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IN LOVING MEMORY OF

*Dr. William R. Bright*

1921-2003

---

*"We can trace*

*all of our human problems*

*to our view of God."*



DR. BILL BRIGHT

# WELCOME TO THE DISCOVER GOD STUDY BIBLE

**Everything about our lives**—our attitudes, motives, desires, actions, and even our words—is influenced by our view of God. Our behavior reflects our beliefs about the One who created us.

**Do you really trust God?** It depends a lot on how you view God. Do you really believe He is good? Do you believe He is worthy of your trust?

The Bible is the place we mere humans meet the living God. The Bible is God's book written to us. My husband, Bill Bright, said that when he began to study the Bible, he discovered for the first time the real, living God—and what he discovered filled his heart with awe.

**No one meets the God of the Bible and is unchanged.** Both Bill and I want as many people as possible to truly discover God through His word and reflect His character in their lives.

To help people in the discovery process, we commissioned a team of Bible teachers and scholars to organize Scripture presenting ten core teachings of the Bible in a convenient TopicGuide (starting on page A7) to key Scripture passages.

I pray this physical result of Bill's life-long vision to know and serve God will bear fruit in your life—just as it has touched my life in a deep way.

*Lovingly,*

*Vonette Bright*

# THE TOPICGUIDE™

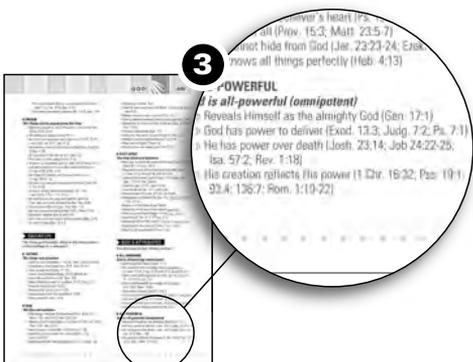
YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO THE BIBLE'S 10 KEY THEMES



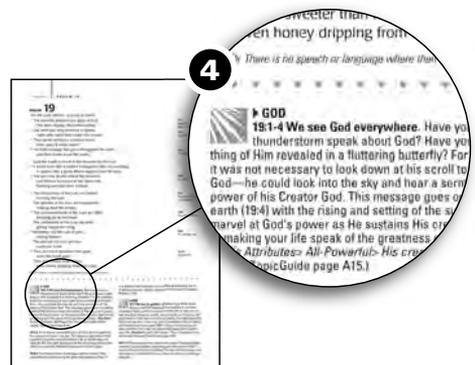
Begin with the TopicGuide (page A7) and select one of ten themes. In this example, we will study the theme of **GOD**.



To read the overview of your selected theme, turn to page A13. Select a topic. In this example, we have selected **GOD'S ATTRIBUTES**.



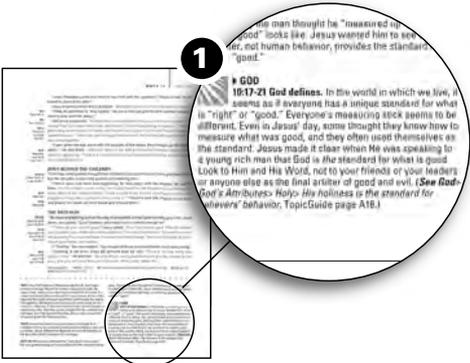
Identify a key topic and subtopic. Read and study each passage to gain a comprehensive understanding of God's Word. In this example, under **God's Attributes**, we are looking up the subtopic called "**All-Powerful**" and are interested in "His creation reflects His power" (Psalm 19:1-4).



To gain understanding of the subtopic and your theme, read the related verses and study notes. Then refer turn back to the TopicGuide to locate the next related passage.

# THE TOPICLINK™ SYSTEM

HOW TO FIND MORE ABOUT A THEME WHILE READING THROUGH THE BIBLE



To study more about the theme of God when you are reading Mark 10, simply look at the last sentence of the note, which will refer you back to the TopicGuide.



Once in the TopicGuide, you'll see numerous passages pertaining to the overall theme.

Using both the TopicGuide and the TopicLink study tools, you will gain a more complete understanding of God's Word. As you understand these themes and your knowledge of God grows, your life can't help but be changed.

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*No one meets the God of the Bible and goes unchanged!*



ALL-POWERFUL • EVER-PRESENT • ALL-KNOWING • SOVEREIGN

CREATOR

LOVE • MERCIFUL • FAITHFUL • UNCHANGING

SAVIOR

HOLY • TRUTH • RIGHTEOUS • JUST

JUDGE

GOD  
is...

PERSONAL

# THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

While on earth, Bill Bright demonstrated his love for Jesus Christ. He treasured the inspired Word of God and wanted God's people to be reading it, praying over it, and waiting for God to lead them into mature obedience.

What we believe to be true about God's character affects every aspect of our lives. Many surveys have been conducted to assess just how people really view God. If the majority of believers do not have the right view of God, how can our society even begin to see Him as He is? Because a wrong view of God dominates most areas of our culture today, our society is in moral turmoil, and we are in danger of losing our moral soul.

All of our actions are driven by our view of who God is and how He interacts with us. Nothing in life could be more important than knowing God accurately.

Understanding God is not a simple task. I am committed to my father's passion to share the truth of God's attributes. In many cases, our past experiences, backgrounds, and personalities shape how we view God. Some consider God to be hard to get along with, someone to fear. Others think of Him as a heartless dictator waiting to punish them for doing wrong. Perhaps you see Him as a kindly grandfather who just shakes His head over the terrible plight of humankind but does not get involved. Do you see Him as loving, gracious, tender, and compassionate . . . or as critical, jealous, vindictive, and haughty?

It is our desire to help you discover an accurate view of who God is and the reality of His character. My father emphasized 13 attributes and we have used those attributes as the foundation of our Discover God material. Only when you experience the nature of God in a personal way are you equipped to live in an intimate relationship with Him. Knowing God intimately can transform your life into one of passion, joy, adventure, and peace.

We would like to help you begin a Discover God small group. We have partnered with Group Publishers to develop exciting small group studies that are certain to enliven and enrich your discussions.

For additional information regarding Discover God please visit the Web site:

[www.DiscoverGod.com](http://www.DiscoverGod.com)

We would love to know how your group is doing so please e-mail us.

*Brad Bright*  
*Bright Media Foundation*

## BECAUSE GOD IS HOLY

*I will devote myself to Him in purity, worship and service.*

Genesis 2:3 .....	page 9	Proverbs 9:10.....	page 1160
Exodus 15:11.....	page 136	Ezekiel 14:6.....	page 1516
Leviticus 20:7.....	page 222	1 Peter 1:15.....	page 2237
1 Samuel 2:2.....	page 485	1 John 4:12.....	page 2260
1 Samuel 6:20.....	page 493	1 John 5:21.....	page 2262
Psalm 72:19.....	page 1042	Revelation 4:8.....	page 2287

## BECAUSE GOD IS A PERSONAL SPIRIT

*I will seek intimate fellowship with Him.*

2 Chronicles 16:9.....	page 785	Psalm 84:2.....	page 1059
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## BECAUSE GOD IS ALL-POWERFUL

*He can help me with anything.*

Philippians 4:13.....	page 2141
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## BECAUSE GOD IS EVER-PRESENT

*He is always with me.*

Deuteronomy 31:8.....	page 368	Matthew 28:20.....	page 1802
Joshua 1:9.....	page 381	1 Corinthians 3:16.....	page 2062
Job 31:4.....	page 932	Hebrews 13:5.....	page 2220

## BECAUSE GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING

*I will go to Him with all my questions and concerns.*

Ezekiel 11:5.....	page 1512	Romans 11:33.....	page 2044
Daniel 2:21.....	page 1585	1 John 3:20.....	page 2258
Matthew 10:30.....	page 1762		

## BECAUSE GOD IS ABSOLUTE TRUTH

*I will believe what He says and live accordingly.*

Genesis 50:24.....	page 100	Isaiah 45:19.....	page 1327
Numbers 23:19.....	page 288	John 8:31-32.....	page 1930
Joshua 23:14.....	page 421	John 14:6.....	page 1942
Psalms 19:8, 9.....	page 975	John 16:13.....	page 1947
Proverbs 30:5.....	page 1200	Hebrews 6:18.....	page 2207

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## BECAUSE GOD IS RIGHTEOUS

*I will live by His standards.*

Genesis 15:6.....	page 32	Acts 2:42.....	page 1966
Deuteronomy 32:4.....	page 373	1 Peter 2:24.....	page 2241

---

## BECAUSE GOD IS JUST

*He will always treat me fairly.*

Genesis 18:19.....	page 39	John 5:29.....	page 1921
Deuteronomy 32:4.....	page 370	Romans 2:6-8.....	page 2026
Psalms 96:13.....	page 1075	2 Corinthians 5:10.....	page 2096
Jeremiah 11:20.....	page 1396	2 Peter 2:9.....	page 2249

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## BECAUSE GOD IS LOVE

*He is unconditionally committed to my well-being.*

2 Samuel 2:6.....	page 544
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## BECAUSE GOD IS MERCIFUL

*He forgives me of my sins when I sincerely confess them.*

Genesis 3:21.....	page 13	Ephesians 2:4-5.....	page 2125
Numbers 14:18.....	page 268	Titus 3:5, 6-7.....	page 2190
Psalms 32:1-2, 6.....	page 991	Hebrews 4:16.....	page 2205
Matthew 5:7.....	page 1750	1 John 1:9.....	page 2256

## BECAUSE GOD IS SOVEREIGN

*I will joyfully submit to His will.*

Genesis 14:19.....	page 30	Job 34:14-15.....	page 938
Deuteronomy 3:24.....	page 321	Romans 8:28.....	page 2038
2 Samuel 7:22.....	page 556	Colossians 1:15-16.....	page 2146
1 Chronicles 29:12.....	page 756	Hebrews 1:3.....	page 2200

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## BECAUSE GOD IS FAITHFUL

*I will trust Him to always keep His promises.*

Genesis 12:1-2.....	page 26	2 Timothy 1:12.....	page 2180
Deuteronomy 7:9.....	page 330	2 Timothy 4:18.....	page 2184
Lamentations 3:22-23.....	page 1491	Hebrews 10:23.....	page 2212
1 Corinthians 10:13.....	page 2072		

---

## BECAUSE GOD NEVER CHANGES

*My future is secure and eternal.*

Genesis 9:16.....	page 21	Hebrews 13:8.....	page 2221
Malachi 3:6.....	page 1738	James 1:17.....	page 2226
Ephesians 2:10.....	page 2126	Revelation 1:8.....	page 2283
Philippians 1:6.....	page 2137		

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Welcome</i> .....	A3
<i>How to Use this Bible</i> .....	A4
<i>TopicGuide™</i> .....	A7
<i>The Attributes of God</i> .....	A59

<i>Acknowledgments</i> .....	A67
<i>Staff/Contributors</i> .....	A67
<i>Note to Readers</i> .....	A69
<i>Introduction to the New Living Translation</i> .....	A71
<i>NLT Bible Translation Team</i> .....	A79

<b>OLD TESTAMENT</b> .....	1
Genesis .....	3
Exodus .....	103
Leviticus .....	185
Numbers .....	239
Deuteronomy .....	313
Joshua .....	379
Judges .....	425
Ruth .....	471
1 Samuel .....	481
2 Samuel .....	539
1 Kings .....	589
2 Kings .....	649
1 Chronicles .....	701
2 Chronicles .....	759
Ezra .....	821
Nehemiah .....	843
Esther .....	871
Job .....	885
Psalms .....	953
Proverbs .....	1141
Ecclesiastes .....	1205
Song of Songs .....	1223
Isaiah .....	1239
Jeremiah .....	1367
Lamentations .....	1481
Ezekiel .....	1497



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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*My husband, Bill Bright, believed that there is nothing more important in life than discovering who God really is. As he said, "We can trace all of our human problems to our view of God."*

It is with a sense of deep joy and reverential awe that I write words to you to introduce the *Discover God Study Bible*.

During his lifetime, my dear husband, Bill Bright, eagerly awaited the release of new study Bibles and felt honored to endorse many of them. It was not until the later years of his ministry that he considered incorporating the timeless truths that God had blessed in our ministry with Campus Crusade for Christ into a study Bible. Our dear friend Ken Taylor was a precious encouragement to Bill, and it was a touching moment to observe the two men in what proved to be the last years of their lives commit to the *Discover God Study Bible* project.

Both Ken Taylor and Bill Bright knew that a proper understanding of who God is leads to a life of blessing now and for generations to follow—a life of victory, power, joy, and fruitfulness.

Many people have dedicated several years to see this project through to completion. The folks at Tyndale House Publishers have made a major investment of financial and human resources and we are very grateful for their commitment to excellence. Mark Taylor, Ron Beers, and Jon Farrar have stayed the course with us and their professional guidance has proved very valuable.

Mr. John Nill served as CEO of the Bright Media Foundation and has directed the Bible project from its earliest days. His experience and expertise have been invaluable.

Robert Barnes worked faithfully leading the editorial team of biblical scholars and was tireless in ensuring theological accuracy from start to finish.

As stylistic editor, Brenda Josee read every word in the manuscript multiple times to ensure that the philosophy of Campus Crusade for Christ was reflected in every note. Her efforts have contributed greatly to the Bible you now hold in your hands.

We are grateful for the financial contributions to the Bill Bright Memorial Fund from so many friends around the country.

Thank you to each person who has had any part in making this Bible possible. I trust you are pleased with the results of your combined contributions in making this Bible a reality.

*May the combined efforts of each contributor prove to be a blessing to every reader.*

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## NOTE TO READERS

The *Holy Bible, New Living Translation*, was first published in 1996. It quickly became one of the most popular Bible translations in the English-speaking world. While the NLT's influence was rapidly growing, the Bible Translation Committee determined that an additional investment in scholarly review and text refinement could make it even better. So shortly after its initial publication, the committee began an eight-year process with the purpose of increasing the level of the NLT's precision without sacrificing its easy-to-understand quality. This second-generation text was completed in 2004 and is reflected in this edition of the New Living Translation.

The goal of any Bible translation is to convey the meaning and content of the ancient Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek texts as accurately as possible to contemporary readers. The challenge for our translators was to create a text that would communicate as clearly and powerfully to today's readers as the original texts did to readers and listeners in the ancient biblical world. The resulting translation is easy to read and understand, while also accurately communicating the meaning and content of the original biblical texts. The NLT is a general-purpose text especially good for study, devotional reading, and reading aloud in worship services.

We believe that the New Living Translation—which combines the latest biblical scholarship with a clear, dynamic writing style—will communicate God's word powerfully to all who read it. We publish it with the prayer that God will use it to speak his timeless truth to the church and the world in a fresh, new way.

*The Publishers*  
*July 2004*

# DISCOVER GOD

## TOPIC GUIDE™

### INTRODUCTION

Do you feel busy? Like your world is chaos? In this busy world, some people have given up trying to find time to know God personally and understand His will with certainty. Sometimes, we feel like the best we can do is just survive!

But God has called Christians to a better way, and He's promised to give us the power to do it. God gives us a way to know Him personally and know His will for our lives—and He explains the simple message of salvation in the Bible. The following TopicGuide of the Bible is our way of helping you understand the other important issues in the Christian life—fast.

Why a TopicGuide? First, we need to know what the Bible says about God and the challenges of living for Him today. Second, we need to see how the Bible has a single message running through it—salvation through Jesus the Messiah with continued obedience and repentance empowered by the Holy Spirit. Third, sound doctrine is a necessary part of Christian maturity.

Organizing doctrine in a TopicGuide is an important way to guard us and those we influence from false doctrine.

You are no less busy now than when you bought this Bible. But if you use this TopicGuide, it will point you straight to the truth about God and His creation as found in His Word, the Bible. But what is the Bible? Keep reading—you'll find out!



PAGE  
A9

### BIBLE

*Trusting God's Word  
and Its Authority in Your Life*



PAGE  
A39

### HOLINESS

*Living for God*



PAGE  
A13

### GOD

*Cultivating Your Relationship  
with God*



PAGE  
A43

### WARFARE

*Resisting Temptation  
and Satan's Schemes*



PAGE  
A21

### SALVATION

*Appreciating Redemption  
from Sin and Death*



PAGE  
A47

### CHURCH

*Joining with God's People*



PAGE  
A25

### WORSHIP

*Giving God the Praise  
and Glory He Is Due*



PAGE  
A51

### PURPOSE

*Embracing God's Will  
and Master Plan*



PAGE  
A35

### ADOPTION

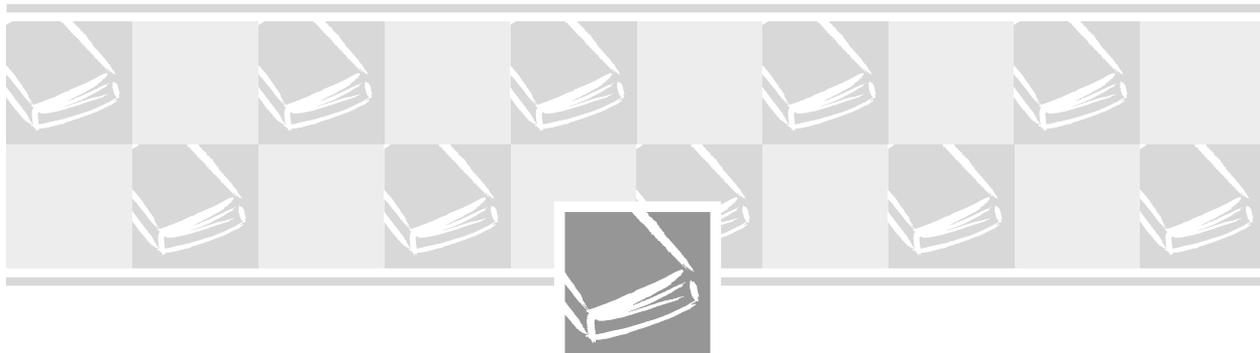
*Finding Your Identity in Christ*



PAGE  
A55

### MINISTRY

*Becoming an Agent of Change*



# DISCOVER THE BIBLE

*Trusting God's Word and Its Authority in Your Life*

People have markedly different opinions about the Bible. It's hard not to have an opinion about the most popular book of all time, with between 6 and 7 billion copies printed so far.

