENTARY:** Later you'll read in **Galatians 1:11-12**, by Paul, that the gospel he preaches came directly to him from Christ himself. It is the same as preached by the other apostles – that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, and raised on the third day according to the scriptures.

Paul then answers questions about what body do those that are raised come with? God giveth a body as he pleases. All flesh is not the same, but there is one kind of flesh for men, for fish, for beasts and for birds. Bodies for stars, for the sun, for the moon and they all differ. So with resurrection – some to corruption and some to incorruption. Adam was made a living soul and the last Adam [Jesus] a spiritual body. First man is of the earth, the second man is of heaven.

Paul then tells a mystery, that not all will sleep but changed in a twinkling of an eye at the last trump. Death will be defeated

**COMMENTARY:** Verse 51-52 was written after First Thessalonians 4:13-18. These give an overview of what Christians refer to as the Rapture of the church. Those who have died in Christ and those that are alive in Christ will be caught up to be with the Lord as God prepares to send his wrath on a sinful world. Also read: **Isaiah 26:19-21**.

Scoffers claim, Rapture, is not in the bible. Correct, that word is not in the Greek text, but the word “caught up” is. In the Greek “caught up” is “Harpazo” in the Latin it is “Rapturo”. The New Testament was written in Greek, so perhaps they should say, the “Harpazo” yet they use the Latin, “Rapture” to reference this event of being “caught up” with the dead that will be raised to meet the Lord in the air.

## *Chapter 16 – Salutations and Exhortations*

Paul tells them of his soon visit and how to prepare, as well as, reminding them to stand steadfast in the Lord.





# Second Corinthians

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A CALL TO MINISTRY





Author: Paul  
Chapters: 13  
Written: 56 A.D.

### *Chapter 1 – Thanksgiving, Visit Postponed*

Like all Paul's letters he writes noting his apostleship and giving thanks to God. In this letter he tells of his postponing his trip to avoid pain it may bring. To spare them as he says and not have dominion over them.

### *Chapter 2 – Trip Explained, Forgiveness, Christ*

Paul then provides more reasoning for not coming yet. If he had come, then it would have brought sorrow to both him and to the receivers as he would have to deal more directly with their sin and division. Instead, he wanted to show them love.

He goes to recommend they forgive lest Satan should take advantage of us. Triumph in Christ do not corrupt the word of God.

### *Chapter 3 – Ministry*

Paul tells about ministering for Christ and tells that they are doing so in Spirit and not in letters or stones but written in our hearts by the Spirit of the Lord. He tells of Israel, how Moses wore a veil when reading the Old Testament to them and how that veil remains for them until they accept Christ and the veil is lifted. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

**COMMENTARY:** If you recall the death of Jesus and how the veil, that covered the Holy of Holies rent in two allowing us to freely enter into the Throne of God – Paul here is telling how Moses wore the veil as a representation of that temple veil that man could not look up on God. Not that Moses was God, but Moses was reading the Word of



God. Now with the vail removed, thanks to Jesus, we can now live in the Spirit and communicate directly with God.

### *Chapter 4 – Hidden*

This chapter talks about his ministry being truthful and honest in refuting those who say it is hidden. It is only hidden to those by the god of this world [Satan] whom he has blinded that they do not see the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God. Paul continues to discuss what they have endured for the faith and that they look for things that are not seen as they are eternal.

### *Chapter 5 – Death, Reconciliation*

Paul talks about being absent from the Lord is to be in the body, but to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. He would rather be with the Lord.

**COMMENTARY:** Prior to Jesus' death and resurrection those who had died went to Paradise, not heaven. After that point we who die in Christ go to be with him in heaven.

Now with Christ's death and resurrection, God has reconciled us to him, no longer imputing our trespasses [sins] against those who believe. We are now ambassadors for Christ.

### *Chapter 6 – Unbelievers*

Paul talks about approving the ministers of God with much patience, in stripes, in labor, in fasting, by pureness, in love. He says to not be unequally yoked [tied to] with unbelievers. For what agreement does the temple of God have with idols? We are now the temple of God and we should come out from among them and be separate.





## *Chapter 7 – Paul and Corinth’s Reconciliation*

Paul learns from Titus how his letter, while it made them sorrowful it led them to repentance and that brings him much joy.

## *Chapter 8 – Giving*

Paul talks about providing for others through our abundance that there is no lack by any. He also tells more about Titus who is his partner and fellow helper.

## *Chapter 9 – Sowing of Seed*

Paul uses sowing to educate on giving. Sow sparingly you will reap sparingly. But Paul does not provide a percentage yet says God loves a cheerful giver. Do not give out of necessity or grudgingly, as God is able to make all grace abound to you so you always have sufficiency in all things for every good work.

As your giving to a ministry allows them to continue to sow the seed of righteousness – the spreading of the Gospel of Christ.

## *Chapter 10 – Warfare*

We do not war after the flesh, as our weapons are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds. We are to bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

Paul then discusses his ministry and position and how some say his letters and words are powerful, but his bodily presence is weak and his speech contemptible. Yet he defends himself with their deeds being like his letters when he is present. He does boast or measure himself to others, but to preach the Gospel.

## *Chapter 11 – Defending his Apostleship*

Paul defends himself to others. How he has come to them asking for nothing, preaching for free, taking money from other churches



to provide them [Corinthians] service. He warns them of false teachers as Satan can transform himself as an angel of light but whose end shall be according to their works.

He goes on to say he too is a Hebrew, an Israelite, and of the seed son of Abraham as others. Are they ministers of Chris? He is more. He then tells of all the whip lashes he has received, the beatings, the imprisonment, the perils at sea. Hungry, thirsty, cold and naked at times and he needs any glory he will glory in his infirmities so that God knoweth that he [Paul] does not lie.

### *Chapter 12 – Thorn, Repent*

Paul talks about a man he knew [Likely himself] that was caught up to the third heaven and heard things that cannot be uttered. He talks about a thorn being in his side, a messenger of Satan had buffeted him. He sought the Lord three times to heal him, but the Lord said his grace is sufficient and that his strength is made perfect in weakness. Therefore, Paul glories in his infirmities so that the power of Christ may rest upon him.

He then says he will come to them and request no assistance, and calls for them to repent of their debates, envying, strife, etc.

### *Chapter 13 – Third Visit*

This time he warns them of this visit that he will not spare them if he finds them still in their sin. Do no evil, be approved of God, know that Jesus is in you.

# Galatians

## THE LAW OR CHRIST





Author: Paul  
Chapters: 6  
Written: 48 A.D.

### *Chapter 1 – No Other Gospel*

After his initial introduction and salutation, he tells that should they hear any other gospel preached than what they have already received let that person or angel be accursed. Paul tells that he received not the gospel from man, but by revelation from Jesus Christ. He speaks of his conversion and that after three years he spent a few weeks with Peter in Jerusalem, but has seen no other apostles, except for James the Lord's brother. From there he went to the regions of Syria and Cilicia where they did not know him by face but knew he [Paul] had once persecuted them, but now preaches the faith.

### *Chapter 2 – Jerusalem, Rebuke of Peter*

Paul continues his story telling that it was then fourteen years later he went again to Jerusalem and discusses the debates of people going back to the law instead of relying on faith.

Paul tells of the events of his rebuke of Peter, where he and James were eating with Gentiles, but Peter and Barnabas left fearing the Jews. Paul saw this and rebuked them in front of everyone for they live like Gentiles yet expect Gentiles to live like Jews.

Paul goes on in verse 16 that man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ. By the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

### *Chapter 3 – Faith not the Law*

The Holy Spirit is received in faith, not by works and man is not perfected by the flesh. He uses Abraham to continue his illustration that by his faith he believed the promised covenant from God that



was then confirmed 430 later. The purpose of the law was to bring us unto Christ that we might be justified by faith. For now, there is neither Jew or Gentiles, bond or free, male or female for we are all one in Jesus Christ.

**COMMENTARY:** I brought out the verse 17 reference to 430 years as I believe when you read that you question Paul's math. For we know the story that the Jews were in Egypt for 400 years before the law was handed down to Moses. Abraham is promised the blessing and covenant of God years before his son is even born. Scholars believe that Paul is only counting the time from when Abraham went into Canaan, where he then confirmed God's promise to his son Jacob. Jacob would later be renamed Israel and through him came the twelve tribes.

### *Chapter 4 – Heir, Bondage*

Paul talks of being under bondage, and that in the fullness of time God sent his Son, made of a woman, made under the law. He redeemed us to God that we may become the children of God and heir through Christ.

Paul then asks why, now that they know Jesus have then gone back to observing days, months and year.

He then tells of his two sons. One from a bondmaid and another from a freewoman. One of the flesh and the other of the promise. We are children of the free.

### *Chapter 5 – Warnings, Law, Liberty and the Spirit*

Paul uses this chapter to warn those that entangle themselves back into the law's yoke of bondage. We are free from the law. At liberty in Christ, therefore, do not use that liberty to appease the flesh, but by love serve one another. We are to walk in the Spirit and not fulfill the lust of the flesh.



If we are led by the Spirit, we are not under the law and then he lists out sin or works of the flesh that we should not do. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering.

### *Chapter 6 – Restoration*

Paul admonishes us to restore one another in meekness. Bearing one another burdens. He goes on tell more about sowing and reaping and we should not sow in the flesh as that is corruption. We are to glory in the Cross of Christ.





# Ephesians

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REDEMPTION







Author: Paul [While in Prison in Rome]  
Chapters: 6  
Written: 60-62 A.D.

### *Chapter 1 – Guarantee*

Ephesians begins with Paul explaining the omnipotence of God in that he knew from the foundation of the world who would accept his Son who would come to redeem us. And through Christ we have an inheritance that we shall receive in due time and God has sealed his Holy Spirit in us as a deposit or guarantee of that eternal life. Paul goes on to explain that God has raised Jesus from the dead, seated him at his right hand and has put all things under his feet and the head over all things to the church.

### *Chapter 2 – Sin, Grace*

Paul reminds us that we once walked according to this world following the prince of the power of the air [Satan], and how we have now been saved by grace and not of works. And with such, we are now one with Christ in unity building upon the foundation set by Jesus the chief corner stone.

### *Chapter 3 – Mystery*

Paul discussed in more detail but reiterates the mystery that has been hidden by God throughout the ages and only now revealed to us through the Spirit. That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs and of the same body and partakers of his promise [Eternal Life] in Christ. Paul then prays for the people that Christ may dwell in their hearts and that they come to know the love of Christ.

### *Chapter 4 – One, Gifts*

Paul talks about us all now being one together, in Christ and in God. He tells how Christ had descending into hell but is now ascend-



ed far above heaven and explains the purpose of gifts [Spiritual] to the perfecting of the saints, the work of the ministry and the edifying of the body of Christ [The Church / The Bride]. He then provides instructions on how to live, renewing of your mind, don't let the sun go down on your anger and never give place to the devil. Be kind to one another, forgiving as God for Christ's sake has forgiven us.

### *Chapter 5 – Duties for Christians, Wives, Husbands*

This is another good chapter to read as Paul provides more guidance on how to live as Christian and a spouse. Here he explains that we too are married to Christ, his church.

### *Chapter 6 – Duties - Children, Fathers, Servants, Warfare*

Paul tells of the duties of children, fathers and servants and masters as to how they should treat others and be treated.

Then Paul goes into the warfare we are experiencing as Christians and how to prepare in verses 10-20: *“for we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rules of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”* We are to put on the whole armor of God.

**COMMENTARY:** As commented in other areas, Satan is the prince of the air, the god of this world. That is what we wrestle and fight with. People being led by, swayed by and even possessed by demons to make us fearful, to get us to fall and ruin our walk with God, to not lead others to Christ. He is cunning and we must not think we, of our own power, have the ability to stand, but by the Word of God and in Christ's name we can be victorious. **James 4:7, Resist the devil and he will flee from you.**

# Philippians

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UNITY

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*Worsh*





Author: Paul [While in Prison in Rome]  
Chapters: 4  
Written: 60-62 A.D.

### *Chapter 1 – Thanksgiving, Bonds, To Lie or Die*

Paul is writing from Rome while in prison and sends his greetings and thanksgiving to those who are praying for him. He goes on to say that his bondage has increased the confidence of others to preach Christ and he rejoices, and then goes on to talk about living and dying. To live is Christ to die is gain as it means he will be with the Lord. He tells them to stand fast in one spirit.

### *Chapter 2 – Exaltation, Light of the World*

Here Paul tells of Jesus, being equal to God, took on the form of a servant and humbled himself until death on the cross and God has now exalted him and his name shall be above all names and every knee shall bow and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

**COMMENTARY:** The word or name, **Lord** [Adonai] is not a term to be taken lightly, such as “**I AM**”. We may use it in some cultures to refer to someone of noble stature, but to the Jews, Lord was used as the written name of God since they could only speak God’s name once a year. With their disbursement for nearly 2000 years after the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. they have forgotten how to pronounce his name. Some say it is [YHWH] Yahweh, or Jehovah [Different alphabet used] based on letters in Hebrew, where vowels were added since Hebrew has no vowels. The thing to takeaway is this: Here and in other references in the bible where you see, Jesus is Lord [Adonai] it is the same as saying, “Jesus is God”.

Paul continues to instruct us to do all things without murmuring, to work together in unity and to let your light shine. He says he will send Timothy unto them and Epaphroditus who had been sick unto death. God had mercy on him, as he too will come to them.



### *Chapter 3 – False Teachers, The Prize, Unity*

Paul continues to warn against fast teachers and tells about life and then conversation and that how he now seeks the prize of the higher calling of God in Christ Jesus. He then suggests they continue in unity as they seek the same thing to be followers together in Christ.

### *Chapter 4 – Anxiety*

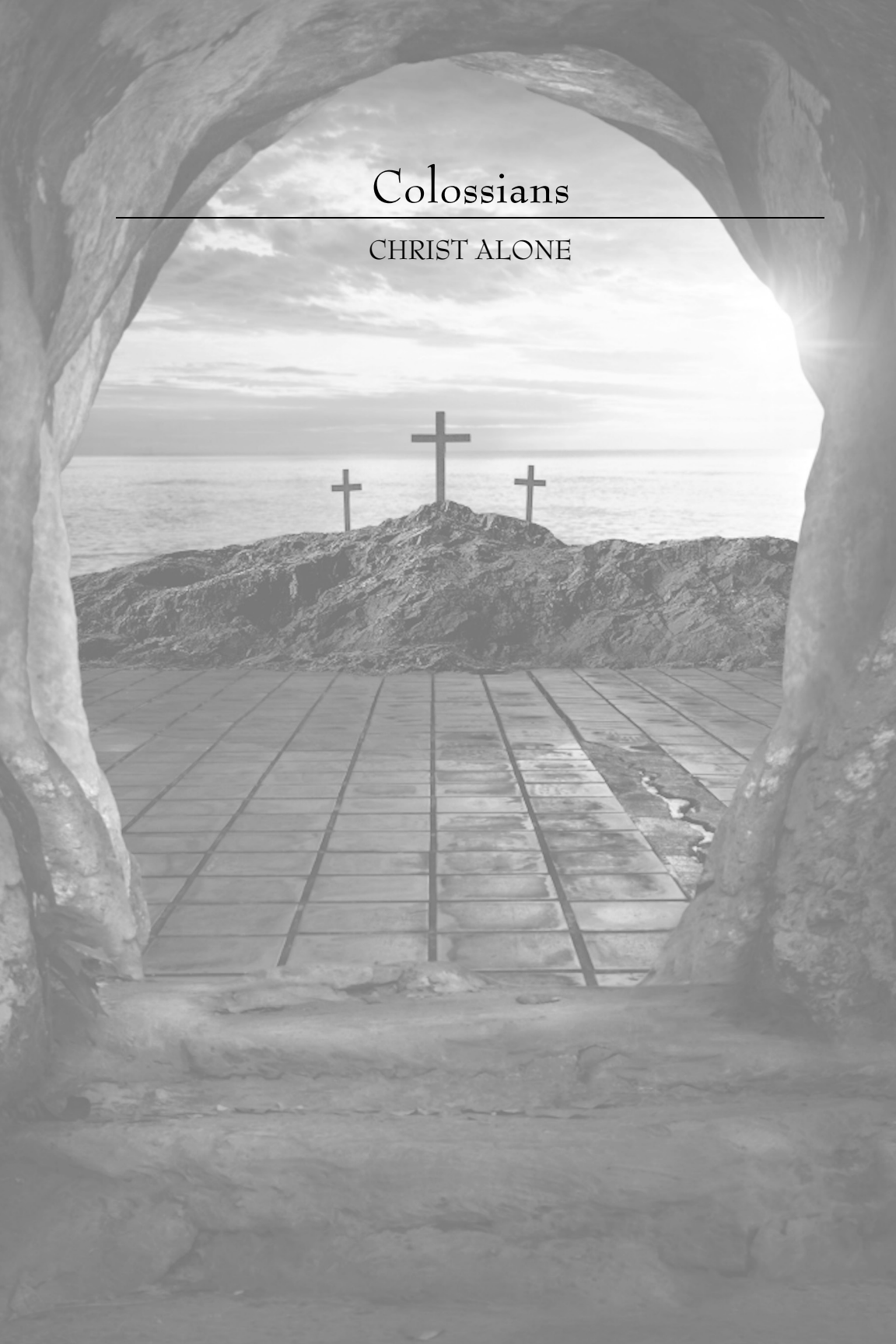
The rest of this epistle Paul tells us to stand fast in the Lord. We should not be anxious for anything as the peace of God passes all understanding, and we should keep our minds on Christ. He lists out in verse 8 suggestions on what to think of instead of the issues at hand. We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.



# Colossians

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CHRIST ALONE







Author: Paul [While in Prison in Rome]  
Chapters: 4  
Written: 60-62 A.D.

### *Chapter 1 – Prayer, Jesus is God*

Paul is writing to the people of Colosse from Rome while imprisoned. He gives the Lord thanks for them and prays for them that they might be filled with the knowledge of the Lord's will and his wisdom. Paul then reminds them concerning Christ and who he is. Jesus, the image of God, and by and through him were all things made. He was before all things and is the head of the body, the church. The firstborn of the dead. He made peace for us with God through his blood on the cross. We are to continue in the faith and he again reminds us the mystery of God, whereby even the Gentiles may receive the promises of God.

**COMMENTARY:** Colossians was written before the Gospel of John and this chapter and the first chapter of John say virtually the same thing: That Jesus existed from the beginning. That he is eternal. That he is God and by him and through him were all things made. The point to make is to show consistency in the views of the apostles about Jesus and who he is.

### *Chapter 2 – False Teaching, Sin Nailed to the Cross*

Paul reminds us to watch for false teaching and to stand fast in the Lord Jesus. If we do not stand guard and beware as man could spoil you with philosophy and deceit after the traditions of this world. He goes on to remind us that our sins were nailed to the cross [v 14] and have been blotted out. Do not let people judge you in meat, drink, respect of holy days, new moons or sabbaths. [Like Romans 14]



### *Chapter 3 – New Life – Put Off / Put On, Duties*

Paul admonishes the believer to set their attention on things above and not on earth. Put off the old member and the sin we once committed and put on Christ with charity, kindness and humility. Let the peace of God rule in our hearts, and whatever we do, do in the name of the Lord Jesus with thanks to God the Father. Paul then reiterates the duties of wives, husbands and children as he did in Ephesians 6.