In this section of the outline, you will learn what the Bible teaches about itself. This sets it apart from every other book—that throughout its pages, you never read a word of doubt about its divine origin or absolute trustworthiness. On the contrary, it persistently asserts both—and much, much more.

Many well-intended people have argued with the Bible's claims and promises. Entire organizations have been formed to discover and publicize the contradictions in the Bible. But after almost two thousand years of attacks, the Bible stands firm—in fact, the more it is tried, the more it shows itself as superior to any other work of literature.

As you study this outline of what the Bible teaches about itself, you will realize that if the Bible is trustworthy, then we must take seriously its claim that it is *more than trustworthy*—it is the very Word of God, to you, to the church, and for the world.

■ ■ ■

**UNIQUENESS** *Because the Bible is unique—flawless, authoritative, and inspired by God—*

I can trust it as the perfect guide for faith and obedience.

**UNITY** *Because the Bible contains one unified message,*

I will find God's one message for humanity in its pages.

**POWER** *Because the Bible is life-changing and powerful,*

I can depend on it to equip me for life in the real world.



## UNIQUENESS

The Uniqueness of the Bible: *What makes the Bible a supernatural Book, different from all other books?*

### ► AUTHORITY

**The Bible is authoritative (trustworthy)**

- ▷ Demands heart obedience (Num. 15:22; 1 Sam. 3:1; Matt. 5:27-28)
- ▷ Demands repentance (2 Sam. 3:12; Isa. 55:7; Matt. 4:17)
- ▷ Demonstrates credibility (1 Kgs. 16:5; 1 Chr. 4:22; Ezek. 12:22; Dan. 9:2; Luke 16:29-31; 2 Cor. 7:15)
- ▷ All-sufficient (1 Chr. 20:1; Matt. 4:4, 7, 10; Luke 16:19-31)
- ▷ Demands exclusive allegiance (Jer. 48:7; Matt. 4:10; Acts 19:13-20)

### ► FLAWLESS

**The Bible is flawless (inerrant)**

- ▷ God's Word leaves some puzzles (Exod. 12:37)
- ▷ Scripture is sure and convincing (Prov. 30:5; Jer. 27:14; 43:2-3; 2 Pet. 1:19)
- ▷ God's Word abides forever (Isa. 40:8; 1 Jn. 2:24-25)
- ▷ Scripture is indestructible (John 10:35)
- ▷ God cannot lie (Heb. 6:18)

### ► INSPIRED

**The Bible is inspired by God (breathed out)**

- ▷ Written by God's finger (Exod. 31:18)
- ▷ A record of God's own words (Lev. 1:1; Num. 33:2; Deut. 1:1; Matt. 22:29)
- ▷ Internally consistent (Num. 1:44; Ps. 119:105)
- ▷ His promises never fail (Deut. 7:7-8; 28:1; 2 Sam. 7:29; 2 Chr. 36:17; Ps. 146:6; Acts 27:44; Phil. 3:12; 1 Pet. 1:4)
- ▷ Divinely inspired (Zech. 7:12; 2 Tim. 3:16)

## UNITY

The Unity of Scripture: *The Bible is one book rather than sixty-six books.*

### ► AUTHORS

**The message is uniform despite multiple authors (Deut. 2:12)**

- ▷ The fullness of salvation revealed to Old Testament prophets (Isa. 53:1; 1 Pet. 1:10-12)
- ▷ Old Testament prophets predict Christ's sufferings (Luke 24:25-26)
- ▷ Jesus affirmed the unity of Scripture (John 5:46)

### ► CHRIST

**Unity of Scripture in the theme of Christ**

- ▷ Christ in the promise to Abraham (Gen. 22:11-12; 2 Sam. 5:12; Matt. 1:1-16; Gal. 3:6-9)
- ▷ Christ in the body of Jacob (Gen. 32:26)
- ▷ Christ in Moses the deliverer (Exod. 3:10)
- ▷ Christ in Samson's self-sacrificing victory (Judg. 13:3; 16:28-31)
- ▷ Christ is "mercy" (1 Sam. 9:16; 1 Kgs. 1:51; John 3:16)

- ▷ Christ is the "LORD of Heaven's Armies" (1 Sam. 17:37; Hag. 1:2)
- ▷ Christ in the wisdom of Solomon (1 Kgs. 3:24; Prov. 4:7; 9:10)
- ▷ Christ in Elijah's judgment (1 Kgs. 18)
- ▷ Christ is the "LORD God of Heaven's Armies" (2 Kgs. 3:17; Amos 3:13)
- ▷ Christ is the "suffering servant" (Isa. 53:10; Mark 10:46-52)
- ▷ Christ is "redemption" (Hos. 13:14)
- ▷ Christ is the "day of the LORD" (Joel 2:11)
- ▷ Christ is the "LORD" (Obad. 1:1; Mic. 6:1; John 13:13)
- ▷ Christ is our "strong refuge" (Nah. 1:7)
- ▷ Christ is "salvation" (Hab. 3:8)
- ▷ Christ is the "God of Israel" (Zeph. 2:9; Phil. 2:8-9)
- ▷ Christ is the "Branch" (Ezek. 17:22-24; Zech. 3:8-9)
- ▷ Christ is the "messenger" (Mal. 3:1)
- ▷ Christ is the "descendant of David" (Matt. 1:1)

### ► COVENANTS

**Unity of Scripture in the theme of covenants**

- ▷ Adamic covenant (Gen. 2:15-17)
- ▷ Universal covenant [with nature] (Gen. 9:1-6)
- ▷ Covenant of grace (Gen. 17:1-2, 7)
- ▷ Sinaitic covenant (Exod. 19:5-6)
- ▷ New Covenant (New Testament)

### ► CREATION

**Unity of Scripture in Creation (Rom. 1:19-22)**

- ▷ The beginning (Gen. 1:1-27)
- ▷ Creation and marriage (Song 4:12; Jer. 44:15-19; 1 Cor. 6:14-20; Eph. 5:24-25, 31-32)
- ▷ Creation's link to redemption (Eph. 1:4, 7)
- ▷ Creation shall be destroyed (2 Pet. 3:4-7)

### ► DOCTRINES

**Unity of the Scripture in doctrines**

- ▷ Doctrine of natural revelation (Gen. 1; Eccl. 12:2; Rom. 1:20)
- ▷ Doctrine of Creation (Gen. 1:1-31; Acts 17:24)
- ▷ Doctrine of the Word (Gen. 1:3; John 1:1)
- ▷ Doctrine of the Cultural Mandate (Gen. 1:28; 1 Cor. 10:31)
- ▷ Principle of life (Gen. 2:7; John 10:10)
- ▷ Doctrine of covenant (Gen. 2:15-17; New Testament)
- ▷ Principle of death (Gen. 2:17; Eccl. 5:15; Rom. 6:23)
- ▷ Principles of marriage (Gen. 2:18-25; Num. 5:30; Deut. 24:1; Prov. 5:18; 12:4; Song 2:16; 3:11; 6:3; 7:12; Mal. 2:16; Matt. 19:8; Col. 3:18-19)
- ▷ Principle of temptation (Gen. 3:1; Eph. 6:10-18)
- ▷ Doctrine of sin (Gen. 3:6-7; Rom. 3:23)
- ▷ Principle of judgment (Gen. 3:8-24; Rev. 20:11-15)
- ▷ Doctrine of redemption (Gen. 3:15; Rom. 16:20)
- ▷ Principle of worship (Gen. 4:26; Rev. 19:1-10)

### ► GOD'S MESSAGE

**Unity of Scripture in the message of God—his will and ways for mankind**

- ▷ Separation from the world (Exod. 19:6, 10-15; Lev. 11:2; 2 Cor. 6:14-18)
- ▷ Children to be obedient (Exod. 20:12; Eph. 6:1)



# DISCOVER GOD

*Cultivating Your Relationship with God*

How do you imagine God is? As long as there have been people, there have been songs and stories that explore exactly who created the universe and why. All of these stories and myths have some value, and none should be completely rejected just because they are from another religious perspective. But the Christian history of God's relationship with His creation is different because this history was written by those inspired directly by God and in His own words—that is, the Bible. In it we have God's own self-testimony of who He is and why He matters.

We can learn Greek and Hebrew and Aramaic so we can read the Bible in its original language; we can study and practice archeology so that we can recover and understand more about the civilizations with whom God dealt in the past. We can study every bit of data there is to know about God, His church, and His Word, but if we don't know *God*, then we have accomplished very little. If we don't know God personally, in the end, all our works (even reading good study Bibles!) will be for nothing. Thus, this outline begins with and is driven by the necessity of knowing the God who has real relationships with real people like you and me.



**RELATIONSHIP** *Because God wants an intimate relationship with me,*

I can trust that He has sent a Savior to make peace between us.

**GOD'S NATURE** *Because the Triune God is the one true God,*

I can turn my back on the counterfeit deities of this world.

**SALVATION** *Because the Triune God is committed to saving His people,*

I can enjoy the full assurance of my salvation.

**GOD'S ATTRIBUTES** *Because we serve an all-powerful, holy God,*

I can trust that His love for His people never changes.

**GOD'S NAMES** *Because God has revealed Himself to us,*

I can know Him personally.

## RELATIONSHIP

Relationship with God: *What does God want with me?*

### ▶ GOD'S DESIRE

**God's desire for a relationship with us (Matt. 23:37)**

- ▶ God does not leave His people without hope (Exod. 2:23)
- ▶ God pursues a relationship (1 Kgs. 18:37; Hos. 1:2; 3:1; Joel 2:27; Matt. 16:8-11; 18:12-14; John 15:16, 19)
- ▶ God loves and wants to be loved (Isa. 1:3; John 3:16-18; Rev. 2:4)

#### ▶ God's Covenants

*God covenants with people*

- ↪ Adamic covenant (Gen. 2:15-17)
- ↪ Universal covenant [with nature] (Gen. 9:1-4)
- ↪ Covenant of grace (Gen. 17:1-2, 7-8; Jude 1:4)
- ↪ Sinaitic covenant (Exod. 19:5-6)
- ↪ New Covenant (New Testament)

### ▶ GOD ENABLES

**God enables a relationship through Christ**

- ▶ Relationship with God requires sacrificial living (Gen. 12:1; 22:3; Mark 8:34-38)
- ▶ Relationship with God requires purity (Lev. 2:1; 15:31; 18:22; Num. 19:17; Ps. 24:4; 1 Thes. 4:3-5)
- ▶ Relationship with God requires a right heart (Lev. 12:8; Ps. 4:4; Isa. 1:16; Ezek. 11:19; Dan. 7:28; Mic. 6:6-8; Rev. 22:20)
- ▶ Relationship with God requires obedience (Lev. 19:2; 2 Chr. 34:32; Job 41:11; 1 Pet. 1:13-16)
- ▶ Relationship with God requires worship (2 Sam. 6:5; Pss. 105:4; 147:1; John 4:24)
- ▶ God accepts us through Christ (Ps. 62:9; Matt. 26:69-75; John 14:6; Rom. 5:1-2; Heb. 8:1-13)
- ▶ God interacts with people (Mark 5:25-34; Phil. 4:6)
- ▶ God provides for maintenance of our relationship with Him (Rom. 8:12-15)

### ▶ BARRIERS

**Barriers to a relationship with God**

- ▶ Disobedience (Gen. 3:1-13; 1 Sam. 7:2; Jer. 11:15)
- ▶ Pride (Deut. 9:5; Judg. 8:22; 2 Sam. 18:9; 2 Chr. 26:16; Job 35:12; Prov. 13:10; 16:18; Isa. 39:6; Ezek. 30:18; Dan. 4:30, 35; Luke 18:9-14; John 5:31-47; Jas. 4:6)
- ▶ Unconfessed transgressions (1 Sam. 15:15; Pss. 60:1; 66:18; Isa. 30:18; Luke 5:31-32)
- ▶ Demonic influence (1 Sam. 28:14; Acts 10:38)
- ▶ Refusing to honor God as God (Ps. 20:7; Rom. 1:21)
- ▶ Sin (Hab. 1:13)
- ▶ Unforgiving heart (Matt. 6:12-15)
- ▶ Hardened heart (Mark 6:52)
- ▶ Deep-seated grudge against another (Eph. 4:26-27)

## GOD'S NATURE

The Nature of the Trinity: *How is the triune God different from false gods?*

### ▶ ALIVE

**The Triune God is alive**

- ▶ God lives, false gods don't (Exod. 3:14; 1 Sam. 5:4)

- ▶ God lives; idols don't (Judg. 18:24; Jer. 10:6-11; 44:18)
- ▶ The Living One endures forever (Dan. 6:26)
- ▶ The Living One is the source of all life (John 5:25-26)
- ▶ The Living God dwells in believers (2 Cor. 6:16)
- ▶ Conversion is turning to the Living God (1 Thes. 1:9)

### ▶ DIVINE

**The Triune God has a divine nature**

- ▶ Three persons (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) (Gen. 1:26; Matt. 28:19)
- ▶ One being (Deut. 6:4-5)
- ▶ God is Spirit (John 4:24)
- ▶ One essence (John 10:30; 14:9)

### ▶ ETERNAL

**The Triune God is eternally existent (See God's Attributes > Self-existent)**

- ▶ Assumed throughout Scripture (Gen. 1:1; Exod. 3:15; Ps. 41:13; Eccl. 3:11; Isa. 9:6; 40:28, 57:15; Jer. 10:10; Rom. 1:20; 1 Jn. 1:2; 5:20; Rev. 1:8)
- ▶ God's eternity expressed in His name (Exod. 3:6; 13-15)
- ▶ He precedes all else that exists (Ps. 41:13; Rom. 4:17; Rev. 4:11)

### ▶ PERSONALITY

**The Triune God has a personality**

#### ▶ Emotion

*God's Emotion*

- ↪ God is compassionate and loving (Gen. 34:30; Exod. 34:6; Lev. 13:3; 2 Kgs. 4:2; Ps. 56:8; Isa. 17:10; Jer. 30:16-17; 42:10; Lam. 2:20; Mark 8:1-9)
- ↪ God jealously desires exclusive worship (Exod. 34:14; Deut. 4:24; Hos. 2:6-8; 1 Cor. 10:21-22)
- ↪ Rebellion rightly angers God (Num. 20:10-17; Deut. 1:37; 1 Sam. 6:6; Ezek. 20:7-8; Amos 1:8)
- ↪ God executes vengeance on all disobedient nations (Judg. 16:28; Mic. 5:15)
- ↪ God can be moved to grief (1 Sam. 15:10-11; Isa. 15:5; John 11:35)
- ↪ God loves the whole world (Isa. 66:18; John 3:16)
- ↪ The disobedient will ultimately fall under wrath (Rev. 6:15-17)

#### ▶ Intellect

*God's Intellect*

- ↪ God knows everything there is to know (Ps. 61:2; Col. 2:3)
- ↪ God needs no teachers (Isa. 40:14)
- ↪ God's thoughts surpass people's (Isa. 55:8-9)

#### ▶ Relationships

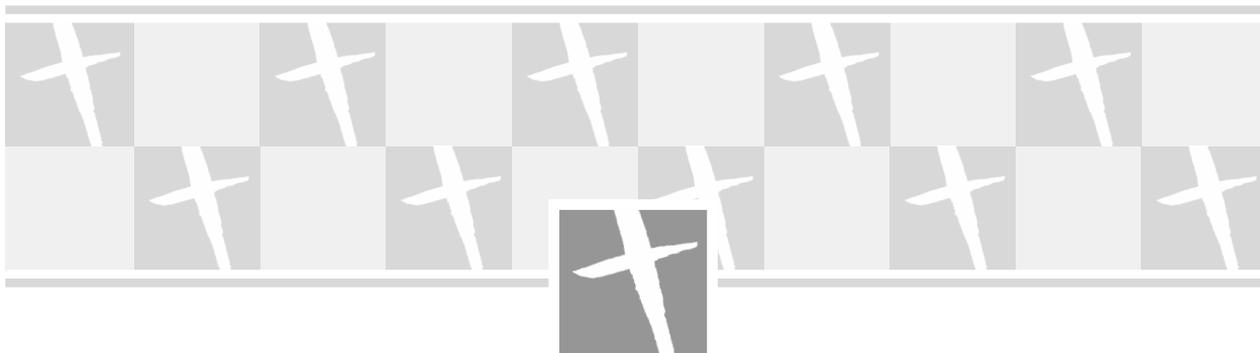
*God's Relationships*

- ↪ God has always dialogued with people (Gen. 3:8ff)
- ↪ God wants a relationship with His people (Gen. 17:7-8; Rev. 21:7)
- ↪ He wants to be known (Ruth 1:16; 1 Sam. 6:13; Ezek. 34:30; 39:28)
- ↪ God walks and lives with His people (Ps. 63:8; 2 Cor. 6:16)

#### ▶ Will

*God's Will*

- ↪ He accomplishes His purposes and good pleasure (2 Chr. 10:15; Eccl. 3:11; Isa. 46:5-11)



# DISCOVER GOD'S SALVATION

*Appreciating Redemption from Sin and Death*

A Christian educator walked down a busy city street, enjoying a breath of fresh air before his next lecture. As he turned the corner, a tract-wielding, zealous young Christian confronted him. “Are you saved, brother?” the young woman asked. “Saved from what?” That response seemed to confuse the young woman, but it started a good conversation.