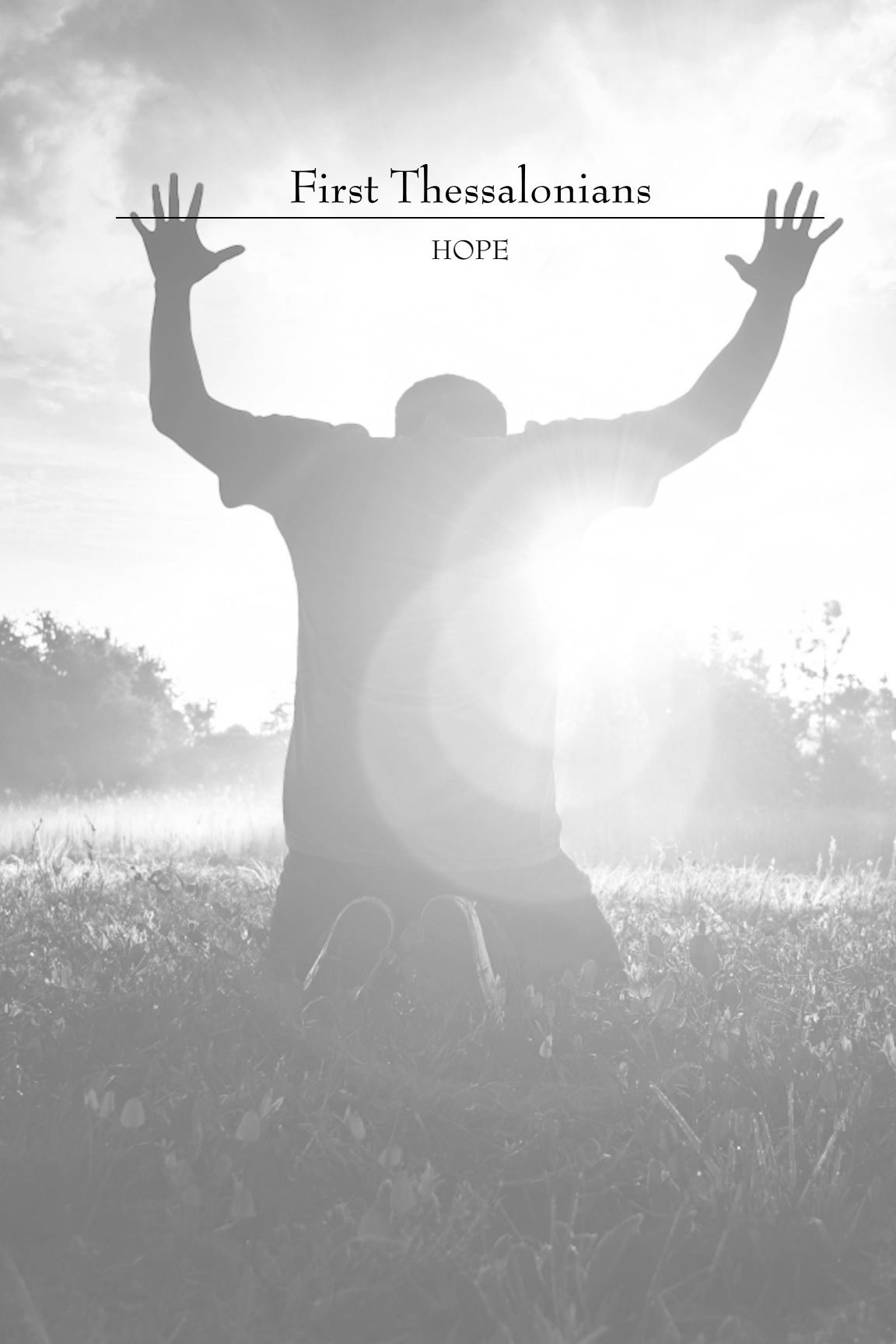
### *Chapter 4 – Duties, Pray and Witness*

Paul finished with the duties of master and servant and instructs on praying and witnessing and then closes with greetings and salutations.

# First Thessalonians

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HOPE







Author: Paul  
Chapters: 5  
Written: 51 A.D.

## *Chapter 1 – Holy Ghost, Wrath*

Paul opens his letters with greetings and then talks about how the gospel came to them in power and in the Holy Ghost, and for them to wait on the son, whom God raised from dead, and will deliver us from the wrath to come.

**COMMENTARY:** 1 **Thessalonians 1:10 and 5:9, Romans 5:8, Isaiah 26:21** relate to **Revelation 6:17** – Day of the Wrath of the Lamb / of God. To punish the inhabitants of earth for their sin. But, if you have accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior then God no longer sees your sin. You’ve been forgiven. No reason to be punished.

**Colossians 2:13-14** – sin nailed to the cross and have been blotted out. **I John 1:8-9**, confess your sins and he will forgive you and purify us from all unrighteousness. **II Thessalonians 1:7-9** – Jesus will be revealed from heaven, in flaming fire to take vengeance on them that KNOW NOT GOD and that OBEY NOT the GOSPEL of our Lord. Who shall be PUNISHED.

Why would then the groom [Christ] put his bride [The Church] through his Wrath and punish the Church when they know GOD and OBEY the Gospel – BELIEVE IN JESUS [**Romans 10:9, 10:13, John 3:16**, etc.]? When he instead will come and take her away.

Recall the Commentary for **1 Corinthians 15** - This “Caught Up” [Harpazo / Rapturo] of the Church [Believers in Jesus] happens prior to God giving mankind one last chance to repent: His wrath.

Some claim it is escapism to think this way. Why?



Would you punish those who are on your side, accepted you as their leader, repented of their wrongs, accepted your son's sacrifice on the cross, and accept you as their God? Of course, you wouldn't. You would get them out of harm's way prior to punishing those who don't or won't believe.

Recall the story of Lot, Abraham's nephew **Genesis 19** where God sent angels to get him and his family out of Sodom and Gomorrah before he sent his wrath on them. God was going to spare those cities if he could find just ten believers. There weren't even ten.

God's grace is giving us time to make a choice before he must remove iniquity from this world. Granted, many will be saved during his wrath [the Tribulation], but it would be better to miss it all together and be with Jesus in heaven [Taken in the Rapture] than to face the awesome might of a living God.

Repent and accept Christ today.

### *Chapter 2 – Preaching, Jews, Wrath*

Paul speaks how they received the Word from God and have preached it unto them without flattering words or covetousness, but that they may walk worthy of God. He goes to tell about how the Jews do not want them to speak of Jesus, let alone to even preach to the Gentiles so they too may be saved from the wrath to come.

### *Chapter 3 – Timothy*

Paul tells how he decided to stay in Athens and sent to them Timothy and how he has returned and given a good report of their faith and charity.

### *Chapter 4 – Sanctification, Caught up - Rapture*

Paul begins with instructions on sanctification [To be Holy] and tells to abstain from sin as God has called us unto holiness. In-





crease in love and walk honestly to those who are without that you may lack nothing.

Then he wants to remind us that the Lord will not forget those who have died as they will rise with a shout from heaven, the voice of an archangel and the trump of God and we which are alive and remain will be “CAUGHT UP” with them to meet the Lord in the air and so shall we ever be with the Lord. [See Commentary page 93 – **1 Corinthians 15**]

### *Chapter 5 – Day of the Lord*

Paul reminds us that we do not know that day an hour, but we do not live in darkness that this day should take us like a thief in the night.

**COMMENTARY:** See Commentary from **Matthew 24** on pages 15-16. I want to add here verse 4 of this chapter. “*ye brethren are not in darkness that this day should overtakes us as thief.*” Just because we cannot know the specific hour and day, as only the Father knows when he will send his son for his bride, we can know the signs. We can see the events foretold by the prophets and from Jesus himself to know that the hour is at hand.

Paul continues and reiterates that God has not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ. He then finished with instruction on not rendering evil for evil, but that we should pray without ceasing and abstain from all appearance of evil.



# Second Thessalonians

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SECOND COMING







Author: Paul  
Chapters: 3  
Written: 52 A.D.

### *Chapter 1 – Day of the Lord*

After thanking God for the brethren, Paul tells them how Jesus will be revealed from heaven as he returns to punish those who do not obey the gospel and asks for prayer that the news of Jesus Christ may be glorified in them.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Read Daniel Chapter 9 and 12.

### *Chapter 2 – End Times*

Paul admonishes them to not be shaken by the events that will unfold and that these days will be preceded by a falling away first before the son of perdition [Antichrist] can be revealed. He tells how this person will exalt himself and is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders. And for those who do not love the truth they will be sent a strong delusion that they should believe a lie and take pleasure in their unrighteousness.

### *Chapter 3 – Prayer*

Paul prays that they will continue in the Lord and let the Lord direct their hearts.



# First Timothy

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PASTORIAL









Author: Paul  
Chapters: 6  
Written: 63 A.D.

### *Chapter 1 – Doctrine, Testimony*

Paul's letter is directed to Timothy, but relevant for us all to continue to learn and grow in the Lord. He tells Timothy to keep sound doctrine and charity out of a good heart. As the law is good if used lawfully, but it was made for the lawless and sinners, whereby Paul acknowledges that he was at one time. A blasphemer and persecutor, until he was saved by grace by Christ Jesus who came into the world to save sinners. He charges Timothy to hold his faith.

### *Chapter 2 – Prayer*

He exhorts us to pray for everyone, for those in authority too that we may live peaceable lives, and that they may come to know the mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. And when we pray lift our hands.