The Bible doesn’t start with the question “Are you saved?” but instead with the statement “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Gen. 1:1). What follows is the story of how this perfect creation was marred by angelic and human rebellion, but how God had a plan to save His people from the consequences of their rebellion. How this would work was prefigured in the sacrificial system of Old Testament Judaism, but was made real in the predicted sacrifice of the God-Man, Jesus Christ.

So, “Saved from what?” This section of the outline focuses on the human need for rescue from sin and ourselves and the explicit instructions from the Bible on how we can turn to God and, by faith alone, experience the best gift anyone could ever want—Jesus Christ—and access to all His promised blessings.

■ ■ ■

**OUR NEED** *Because I am a weak and helpless sinner,*

I must rely on the merit of Christ alone for salvation.

**JESUS' WORK** *Because Jesus Christ lived and died to save sinners,*

I can live boldly and die at peace knowing His sacrifice saves all who believe.

**RECEIVING** *Because all who genuinely call upon God for salvation will be saved,*

I can joyfully share the gospel with everyone I know.



## OUR NEED

Human Need for Salvation: *Why should I accept Jesus?*

### ► SINFUL

#### **Appreciating our sinful condition**

- ▷ Influence of father (Gen. 26:7; 1 Chr. 22:5; Jer. 6:11-12)
- ▷ Rejecting God's rule (Gen. 37:10)
- ▷ Dead in sin (first and second deaths) (Gen. 38:7; Ezek. 18:20; Jon. 2:9; Rom. 6:23; Rev. 20:14-15)
- ▷ Enslaved to sin (2 Sam. 11:1-2; John 8:34; Rom. 6:17; Titus 3:3)
- ▷ Cut off from God (Isa. 29:2; Gal. 5:4)
- ▷ Inability to save oneself (Isa. 64:6; Luke 18:24-27; Eph. 2:8-9; Heb. 1:3)
- ▷ Depraved (Ezek. 23:3; Dan. 5:2-4; Mark 7:14-23; Rom. 3:10-16; 1 Cor. 2:14; Eph. 2:1)
- ▷ Guilty before God/condemned (Rom. 5:16, 18; Gal. 3:19)

### ► CORRUPT

#### **Acknowledging our corrupt lifestyle**

- ▷ Bondage of the will in life's decisions (Jer. 52:33; Rom. 8:7)
- ▷ Tendency toward sinfulness (sinful nature) (Hos. 10:1-2; Eph. 2:3; 4:17)
- ▷ Lives under the wrath/anger of God (Nah. 1:2-6; Rom. 1:18; Eph. 2:3)
- ▷ Under Satan's influence in all areas (Eph. 2:2)

## JESUS' WORK

The Redemptive Work of Jesus: *What did Jesus do to redeem me?*

### ► SINLESS LIFE

#### **Christ's sinless life**

- ▷ Knew no sin (2 Cor. 5:21)
- ▷ Was tempted, yet without sin (Heb. 4:15)
- ▷ Committed no sin (1 Pet. 2:21-22)

### ► CRUCIFIXION

#### **Christ's crucifixion/atonement**

- ▷ Propitiation for sin (Lev. 1:17; Rom. 3:25-26)
- ▷ Jesus bore our sins (Lev. 4:28; Hos. 4:18-19; Heb. 9:28)
- ▷ Gave His life as a ransom (Lev. 17:11; Matt. 20:28)
- ▷ Assumed our iniquity at the cross (Isa. 53:5-6)
- ▷ One sacrifice good for all time (Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Pet. 3:18)
- ▷ Died for us (Mark 14:22-25; 1 Cor. 15:3)
- ▷ The Word dwelt among us (John 1:14)
- ▷ Substitutionary atonement (Rom. 5:8)
- ▷ Condemned sin in the flesh (Rom. 8:3)
- ▷ Jesus came to save sinners (1 Tim. 1:15)
- ▷ Christ made purification for sins (Heb. 1:3)

### ► BURIAL

#### **The burial of Christ**

- ▷ Prepared for burial (Matt. 26:12)
- ▷ Buried according to Jewish custom (John 19:40)
- ▷ Laid in a tomb (John 19:42)
- ▷ Buried according to the Scriptures (1 Cor. 15:4)
- ▷ Believer buried in baptism (Col. 2:12)

### ► RESURRECTION

#### **Christ's resurrection**

- ▷ Symbolized in feast of firstfruits (Lev. 23:10-11)
- ▷ Rose according to the Scriptures (Lev. 23:10-11; 1 Cor. 15:1-7)
- ▷ Old Testament points to resurrection (Ps. 6:5; Isa. 53:11; Dan. 12:2)
- ▷ Appeared to Peter and the twelve (Mark 16:14; Luke 24:34; John 20:19; 1 Cor. 15:5)
- ▷ Appearance on road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35)
- ▷ Appeared to apostles (Luke 24:1-12; Acts 1:2-3)
- ▷ Appeared to Paul (Acts 9:3-8; 1 Cor. 15:8)
- ▷ Paul's view (Acts 26:8; Rom. 4:17; Eph. 4:9)
- ▷ Link to believers (Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 15:22-23, 44-49; Phil. 3:10, 21; 1 Pet. 1:3)
- ▷ Appeared to over 500 people (1 Cor. 15:6)
- ▷ Appeared to James (1 Cor. 15:7)

## RECEIVING

Receiving Redemption: *How do I receive Jesus?*

### ► HOW

#### **How salvation is obtained**

- ▷ Submit to God's grace/special favor (Exod. 24:3; 1 Sam. 17:55; 2 Sam. 9:13; 2 Kgs. 8:6; Rom. 6:14; Eph. 2:5, 8-9; Titus 3:7; Heb. 4:16; Rev. 17:14)
- ▷ Repent of/turn from sin (Lev. 13:46; 1 Kgs. 14:3; Job 18:11; Ezek. 33:20; Matt. 4:17; Luke 5:32; 20:17-18; 24:47; Acts 2:38; 11:18; 2 Tim. 2:25; 2 Pet. 3:9; Rev. 20:10)
- ▷ Faith in Christ (Matt. 9:2; Mark 7:24-30; Luke 7:1-10; 18:17; John 1:12; Rom. 3:27-28, 30; 4:4-5, 9; Gal. 3:9; Eph. 2:8-9; Phil. 3:7-9; Heb. 4:2; 1 Pet. 1:21)
- ▷ Respond to God's call/invitation to salvation (Matt. 11:25-26; Mark 4:1-11; Luke 3:21-22; Acts 2:39; 15:17; Rom. 8:28-30, 33; Eph. 1:4-6; 1 Tim. 4:10; Titus 1:1; 2 Pet. 1:3; 2:10; 1 Jn. 2:2)
- ▷ Receive Christ (John 1:12)
- ▷ Role of the Spirit (John 16:7-11; 1 Cor. 12:3; Eph. 1:13; Titus 3:5)
- ▷ Call upon the Lord (Acts 2:21; Rom. 10:9)

### ► WHEN

#### **When we receive Christ**

- ▷ New creation/new life (Gen. 15:6; Rom. 6:13; 2 Cor. 5:17; Col. 2:12; 3:1)
- ▷ Heirs of God and Christ (Gen. 27:11; Rom. 8:17)
- ▷ Set apart for God (positional aspect) (Exod. 28:1; Acts 26:18; 1 Cor. 6:11)
- ▷ Justified/declared innocent (Josh. 3:5; Gal. 2:16; 3:24; 5:16; 1 Cor. 6:11; Titus 3:7)
- ▷ Delivered or rescued (Judg. 6:6; 2 Chr. 7:14; Neh. 6:13; Rom. 5:10; Gal. 1:3-5; Col. 1:13; 1 Thes. 1:10)
- ▷ Born to a living hope (Job 9:29; 1 Pet. 1:3)
- ▷ Heir and citizen of heaven (Ps. 137:4; Phil. 1:27; 3:20; Rev. 3:12)
- ▷ Redeemed/rescued/ransomed (Zech. 10:8-10; Matt. 20:28; Rom. 3:24; Gal. 3:13; Eph. 1:7; 1 Pet. 1:18)
- ▷ New master (Matt. 6:24; Rom. 6:18)



## DISCOVER WORSHIP

*Giving God the Praise and Glory He Is Due*

When discussing the topic of God, some people throw up their hands in despair. However, the Bible says we should throw up our hands in praise, lift up our voice in song, and rejoice in God's mercy to us all.

We don't approach Him demanding our needs be met. We don't come to God offering up our obedience, as if He needed our help with anything. True worship, and this outline, begins with awestruck reverence for who God is and what He has done for us. This positive, holy fear of our grand God is (and always has been) the foundation for proper worship.

God didn't have to reveal Himself to us, you know. He could have left us in the dark, groping around for the right things to be, say, and do to please Him. But He gave clear instructions in the Bible for how He did (and didn't!) want to be worshiped. This section of the outline lays out God's preferences for how He wants us to show our love for Him.



**OT** *Because God revealed Himself to the ancients as worthy of worship,*

God's people showed their faith by offering the sacrifices God required.

**NT** *Because Jesus initiated a better covenant between God and man,*

You can always approach God through Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.



## OT

Worship in the Old Testament: *How did people worship God in Old Testament times?*

## ▶ FASTING AND PRAYER

***Fasting and prayer in Old Testament worship (corporate, personal)***

## ▷ Fasting

## ▽ Occasions

*Occasions for fasting*

- ◆ The Day of Atonement (Lev. 16:29-31; 23:26-32; Num. 29:7)
- ◆ Fasting as a means to afflict or humble the soul (Lev. 23:26-32; Ps. 35:13)
- ◆ Fasting while seeking forgiveness (Deut. 9:15-18; 1 Kgs. 21:17-29; Dan. 9:3-5; Jon. 3:4-10)
- ◆ Fasting in war or at the threat of it (Deut. 20:1-4; Judg. 20:26; 1 Sam. 7:6)
- ◆ Fasting when a leader dies (1 Sam. 31:13; 1 Chr. 10:12)
- ◆ David and the people fasted for Saul and Jonathan (2 Sam. 1:12)
- ◆ Fasting when a loved one was sick (2 Sam. 12:16-23)
- ◆ Fasting when facing impending danger (2 Chr. 20:3)
- ◆ Return from exile (Ezra 8:21)
- ◆ Fasting as a means to receive God's favor (Ezra 8:23; Isa. 57:15; 66:1-2)
- ◆ Nehemiah fasted when he heard of the state of Jerusalem (Neh. 1:4)
- ◆ General fast at the communal reading of the Law by Ezra (Neh. 9:1)
- ◆ The Jews fasted when they heard of the king's decree (Esth. 4:3)
- ◆ Esther and Mordecai fasted before she went before the king (Esth. 4:16)
- ◆ Fasting for enemies (Pss. 35:11-13; 109:24)
- ◆ Afflicting one's soul was understood to refer to fasting (Ps. 69:10)
- ◆ **Tragedies**
  - ◆ *Fasting to commemorate tragedies*
    - ◆ Beginning of the siege of Jerusalem (2 Kgs. 25:1)
    - ◆ Fall of Jerusalem (2 Kgs. 25:3-4)
    - ◆ Murder of Gedaliah (2 Kgs. 25:23-95)
    - ◆ Burning of the Temple (Jer. 52:12-13)

## ▽ Length

*Length of fasts*

- ◆ Forty days (Exod. 34:28; Deut. 9:9; 1 Kgs. 19:8)
- ◆ One day (sunrise to sunset) (Judg. 20:26; 1 Sam. 14:24; 2 Sam. 1:12; 3:35)
- ◆ Seven days (1 Sam. 31:13; 2 Sam. 12:16-18; 1 Chr. 10:12)
- ◆ Day and night (Esth. 4:16)
- ◆ Three days (Esth. 4:15-16)
- ◆ One night (Dan. 6:18)
- ◆ Three weeks (Dan. 10:2-3)

## ▷ Prayer

- ▽ God does not always say yes (Exod. 32:30-35; Job 11:5; Lam. 3:57)
- ▽ God vows to answer according to His will (2 Sam. 24:25; Ps. 91:15; Jer. 33:3)
- ▽ Bear with one another (Job 4:4)
- ▽ Devote yourselves to prayer (Job 27:8-10; Ps. 116:1)
- ▽ Prophets pray unceasingly (Ps. 116:18; Isa. 6; Dan. 9:20ff; Hab. 2:1-3)
- ▽ Prayer for those in authority (Prov. 14:34)
- ▽ Jeremiah is commanded not to intercede (Jer. 7:16; 11:14; 14:11-18)
- ▽ At others' request (Jer. 37:2-3)

## ▽ Individual

*Prayer of individuals*

- ◆ Of Moses (Exod. 32:11-13, 31-32; 33:12-16; Num. 11:11-15; 14:13-19; Deut. 9:18-21)
- ◆ Of Aaron (Num. 6:22-27)
- ◆ Of Samuel (1 Sam. 7:5-13; 12:23)
- ◆ Of Solomon (1 Kgs. 8:22-53)
- ◆ Of Hezekiah (2 Kgs. 19:14-19)

## ▽ Psalms

*Psalms of prayer*

- ◆ Wisdom poems (Pss. 1; 37; 73; 112)
- ◆ Royal psalms (also prayers) (Pss. 2; 18; 20; 21)
- ◆ Laments of the individual Israelite (Pss. 3; 5-7; 13)
- ◆ Liturgies (Pss. 15; 24; 60; 75)
- ◆ Thanksgiving of the individual Israelite (Pss. 30; 32; 138)
- ◆ Communal prayers (Pss. 33; 145-150)
- ◆ Communal laments (Pss. 44; 74; 79)
- ◆ Thanksgiving of the community (Pss. 67; 124)
- ◆ Songs for pilgrimage (Pss. 84; 122)

## ▶ FESTIVALS

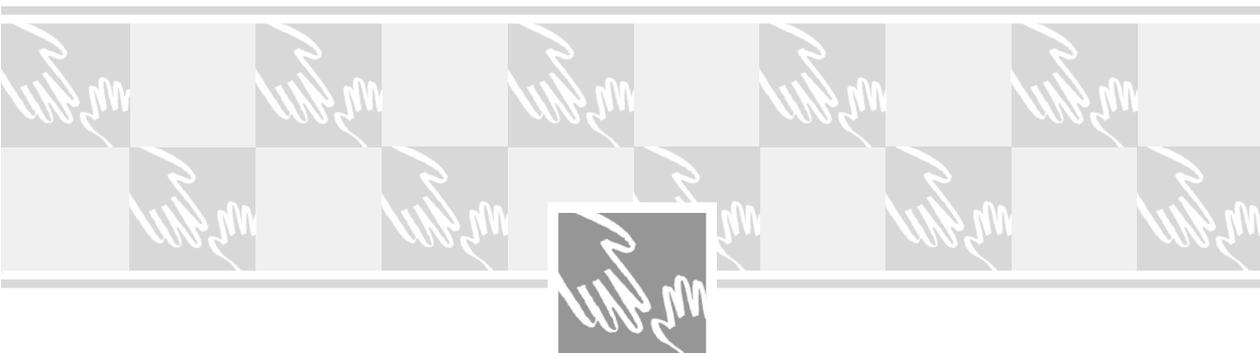
***Feasts and sacred days in Old Testament worship***

- ▷ Sabbath (Gen. 2:2-3; Exod. 20:8-11; 31:13; 35:2; Lev. 23:3; Deut. 5:12-15; Neh. 13:22; Isa. 56:2; Jer. 17:21-27)
- ▷ Passover (Exod. 12:1-14; Lev. 23:5-6; Num. 9:1-14; Ezra 6:22)
- ▷ Unleavened Bread (Exod. 12:15-20; 13:3-10; 23:15; 34:18; Num. 28:17-25)
- ▷ Sabbath Year (Exod. 23:10-11; Lev. 25:1-7)
- ▷ Harvest (Exod. 23:16; 34:22; Lev. 23:33-36, 39-43; Deut. 16:13-15; Zech. 14:16-19)
- ▷ Final Harvest (Pentecost) (Exod. 23:16a; 34:22a; Deut. 16:9-12)
- ▷ Day of Atonement (Lev. 16; 23:26-32; Num. 29:7-11)
- ▷ Firstfruits (Lev. 23:9-14)
- ▷ Trumpets (Lev. 23:23-25; Num. 29:1-6)
- ▷ Year of Jubilee (Lev. 25:8-55; Num. 36:4)
- ▷ Holy Assembly (Num. 29:35-38)
- ▷ Purim (Esth. 9:19)

## ▶ GOD'S SUPREMACY

***The supremacy of God in Old Testament worship***

- ▷ The Spirit was worshiped (Gen. 1:2; Job 33:4; Ps. 139:7-10)
- ▷ Required obedience in daily life and affairs (Exod. 20:1-17; Deut. 27:10; 1 Sam. 5:22; Job 23:10; Isa. 50:4; Jer. 10:2; Amos 5:23-24; Mic. 2:1)
- ▷ God alone was to be worshiped—no one else (Exod. 20:2-3; Deut. 5:7-9; 6:14; Ps. 83:18; Amos 5:4-6; Matt. 4:10)



# DISCOVER GOD'S ADOPTION

*Finding Your Identity in Christ*

The God who created the heavens and the earth with just a thought—how big must God be to do something like that? Not only that, but every moment, God sustains the universe, continuing its existence by the power of His will. With all that, what must He think of us? Are we like insects to Him?

If God did not value us, He would not have sent His beloved Son to die for us. If God did not value us, He would not then call us His children, placing us in His beloved family with His Son, Jesus.

Our parents may die, or they may live but reject us. Our entire family may turn against us, but Christians can never be orphans. In this section of the outline, we can see how God makes cursed rebels into blessed children of God by adopting us into His family and linking all believers to Christ and one another forever.



**WITHOUT CHRIST** *Because we are separated from God the Father,*

Only the work of His only Son can establish an eternal relationship with Him.

**WITH CHRIST** *Because I am united with Christ by faith,*

I can rejoice that I am a treasured child in God's family.

**IN HEAVEN** *Because I am a member of the family of God,*

I will dwell in His house with all God's people forever.

## WITHOUT CHRIST

Life without Christ: *What is our spiritual condition apart from Christ?*

### ▶ SEPARATED FROM GOD

#### ***Spiritual separation from God***

- ▷ Spiritually dead (Gen. 2:17; 3:17; Ezek. 18:4, 20; 1 Kgs. 2:42; Rom. 3:23)
- ▷ Facing physical death (Gen. 3:3; Ps. 88:3; Eccl. 12:7; Rom. 5:14)
- ▷ Banished from God's fellowship (Gen. 3:23-24)
- ▷ Bad spiritual heart (Gen. 8:21; Exod. 8:15; Ps. 14:1; Prov. 12:20; Ezek. 44:7; Matt. 15:18; Mark 7:20-23; Acts 7:51; Rom. 2:4-5)
- ▷ Facing judgment (Deut. 3:6; Job 38:3; Ps. 76:7; 2 Thes. 1:9; Heb. 9:27)
- ▷ Sold into sin (1 Kgs. 21:20, 25; 2 Kgs. 17:17; Rom. 7:14; Gal. 4:3)
- ▷ A world of lost sinners (Pss. 14:1-3; 53:2; Rom. 5:12)
- ▷ Worship through lip service only (Isa. 29:13; Jer. 38:16; Mark 7:6-8)
- ▷ Unrighteous (Isa. 55:7; Jer. 22:13; Rom. 2:10-18; 1 Cor. 6:9)
- ▷ No fellowship with God (Isa. 59:1-2; 1 Tim. 5:6)
- ▷ Facing second death (Hos. 13:14; 2 Thes. 1:9; Rev. 20:14-15; 21:8; 22:15)
- ▷ Enslaved to sin (John 8:34; Rom. 6:17; Titus 3:3)
- ▷ Aligned with Satan (John 8:44; 2 Cor. 4:4; 1 Jn. 3:8)
- ▷ Under sin (Rom. 3:9)
- ▷ Killed by the law (Rom. 7:9-11)
- ▷ Aligned with the world's system (1 Jn. 2:15-17)

### ▶ CONNECTED TO GOD

#### ***Connections to God in spite of spiritual condition***

- ▷ Human Nature
  - ◁ Created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27; 5:1; 9:5-6; Lev. 24:21; 1 Cor. 11:7; Jas. 3:9)
  - ◁ Created with a sense of eternity (Eccl. 3:11)
  - ◁ Created with the law in our hearts (Rom. 2:14-15)
- ▷ Human Experience
  - ◁ Reason as God does to one another (Isa. 1:18; 1 Pet. 3:15)
  - ◁ Walk the same earth as Jesus did (John 1:14-16)
  - ◁ Share a love of humanity (John 3:16)

## WITH CHRIST

Life with Christ: *What is our spiritual condition in Christ?*

### ▶ CHILDREN OF GOD

#### ***We are children of God***

- ▷ God disciplines His children (Lev. 26:33; Num. 14:28; Deut. 8:15; Prov. 3:11; Isa. 27:7-9; 2 Cor. 7:8-10; Heb. 12:10)
- ▷ Protected by God (Num. 22:6)
- ▷ Children share suffering and glory (Judg. 2:22-23; Acts 14:22; Rom. 8:17; 1 Thes. 3:3; Rev. 16:6)
- ▷ Loved by the Father (Luke 15:11-32; 1 Jn. 3:1)

- ▷ God gives good things to His children (Luke 18:15-17; John 14:13-14; 1 Jn. 5:14-15)
- ▷ Children of God raised to new life (Luke 20:36)
- ▷ Children of God by receiving Christ (John 1:12)
- ▷ Spirit tells us we are children (Rom. 8:15-17)
- ▷ Children through faith (Gal. 3:26)
- ▷ God's own children (Gal. 4:6-7; Eph. 2:19)
- ▷ As God's children we have His Spirit (Gal. 4:6)
- ▷ Children chosen of God (Eph. 1:4; 1 Pet. 4:16)
- ▷ Adopted children of God (Eph. 1:4-5)
- ▷ Imitate God as children (Eph. 5:1)
- ▷ Children of light (Eph. 5:8)

### ▶ HEIRS OF GOD

#### ***We are heirs of God in Christ***

- ▷ Receive inheritance through faith and patience (Gen. 25:33; 27:11; Deut. 6:10; Heb. 6:12)
- ▷ Our inheritance includes sharing His glory (Lev. 9:6; Rom. 8:29-30)
- ▷ Protected by God (Num. 22:6)
- ▷ Spiritual blessing of wisdom (1 Kgs. 4:1; 1 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 1:7-8)
- ▷ Inheritance reserved in heaven (Neh. 11:20; Matt. 22:1-14; 1 Pet. 1:4)
- ▷ Receive inheritance through suffering (Jer. 15:15; Rom. 8:17)
- ▷ Inheritance shared by Jews and Gentiles alike (Jer. 39:16-17; Ezek. 16:61; 47:22-23; Eph. 3:6)
- ▷ We shall reign with Him (Ezek. 46:16-18; Luke 22:29-30)
- ▷ Treasure in heaven (Matt. 6:19-21)
- ▷ Endowed with eternal life (John 3:16; 5:24; 17:3; Titus 3:7)
- ▷ Our inheritance includes glorified bodies (1 Cor. 15:42-43)
- ▷ Heirs as God's children (Gal. 4:7)
- ▷ Every spiritual blessing (Eph. 1:3)
- ▷ Spirit is guarantee of inheritance (Eph. 1:14)
- ▷ God loves His children unconditionally (1 Jn. 3:1)

### ▶ NEW NATURE

#### ***We are saints with a new nature***

- ▷ Light of the world (Matt. 5:14)
- ▷ Born of the Spirit (John 3:5, 8; Titus 3:5)
- ▷ Born again (John 3:7; 1 Pet. 1:3; 1 Jn. 3:9; 5:18)
- ▷ Holy Spirit-controlled mind (Rom. 8:6)
- ▷ We have the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16)
- ▷ Made right with God (1 Cor. 6:11)
- ▷ One in Christ (Gal. 3:28; Eph. 2:14, 17-18)
- ▷ God's masterpiece (Eph. 2:10; 4:22-24)
- ▷ Called saints by name (Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:2)
- ▷ Completely righteous in Christ (Phil. 3:8-9)
- ▷ Freed from kingdom of darkness (Col. 1:13)
- ▷ Alive with Christ (Col. 2:13-14)
- ▷ Imparts righteousness into spirit, soul, and body (1 Thes. 5:23-24)
- ▷ Kingdom of priests (1 Pet. 2:9)

### ▶ REDEMPTION

#### ***We experience redemption and assurance in Christ***

- ▷ Every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies (Lev. 9:22; Eph. 1:3ff)
- ▷ Citizen of Christ's kingdom/heaven (Lev. 20:23; Eph. 2:19; Phil. 3:20)



# DISCOVER HOLINESS

*Living for God*

What is personal holiness? Some seem to say that it's a dark, depressed, dismal life devoid of all joy—but nothing could be further from the truth. Personal holiness is a joyful life, regulated by God's truth as found in a plain reading of the Bible.

A commitment to personal holiness means that after God changes us from rebels to friends, we now have a new mission—obedience. God has given direct orders to us in His Word and requires that we obey Him perfectly, without arguing or complaining. Anything less is treason against our Commander and detrimental to those serving around us.

In this section of the outline, we will see that as we delight in God, we will also rejoice in repentance from sin. As we walk through the Christian life, delighting in God and rejoicing in repentance are our right and left feet. Keep walking!



**SET APART** *Because God has set me apart as His special possession,*

I can live a transformed life of holy service.

**MATURING** *Because God has commanded me to grow in grace and obedience,*

I will look to Christ's perfect example as my standard for holiness.

**SUBMISSION** *Because God expects me to have an active role in my spiritual growth,*

I will delight to submit to His Spirit and His Word.

**CHANGED BY GOD** *Because the Triune God is fully committed to enabling His people to live a new life, I can trust that no detour can keep me from completing my spiritual journey.*

**LAW AND GRACE** *Because God has always commanded obedience to His law by the power of His grace, I will reject neither God's law nor God's grace as the means to my holiness.*

**DISCIPLINES** *Because God calls us to thoughtful, intentional living,*

I will regularly practice spiritual disciplines.

**GOD'S BLESSING** *Because God promises to reward those who obey Him,*

I will love God boldly and expect a life producing spiritual fruit.



## SET APART

Being Set Apart: *What does it mean to be holy?*

### ► BLESSING

**Blessing those in the community**

- ▷ People of Israel (Deut. 26:15; Isa. 12:6; Ezek. 37:28)
- ▷ Spouses and children (1 Cor. 7:14)

### ► RELIGIOUS SERVICE

**Set apart for religious service (consecration)**

- ▷ The Tabernacle (Exod. 40:9; Heb. 9:2)
- ▷ Priests and Levites (Num. 8:12-16; Judg. 19:25; 1 Sam. 8:1; Ezra 8:24-28)
- ▷ The Temple and its articles (1 Kgs. 9:3-7; 2 Chr. 7; Ezra 8:28)
- ▷ The nation of Israel (Jer. 2:3; Ezek. 20:40)

### ► TRANSFORMING

**Transforming soul and life (sanctification)**

- ▷ In the older covenants (Ps. 51; Ezek. 18:30-32; 1 Pet. 3:5)
- ▷ In the New Covenant (2 Sam. 23:1-5; Matt. 3:11; Acts 2:38-40; Rom. 12:1-2; Jas. 2:21-24)

## MATURING

Maturing as a Christian: *What are the standards of personal holiness?*

### ► AVOIDING BARRIERS

**Avoiding barriers to holy living (See *Spiritual Warfare*> *Resisting Sin and Evil*)**

### ► CONFORMITY TO CHRIST

- ▷ Following the Royal Law of love (Lev. 19:18; 27:34; Josh. 23:7; 2 Kgs. 23:2; Luke 10:27; 1 Cor. 16:22; Jas. 2:8)
- ▷ Christ's behavior (Matt. 12:1-2; Phil. 2:19-30; 3 Jn. 1:11)
- ▷ Christ's teachings (Luke 9:23-26; 1 Pet. 1:2; 2 Jn. 1:6)
- ▷ Christ's likeness (Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18; 1 Pet. 1:15-16; 1 Jn. 3:2; 4:17)

### ► IMITATING GOD

**Imitating God's character**

- ▷ His law (Exod. 20:1-17; Deut. 17:14-15)
- ▷ His mercy (Deut. 15:1; 2 Kgs. 4:2)
- ▷ His faithfulness (1 Kgs. 9:10)
- ▷ His commands (Jer. 7:23; Dan. 3:5-12)
- ▷ His likeness (Matt. 5:44-48; Eph. 5:1; 1 Tim. 2:9-10; Jas. 3:7-12)

### ► OBEYING GOD'S WORD

**Obedience to God's Word**

- ▷ Justice is essential to obedience (Exod. 21:2)
- ▷ Obedience to God's Word is empowered by and demonstrates love (Job 31:15; 2 Jn. 1:6)
- ▷ Faithfulness is critical to obeying God's Word (Rom. 1:5; 14:23; 2 Pet. 1:5-9)

- ▷ Jesus learned to obey God's Word through His suffering (Heb. 5:8)
- ▷ Obedience to God's Word encourages our assurance of salvation (2 Pet. 3:11; 1 Jn. 2:5)

## SUBMISSION

Submitting to God: *What is our role in holiness?*

### ► DELIGHTING IN GOD

**Delighting in God rather than sin**

- ▷ Rejoicing in repentance (Exod. 9:27; Job 22:26; 32:5; Ps. 51:8; Isa. 23:17; Heb. 9:14)
- ▷ Gladness in God (Deut. 28:27; Job 21:16; Pss. 70:4; 149:4; Isa. 61:10; Zeph. 3:16-17)
- ▷ Joy in Discovering God (Pss. 62:1; 66:1; 144:15; Isa. 35:1-2; Matt. 13:34; Acts 16:34; Heb. 12:2)

### ► IDENTIFYING WITH CHRIST

**Identifying ourselves with Christ's life and work**

- ▷ Suffering with Him (Exod. 8:24; Isa. 53:3; Dan. 12:10; Joel 1:19; Matt. 16:25; John 19:3; Rom. 8:17; 2 Cor. 1:5-7; 6:8-10; Phil. 1:29; 3:10)
- ▷ Rescuing others from sin (Num. 20:24; 1 Thes. 1:10; Jas. 5:19-20)
- ▷ Living as an adopted son (2 Chr. 23:13; Matt. 5:43; Gal. 3:26-4:7; Eph. 1:5; Heb. 12:7)
- ▷ Living a gospel-centered life (Luke 14:25-27; Rom. 1:16-17; Gal. 2:11-3:5; 2 Tim. 2:8-10; 1 Pet. 4:17-19)
- ▷ Abiding in Christ (John 15:5-8; 1 Cor. 1:10-17; 1 Jn. 2:24-27)

### ► LEARNING GOD'S WORD

**Educating ourselves and our family with God's truth**

- ▷ Teaching your children (Gen. 24:6; Exod. 2:2-3; 10:2; 13:8; Deut. 4:9-10; 6:7; Josh. 4:9; 2 Sam. 14:14, 33; 1 Kgs. 1:6; 2:2; 2 Chr. 17:1; Ezra 2:3; Ps. 101:2; Matt. 11:25; Acts 16:34)
- ▷ Public teaching (Deut. 5:1; Josh. 8:35; Ezra 7:10; Isa. 61:1; Eph. 3:8; 2 Tim. 4:2)
- ▷ Glorifying God with the mind (2 Chr. 15:13; Ezra 2:3; Luke 10:27-28)
- ▷ Makes us aware of worldly ideas to beware of their sin (Prov. 26:11; 2 Cor. 10:5; Col. 2:8)
- ▷ Central to the mission of the church (John 13:14-15; 2 Tim. 1:11)
- ▷ Renewing the mind (Rom. 12:1-2; 8:6-7; 1 Cor. 1:10; 4:2-4)

### ► TRUSTING GOD

**Trusting God while facing temptation**

- ▷ Overcoming (Gen. 32:28; 39:9; Judg. 6:15; 2 Kgs. 7:6; Job 5:8; Ps. 143:7; Isa. 4:5-6; 36:4; Jer. 1:19; Matt. 16:18; Jas. 1:5-8; 1 Jn. 5:3-5; **see also *Spiritual Warfare***> *Resisting Sin and Evil*)
- ▷ Obedience (Num. 9:17; 1 Kgs. 19:19; Job 15:20; Isa. 29:16; Jer. 35:13; 37:17; Mark 3:1-5; 6:6-13; **see also *Worship***> *NT*> *Our role*> *Obedience*; **Holiness**> *Maturing*> *Obeying God's Word*)
- ▷ Love (Deut. 6:5; 1 Jn. 4:19-20; **see also *God***> *God's Attributes*> *Loving*)
- ▷ True happiness (Ps. 84:12)



# DISCOVER SPIRITUAL WARFARE

*Resisting Temptation and Satan's Schemes*

It's true that the Christian life is a joyful life. But that happiness does not come with laziness. It comes to those who have the courage to recognize the darkness in ourselves and in our world and commit to fight against it.

When Jesus changes us from rebels to relatives and from enemies to friends, He calls us to something—and it's not a perpetual vacation. We do not become holy while we sleep. We do not change the world into a better place as we watch our television.

In this section of the outline, you will discover why a Christian life in this world is not an armchair but an arena. You will discover that the devil is not resting quietly, waiting for his final defeat, but is raging and active and seeking to tear down every government, every church, and every person who dares name Christ as master.

Will you stand by and let yourself and everyone around you be ravaged by sin and Satan, or will you take a stand and defend God's people with prayer, faith, and His Word? Read ahead and see what it means to be a joyful, courageous soldier of God.

■ ■ ■

**ORIGIN OF SIN** *Because Satan sinned and then tempted humanity to join him,*

I will tell everyone I know that God can free him or her from evil's snares.

**ORIGINATOR OF SIN** *Because Satan is a liar who opposes my best and God's glory,*

I will reject him and recognize his strategies for ruining my life.

**GOD AND SIN** *Because God allowed sin and calamity into His perfect world,*

I can trust that God even uses sin to glorify Himself.

**RESISTING SIN AND EVIL** *Because God has warned us of the dangers of this world,*

I will walk by faith, resist temptation, and follow my commander, Jesus Christ.