### *Chapter 3 – Qualifications*

This chapter, Paul provides guidance on being bishops and deacons. Such as, one wife, be vigilant, sober, patient, and take care of your own house so you can properly care for the house of God.

### *Chapter 4 – Ministers*

Paul first starts off with some warnings about the later days [End Times] as to how people will depart from the faith seeking seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. Speaking lies, forbidding to marry, and to abstain from meat which God created, and we can receive with thanksgiving.



He then gives guidance to a minister and while bodily exercise has a little profit, godliness is profitable unto all things. Do not neglect your gift[s] and meditate on them that they profit all.

### **Chapter 5 – Elders, Saved Sinners**

Treat elders like a father and the women as a younger sister, honor our elderly and learn from them. He talks about widows and how they should be helped based upon their age and if they have children or not and if younger, they should remarry.

Let the church elders be worthy of double honor, accusations against must be before two or three witnesses.

If they brother in Christ sins rebuke before all so others may fear.

Paul then lays charge to Timothy to observe these things without partiality, keep thyself pure. He also tells him to drink a little wine for his stomach's sake.

### **Chapter 6 – Servants and Masters**

This chapters begins like Ephesians Chapter 6 and Colossians Chapter 4 and 5 regarding they duties of servants and masters.

He reminds us false teachers who do not teach the doctrine of Jesus Christ. Those that come with strife, envy and a corrupt mind who have the love of money which is the root of all evil.

Paul then tells Timothy to fight the good fight in faith, and to keep the commandments without spot until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ., the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Tell those who are rich to not trust in the money, but in the living God who giveth us richly all things to enjoy. Be rich in good works.

# Second Timothy

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PASSING THE BATON

CHRIST  
DIED FOR OUR  
SINS







Author: Paul  
Chapters: 4  
Written: 64 A.D.

**COMMENTARY:** It is believed that this is Paul's last letter before he is martyred in Rome. In this epistle he seems to be passing the baton, so to speak, to Timothy to continue to spread the message of Jesus Christ.

### *Chapter 1 – Endurance*

Paul thanks God for his mercy and tell us that God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and to not be ashamed of the testimony of the grace from Christ Jesus who has abolished death and brough life and immortality to light through the gospel.

He then prays for some people who were not ashamed his him being in chains.

### *Chapter 2 – Instruction*

Paul provides us and Timothy instruction for moving forward in the Lord and reminds us that Jesus of the seed of David was raised from the dead. We shall then live with him, and reign with him but if we deny him, he will deny us. Study to show thyself approved by rightly dividing the word of truth. Shun sin and let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. In meekness instruct those that oppose that they may get out of the snare of the devil.

### *Chapter 3 – Last Days*

Paul tells us about the last days there will be perilous times and those who love pleasure more than God, denying the power of God and being led away with diverse lusts.



Yet, we know the doctrine and manner of life to live in Christ and to continue in these things we have learned to make us wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. Paul then says in verse 16, *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness”*

**COMMENTARY:** Review **John 14:26**, *“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”* **2 Peter 1:21**, says, *“... prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”*

These verses together tell us that while men wrote the bible, they wrote what they were taught or instructed to write as guided by God through the Trinity of his Holy Spirit.

**NOTE:** While on the topic of the Trinity – yes, it is not mentioned per se, in the bible. Again, logic, reasoning. Without reiterating all the verses, but recall Jesus saying, I am my Father are one.

Look also at **1 John 5:7**, *“for there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost.”* **2 Corinthians 13:14**, *“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”* **Matthew 28:19**, *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”*

## **Chapter 4 – Preach**

Preach the Word in and out of season, exhort all with longsuffering and doctrine for a time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears and turn their ears away from the truth and turn unto fables.



Rodney Haun

Paul continues with him having fought the good fight and has laid up a crown of righteousness which the Lord will give unto all that love his appearing.

He references that Luke [Who wrote the Gospel According to Luke and the Book of Acts] is still with him and sends his salutations and that the Lord be with them.





A large crowd of people, seen from above, is arranged to form the letters 'T' and 'C'. The 'T' is on the left and the 'C' is on the right. The people are of various ages and are wearing different clothing. The background is white.

Titus

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CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP





Author: Paul  
Chapters: 3  
Written: 63 A.D.

### *Chapter 1 – Qualifications*

Paul's letter to Titus starts off in his normal style of hope and thanksgiving. He then goes into instructions on being a bishop like in I Timothy Chapter 3. He then expounds on the things to look for from false teaches. Those who profess to know him, but in works they deny him and are disobedient. Who teach things for filthy lucre's [money] sake.

**COMMENTARY:** I suspect you can name quite a few so called, preachers, who pervert the Word of God so that they can live a lavish lifestyle. It is sad that people don't just read the bible for themselves so they can identify these charlatans and understand the truth of God's word. We should pray that their eyes would be opened, and the preachers repent before it is too late.

### *Chapter 2 – Teaching*

This chapter is more like the duties Paul expounded on for husbands, wives, children, servants and masters like in Ephesians Chapter 6 and Colossians Chapter 4 and 5, and I Timothy 6.

He then tells that the grace of God brings salvation and that we are to look for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ who redeemed us.

### *Chapter 3 – Redemption*

Paul then tells us to speak evil of no man, and to be gentle and meek. For one time we were hateful and served our lusts. We are reminded of the kindness of God that was shed upon us abundantly



through Jesus Christ. Being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

He then says to stay away from foolish questions and genealogies, and contention and striving about the law for they are unprofitable and vain.

# Philemon

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FORGIVENESS







Author: Paul  
Chapters: 1  
Written: 60-62 A.D.

### *Chapter 1 – A Plea*

Paul pleads with Philemon, to receive his runaway slave, Onesimus, and that he will pay what he has been wronged.

**COMMENTARY:** I was never certain of the purpose of this book in the bible until I finally began to study. Philemon was a Christian and others met in his house in Colosse. Onesimus had helped Paul while in Rome, but apparently, he had run away and likely stole from Philemon since Paul offered to repay what Philemon had been wronged. The story is conveying the gospel in action: Forgiveness.

**NOTE:** Slavery by Jews was much different than Roman slavery. Jews treated their servants / slaves like family, and they had social and religious rights. Also, they were set free or could go free on a Sabbatical year [Every 7<sup>th</sup> year – should they desire.] Romans, on the other hand, treated their slaves unmercifully.

This is not to say all Jews treated their slaves this way or that the practice is or even was okay, but for someone to suggest a slave return to their master and for the master to receive them would be a questionable practice so I thought it relevant to give his brief detail as to their culture at that time and why Paul likely suggested it.





# Hebrews

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CHRIST – THE NEW COVENANT







Author: Uncertain – likely Paul  
Chapters: 13  
Written: 50-68 A.D.

### *Chapter 1 – Above the Angels*

The chapter begins by stating that Jesus is in the image of God, he took away our sins and is now seating at the right hand of God. The rest of the chapter details how Jesus is not an angel, but above them, as the only begotten of God.

### *Chapter 2 – Lower than the Angels*

The text continues with showing how Jesus then was made lower than the angels [i.e. became a man], who tasted death for all of us that he might destroy him that had the power of death, the devil. Now, Jesus has become our faithful high priest reconciling us to God and being crowned with glory.

### *Chapter 3 – Hardened Hearts in the Wilderness*

There is more honor to the builder of the house than the house itself and how Jesus is the builder, and we are in his house. He then talks about Moses and that we should listen to the voice of God and not harden our hearts as their forefathers did while wandering in the wilderness for forty years with unbelief. And those who did not believe did not enter the promised land.

### *Chapter 4 – Rest, High Priest*

This chapter discusses how God rested from his work on the seventh day and likewise, we are to finish our work and come unto the rest from Jesus. This chapter is also where we get the phrase, the word of God is sharper than a two-edge sword. And how Jesus has become our high priest and we can now come boldly unto the throne of grace.



## *Chapter 5 – Called of God*

This chapter tells about the priest being called of God and that Jesus was of the order of Melchizedek. He then tells how they need to be taught and some are still babes who drink milk, meaning unskilled in the word of righteousness, while others can eat meat, being of full age and can discern both good and evil.

## *Chapter 6 – Christ not the Law*

This chapter reminds the audience, who are Jews, that they should not fall back into the law now that they accepted the doctrine of Christ. Saved by faith. Recall the promise of God to Abraham and God swore by himself, as there is no greater, and now the promise of hope we have through Jesus, our high priest.

## *Chapter 7 – Jesus after Melchizedek, One Sacrifice*

Here we are told the story of Abraham meeting the King of Salem, the priest, Melchizedek and giving him tithings. The name means, King of Righteousness. And King of Salem is King of Peace. He then expounds on this with Jesus being that King, the Son of God.

We are then reminded of Aaron, the Levite, brother to Moses and the establishment of the priesthood. Jesus was made a priest and lives forever and has made intercession for us, but unlike others priest who must offer sacrifices daily and yearly, Jesus offered himself once for all.

**COMMENTARY:** This priest is first mentioned in Genesis 14:18-20 who was king of Salem and received tithes from Abraham and blessed Abraham.

## *Chapter 8 – A New Covenant*

Moses was instructed by God to make a pattern of the temple and those things within as a shadow of heavenly things. And we have now obtained a more excellent covenant and that is Jesus.



## *Chapter 9 – Perfect Tabernacle*

This chapter contrasts the old and new testaments [i.e. covenants] He describes the tabernacle and how the priest would go into the holy of holies once a year with blood for the sins of the people.

But now, Christ is a more perfect tabernacle. His blood was offered once that we may obtain eternal redemption. He has become the mediator between the first testament and now the promise of eternal life.

Moses pattern were of things to come and Christ has entered the holy sanctuary not built by hands, but by God.