## ORIGIN OF SIN

The Origin and Effects of Sin and Evil: *How did sin change the created order?*

### ▶ SATAN'S FALL

***Satan's fall destroyed his standing with God***

- ▷ Satan's honor reduced (Gen. 3:14-15)
- ▷ Satan's power reduced (Luke 10:18; Jude 1:6)
- ▷ Satan's freedom reduced (2 Pet. 2:4; Rev. 20:1-3)

### ▶ HUMANITY'S FALL

***Humanity's fall destroyed our standing with God***

- ▷ Historical situation (Gen. 3; 1 Cor. 11:3, 8-11)
- ▷ Spiritual
  - Spiritual significance* (Rom. 5:12-19)
    - ▽ Sinful from birth (Ps. 51:5; John 3:6; 1 Tim. 1:15)
    - ▽ Spiritually blind (Isa. 5:21; Jer. 4:22; 13:20; Luke 3:34; 1 Jn. 2:9-11)
    - ▽ Subjugated to Satan (Isa. 61:1; Heb. 2:14-15)
    - ▽ Separated from God (Ezek. 28:2; Eph. 4:18)
- ▷ Physical
  - Physical significance* (Gen. 3)
    - ▽ Exposed and naked (Gen. 2:25; 2 Sam. 10:4; Ezek. 16:39; Rev. 16:15)
    - ▽ Extreme labor necessary to survive (Gen. 3:16, 19)
    - ▽ Excluded from God's manifest presence (Gen. 3:24)
    - ▽ End of perpetual physical life (Ps. 90:3; 1 Cor. 15:22)

### ▶ CREATION IN BONDAGE

***Humanity's fall subjected creation to bondage***

- ▷ God Created
  - God created all things for His glory* (Job 37:14; Pss. 19:1; 50:6; 74:16; Rom. 1:19-20)
- ▷ God Curses
  - God curses creation* (Gen. 3:16-19; Isa. 11:6; Rom. 8:18-22)
    - ▽ Cosmos
      - God curses the cosmos*
        - Conflict between good and evil (Gen. 3:14-15)
        - Searing heat (2 Kgs. 4:18-20; Isa. 49:10; John 4:8)
        - Decay (Rom. 8:20-21)
        - Solution in heaven (Rev. 21:23)
    - ▽ Vegetation
      - Vegetation was also cursed*
        - Growth of weeds and thorns was accelerated (Gen. 2:17-18)
        - Decline in production illustrative of spiritual condition (John 15:2-6)
        - Healing from heaven's fruit (Rev. 22:1-5)
    - ▽ Humanity humbled (***See Spiritual Warfare> Origin of Sin> Humanity's fall***)
- ▷ God Sustains
  - God sustains the cursed creation* (Gen. 8:21-22; Pss. 65:9; 89:9; 104; 135:7; 145:16; 147:8; Dan. 2:21a; Col. 1:15-17; Heb. 1:1-3, 8-12)

## ORIGINATOR OF SIN

The Originator of Sin and Evil: *Who is Satan and what does he do?*

### ▶ SATAN'S TITLES

- ▷ Serpent (Gen. 3:1-4; Rev. 12-13; 20:2)
- ▷ Father of lies (Prov. 10:18; John 8:44)
- ▷ Beelzebub (prince of demons) (Matt. 12:24)
- ▷ Evil one (Matt. 13:19)
- ▷ Satan (adversary) (Luke 10:18)
- ▷ Ruler of the world (John 14:30)
- ▷ God of this world (2 Cor. 4:4)
- ▷ Beliar/Belial (wicked one) (2 Cor. 6:15)
- ▷ Commander of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2)
- ▷ Abaddon (angel of the pit) (Rev. 9:11)
- ▷ Apollyon (destroyer) (Rev. 9:11)
- ▷ Accuser (Rev. 12:10)

### ▶ SATAN'S CHARACTER

- ▷ Crafty (Gen. 3:1; 2 Cor. 11:3)
- ▷ Slandorous (Josh. 22:16-30; Job 1:6)
- ▷ Deceitful (Jer. 41:6; John 8:44; Rev. 12:9)
- ▷ Vicious (Luke 8:29)
- ▷ Murderous (John 8:44; 1 Pet. 5:8)
- ▷ Devious (2 Cor. 11:14)
- ▷ Mighty (Eph. 2:2)
- ▷ Conceited (1 Tim. 3:6)
- ▷ Cowardly (Jas. 4:7)
- ▷ Malevolent (1 Jn. 2:13)

### ▶ SATAN'S POWER

***Satan's power over his followers***

- ▷ He possesses them (Luke 22:3)
- ▷ He commands them (John 8:44)
- ▷ He blinds them (2 Cor. 4:4)
- ▷ He misleads them (Rev. 20:7-8)

### ▶ SATAN'S INFLUENCE

***Satan's influence over God's people***

- ▷ He tempts them (1 Chr. 21:1)
- ▷ He distresses them (Job 2:7; Luke 13:16)
- ▷ He indicts them (Zech. 3:1)
- ▷ He harasses them (Luke 22:31)
- ▷ He deceives them (2 Cor. 11:3)

### ▶ SATAN'S LIMITS

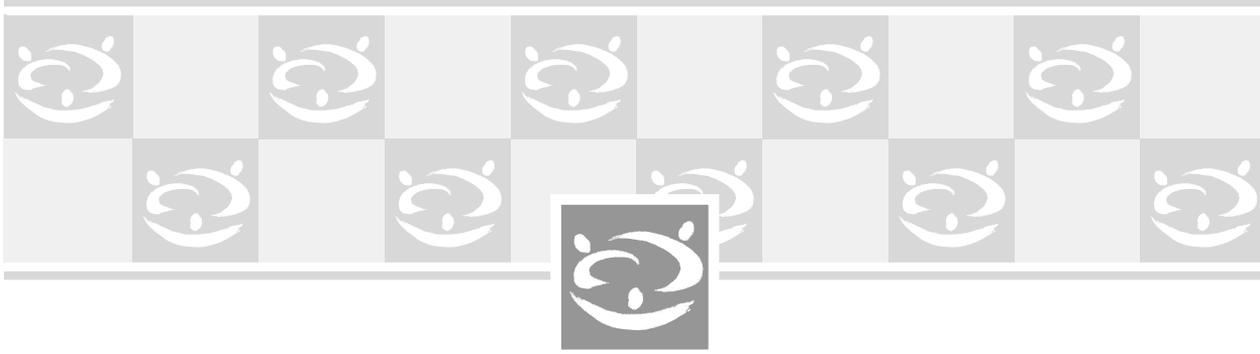
***Satan's power has limits***

- ▷ God sets boundaries on him (Job 1:9-12)
- ▷ Christians overcome him (Matt. 16:18-19; 1 Pet. 5:8-9; 1 Jn. 2:13)
- ▷ Christians watch for him (2 Cor. 2:11)
- ▷ Christians fight him (Eph. 6:11-16)
- ▷ Christians resist him (Jas. 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:9)

### ▶ SATAN'S DOMAIN

***Satan rules the kingdom of darkness***

- ▷ Receives false worship (Deut. 32:17; Ps. 106:36; 1 Cor. 10:20)
- ▷ Believers can aid it (Isa. 48:1-11)
- ▷ Doomed to destruction (Jer. 52:2-3; Lam. 1:22; Ezek. 38:16; Dan. 4:3; Zech. 11:17; Matt. 12:28; 25:41; Mark 3:23-27; Luke 11:17-22; John 12:36; 16:11; Rom. 16:20; 1 Jn. 4:4; Rev. 11:15)
- ▷ In opposition to the Kingdom of Light (Eph. 1:21; Rev. 12-13)



## DISCOVER CHURCH

*Joining with God's People*

The Bible does not speak of a solitary “Jesus and Me” version of Christianity. When God brings us into His family, He spiritually connects us with other believers. The physical manifestation of that connection is the church—a group gathered by God to honor Him through community, obedience, and praise.

In the Bible, the idea of the church develops gradually, beginning in the Old Testament in the Garden of Eden, growing during the ministry of Moses, maturing with the building of the Temple by Solomon, and then taking its final form on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2. But the final unveiling of everything that the church will be is found in Revelation, as the Spotless Bride is finally fully united to her Husband, Jesus (Rev. 19:7), the Ruler and King of the church.

As you'll see in this section, it's natural for our understanding of the place of the church in our lives to develop slowly—that's the way it developed in the Bible. Take your time and look at how God has grown His church, and ask yourself how you fit into your local congregation. By doing so, you'll be placing yourself in the very center of where God is at work.



**WHAT** *Because God has set aside a holy people to glorify Him together,*

I must regularly participate in a biblical and God-centered church.

**WHO** *Because God is no discriminator against persons,*

He has called His holy people from every place and every age.

**MISSION** *Because God has called His gathered people to change the world,*

I will give my time and resources to accomplish the holy goals of my church.

**ROLE** *Because God's Word reveals the role of a healthy church in my life,*

I will celebrate the blessings and responsibilities of membership in a local church.



## WHAT

What is the Church?

### ► SUPERNATURAL BODY

#### *The church is a supernatural body*

- ▷ Care given to the weakest (yet most necessary) parts (Dan. 8:27; Rom. 14:1; 1 Cor. 12:12-31)
- ▷ Under Christ (Matt. 16:15-18; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:15-16)
- ▷ Unified and harmonious (1 Cor. 12:16-17)
- ▷ Respect given to the heavenly head (Eph. 4:15; Col. 1:18)
- ▷ Power given to those who are in the body (Col. 2:19)
- ▷ **Relationship**
  - Supernatural relationship of Christ to His church*
  - ◊ Treasured by Christ (Matt. 10:28-30; Eph. 5:25)
  - ◊ Built by Christ (Matt. 16:18)
  - ◊ Abides in Christ (John 15:1-11)
  - ◊ Bought by Christ (Acts 20:28)
  - ◊ Owned by Christ (Rom. 7:4; Heb. 5:9)
  - ◊ Established on Christ (Eph. 2:19-20)
  - ◊ Purified by Christ (Eph. 5:26-27)

### ► MANY TITLES

#### *The church is a body with many titles*

- ▷ People of God (Exod. 19:3; 32:11; 1 Pet. 2:10)
- ▷ Branches (Ps. 80:14; Isa. 5:7; John 15:1-8)
- ▷ Crown in God's hand (Isa. 62:3)
- ▷ Cornerstone/holy temple (Ezek. 43:2-5; Eph. 2:20-21; 1 Pet. 2:4-8)
- ▷ Building (Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 3:9)
- ▷ Field of God (1 Cor. 3:9)
- ▷ Last Adam/new creation (Rom. 5:12-21; Gal. 6:15)
- ▷ Olive tree (Rom. 11:17-24)
- ▷ Dwelling place of God (Eph. 2:22)
- ▷ Place of Glory (Eph. 3:21)
- ▷ The city of God (Jer. 22:8; Heb. 12:22)
- ▷ Flock (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:2)
  - ◊ A place to honor one another (Rom. 16:4-16)
  - ◊ A place for Christians (1 Cor. 1:2)
  - ◊ A place to honor God through obedience (1 Tim. 3:15)
  - ◊ A place for God's family (Heb. 12:23; 3 Jn. 1:5-6)
- ▷ Kingdom (Heb. 12:28; Col. 1:13)
- ▷ **Bride**
  - Bride* (Ruth 3:4; Rev. 21:2, 9)
  - ◊ Who joyfully awaits the wedding day (2 Chr. 10:5; Song 2:8; Matt. 25:1-13; Rev. 19:7)
  - ◊ Who rejoices and fasts (Song 8:13; Matt. 9:15)
  - ◊ Who submits to her husband (Eph. 5:22-33)
- ▷ **Priests**
  - Kingdom of priests*
  - ◊ Our high privilege is to be in covenant with God (Ezek. 20:37; Heb. 8:6)
  - ◊ Our high priest is Jesus (Heb. 5:5-10; 6:20; 7:26; 9:11)
  - ◊ Our high calling is to be God's priestly nation (1 Pet. 2:9-10)
- ▷ **Servants**
  - ◊ Servants must be prepared to work (Josh. 17:14-18; 2 Chr. 32:5-8; Ezra 4:5; Eccl. 11:5; 2 Tim. 2:21)
  - ◊ Servants must be helpful (Col. 1:7)
  - ◊ Servants are also masters (Col. 4:1, 7)
  - ◊ Servants do not undermine the Master (Jude 1:4)

### ▷ Sheep

- Sheep* (John 10:14)
  - ◊ The sheep trust the protection of the shepherd (2 Kgs. 6:16; Ps. 77:20; Jer. 1:19; Ezek. 34:10-12; Matt. 14:28-31; John 10:11, 14; 1 Pet. 2:24-25)
  - ◊ The sheep trust the rewards of the shepherd (Jer. 23:1; 1 Pet. 5:4)
  - ◊ The sheep trust the final destination of the shepherd (Rev. 7:17)

## WHO

Who and where is the church?

### ► FROM EVERY PLACE AND AGE

#### *The church is called from every place and age*

- ▷ Believers in the Old Testament (Gen. 4:26; 15:6; Judg. 20:2; Acts 7:38)
- ▷ Universal church (Jer. 4:2; Matt. 16:18; Eph. 3:20)
- ▷ Local church (Amos 9:12; 1 Cor. 1:2; Phil. 2; 1 Thes. 1:1; Rev. 2-3)
- ▷ Church in the future (Zech. 2:11; John 14:1-2; Rev. 3:12; 21:2)
- ▷ Church in the New Testament (Matt. 16:18; Acts 2; 15; 1 Cor. 14; Eph. 5)

### ► FROM EVERY PEOPLE

#### *The church is called from among every people*

- ▷ Pre-Jewish believers in the church (Gen. 4:26)
- ▷ Children are included in the older covenants (Gen. 9:9-17; 12:1-3; 17:7; Exod. 20:5; Deut. 29:10-13; 1 Sam. 2:1; Ezek. 26:2)
- ▷ Children are blessed by inclusion in covenant community (2 Sam. 12:22; 1 Kgs. 14:31; 1 Cor. 7:14)
- ▷ Those who have persevered until the end (2 Chr. 25:14; Heb. 6:4-6; Rev. 3:10)
- ▷ Those who are tempted to apostasy by suffering (2 Chr. 28:21; Lam. 4:22; Heb. 10:36; 12:1; Jas. 1:12)
- ▷ The community of the saved (Neh. 1:2; Eph. 5:25)
- ▷ Those who know much of God (Matt. 7:21-23; Mark 1:16-18; 1 Tim. 4:16; Heb. 6:4-8)
- ▷ Those not under discipline (Matt. 18:15-17; 1 Cor. 5:1-5, 9-13; 2 Cor. 2:5-11)
- ▷ Gentile converts (Matt. 21:28-31; John 3; Heb. 11:31)
- ▷ The "least of these" (Matt. 25:31-46; Luke 17:11-19; 1 Cor. 1:26-29)
- ▷ Children are included in the New Covenant (Luke 10:21; 18:16; Acts 2:38-39; 16:33)
- ▷ Together in unity (Acts 14:1-5; Rom. 3:29; 9:24-29; Eph. 5:21-33)
- ▷ Children in the church need to trust Christ (Rom. 3:22-23; 10:9-10)

## MISSION

The mission of the church

### ► ESTABLISH

#### *To establish the Kingdom of God*

- ▷ The Old Testament speaks about the Kingdom (Isa. 9:6-7; Dan. 4:34-35)



## DISCOVER GOD'S PURPOSE

*Embracing God's Will and Master Plan*

We face difficult decisions in this sinful, mixed-up world. "What is God's will for my life?" the young man asked, crying. "Should I leave my wife, who won't go to church with me, or should I stay with her and be spiritually dragged down by her?" He ignores the advice of his pastor and leaves his wife, saying, "I've never felt such a peace!"

People often make decisions about God's will based on feeling rather than fact. While feelings are important, it is the facts found in the Bible, not our feelings, that need to be the final arbiter of important decisions in our life.

As you read this section of the outline, you'll see that God makes His will known to humanity through His Word—He either speaks directly to people or instructs them by His appointed messengers. In either case, neither conflicts with a commonsense reading of the Bible.

Dr. Bill Bright said in the first of his *Four Spiritual Laws* that God offers a wonderful plan for your life. This plan is found as we trust a sovereign God to empower us to play a part in His master plan to rescue the world from the power of sin. Will you do your part to be His agent of positive change in a negative world?

■ ■ ■

**GOD'S PURPOSE** *Because the goal of God's creation is to discover and reflect His greatness,*

I will seek a progressively higher view of God's character and person.

**GOD'S MEANS** *Because God's master plan for this universe is perfect,*

I can best participate in God's mission by submitting my will to His.

**GOD'S DEEDS** *Because God's actions are not limited by time and space,*

I will pray for His miraculous intervention in impossible situations.