## *Chapter 10 – Shadows*

This chapter continues contrasting of the old and new testaments with more detail of the daily and annual sacrifices and now, Jesus has offered his body once for all.

And with the Holy Ghost he has now put the laws into their hearts and our sin and iniquity he will remember no more.

Therefore, we should hold tight to our faith and not waver. And be patient for he will not tarry and to live by faith.

## *Chapter 11 – Faith*

We are reminded about faith in this chapter. It is the things hoped for, but not seen. He then provides examples of Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Rahab at Jericho, and the judges.

Noah by faith believed God and built the ark. Moses choose to suffer the affliction of his people than the honor of Pharaoh. And many others.



## *Chapter 12 – Warnings*

This chapter tells us again that Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith and went to the cross, despising the shame. He wants us not to despise chastening. A farther will educate and chasten those he loves. Do not be disobedient but endure.

## *Chapter 13 – Christian Living*

Entertain strangers as you may be entertaining angels unawares. Remember those in bond. Let your conversations be without covetousness.

Jesus is the same today and tomorrow and forever. Do not be carried away by diverse and strange doctrines.

Jesus suffered outside the gate and let us go forth there and offer sacrifices of praise to God continually giving thanks in his name.

May the God of peace who raised Jesus from the dead, through the blood of the everlasting covenant make you perfect.

# James

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## TRIALS AND TESTING









Author: James  
Chapters: 5  
Written: 50-60 A.D.

### *Chapter 1 – Test*

James tells us that if we lack wisdom to ask God in faith and do not waiver. Be humble and if tempted then endure it as one will receive the crown of life. Every man is tempted when drawn away in his own lusts.

James provides more guidance to living slow to speak, slow to wrath, be doers and not just hearers of the word. Visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction.

### *Chapter 2 – Partiality, Faith*

Be not a respecter of people showing partiality to one and not another. Do not despise the poor.

He goes on to say that even if we kept the entire law, but error in one point we are guilty of all. James provides guidance on showing mercy and helping those in need by action and not word.

Then he talks of faith and believing in one God and putting that faith to effort by doing good works.

### *Chapter 3 – Control*

James uses a good part of this chapter to tell about controlling our tongue. While it may be little, it can boast great things and bring much harm and defile the entire body. For it can curse and bless.

But let our conversations be with meekness of wisdom, peaceable and full of mercy.



### *Chapter 4 – Internal War*

We war without our own members, pride, and lust which are of this world and an enemy to God. Submit to God and resist the devil and he will flee from you.

James tells of confidence in thinking we can plan for something tomorrow when life is but a vapor. Instead, we should say if the Lord wills it, we can do this or that.

### *Chapter 5 – Patience*

James first warns of reliance on the pleasures of this earth, and to be patient until the returning of our Lord. Pray for the sick, confess your faults,

# First Peter

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LIFE IN CHRIST







Author: Peter  
Chapters: 5  
Written: 64-67 A.D.

### *Chapter 1 – Holy Living*

Peter begins his letter addressed to those scattered through the regions. Due to the persecution Peter reminds them to have faith through all this as their faith is more precious than gold. As many of them never had seen Jesus but live entirely by faith on the salvation of their souls. Continue to live holy as God is holy. Be sober, obedient and continue in grace of the Lord.

Peter then reminds us that we were not born again by that which is corruptible, but incorruptible, by the word of God.

### *Chapter 2 – Spiritual Growth, Duties*

Like other epistles, Peter too uses the milk of a baby analogy to show some are living as infants in the word, but still need to grow. Peter says we need to grow and build up our spiritual house upon the foundation of Jesus for we have been called out of the darkness and into the light.

And like in Ephesians 6 and Colossians 4 and 5, and I Timothy 6, and Titus 2 – he tells about the duties of mates and servants, and how to conduct ourselves.

He then reminds us of Jesus' example where he who knew no sin, gave his life on a tree for us so that we may live.

### *Chapter 3 – Duties, Relationships, Suffering*

Like Chapter 2 dealing with duties of servants and masters, Peter adds in the duties of wives and husbands like the other epistles.



He then provides guidance on relationship with other believers: To have compassion, to not render evil for evil, to refrain the tongue, and seek peace.

Peter then provides guidance to those being persecuted and how to be a better example that we may sanctify the Lord God in our hearts and be ready to provide an answer to every man that asks a reason for our hope.

### *Chapter 4 – Cease from Sin, Gifts, Endure*

Peter admonishes us to be like Christ and cease from sin and not follow the will of the Gentile [i.e. this world]. Use the gift[s] given to you by the grace of God, and if you suffer as a Christian do not be ashamed but glorify God.

### *Chapter 5 – Commands*

Peter commands the elders to feed the flock of God, and all Christians to submit to the elders, be humble, and vigilant. Remain steadfast in the faith.

<p><b>COMMENTARY:</b> At the time of Peter's letters, Nero's persecuting of Christians had made life very difficult for them.</p>
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# Second Peter

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GUIDANCE









Author: Peter  
Chapters: 3  
Written: 65-68 A.D.

## *Chapter 1 – Fruitful, Prophecy*

Peter reminds us that have received a great promise and that we should grow in our faith with diligence, virtue and charity knowing that we will be fruitful who has the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Peter knows that he will be dying soon [i.e. martyred] and re-tells how he was an eyewitness to Jesus and saw Jesus' glory on the mountain [as we call Mount of Transfiguration] as prophecy of Jesus' second coming.

He goes on to say that our word of prophecy is sure as no prophecy of scripture is of any private interpretation, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

**COMMENTARY: Matthew 16:28** *"Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."* There on the mount, Peter, James and John saw Jesus in his glory with Elijah and Moses and heard the voice of God. It is believed they were being shown the future when Jesus comes in his glory – his second coming. More on this in the book of Revelation.

## *Chapter 2 – False Teachers*

Peter warns against false teachers and provides examples of God dealing justly. Angels that had sinned were cast into hell, delivered in chains until the day of judgment, Noah and seven others saved from an ungodly world, and the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.



We can escape the pollution of this world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

### *Chapter 3 – Scoffers Last Days*

Peter reminds us as to why he has written these epistles so that we may be mindful of the Lord. There shall come scoffers in the last days questioning the return of Christ. But we are not to be ignorant as one day to the Lord is like a thousand years and a thousand years like a day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promises.

He then tells the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night and these things of this world will dissolve, but according to his promise we look for a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwells righteousness.

# First John

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DOCTRINE







Author: John  
Chapters: 5  
Written: 90's A.D.

### *Chapter 1 – Jesus*

John declares that he has seen and touched the Word of Life [Jesus] that we may also have fellowship. God is Light. Walk in the light and be cleansed by the blood of Jesus.

Confess your sins and he will forgive you. If you say you have no sin you deceive yourself.

### *Chapter 2 – Be of Christ*

Keep the commandments of the Lord. Love one another, but not this world, as it is full of lust and pride, and is not of the Father.

He that denies Christ is antichrist. Whosoever denies the Son denies the Father. Abide in him and at his appearing you should not be ashamed.

### *Chapter 3 – Love*

John reminds us of the doctrine of Christ. That we are the sons of God and shall be like him when he appears. Whoever commits sins is of the devil, but whosoever is born of God does not commit sin. Love one another in godly love and believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ.

### *Chapter 4 – Try the Spirit, Love*

John instructs us to not believe everything we hear. We are to try all spirits, and if they confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh they are not of God. We have overcome the world and greater is he that is us than he that is in the world.



Again, we are told to love one another. God loved us first and sent his son as a propitiation for our sins. If we love one another God dwells in us and whosoever confesses Jesus is the Son of God, God dwells in him and he in God.

### *Chapter 5 – Born of God*

John tells us that whosoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God. Keep his commandments and overcome the world. And tells us that three bear witness in heaven, The Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost. He that believeth on the Son has life.

Ask in confidence and you shall receive. Again, whosoever is born of God sins not, and that wicked one touches him not.

A black and white photograph of a hand holding a small, textured book. The book has a cross made of twigs on its cover. The hand is in the foreground, with fingers visible. The background is blurred.

# Second John

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WATCHFUL







Author: John  
Chapters: 1  
Written: 90's A.D.

### *Chapter 1 – Deceivers*

John commands us to love, but also reminds us there are deceivers in the world who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh and they are antichrist. Abide in the doctrine of Christ and you have both the Father and the Son.



# Third John

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SERVICE







Author: John  
Chapters: 1  
Written: 90's A.D.

### *Chapter 1 – Service*

John tells us that whatever we do, do so to both brethren and stranger faithfully which will bear witness of your charity. He then tells of one, Diotrephes, who did not receive them and said malicious words against John. Follow not that which is evil, but he who does good is of God.



A grayscale photograph of an open book. A finger with a light-colored nail is pointing at a line of text on the right page. The text is small and blurry, but some words like "more" and "let" are visible. The background is a soft, out-of-focus gray.

# Jude

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DILIGENCE







Author: Jude  
Chapters: 1  
Written: 68-80 A.D.

### *Chapter 1 – False Teachers*

Jude, half brother to Jesus, reminds us to contend in the faith and be watchful for those who turn the grace of God into lasciviousness. He reminds us of those whom he took out of the land of Egypt and yet still did not believe and were destroyed, or the angels who gave up their first estate [Heaven] and have now been bound in chains unto judgment. Woe unto them for judgment will come upon them.