## GOD'S PURPOSE

God's purpose for creating the universe is for all creation to discover His greatness

- ▷ The heavens tell of his greatness (Ps. 19:1; Isa. 45:18)
- ▷ Evil and sickness tell of his greatness (John 11:4)
- ▷ Obedience proclaims the glory of God (Rom. 6:10-11)
- ▷ Every action is to be motivated by our desire for God's renown (1 Cor. 10:31)
- ▷ Every tongue will confess God's greatness (Phil. 2:11)
- ▷ God will accomplish his plan when His magnificence will fill the new heaven and new earth (Rev. 21:11)

## GOD'S MEANS

God's means of accomplishing his plan

### ▶ GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

#### *God's sovereignty in his master plan*

- ▷ God sustains His creation (Gen. 8:21-22; Lev. 25:4; Pss. 89:9; 104; 135:7; 145:16; 147:8; Dan. 2:21a; Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:1-3, 8-12)
- ▷ God is King over every nation (Deut. 2:26-37; Judg. 21:7; Isa. 40:15; 66:18; Mal. 1:14; Luke 20:20-26; 2 Thes. 2:7)
- ▷ God knows all (Deut. 7:7-8; 1 Chr. 17:18; 2 Chr. 32:31; Isa. 18:4; 45:3; Jer. 1:5; Matt. 7:22-23; Acts 2:23; 1 Pet. 1:2)
- ▷ God chooses some and leaves others in their rebellion (1 Sam. 2:25; 2 Sam. 17:14; Isa. 6:9-10; Matt. 11:25; 24:22; Mark 13:22; Luke 18:7; John 5:21; 6:37-40, 44; 10:27-28; Rom. 8:33; 9:6-13, 15-18, 21-24; 2 Cor. 2:15-16)
- ▷ God has always had a plan (1 Sam. 23:28; Job 30:26; Eccl. 3:1; Isa. 41:26; 46:10; 64:1; Dan. 4:35; Rom. 8:28; 9:11; Eph. 1:11)
- ▷ God decrees all (1 Kgs. 11:26-27; Ezra 4:6; Ps. 135:6; Isa. 45:3; 46:11; Jer. 12:14; 50:1; Dan. 2:22; Rom. 8:29-30; Acts 4:28; Eph. 1:4-6, 11; 1 Cor. 1:26-31; 2 Tim. 1:9; 1 Pet. 1:3; 2 Pet. 1:10)
- ▷ God's people are chosen for service (1 Chr. 29:11; Esth. 1:3; Dan. 2:21b; John 6:70; 1 Cor. 1:26; 15:58; Eph. 2:10)

### ▶ HUMAN CHOICE

#### *Human choice in God's master plan*

- ▷ Human view (Gen. 19:22; Deut. 30:19; Josh. 24:15; 1 Kgs. 18:21; Prov. 28:4; Phil. 2:12)
- ▷ Bringing our wills in subjection to God's will (Deut. 3:27; 29:29; Josh. 3:16; 18:10; 1 Sam. 9:21; 23:9; 1 Kgs. 3:5; Neh. 2:8; Ps. 50:23; Prov. 23:2-8; Jer. 28:8-9; 49:20; 1 Cor. 9:27; 11:31; Col. 3:5; Jas. 1:26)
- ▷ God's view (Ezra 6:22; Prov. 21:1; Isa. 45:1-3; Dan. 4:32, 35; Hos. 14:9; Matt. 10:30)

## GOD'S DEEDS

What does God do to accomplish His master plan?

### ▶ SPECIAL ACTS

#### *Special acts in God's master plan (Exod. 3:1; Deut. 11:7)*

- ▷ Creation (Gen. 1:1, 21; 2:3-4; 5:2; Deut. 4:32; Pss. 8; 74:16-17; 89:11-12, 47; 104:5, 24; 139:13; 146:6; 148:5; Isa. 40:26; 42:5; 43:7-8; 45:12, 18; Matt. 19:14; Eph. 3:9; Col. 1:16; 1 Tim. 2:13; Heb. 1:2; Rev. 10:6)
- ▷ Guidance (Gen. 24:12; Jas. 1:5; 3:13-17)
- ▷ Saving acts/deliverance (Gen. 45:7; 49:18; Exod. 3:1, 8; Josh. 6:20; Judg. 4:7; 15:18; 1 Sam. 7:3; 1 Chr. 11:14; Neh. 9:27; Job 5:19; Pss. 3:8; 32:7; 68:20; Isa. 59:17; Hos. 6:1-2; Joel 2:32; Jon. 2:9; Luke 4:18; Rev. 7:10)
- ▷ Judgment (Exod. 9:6)
- ▷ Miracles
  - ▷ *Miracles/signs/wonders* (Exod. 4:8; 34:10; Num. 14:22; Deut. 6:22; Josh. 3:5; Ps. 72:18; John 2:11; Rom. 15:19; Gal. 3:5; Heb. 2:4)
  - ▽ OT
    - ▷ *Old Testament miracles*
      - ◆ The Flood (Gen. 7)
      - ◆ Confusion of tongues (Gen. 11:7)
      - ◆ Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19:24)
      - ◆ Lot's wife turned to a pillar of salt (Gen. 19:26)
      - ◆ Burning bush (Exod. 3:2)
      - ◆ Aaron's rod becomes a serpent (Exod. 7:8-13)
      - ◆ Water turned to blood (Exod. 7:14-25)
      - ◆ Frogs invade the land (Exod. 8:1-15)
      - ◆ Plague of insects (Exod. 8:16-32)
      - ◆ Plague of boils (Exod. 9:8-17)
      - ◆ Cattle die (Exod. 9:17)
      - ◆ Plague of hail (Exod. 9:18-35)
      - ◆ Plague of locusts (Exod. 10:1-20)
      - ◆ Darkness over the land (Exod. 10:21-29)
      - ◆ Firstborn killed (Exod. 11:1)
      - ◆ Red Sea divided (Exod. 14:21-31; Ps. 114:7)
      - ◆ Waters turned sweet at Marah (Exod. 15:23-25)
      - ◆ Provision of manna (Exod. 16:14-35; Num. 11:8)
      - ◆ Water from rock at Rephidim (Exod. 17:5-7)
      - ◆ A plague for idol worship (Exod. 32:35)
      - ◆ Nadab and Abihu judged (Lev. 10:1-2)
      - ◆ Judgment on portion of Israel (Num. 11:1-3)
      - ◆ Korah's rebellion (Num. 16:2, 32-35)
      - ◆ Aaron's rod budding (Num. 17:1-13)
      - ◆ Waters at Meribah (Num. 20:7-11)
      - ◆ The bronze snake (Num. 21:8-9)
      - ◆ Donkey speaks (Num. 22:21-33)
      - ◆ Jordan River stopped (Josh. 3:14-17)
      - ◆ Walls of Jericho fall (Josh. 6:6-20)
      - ◆ Sun and moon stayed (Josh. 10:11-14)
      - ◆ Water pours from the hollow place (Judg. 15:19)
      - ◆ Dagon falls (1 Sam. 5:1-12)
      - ◆ Men of Beth-shemesh smitten (1 Sam. 6:19)
      - ◆ Thunderstorm creates panic among Philistines (1 Sam. 7:10-12)
      - ◆ Sound in the poplar trees (2 Sam. 5:23-25)
      - ◆ Uzzah struck dead (2 Sam. 6:7)
      - ◆ Jeroboam's hand withered (1 Kgs. 13:4-6)
      - ◆ Widow of Zarephath's meal and oil increased by Elijah (1 Kgs. 17:14-16)
      - ◆ Drought, fire from heaven, and Elijah prays for rain (1 Kgs. 18:17-46)
      - ◆ Wall of the Aphek falls, destroying Syrians (1 Kgs. 20:30)



# DISCOVER MINISTRY

*Becoming an Agent of Change*

Have you ever been friends with a minister? If you know a Christian, then you have. We are all called to be ministers, representatives of Christ to our friends and in our world. We might not be paid by the church, but we are all called by God to be ministers wherever we are—in the home, on the job, or in our churches.

Many of us do important jobs. We may be leaders, or we may be followers, but all of us have tools we use to get our work done. Usually, we work on a schedule, and if it's not done on time, someone gets in trouble or even fired.

God's greatest tool to accomplish His will on earth is His church. But the church uses the preaching of the Word, the sacraments, evangelism, prayer, fasting—all of these are required by God at various times, but none of them have an instant effect. God has a plan, and He has the right tools, but He waits for the perfect moment to change our hearts and minds. To be an agent of change in God's kingdom, you must be patient, for God has His own sense of timing that may be far different from our own.

Do you see yourself as a minister? Consider yourself ordained by God to be a minister—first to your family, then to the world. Let your entire life be a sermon that teaches the world about your God.



**GREAT COMMISSION** *Because God has given us the good news of salvation,*

I will encourage my family, friends, and the world to know and act on His gospel.

**TRANSFORMATION** *Because God has made me to transform His world,*

I will risk everything to see His kingdom come and His will be done.



## GREAT COMMISSION

Being a Witness of Christ to the World: *How can we help fulfill the Great Commission?*

### ► WITNESS

#### *Being a witness*

- ▷ Witness in the power of the Holy Spirit (Josh. 5:1; Pss. 69:6; 96:2; Luke 4:14, 18; 24:46-49; John 4:4; 14:26; 15:26; 16:7-8, 13-15; Acts 1:5; 2:4; 7:2; 20:23; Rom. 8:16; 1 Thes. 1:5; 2 Tim. 1:6; Heb. 10:15)
- ▷ Turn others from Satan to God (Josh. 24:2-3; Ps. 107:2; Isa. 61:1; 63:7; Acts 10:38; 26:17-18; Rom. 2:19; Col. 1:13; 1 Thes. 5:5; 1 Tim. 3:7; 2 Tim. 2:26; Heb. 2:14; 1 Pet. 2:9; 2 Pet. 3:15; 1 Jn. 3:8-10)
- ▷ Having a bold witness (Ezra 3:3; Luke 3:7; Acts 18:8)
- ▷ Locally, regionally, worldwide (Job 37:24; Prov. 29:27; Jer. 46:26; Acts 1:8)
- ▷ Christ issues the call of the gospel (Ps. 20:5; Matt. 4:19; 9:9, 13, 37-38; Mark 1:16-20; 2:3-17; 3:13-14; Luke 5:10; 5:27, 32; 6:13; John 1:35-51; 5:16; Acts 1:24; 9:15; 22:21; 26:16; 2 Tim. 1:11)
- ▷ Witness in word and deed (Luke 9:1-6; 10:3-12)
- ▷ **Barriers**
  - Barriers to evangelism*
  - ◁ God deludes some people (Isa. 6:10; Rom. 9:13; 2 Thes. 2:10)
  - ◁ People don't want to hear the truth (Ezek. 2:4-7; Matt. 27:43, 63; Rom. 1:18)
  - ◁ No one to preach the gospel (Rom. 10:14-16)
  - ◁ Satan blinds people (2 Cor. 4:3-4)

### ► MAKE DISCIPLES

#### *Making disciples of all nations*

- ▷ Disciples enjoy God's presence (Gen. 39:2-3, 21; Exod. 3:12; Josh. 1:5; Ps. 140:13; Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Ezek. 48:35; Matt. 1:22-23; 28:20; Acts 18:9-10; 2 Tim. 4:16-17)
- ▷ Disciples are obligated to share Christ with others (Exod. 21:6; Ezra 5:11; Luke 12:37; 17:10; Rom. 1:1, 14-17; 6:16-18; 2 Cor. 5:14-15; Gal. 1:10; 6:10; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:7; 3:23; 2 Tim. 2:2; 4:7; Jas. 1:1; 1 Pet. 1:1; 1 Jn. 2:6; 4:19)
- ▷ Disciples strategically use material wealth (Deut. 6:10-12; 8:18; 1 Sam. 2:7; Job 8:15; 20:21; Matt. 6:19-21; 19:16; Mark 10:17; Luke 12:15; 18:18; 1 Tim. 6:17-18; 1 Jn. 3:17)
- ▷ Disciples strategically use knowledge, skills, and abilities (1 Sam. 27:10; 2 Chr. 29:34; Neh. 4:15; Prov. 3:21; 15:22; 18:1; Eccl. 12:9; Matt. 4:18-22; Rom. 12:1-3; 1 Pet. 4:10-11)
- ▷ Disciples are team-players (Neh. 3:8; 4:6; 1 Cor. 12:18; Eph. 4:15-16; Gal. 5:26; 1 Pet. 2:4-5)
- ▷ Disciples are not just followers, but also witnesses (Ezek. 44:19-25; Matt. 10:24-39; Mark 8:34; 10:21; Luke 9:23, 57-62; 14:26-27; John 1:43; 12:10; 14:12-13; 1 Pet. 2:9)
- ▷ Disciples function under God's authority (Ezek. 45:8-9; Matt. 28:18; Luke 10:19-20; Acts 19:13-16; Heb. 1:1-4; 1 Pet. 3:22)
- ▷ Disciples pray (Amos 7:2; Luke 10:2; John 17; 2 Cor. 4:4)
- ▷ Disciple by baptizing (Matt. 3:13, 16; 28:19; Mark

16:15-16; Acts 8:35-39; 9:18; 19:5; 22:16; Rom. 6:3-8; Eph. 4:5; Col. 2:12-13)

- ▷ Disciple by teaching (Matt. 4:23; 9:35; 21:23; 26:55; 28:20; Mark 6:6; 14:49; Luke 5:17; 13:10, 22; 21:37; 23:5; Acts 2:42; 5:25; 15:35; 18:11; 28:31; Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 13:10; Col. 1:28; 3:16; 1 Thes. 4:2ff)
- ▷ Disciples take advantage of open doors (1 Cor. 14:27; 16:9; 2 Cor. 2:12; Col. 4:3)
- ▷ **Prayers**
  - Prayers for unbelievers*
  - ◁ That they would seek God (Deut. 4:29)
  - ◁ That God would reveal Himself (Judg. 7:14; Luke 10:21-22)
  - ◁ That they would confess Christ as Lord (2 Kgs. 17:41; Rom. 10:9-10)
  - ◁ That they would believe in Christ as Savior (2 Chr. 11:15; John 1:12; 5:24)
  - ◁ That Satan would not blind them (Matt. 13:19; 2 Cor. 4:4)
  - ◁ That God would draw them (John 6:44)
  - ◁ That the Holy Spirit works in them (John 16:8-13)
  - ◁ That they might turn from their sin (Acts 3:19; 17:30-31)
  - ◁ That they would believe God's Word (Rom. 10:14-17; 1 Thes. 2:13)
  - ◁ That they would start with a solid root (Col. 2:6-7)

### ► RISK

#### *Change requires risk*

- ▷ Stepping outside of your "comfort zone" (Neh. 1:10; Esth. 3:2; Ezek. 4:10-17; Matt. 6:33; 8:18-22; 10:5-15, 22, 37-39; 16:24-28; 19:29-30; 20:16; Mark 10:29-31; Luke 9:57-62; 14:27; 18:29-30; Acts 9:15; Jas. 1:8)
- ▷ Opposition and ill-treatment (Ps. 118:6; Matt. 5:10-12; Luke 6:22-23; 22:28; Rom. 6:5; 8:17; 2 Cor. 1:5; 4:8-12, 17; Phil. 3:10; Col. 1:24; 1:29-2:1; 2 Tim. 3:12; 1 Pet. 3:13-21; 4:12-16)

### ► RECONCILE

#### *Sharing a ministry of reconciliation*

- ▷ Necessary because there is enmity between God and humanity (Isa. 59:2-8)
- ▷ All believers have this ministry (2 Cor. 5:18-6:2)
- ▷ Believers are ambassadors for Christ (2 Cor. 5:20)

### ► DESCRIPTION

#### *Describing a ministry of reconciliation*

- ▷ People are invited to Christ (Matt. 9:35-38; Mark 2:13-17; John 1:45-46; 1 Pet. 3:15-16)
- ▷ Good news for bad people (Luke 4:18-19)
- ▷ Reconciliation makes us holy, blameless, and irreprouchable in His sight (Rom. 4:6-8; 2 Cor. 5:19)
- ▷ The cross bridges the gap between God and humanity (Rom. 5:10; Col. 1:21-22)
- ▷ People hear of Christ through preaching (Rom. 10:14-15)
- ▷ Jesus gives us His perfect relationship with God (2 Cor. 5:21)
- ▷ It is made possible through Christ (Col. 1:19-20)
- ▷ God offers sacrifice (1 Jn. 2:1-2; 4:10)



**OLD TESTAMENT**



# GENESIS

## PURPOSE

*To teach the new nation of Israel about God's purpose for their journey to Canaan through a review of God's purpose in human history.*

***"In the beginning*** God created the heavens and the earth." These majestic words, the first ones in the Bible's first book, Genesis, tell us that everything and everyone had a beginning—except God. He has existed from eternity, and it is He who, by the word of His power, caused all things to be.

Because Genesis tells the story of God's creative work, it is sometimes called "The Book of Beginnings." But Genesis tells of more than the origin of the universe, of our world, of plants and animals, and of human beings. It also tells the story of the beginning of God's relationship with man. In Genesis we see a God who goes to extraordinary lengths to have a relationship with His created beings, even when they rebel against Him.

Genesis tells us the beginning of God's great work of redemption, of how He began to set apart a special people for Himself and set in motion the process that would culminate in the coming of Jesus Christ at the crux of history.

### DISCOVER GOD IN GENESIS

The following aspects of God's character stand out in Genesis:

***Power:*** God's power is unlimited. This is demonstrated in His creation of the universe. His power is manifested through His words: "Then God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light" (Genesis 1:3). Through the prophet Isaiah, God said that His Word always accomplishes the purpose for which it is uttered (Isaiah 55:11). The fact that God's power is sufficient to bring order out of chaos and to create the world out of nothing (Genesis 1:1–2:3) should give us confidence that He is able to effect change in our lives.

***Sovereignty:*** Because God created everything, the earth and all its inhabitants belong to Him. God in His sovereignty rules over them. His purposes are carried out both on a global basis (Creation, the Flood) and individually (the choosing of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and their descendants). In Genesis, we see God working behind the scenes to bring good out of evil (Genesis 50:20). God is powerful, yet personal, as He carries out His ultimate desires. When the unexplainable and unwanted intrude into our lives, we can find comfort in God's sovereign control over all things.

## GROWING THROUGH GENESIS

Genesis is the foundational book for the rest of Scripture. Important themes throughout Scripture have their start in this “Book of Beginnings.”

**Worldview:** Genesis establishes why we should live with a theocentric (God-centered) view of life. The earth and its inhabitants are not an evolutionary accident, devoid of moral and spiritual meaning. Genesis establishes that our lives have significance because we are created in God’s image.

### DISCOVERY VERSES

“And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her Offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike His heel.” (GENESIS 3:15)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (GENESIS 1:1)

“I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.” (GENESIS 12:3)

And Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD counted him as righteous because of his faith. (GENESIS 15:6)

**Redemption:** People were created by God to live forever in fellowship with Him. The chaos and troubles of our world are explained by the human choice to rebel against God. Genesis records the first redemptive acts by which God set in motion a plan to save our fallen race: His forgiveness and clothing of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden; His rescue of Noah and his family in the ark; His calling of Abram out of a life of idolatry. Faith is established in Genesis as an attitude of trust, manifested in obedience, which results in salvation.

**Providence:** As much as any book in the Bible, Genesis shows God’s guiding hand behind the affairs of nations and individuals. Reading Genesis helps us trust that God is active in our lives, even when we can’t understand what is happening around us.

**Consistency:** Though times and people change throughout the Bible, God is consistent. The God we meet in Genesis—and the basis of relating to Him by faith—does not change. Because God is the same yesterday, today, and forever, everything we learn about Him in Genesis we can apply to our lives today.

### GENESIS FACTS

**Author:** Scripture frequently refers to Moses as the author of Genesis and the four books following it. Jesus affirms this in Mark 7:10 and 12:26. The Apostles confess it in Acts 3:22. The author of Hebrews attributes the Law (the first five books of the Bible) to Moses (Hebrews 3:5; 7:14; 12:21).

**Written to:** The nation of Israel.

**Date of writing:** Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt around 1446 BC and up to the borders of the Promised Land forty years later. Moses likely wrote Genesis during that forty-year period.

**Setting:** There are three distinct locations in Genesis: Chapters 1–11 are set in Mesopotamia (modern Iraq); chapters 12–36 are set in the land of Canaan (modern Israel); and chapters 37–50 are set in Egypt, where the Hebrews lived as slaves for four hundred years.

### OUTLINE

- ▶ **GENESIS 1–2**—A history of God’s creation of all things for himself.
- ▶ **GENESIS 3:1–11:9**—A history of God’s creation of a people for himself.
- ▶ **GENESIS 11:10–50:26**—A history of God’s work among his people.

**THE ACCOUNT OF CREATION**

1:1  
Pss 89:11; 102:25  
Isa 42:5; 48:13  
John 1:1-2

**1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.\* <sup>2</sup>The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

1:2  
Ps 104:30  
Isa 45:18

<sup>3</sup>Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good. Then He separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light "day" and the darkness "night."

1:3  
Pss 33:9; 104:2  
Isa 45:7  
2 Cor 4:6

And evening passed and morning came, marking the first day.

1:1 Or *In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, . . .* Or *When God began to create the heavens and the earth, . . .*

**1:1** God existed before the creation of all things. In fact, He has always existed. In our ever-changing world, He alone is eternal. Because we are creatures of time and space, it is difficult for us to grasp the concept of eternity. We have created many ways to measure time, but none of them is adequate to express time without end. However, God's eternal existence gives us confidence in His dependability.



**BIBLE**

**1:1-31 Doctrine of creation.** Scripture affirms that "God created the heavens and the earth." The universe did not begin through evolution or any other "natural" means. Only a being who is external to the natural universe could have created it—and that being is God (Isaiah 45:11-12). The supernatural nature of God is evidenced in *how* He created the universe. When we *create* a work of art, we begin with a material and craft it into a new form. But God created the heavens and the earth out of nothing. Because God is the Creator, we can depend on Him (Psalm 24:1). (*See Bible*> *Unity*> *Doctrines*, TopicGuide page A10.)

**1:1-31** There has been much debate about how God created. It is important to focus on the basics and not digress into disputes about literal days or the length of each day. We know that God created all that is from nothing; how He did it is

something we will understand better when we stand before Him and see life from His perspective instead of our limited vantage point. The fact that we do not have all the answers about the process of creation should not limit our faith in the Creator.

**1:2** God is a spirit and does not have a physical body like men and women. The Gospel writer John quoted Jesus as stating this very fact: "For God is Spirit, so those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). The Spirit of God, hovering over the formless mass of earth, indicates the protective, creative power of God.



**BIBLE**

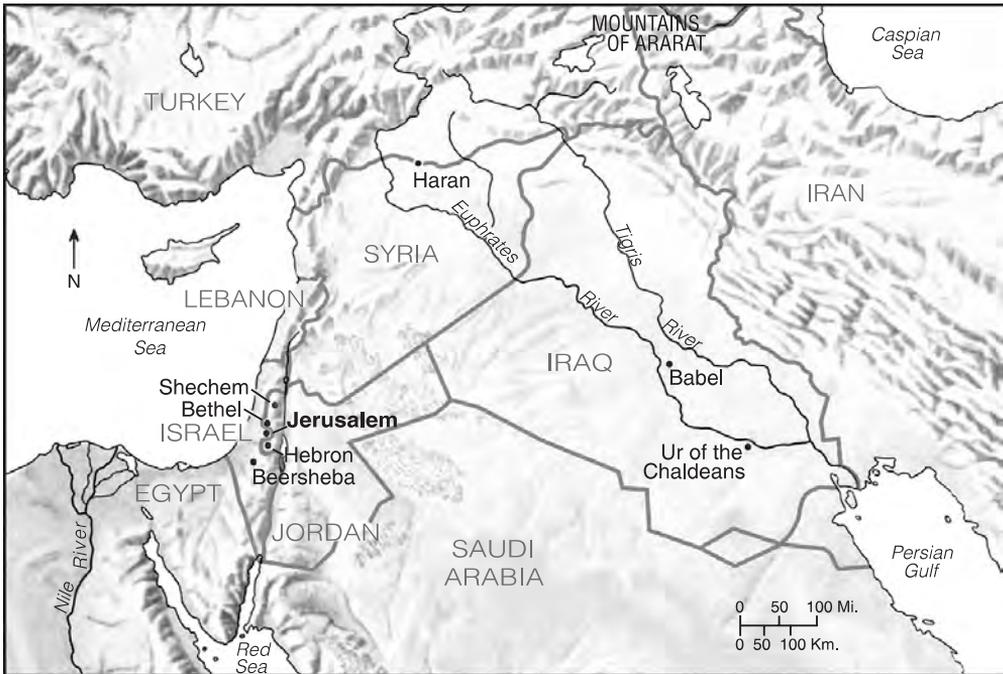
**1:3 Doctrine of the Word.** The fact that God said "Let there be light" in order to create light amid the primordial darkness demonstrates the creative power of God's Word. Throughout the Bible, God's Word is presented as having many of the same attributes that belong to God Himself. His words are eternal (Isaiah 40:8; see also John 10:35), always true (Psalm 119:160), and completely trustworthy (Psalm 119:105). As God's people, we can rely wholly on God's Word, its revelation of who God is, and its promises for us. God has given us His word. (*See Bible*> *Unity*> *Doctrines*, TopicGuide page A10.)

**DAYS OF CREATION**

*The days of Creation represent two sets of three days each. In the first set of days, God created the different spheres within Creation. In the second set of days, he filled these spheres with inhabitants. The days of creating the spheres and the days of filling the spheres follow the same order.*

<p><b>Day One</b> (Genesis 1:2-5)</p>	<p>God created the spheres of day and night.</p>	<p>God created the sun to fill the day, and He created the stars and moon to fill the night.</p>	<p><b>Day Four</b> (Genesis 1:14-19)</p>
<p><b>Day Two</b> (Genesis 1:6-8)</p>	<p>God created the spheres of sky and sea.</p>	<p>God created the birds to fill the sky, and He created the fish to fill the sea.</p>	<p><b>Day Five</b> (Genesis 1:20-23)</p>
<p><b>Day Three</b> (Genesis 1:9-13)</p>	<p>God created the dry ground and prepared it to support life.</p>	<p>God created land animals and human beings to fill the dry land.</p>	<p><b>Day Six</b> (Genesis 1:24-31)</p>

## KEY PLACES IN GENESIS



Modern names and boundaries are shown in gray.

*God created the universe and the earth. Then He made man and woman, giving them a home in a beautiful garden. Unfortunately, Adam and Eve disobeyed God and were banished from the garden (3:23).*

**1 Mountains of Ararat** Adam and Eve's sin brought sin into the human race. Years later, sin had run rampant, and God decided to destroy the earth with a great flood. But Noah, his family, and two of each animal were safe in a boat. When the floods receded, the boat rested on the mountains of Ararat (8:4).

**2 Babel** People never learn. Again sin abounded, and the pride of the people led them to build a huge tower as a monument to their own greatness—obviously they had no thought of God. As punishment, God scattered the people by giving them different languages (11:8, 9).

**3 Ur of the Chaldeans** Abram, a descendant of Shem and father of the Hebrew nation, was born in this great city (11:27, 28).

**4 Haran** Terah, Abram, Lot, and Sarai left Ur and, following the fertile crescent of the Euphrates River, headed toward the land of Canaan. Along the way, they settled in the village of Haran for a while (11:31).

**5 Shechem** God urged Abram to leave Haran and go to a place where he would become the father of a great nation (12:1, 2). So Abram, Lot, and Sarai traveled to the land of Canaan and settled near a city called Shechem (12:6).

**6 Hebron** Abraham moved on to Hebron where he put down his deepest roots (13:18). Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob all lived and were buried here.

**7 Beersheba** The well at Beersheba was a source of conflict between Abraham and King Abimelech and later became a sign of the oath that they swore there (21:31). Years later, as Isaac was moving from place to place, God appeared to him here and passed on to him the covenant he had made with his father, Abraham (26:23-25).

**8 Bethel** After deceiving his brother, Jacob left Beersheba and fled to Haran. Along the way, God revealed Himself to Jacob in a dream and passed on the covenant He had made with Abraham and Isaac (28:10-22). Jacob lived in Haran, worked for Laban, and married Leah and Rachel (29:15-30). After a tense meeting with his brother, Esau, Jacob returned to Bethel (35:1).

**9 Egypt** Jacob had 12 sons, including Joseph, Jacob's favorite. Joseph's 10 older brothers grew jealous, until one day the brothers sold him to Ishmaelite traders going to Egypt. Eventually, Joseph rose from Egyptian slave to Pharaoh's "right-hand man," saving Egypt from famine. His entire family moved from Canaan to Egypt and settled there (46:3-7).

- 1:6** 6Then God said, “Let there be a space between the waters, to separate the waters of the heavens from the waters of the earth.” 7And that is what happened. God made this space to separate the waters of the earth from the waters of the heavens. 8God called the space “sky.”
- 1:7** And evening passed and morning came, marking the second day.
- 1:8** 9Then God said, “Let the waters beneath the sky flow together into one place, so dry ground may appear.” And that is what happened. 10God called the dry ground “land” and the waters “seas.” And God saw that it was good. 11Then God said, “Let the land sprout with vegetation—every sort of seed-bearing plant, and trees that grow seed-bearing fruit. These seeds will then produce the kinds of plants and trees from which they came.” And that is what happened. 12The land produced vegetation—all sorts of seed-bearing plants, and trees with seed-bearing fruit. Their seeds produced plants and trees of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.
- 1:10** 13And evening passed and morning came, marking the third day.
- 1:11** 14Then God said, “Let lights appear in the sky to separate the day from the night. Let them mark off the seasons, days, and years. 15Let these lights in the sky shine down on the earth.” And that is what happened. 16God made two great lights—the larger one to govern the day, and the smaller one to govern the night. He also made the stars. 17God set these lights in the sky to light the earth, 18to govern the day and night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.
- 1:15** 19And evening passed and morning came, marking the fourth day.
- 1:16** 20Then God said, “Let the waters swarm with fish and other life. Let the skies be filled with birds of every kind.” 21So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that scurries and swarms in the water, and every sort of bird—each producing offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good. 22Then God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply. Let the fish fill the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth.”
- 1:18** 23And evening passed and morning came, marking the fifth day.
- 1:20** 24Then God said, “Let the earth produce every sort of animal, each producing offspring of the same kind—livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and wild animals.” And that is what happened. 25God made all sorts of wild animals, livestock, and small animals, each able to produce offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.
- 1:21** 26Then God said, “Let Us make human beings\* in Our image, to be like Us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.”

1:26 Or *man*; Hebrew reads *adam*.

**1:25** Our world bears the effects of generations of human sinfulness. But when God created the world and everything in it, He pronounced it good. The word *good* didn't have a special meaning; it meant just what it said. The heavenly bodies, the animals, the people, the soil, and all that grew in it were good things, things to be protected and honored. When we see God's original evaluation of His creation, we gain a better understanding of our responsibility to care for it.

**1:26** God refers to Himself in the plural, saying, “Let *Us*.” Throughout history, God has revealed Himself as God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit. God has always existed as these three persons. The New Testament writer Paul the apostle confirmed this truth: “For through [Christ] God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. . . .

Everything was created through Him and for Him” (Colossians 1:16). In describing Jesus, John the disciple wrote: “He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through Him, and nothing was created except through Him” (John 1:2-3).

**1:26** God created humanity in His image. This does not mean that we look like God, for God is a Spirit and does not have a physical form as we do. However, we are like Him in numerous ways. We have wills. We have souls. We are creative. We are relational beings. In creating us this way, God intended that we should mirror His character.

27 So God created human beings\* in His own image.

In the image of God He created them;  
male and female He created them.

28 Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground."

29 Then God said, "Look! I have given you every seed-bearing plant throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food. 30 And I have given every green plant as food for all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, and the small animals that scurry along the ground—everything that has life." And that is what happened.

31 Then God looked over all He had made, and He saw that it was very good!  
And evening passed and morning came, marking the sixth day.

**2** So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. 2 On the seventh day God had finished His work of creation, so He rested\*

1:27 Or *the man*; Hebrew reads *ha-adam*. 2:2 Or *ceased*; also in 2:3.

1:27

\*Matt 19:4

\*Mark 10:6

1:29

Gen 9:3

Pss 104:13; 136:25

1:30

Pss 104:14; 145:15

1:31

Ps 104:24

2:1

Deut 4:19; 17:3

Ps 104:2

Isa 45:12

2:2

Exod 20:11; 31:17

\*Heb 4:4



#### ► BIBLE

**1:28 Doctrine of the Cultural Mandate.** God's charge to Adam and Eve to be masters over the created order is often called the Cultural Mandate or Dominion Mandate. Initially, the first couple's responsibilities were limited to exercising dominion over the land and animal life. However, this stewardship over the earth eventually led Adam and Eve and their descendants from their humble agrarian beginnings to develop all the earth's resources for the advancement of worldwide civilizations. Therefore, it is from this command that the church derives its responsibility to shape every area of culture according to God's will, including politics, the fine arts, science, law, medical ethics, and more. This is what we, as God's people, should seek to do every day. (**See Bible**> *Unity*> *Doctrines*, TopicGuide page A10.)



#### ► WORSHIP

**2:2-3 God rested from all His work.** God did not rest because He was tired. He rested because His work was complete. The fourth of the Ten Commandments instructs us to follow God's example: "Remember to observe the Sabbath day" (Exodus 20:8). However, there is a truer, deeper rest than merely ceasing from physical labor. The author of Hebrews writes, "For all who have entered into God's rest have rested from their labors, just as God did after creating the world. So let us do our best to enter that rest" (Hebrews 4:10-11). This rest, this final salvation, comes through faith in God's completed work of redemption. Therein lies our true Sabbath. (**See Worship**> *OT*> *Festivals*> *Sabbath*, TopicGuide page A26.)

## MY RESPONSE TO GOD

### *Seeking God through His Word*

GENESIS 1-2

We cannot advance our knowledge of God beyond a rough character sketch through our own human abilities. But God, in His love and mercy, has taken steps to make Himself known to us in many ways. His primary vehicle for revealing Himself to those who hunger and thirst to know Him is His holy Word, the Bible.

In Genesis 1-2, God reveals Himself as our great Creator, unveiling His mighty works, unlimited power, and eternal knowledge. We learn immediately that our Creator-God knows no limitations.

The remainder of the Old Testament shows how God builds a nation of people dedicated to Him, and how He leads and blesses those people. God gives Israel laws and promises that establish His character as the perfect Judge.

In the New Testament, God reveals Himself most fully as our gracious Savior. The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus prove God's mercy and faithfulness. Through Jesus, we find that our Creator and Judge is also our loving Father.

2:3  
Isa 58:13  
2:4  
Gen 5:1; 6:9; 10:1  
Job 38:4-11

from all His work. <sup>3</sup>And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when He rested from all His work of creation.  
<sup>4</sup>This is the account of the creation of the heavens and the earth.