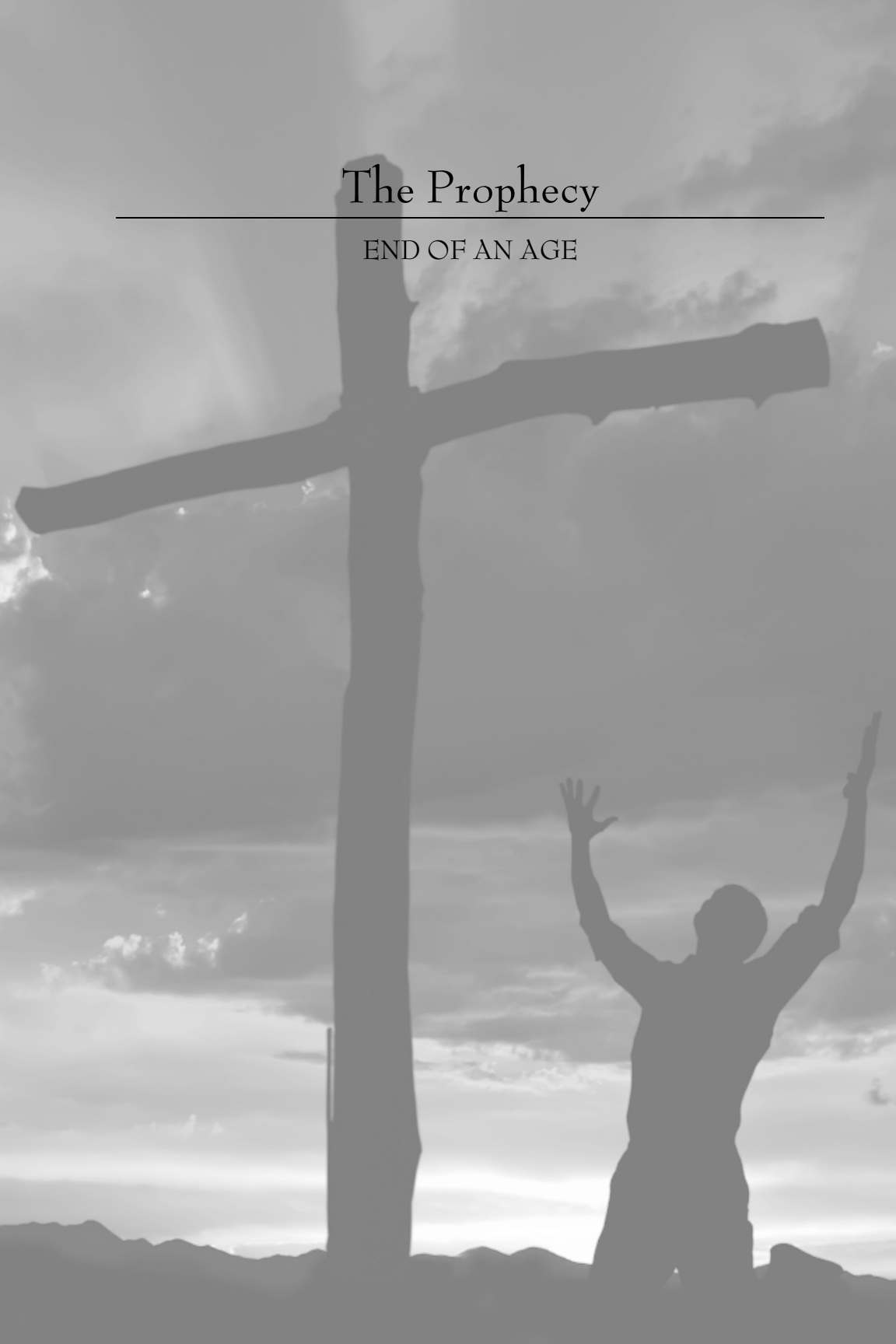
Jude reminds us that there will be mockers in the last days and we are to separate ourselves from them looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.



# The Prophecy

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END OF AN AGE







## *Overview of Revelation*

The book of Revelation is about the revealing of Jesus Christ in all his glory. It is a time when God will punish the inhabitants of the world for their sin, a time when countless will be saved, and it is the time to bring to an end of the age of Satan's rule over this world.

This event is known as the Tribulation or Apocalypse. It will be far worse than portrayed in the movies, but the world itself will not end. Jesus will return and setup his rule and reign for a thousand years before we enter fully into eternity.

The bible states this is a world without end. **Isaiah 45:17** God promised Abraham the land of Israel as an everlasting covenant. **Genesis 17**. How can God promise this land for "everlasting" if you destroy the world completely? It is an end of an age.

The book of Revelation is mostly prophecy yet to be fulfilled, contains over 400 verses 70% of which are taken directly from Old Testament scriptures, and was written by John, at the direction of Jesus, while in exile on the island of Patmos.

**RECOMMENDATION:** While this book will summarize the content of Revelation, to learn more you should read authors how have studied it fully and can make connections between the Old Testament prophets and today's world, as well as, help you understand the culture of the times in which it was written.

A free ebook:

<https://gracethrufaith.com/assets/uploads/2014/03/Understanding-Revelation-ebook-Jack-Kelley.pdf>

A video series by Ingenuity film:

<https://www.decodingthefuture.com/index.cfm>



**Chronology:**

The Book of Revelation does not seem to be chronological. There are plenty of opinions, but I believe as you read, you'll see chapters in between the trumpets, and between the vial judgments that are parenthetical in nature. Such as the flight of the woman [Israel] in Chapter 12 before we are told of the Antichrist in Chapter 13 who is the cause of them to flee. But we need to know that Satan has been cast out of heaven for good and knows that his time is short and uses this person to wage war against Israel and any believers.

# Revelation

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THE UNVEILING









Author: John  
Chapters: 22  
Written: 95-97 A.D.

## *Chapter 1 – The Vision, Seven Stars / Candlesticks*

This chapter begins with blessing to those who read, hear and keep the words of this prophecy. John then begins to tell us the vision he received from the Alpha and Omega [Jesus] who instructs him to write these things to the seven churches which are in Asia. [Modern day Turkey, sometimes called Asia Minor].

He describes seven candlesticks and, in the midst, thereof, one like the Son of man, hair white as wool, eyes flames of fire, feet like fine brass and a voice the sound of many waters. One his right hand seven stars and his countenance was like the sun. The voice then tells him he is the first and last, was dead and now is alive and says the seven stars are the seven angles of the seven churches and the seven candlesticks are the seven churches.

**COMMENTARY:** The next few chapters are messages to the individual churches. Some bible scholars have put this into what is phrase the dispensations of the church. There are some that do not agree with the concept, but basically, the messages are not just for these seven churches at that time, but Jesus was providing a roadmap of how the church would change over the years.

It is like being a person: When you are born you are an infant, then a toddler, then a youth, then a tween, then a teenager, then an adult, then a senior citizen. All various stages of change as you age.

The last church to get a message is Laodicea. They are lukewarm. Basically, you wouldn't know if they were of the faith or not. Some believe that represents our current culture. Others see different denomination described, and yet others see people fitting into each category. Where the church of Philadelphia is like the evangelicals of



today and the Laodicea are those who are apostate. They go to church, but unsure if they believe.

The point I just want to get across is that those who say they are dispensationalist merely believe the church has gone through various stages like an infant to a senior citizen and that we are likely in that final church era or phase.

Each message follows a similar pattern, too. First Jesus gives praise or reminds them of how they were in the faith in the past, then rebukes them with examples of how they have fallen away and then provides promises for returning, but also warnings to those who do not heed his message.

**REFERENCES:** Here is a link to a good page to help explain the seven churches:

<https://davidjeremiah.blog/seven-churches-of-revelation-bible-study/>

### *Chapter 2 – Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira*

To Ephesus, the Lord acknowledges their patience and questioning of false teachers but reminds they have forgotten their first love and they should repent and eat of the tree of life.

To Smyrna, Jesus tells them he knows they are surrounded by the synagogue of Satan but tells them to fear not. While you may be cast into prison and have tribulation you will receive a crown of life. [Note: There is no rebuke from Jesus to this church.]

To Pergamos, like Smyrna, he tells them he knows they have been martyred and yet deny not his name, but they have amongst them those who are a stumbling block who commit fornication and eat things sacrificed unto idols. [Brought paganism into the church.] He tells them as well to repent and receive the hidden manna and a white stone with a new name written on it.

To Thyatira, Jesus tells them he has seen their faith and charity, but he has also seen them fall into idolatry and adultery. Not



everyone has and for those he says to stand strong and for those that overcome will he give power over the nations.

### *Chapter 3 – Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea*

To Sardis, Jesus does not provide any positive acknowledgement to this church. Instead, tells them to be mindful and watch as their works are not perfect before God. While some of them will walk with the Lord in white, but the rest need to repent as he cometh as a thief in the night. He that overcomes will not have their name blotted out of the book of life.

To Philadelphia, Jesus has seen their works and while they have little strength, they have kept his word and not denied his name. He does not rebuke them and says he will keep them from the hour of temptation which shall come upon the whole world. He that overcomes will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, write upon him the name of God and the name of the new Jerusalem, and give him a new name.

**COMMENTARY:** Re-read the commentary of **First Corinthians 15** at page 93 and **First Thessalonians 1** at page 121 regarding not being appointed unto wrath, and to be taken away before God punishes the world. This church is promised to escape that hour of trial. In looking at the dispensations it is understandable to see that this message would be appropriate to those living close to the time when the wrath is to happen than for those who lived at the time the message was received. It is worth thinking about.

To Laodicea, they are not given any positive message, but instead they are lukewarm. They think they are rich, and have need for nothing, yet they are poor, blind and spiritually naked. He counsels them to repent that they may be clothed in white raiment. Jesus does say, he rebukes and chasten those he loves. Repent and he will grant them the right to sit with him on the throne.



### *Chapter 4 – Into Heaven*

John is then told to come up to heaven to see these things which must be hereafter. He sees the throne with twenty-four elders clothed in white with crowns of gold. Before the throne a sea of glass like unto crystal and four beast: One like a lion, a calf, a third with a face of a man, and the four like a flying eagle and each had six wings and praise God all day and night.

And then twenty-four elders knelt before the throne and cast their crowns to the Lord saying he is worthy to receive glory, honor and power.

### *Chapter 5 – Sealed book, The Lamb*

And John sees a sealed book in the hand of God and an angel asking who is worthy to open the seals? Then in the midst of the throne stood a Lamb as if it had been slain having the seven horns, seven eyes, and seven Spirits of God. And the Lamb took the book.

Then the twenty-four elders and a people from every nation and tongue, who had been redeemed by the Lamb's blood, began to worship the Lamb saying thou art worthy to take the book. They were made kings and priests and shall reign on the earth.

**COMMENTARY:** A few prophetic things to note here as to how they relate to the Rapture. John was caught up to heaven before the wrath or seals are opened. There in heaven is a multitude of people [Verse 11 – The number of them ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands] who have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. The Lamb is Jesus Christ. His blood was shed on the cross for our redemption. He was God's Passover Lamb to redeem us unto himself. It is believed this is foretelling of the Rapture. That it will take place prior to Jesus opening the seven seals which then begin the wrath of God. At this point, only the Church, those who had accepted Jesus prior to the wrath and prior to the Rapture would be present in the throne.



## *Chapter 6 – The First Six Seals*

Each reference to each seal being opened starts with, “And when he [The Lamb – Jesus] opened the [Number] seal.

The First Seal – A white horse and he that sat on it has a bow and goes forth to conquer.

The Second Seal – A red horse and he that sat on it has power to take peace away from the earth.

The Third Seal – A black horse and he that sat on it has a balance in his hands and seems to be telling of famine.

The Fourth Seal – A pale horse and he that sat on it was named Death and Hades [Hell] followed him.

And power was given to these four to kill a fourth part of the world to kill with sword, hunger, death and beasts.

The Fifth Seal – When Jesus opens this seal, John sees another multitude of people under the altar who had been slain for the word of God and their testimony. They cried to the Lord asking how long before he avenged their blood on those that dwell on the earth? They are given white robes and told to wait until their fellow servants are killed as they were.

**COMMENTARY:** It is speculated, and I believe rightly so, that after the Rapture, a great many people who were lukewarm will realize what has happened and repent. It will mean, though, that they will be killed for their beliefs. There are many more to follow that John will tell us about in Chapter 9.

The Sixth Seal – There is a great earthquake and the sun becomes dark like sackcloth of hair and the moon as blood. The heavens depart like a scroll and people begin to hide in the caves saying, “*Fall on us and hide us from the face of him that sits on the*



*throne and from the wrath of the Lamb. For the great day of his wrath is come, and who shall be able to stand?"*

**COMMENTARY:** Read **Revelation 6: 15-17**. They know it is the wrath that is happening and instead of repenting and being saved they choose to try to hide instead. Up until you die, you have a chance to get saved.

### **Chapter 7 – 144,000, Tribulation Saints**

Then four angels standing on the four corners of the world, hold back the wind, and another beast who has the seal of God tells the four angels to not hurt the earth until he has sealed twelve thousand of every tribe of Israel with the seal of God on their forehead.

**COMMENTARY:** These 12,000 from each tribe of Israel [12] will total 144,000 and they will evangelize across the planet.

Then John sees another multiple enter heaven who were given white robes and palms and they are those who came through the Great Tribulation. They will serve the Lord day and night in his temple.

**COMMENTARY:** It is likely those mentioned in Chapter 6's fifth seal, who were told to wait on their fellow servants, are now here with their fellow servants. Also note that the ten thousand time ten thousand group mentioned in Chapter 4 will be kings and priest and reign with the Lord, while this group will serve the Lord.

This is where many believe those mentioned in Chapter 4 are those who believed prior to the wrath and were caught up / raptured and are considered the Church or Bride of Christ and will have greater authority than those who needed to see the hand of God in action [The Wrath] before they repented.



## *Chapter 8 – Seventh Seal, First Four Trumpets*

Before the seven seal is opened there is silence in heaven for about thirty minutes. The seventh seal is opened and it has seven trumpet judgments.

The First Trumpet – Hail mingled with fire is cast down to earth and burns up a third of the trees and all the green grass.

The Second Trumpet – A mountain burning with fire is cast into the sea and a third part of the sea turns to blood, along with a third of the ocean life die and a third part of ships destroyed.

The Third Trumpet – A star from heaven, called Wormwood, is cast onto the rivers and makes a third part of them bitter and men die because of the bitter water.

The Fourth Trumpet – A third part of the sun, moon, stars and day are darkened, and then an angel says three woes to the people on earth announcing three more trumpets yet to sound.

**COMMENTARY:** My own opinion is that all of this and the rest of the book of Revelation is supernatural. God created the universe. He does not need an asteroid, or volcanic ash or whatever to make these things happen. That is not to say John isn't seeing results of such events, but if you consider today's society, and the knowledge we have would people hide themselves in caves to escape what they term as "The Wrath of the Lamb" [See Chapter 6:15-17], if this was due to "natural" disasters?

## *Chapter 9 – The Fifth and Sixth Trumpet*

John tells of a star falling to heaven and then says, "*He was given a key*". [Angels were also called stars.] The key is to the bottomless pit and when opened this star / angel allows the release of creatures that have the shape of a locust, heads with crowns of gold, faces like men, hair like of a woman, teeth of a lion, breastplates of iron, and a tail like a scorpion. To them were given power to torment



those who do not have the seal of God on their forehead for five months, but they are not allowed to kill them, and they are not to harm the vegetation. During this time, men will seek to die, but death shall flee from them. These creatures have a king named, Abaddon in Hebrew, Apollyon in Greek.

**COMMENTARY:** Men will seek to die, and death will flee from them. Does the term zombie come to mind? Again, this is supernatural. An angel opened a pit, the bottomless pit, which is where Satan will be cast for a thousand years before being cast into the lake of fire. **Revelation 20:1-3**, and verse **10** and tormenting creatures come out. These are not people, and these are not helicopters as some speculate.

The Sixth Trumpet – Four angels that are held in chains in the river Euphrates are loosed for a year, a month, a day and an hour to slay a third part of man. And with these four angels came with an army of two hundred thousand thousand, or 200 million. Those on the horses had breastplate of fire and their horse's heads were heads of lions, fire and brimstone came out of their mouths and their tails were like under serpents. And yet, with all this those who remained would not repent of their sins.

**COMMENTARY:** These 200 million do not represent mankind or China. While it can be said that China is large enough to have an army of 200 million and are probably the kings of the east referenced in Chapter 16:12 crossing over the dried-up Euphrates River, these horses do not represent tanks. These are literal beast unleashed on mankind by Jesus to punish the inhabitants and give them one last opportunity to repent. If you read the entire bible, you'll start to notice that symbolisms are explained and if not, then you should take it to mean literally what it is saying, adding no other mankind interpretation. These are real beasts causing harm on the earth.

### ***Chapter 10 – Seven Thunders***

**NOTE:** This seems to be a break between the sixth and seventh trumpet.





A mighty angel comes down from heaven and has his right foot upon the sea and his left upon the earth and in his hand a little book. He then cries with a loud roar and seven thunders uttered their voices. John is about to write what they said but was told not to.

The angel then swears by him that lives forever and says there shall be time no longer and in the days of the voice of the seventh angel shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished as he declared to his servants the prophets.

John was told to take the book and eat it. It was honey to his taste, but bitter in his belly.

### *Chapter 11 – Two Witnesses, Seventh Trumpet*

John is told to measure the temple, but not the court which is outside the temple as that is given to the Gentiles to trample under foot for forty-two months. He then tells about two witnesses that would come and have power over the earth to smite the earth as they will and that no man could harm them until their time be finished. They are given 1260 days to prophecy. Then the antichrist kills them, and people rejoice over their dead bodies for three days, when God raises them from the dead. At that time a great earthquake occurs in the city and seven thousand are killed.

The Seventh Trumpet – Also known as the third woe. The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and his Christ.

**COMMENTARY:** The two witnesses are believed to be Moses and Elijah based on the Mount of Transfiguration. Some think Elijah and Enoch since neither have died. Although death is not a requirement to going to heaven – refer to the Rapture.

**NOTE:** The Jewish calendar year is 360 days. 1260 days is 3.5 years or 42 months.



## *Chapter 12 – Satan, Believers, Israel*

**NOTE:** This chapter uses symbolisms that is partially explained, but also require some Old Testament knowledge to understand some of the references.

John tells about a woman, with twelve stars as her crown, who is about to give birth. A red dragon with seven heads, ten horns and seven crowns upon its heads tries to devour the child as it is born and takes with it a third part of the stars [angels] from heaven. The woman, after giving birth, flees into the mountains where she is protected by Michael the archangel. We're then told the dragon is Satan who accuses us before God night and day is now cast out of heaven and knows his time is short. [Verse 10-12]. Those on earth are warned that the devil is now come down unto them having great wrath.

Satan tries to overtake those fleeing with a flood, but the earth opens its mouth to help and there they will be protect by Michael for a time, and times and a half of time in these mountains. [Time =1, Times = 2 and half a time = .5 or 3.5 or 42 months or 1260 days]

**COMMENTARY:** The woman is the nation Israel and mid-way into the tribulation the Antichrist will go into the temple and proclaim to be God. They will flee into what most believe will be to the city of Petra in the mountains of Jordan. Prior to this time, Satan still has access to heaven where he accuses us before God. See **Daniel 9**, and key verses such as 26 – shall be a flood, 27 – day of desolation.

## *Chapter 13 – The False Trinity*

This chapter should be read in conjunction with **Daniel 12** and other books of prophecy as John begins to describe a beast that comes out of the sea with seven heads, ten horns and ten crowns, like the dragon mentioned in Chapter 12, but this one receives its power from the dragon [Satan] and this beast is like a leopard, feet like a bear, and mouth like a lion speaking or roaring like a lion blasphemy against God. And speaks these things for forty-two months [3 and a-half



years] and makes war with the saints and all who would not worship him.

Then John tells of a second beast who had two horns like a lamb and spoke as a dragon. He exercised the power of the first beast and causes all to worship the first beast who had been healed of a deadly wound. And this beast deceived many with miraculous signs and wonders and caused all to take the mark, the name or the number of the beast, which is 666 in order to buy or sell.

**COMMENTARY:** The antichrist and false prophet [First and Second beast] are human. See **Revelation 19:20** as they are cast alive into the lake of fire. Also, I believe it is more than just taking the mark to buy or sell. It says he will make war with those who do not worship him. Also, look to **Chapter 14:9-11** – those who take the mark and worship the beast shall be with torment and have no rest day or night. I believe they are taking the mark not to have the ability to buy and sell, but to show their allegiance to Satan’s false religion.

Through our age of technological advances some once thought the Social Security number was the mark, then credit cards, then bar codes, and now chip implants. That isn’t to say technology won’t be used to implement and track and monitor people as part of this mark system. Clearly in our internet connected world and with 5G coming with speeds we can’t yet imagine it will be easy to monitor life on this planet. You will either take the mark and be damned by God, or you will not take the mark and be killed by the Antichrist. But note, even if you don’t take the mark, you still need to repent and accept Jesus, otherwise, you will not escape the final judgment from God.

**COMMENTARY:** I call this chapter the False Trinity, because Satan has tried to use the things of God to make them appear to be his. Like God the Father has his son / Christ and his Holy Ghost – teacher. Satan will have his son / Antichrist with his False Teacher.



## *Chapter 14 – The 144,000, Messages, Harvest*

This chapter seems to be partial recap and summary of events yet to unfold. We're told more about the 144,000 that received the seal of God between the sixth and seventh seal. Then John tells about the city of Babylon has fallen. [Mentioned in Chapter 18 in greater detail.] And then an angel warning those that if any man worships the beast and take his mark, they will be subject to the never-ending torment with fire and brimstone.

John then tells of an angel saying thrust in the sickle and reap the harvest the clusters of the vine of the earth for her grapes are fully ripe. And they were gathered and cast into the great winepress of the wrath of God. The blood that came out was up to the horse's bridle and sixteen hundred furlongs long.

**COMMENTARY:** This chapter is giving a preview of things to come. The last part was the final battle at Armageddon. There is more on that in Chapter 16.

A furlong is 660 feet. 1600 furlongs is 200 miles. Even after all that has happened with the wrath of God: The demon locusts, the 200 million horsemen and other judgments that come prior to this battle, mankind will still reject Christ and think they can defeat him.

## *Chapter 15 – Preparation*

John sees a sea of glass mingled with fire and those that had gotten victory over the beast and his image. They are standing on the sea with harps singing praises to God and the Lamb.

Then seven angels came out of the temple with seven vials each with a plague. No man was able to enter the temple until the seven plagues were fulfilled.



## *Chapter 16 – The Seven Vials*

A great voice came from the temple and commanded them to go out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.

The First Vial – Was poured out upon the earth and disgusting and grievous sores fell upon those who had taken the mark or image of the beast.

The Second Vial – Was poured upon the sea and it became as blood of a dead man and every living thing in the sea died.

The Third Vial – Was poured upon the rivers and fountains of water turned to blood.

The Fourth Vial – Was poured upon the sun and power was given to it to scorch men with fire. And man, still blasphemed the name of God and repented not.

The Fifth Vial – Was poured upon the seat of the beast and his kingdom was full of darkness and they gnawed their tongues for pain and blasphemed God and repented not.

The Sixth Vial – Was poured upon the great river Euphrates and the water dried up so the kings of the east might be prepared.

Then an unclean demon came out of the mouths of the dragon, out of the beast and out of the false prophet and they worked miracles and went forth to gather the kings of the whole world together to do battle against God Almighty.

They gathered in a place called Armageddon.

The Seventh Vial – Was pour out into the air and a voice from heaven says, “*It is done.*” Then a great earthquake splits Babylon into three parts, receiving the wrath of God as every island and mountain were moved out of their place. Then great hail, about the



weigh of a talent [75 pounds] fell from heaven and men still did not repent.

### *Chapter 17 – Mystery Babylon*

One of the angels who had one of vials tells John he will show him the judgment of Babylon. She was arrayed in purple and gold and men were drunk with the wine of her fornication. She has seven heads and ten horns and is full of the blood of those martyred for Jesus.

Then the angel explains the symbolism. The seven heads are seven hills upon which the city sits. There are seven kings, five are fallen, one is and the other is not yet come, but when he does it will be for a short period.

The beast is the eight king, but of the seven. The ten horns are ten kings who will receive power as kings for one hour with the beast. They will make war with the Lamb. The waters where she sits are a multitude of people.

The angel also tells of the ten horns he saw on the beast when he was first saw him coming out of the water. Those horns represent those who hate the whore Babylon and give their kingdoms to the beast.

**COMMENTARY:** It is worth nothing that if you read the entire bible you will see symbolism, metaphors, etc. and in time they are explained, as here, where earlier in the book we were told of the ten horns on the beast's head.

### *Chapter 18 – Babylon Fallen*

The sins of Babylon have reached the Lord and she is destroyed. [As mentioned briefly in Chapter 16 with the pouring out of the 7<sup>th</sup> vial.] The kings of the world lament over her destruction for no one will buy or sell or trade there every again. Yet in heaven there is rejoicing.



### *Chapter 19 – Marriage Supper of the Lamb, Armageddon*

John then describes that marriage supper of the Lamb, The Bride of Christ, his church. Then John describes Jesus and his saints mounting white horses and coming to earth for the battle of Armageddon where the beast and the armies of the world had gathered.

Then the beast, and his false prophet are cast into the lake of fire.

### *Chapter 20 – Pit, 1000 Years, White Throne Judgment*

The angel that had the key to the bottomless and released the tormenting locusts now has bound Satan in chains and cast him into the pit and locks it. He will be released at the end of the thousand-year reign of Christ.

And after that thousand years, Satan gathers a new army, but God sends down fire from heaven and consumes them. Satan is then cast into the lake of fire for eternity.

Then all the dead will stand before God and whose names are not found written in the Lambs book of life are cast into lake of fire along with death and hell.

### *Chapter 21 – New Everything*

John sees the new holy city Jerusalem come down out of heaven and the first earth and first heaven have passed away and there are no more seas. And John describes the city having twelve gates and twelve foundations. The gates are named for the twelve tribes of Israel and the foundations after the names of the Apostles. Walls of jasper, city of pure gold, and each foundation a different precious stone like emerald and amethyst. The gates were pearls.

The size is twelve thousand furlongs by length, breadth and height. And there was no need for a sun or moon as the glory of God did lighten it, and the gates will never shut as there will be no night.



**COMMENTARY:** The size is enormous. 12,000 furlongs is about 1400 miles. The city will come down from heaven and be above the earth.

### *Chapter 22 – Water of Life, Amen*

John describes a river of life proceeding out of the throne with it is lined with the tree of life that produces twelve manner of fruit each month and its leaves are for the healing of the nations.

There shall be no more curse and God and Jesus shall reign for ever and ever.

Then John is admonished to keep these sayings of this prophecy that we are not to add or subtract from them and lastly, Jesus confirms that it is he who has testified to these things unto the churches. He is the Alpha and Omega.

Surely, I come quickly.

Amen.



# Choose Your Destiny

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## *Invitation to Accept Jesus as your Savior*

If you have not yet done so, I'd like to offer, recommend, suggest, and pray that you will reach out to the Lord and accept his sacrifice on the Cross for the remissions of your sins. Ask him to forgive you.

- *For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. **James 2:10***
- *As it is written, there are none righteous, no, not one. **Romans 3:10***
- *For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. **Romans 3:23***
- *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Romans 6:23***
- *That whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. **Romans 10:13***
- *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and **BELIEVE** in thine heart that God raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. **Romans 10:9***
- *For by grace are you saved through faith and not of yourselves. It is a gift from God. Not of works, lest any man should boast. **Ephesians 2:8-9***
- *Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. **Acts 4:12***
- *The high priest asked him, Art thou the Christ the Son of the Blessed? And Jesus said, "**I AM**". **Mark 16:61-62***
- *Jesus said unto them, I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. **John 14:6***
- *And whosoever was NOT found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. **Revelation 20:15***
- *For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever **BELIEVETH** in him shall not perish but have everlasting **LIFE**. **John 3:16***

We have all sinned. Even one sin is enough to keep us from eternity with God and our name out of the book of Life. Jesus bore your sins on the cross. Accept him, **BELIEVE** in him and call upon his name and be saved. Jesus forgive me.







# Before The Sun Sets

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## DOCUMENTING YOUR PERSONAL, FINANCIAL, AND MEDICAL INFORMATION



A companion to your will or a booklet on its own, **Before The Sun Sets** serves to allow you to provide vital details your family and/or attorney will need to settle your affairs. Ranging from who to contact, your assets and liabilities, social media accounts, medical history and more.

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# CHAPTER SUMMARIES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT



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The New Testament is comprised of 27 books or a total of 260 chapters. This booklet provides a summary of each of those chapters. The goal is to be a guide to support you on your journey while you learn more about the Lord Jesus, his ministry, his purpose, and his return. While the summaries may not convey every aspect mentioned in each chapter, they will convey key details to help you as you read the full text in the bible. In some instances commentary, recommendations, and/or references are provided to lead you to other resources to help as you grow in the knowledge of the Lord.

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