2:7  
Job 33:4  
Ps 103:14  
Ezek 37:5  
John 20:22  
\*1 Cor 15:45  
2:8  
Gen 3:23; 13:10  
Isa 51:3  
Ezek 28:13  
Joel 2:3  
2:9  
Prov 3:18; 11:30  
Ezek 47:12  
Rev 2:7; 22:2, 14  
2:10  
Rev 22:1, 17  
2:14  
Gen 15:18  
Dan 10:4  
2:16  
Gen 3:1-3  
2:17  
Gen 3:1, 16-17  
Deut 30:15, 19-20  
Rom 6:23  
Jas 1:15

**THE MAN AND WOMAN IN EDEN**  
When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, <sup>5</sup>neither wild plants nor grains were growing on the earth. For the LORD God had not yet sent rain to water the earth, and there were no people to cultivate the soil. <sup>6</sup>Instead, springs\* came up from the ground and watered all the land. <sup>7</sup>Then the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man’s nostrils, and the man became a living person.  
<sup>8</sup>Then the LORD God planted a garden in Eden in the east, and there He placed the man He had made. <sup>9</sup>The LORD God made all sorts of trees grow up from the ground—trees that were beautiful and that produced delicious fruit. In the middle of the garden He placed the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.  
<sup>10</sup>A river flowed from the land of Eden, watering the garden and then dividing into four branches. <sup>11</sup>The first branch, called the Pishon, flowed around the entire land of Havilah, where gold is found. <sup>12</sup>The gold of that land is exceptionally pure; aromatic resin and onyx stone are also found there. <sup>13</sup>The second branch, called the Gihon, flowed around the entire land of Cush. <sup>14</sup>The third branch, called the Tigris, flowed east of the land of Asshur. The fourth branch is called the Euphrates.  
<sup>15</sup>The LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. <sup>16</sup>But the LORD God warned him, “You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden—  
<sup>17</sup>except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die.”  
<sup>18</sup>Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him.” <sup>19</sup>So the LORD God formed from the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the sky. He brought them to the man\* to see what he would call

2:6 Or *mist*. 2:19 Or *Adam*, and so throughout the chapter.

**2:7** God made the first human being from the dust of the ground. He then breathed into Adam the breath of life. From the most basic elements of the planet on which we live, God formed a body and combined it with a soul to create an eternal being. God then made a woman from the man, the next generation of creation. When we die, God’s process of creation is reversed. Our souls return to the One who breathed us into being in the first place. Our bodies also return to the state from which they began. The psalmist says, “For He knows how weak we are; He remembers we are only dust. But the love of the LORD remains forever with those who fear Him” (Psalm 103:14, 17).

**2:9** God, who is holy, created a world He deemed good, so it is perplexing that evil came to exist in it, especially since the knowledge of good and evil was the one taboo in the original paradise. We have no definitive record of the origin of evil, but we know that as soon as God created the world, evil was in place to put it at risk. Tradition holds that Satan, the embodiment of evil, is actually a fallen angel. To support this idea, some scholars interpret Isaiah 14:12-15, a passage about the king of Babylon, as describing Satan’s fall. But for all that we don’t know about the origin of evil, we do know that God is greater and redemption from evil is possible through faith in God’s Son, Jesus Christ.

**2:10-14** Two of the rivers mentioned here, the Tigris and the Euphrates, are still flowing today. In some places, they flow so closely together that canals have been dug between them. The Garden of Eden was probably at the place where these two rivers, along with the Pishon and Gihon, found their source. The Pishon and Gihon have disappeared since these ancient days,

and we have no record of their location. From the description given here, the Garden was probably in southern Mesopotamia, later known as Babylonia. Today this would be in southeast Iraq.



**ADOPTION**

**2:17 Spiritually dead.** God’s prohibition against eating of the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil” was not motivated by fear that human knowledge might become equal to His own. It was aimed at frustrating any attempt on the part of the man and woman to pursue their own way in life. God’s warning was clear: Sin would bring severe spiritual consequences. Although Adam and Eve did not die on the spot when they violated this command, they did suffer immediate spiritual death that later led to physical death. From their story, believers can know that although our eternal relationship with God is forever secure, sin affects our fellowship with the Father and can lead to far greater consequences unless we repent. (**See Adoption**> *Without Christ*> *Separated from God*, TopicGuide page A36.)

**2:18-24** God Himself declared that it was not good for the man to be alone, but none of the animals could provide the kind of companionship Adam needed. So God created another human being—not another man but a woman. He did so by taking a rib from Adam and using it to fashion Eve. By creating her in this way, God showed that man and woman are to come together in the physical and spiritual unity of marriage. While the Bible does include examples of polygamy, these always represent exceptions to God’s original instructions for one man and one woman to marry for life.

them, and the man chose a name for each one. <sup>20</sup>He gave names to all the livestock, all the birds of the sky, and all the wild animals. But still there was no helper just right for him.

<sup>21</sup>So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the LORD God took out one of the man's ribs\* and closed up the opening. <sup>22</sup>Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib, and He brought her to the man.

<sup>23</sup>"At last!" the man exclaimed.

"This one is bone from my bone,  
and flesh from my flesh!  
She will be called 'woman,'  
because she was taken from 'man.'"

<sup>24</sup>This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.

<sup>25</sup>Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame.

### THE MAN AND WOMAN SIN

**3** The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the LORD God had made. One day he asked the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?"

<sup>2</sup>"Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden," the woman replied. <sup>3</sup>"It's only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, 'You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.'"

<sup>4</sup>"You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman. <sup>5</sup>"God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil."

<sup>6</sup>The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. <sup>7</sup>At that

2:21 Or *took a part of the man's side.*

**2:18**  
Gen 3:12  
Prov 18:22

**2:19**  
Gen 1:20-25

**2:22**  
1 Cor 11:8-9  
1 Tim 2:13

**2:23**  
Gen 29:14  
Eph 5:28-30

**2:24**  
\*Matt 19:5  
\*1 Cor 6:16  
Eph 5:31

**2:25**  
Gen 3:7, 10-11

**3:1**  
2 Cor 11:3  
Rev 12:9; 20:2

**3:2**  
Gen 2:16

**3:4**  
John 8:44  
2 Cor 11:3

**3:5**  
Gen 2:17; 3:22  
Isa 14:14  
Ezek 28:2

**3:6**  
2 Cor 11:3  
1 Tim 2:14  
Jas 1:14-15  
1 Jn 2:16



#### ► BIBLE

**3:1 Principle of temptation.** As a crafty serpent, Satan convinced Eve to doubt God's goodness and believe that she would be happier by disobeying Him. In the same way, this seductive tempter suggests that we will experience greater satisfaction, fulfillment, and happiness if we live contrary to God's will. He entices us with worldly pleasures to make us distrust and ignore God's Word, doubt His character, and question His motives. As we do, we lower our shield and expose ourselves to Satan's deception. But when we hold fast to our faith in God and join forces with fellow believers, we are kept safe. The spiritual shield that Christ has provided for us protects us against Satan's assaults. (**See Bible> Unity> Doctrines**, TopicGuide page A10.)

**3:1** Satan came to Eve in the form of a serpent to persuade her to ignore God's instructions. As punishment for tempting the woman, the serpent was cursed to crawl on its belly, which is the present form of snakes. Before this judgment, the snake may have had legs. Throughout the Bible, the image of the serpent is used to denote deception and wickedness. For instance, the serpent image is used to describe the speech of evil people (Psalm 140:3) and hypocritical Pharisees (Matthew 3:7). One of the most notable uses is Revelation 12:9, which describes the "ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world."

**3:1-2** Would humanity have stayed true to God if Satan had not been allowed access to Eden? The truth is that Adam and Eve, who had been created in God's image, had the ability to choose. Whether Satan's influence or the first couple's ability to choose evil was the cause of humanity's fall into sin, God allowed this choice to be made. However, He also provided a way for redemption.

**3:3-6** The serpent's argument was cunning. He said that, by eating the fruit, Eve somehow would increase in her knowledge of good and evil, but she would not die, as God had said. But those arguments should not have been the basis of Eve's decision. What was at stake was not just getting more knowledge, but Eve's relationship with her Maker. The same is at stake for each of us. No matter what the serpent argues, spiritual death and physical death have always been the consequences of disobedience.

**3:7** Before Adam and Eve acquired the knowledge of good and evil, they felt no shame. They experienced the world in pure innocence. With their new knowledge came a new embarrassment about their nakedness. They were so ashamed, in fact, that they created clothing from leaves and tried to hide from God, who had created them naked and innocent. Sin has the same effect today. The guilt we feel because of it drives us to hide from God, from each other, and even from ourselves. Sin feeds the irrational belief that we can somehow control God's perception of us, and thus His love and acceptance.

moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

**3:8** Lev 26:12 Deut 23:14 Job 31:33  
**3:9** Gen 4:9; 18:9  
 8When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man\* and his wife heard the LORD God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the LORD God among the trees. 9Then the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

**3:10** Deut 5:5  
 10He replied, "I heard You walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked."

**3:12** Prov 28:13  
 11"Who told you that you were naked?" the LORD God asked. "Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?"

**3:13** 2 Cor 11:3 1 Tim 2:14  
 12The man replied, "It was the woman You gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it."

**3:14** Deut 28:15 Isa 65:25  
 13Then the LORD God asked the woman, "What have you done?" "The serpent deceived me," she replied. "That's why I ate it."

**3:15** John 8:44 Rom 16:20 Heb 2:14  
 14Then the LORD God said to the serpent,  
 "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all animals, domestic and wild. You will crawl on your belly, groveling in the dust as long as you live.

15 And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her Offspring. He will strike\* your head, and you will strike His heel."

3:8 Or *Adam*, and so throughout the chapter. 3:15 Or *bruise*; also in 3:15b.

**3:8-9** The fellowship between God and His creation in the Garden was unique. During the time of Moses, God appeared in glory so powerful that He was dangerous to those who encountered him (Exodus 19:21-22). But the picture of God's presence here is of a friend walking through the woods and calling our name. It is akin to Jesus' presence among His disciples. The crushing effect of the Fall was that this sweet fellowship was broken. While it wasn't broken irreparably, the restoration of fellowship with God required ultimate sacrifice (Hebrews 9:14) and ultimate faith (John 14:23-24).

**3:15** Part of God's curse on Satan was the inauguration of a state of permanent enmity between his followers and God's followers. Unbelievers hate God and, by extension, those who belong to Him and seek to follow His ways. But this word of curse contained a hint of ultimate blessing. God declared that the conflict between Satan's followers and God's would come to a head one day when one of Eve's offspring would crush the head of the serpent at the cost of a wound to His heel. Christians throughout the ages have seen this verse as a prophecy of the work of Christ. His suffering and death were wrenching for Him, but death could not hold Him; He rose again on the third day. For Satan, however, the cross brought about complete and total defeat.

# BECAUSE GOD IS HOLY

*I will devote myself to him in purity, worship and service.*

And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy.

<sup>16</sup>Then He said to the woman,

“I will sharpen the pain of your pregnancy,  
and in pain you will give birth.  
And you will desire to control your husband,  
but he will rule over you.”\*

**3:16**  
1 Cor 11:3  
Eph 5:22  
1 Tim 2:15

<sup>17</sup>And to the man He said,

“Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree  
whose fruit I commanded you not to eat,  
the ground is cursed because of you.  
All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it.

**3:17**  
Job 5:7  
Eccl 1:3  
Rom 8:20-22

<sup>18</sup>It will grow thorns and thistles for you,  
though you will eat of its grains.

**3:18**  
Job 31:40  
Heb 6:8

<sup>19</sup>By the sweat of your brow  
will you have food to eat  
until you return to the ground  
from which you were made.  
For you were made from dust,  
and to dust you will return.”

**3:19**  
Gen 2:7  
Pss 90:3; 104:29  
Eccl 12:7  
1 Cor 15:47

## PARADISE LOST: GOD’S JUDGMENT

<sup>20</sup>Then the man—Adam—named his wife Eve, because she would be the mother of all who live.\* <sup>21</sup>And the LORD God made clothing from animal skins for Adam and his wife.

**3:20**  
2 Cor 11:3  
1 Tim 2:13

<sup>22</sup>Then the LORD God said, “Look, the human beings\* have become like Us, knowing both good and evil. What if they reach out, take fruit from the tree of life, and eat it? Then they will live forever!” <sup>23</sup>So the LORD God banished them from the Garden of Eden, and He sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made. <sup>24</sup>After sending them out, the LORD God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden. And He placed a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

**3:21**  
2 Cor 5:2-3

**3:22**  
Gen 1:26

**3:24**  
Ezek 10:1  
Rev 2:7; 22:2, 14

3:16 Or *And though you will have desire for your husband, / he will rule over you.* 3:20 *Eve* sounds like a Hebrew term that means “to give life.” 3:22 Or *the man*; Hebrew reads *ha-adam*.



### ► SPIRITUAL WARFARE

**3:16-19** The Fall subjected creation to bondage. The first couple’s disobedience incurred a divine curse by which God doomed the woman to intense pain and suffering in childbirth and placed a curse on the ground that made man’s work difficult. Clearly God disciplines the disobedient. This is because God’s standard is nothing short of sinlessness. However, only one person, our Lord Jesus Christ, has achieved that standard; we sin daily in manifold ways. Our goal and inner desire should be to please God through obedience. When we succumb to temptation, if we are truly repentant, God forgives our sin. However, as in the case of Adam and Eve, He may let us live with the consequences of our disobedience as a reminder to obey Him in the future. (See *Spiritual Warfare*> *Origin of Sin*> *Creation in bondage*> *God curses creation*, TopicGuide page A44.)

**3:21** In a gesture that revealed the depth of His grace and compassion for His people, God made clothing for Adam and Eve from animal skins. Their attempt to cover their nakedness with leaves was pathetically inadequate, but God’s clothing was durable and effective. In this simple gesture, we see another foreshadowing of what Christ accomplished for His people much later. By obeying God’s law in every point, Christ compiled a record of perfect righteousness that God transfers to those He calls to Himself. This “clothing” of righteousness covers all the shame of those who are soiled by sin.

**3:22-23** The Genesis account identifies two significant trees in the Garden: the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and the tree of life. From these verses, we can assume that with access to the tree of life, Adam and Eve could have lived forever in their sinful state. Thus, barring Adam and Eve from access to this tree was an act of mercy on God’s part. The tree of life reappears at the end of the scriptural record as the book of Revelation describes the new heaven and new earth that God has waiting for us. In that new world there is another paradise, with two trees of life-bearing fruit waiting for everyone who believes (Revelation 22:2). It is a full-circle journey to the life God has offered all along.

**CAIN AND ABEL**

**4:2** Luke 11:50-51 **4** Now Adam\* had sexual relations with his wife, Eve, and she became pregnant. When she gave birth to Cain, she said, "With the LORD's help, I have produced\* a man!"  
**4:3** Lev 2:1-2 **2** Later she gave birth to his brother and named him Abel.  
 Num 18:12 When they grew up, Abel became a shepherd, while Cain cultivated the ground. **3** When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the LORD. **4** Abel also brought a gift—the best of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The LORD accepted Abel and his gift, **5** but He did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected.  
**4:4** Exod 13:12 Heb 11:4 **6** "Why are you so angry?" the LORD asked Cain. "Why do you look so dejected? **7** You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master."  
**4:8** Rom 6:12, 16 Jas 1:15 **8** One day Cain suggested to his brother, "Let's go out into the fields."\* And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother, Abel, and killed him.  
 Matt 23:35 1 Jn 3:12

*4:1a Or the man; also in 4:25. 4:1b Or I have acquired. Cain sounds like a Hebrew term that can mean "produce" or "acquire." 4:8 As in Samaritan Pentateuch, Greek and Syriac versions, and Latin Vulgate; Masoretic Text lacks "Let's go out into the fields."*

**4:2** Adam and Eve's sons had occupations. Cain was a farmer and Abel was a shepherd. When God explained the consequences of sin to Adam in Genesis 3:17-19, He made it clear that the earth no longer would provide free bounty. Instead, life would be a struggle—people would have to "scratch a living" for themselves. Still, it could be done. Since human beings were created in God's image, they, too, could create. When Cain was driven out after killing Abel, he was unable even to raise crops. But within a few generations, his family produced herdsmen, musicians, and metalsmiths.

**4:3-5** These verses give no clear reason as to why God didn't accept Cain's offering. But Hebrews 11:4 sheds more light, telling us that Abel's faith made his offering more acceptable. The brothers not only came with different offerings but with different attitudes. Abel brought his very best; Cain did not. Cain's reaction revealed his inner spirit: jealousy, violence, and self-centeredness. Even when God banished him, his first concern was his safety rather than any kind of remorse. It wasn't necessarily that sheep were a better sacrifice than produce. It was that a pure heart was more acceptable to a righteous God.

**4:6-7** God's answer to Cain was clear: "You will be accepted if you do what is right." As we look back through history, we sometimes think that God asked for a different kind of faith in the Old Testament, but God's response to Cain reveals that His requirements for us have never changed. Cain's attitude alienated him from God. On the other hand, Romans 4:3 says that God declared Abraham righteous because of his faith. From those early times to the present, God has always wanted a relationship with His people based on trust and love.

**4:8-10** It took only one generation for the sin unleashed in the Garden to lead to the first act of violence. And Cain didn't just give his brother a bloody nose; he took his life. By the time Noah came on the scene several generations later, the world was filled with violence (Genesis 6:11). This is a hallmark of human history; it has never been easy to find nonviolent options for settling disagreements. Prophets like Isaiah called violence a trademark of evil (Isaiah 59:6) and Solomon wrote proverbs warning against violence (Proverbs 13:2). Yet we continue to struggle against the violence unleashed at the beginning of the world.

FOR THE NEXT GOD IS MERCIFUL FEATURE SEE PAGE 268.

BECAUSE GOD IS  
 MERCIFUL

*He forgives me of my sins when I sincerely confess them.*

And the LORD God made clothing . . . for Adam and his wife.



**WITH A SINGLE UTTERANCE**, God spoke the universe into being—a universe that astronomers estimate contains more than 100 billion galaxies. But all of the power contained within this universe—the combined energy of every star, storm, wind, ocean wave, and atom—does not equal even a fraction of God’s almighty power. He is not restrained or inhibited by any of His created beings. People and nations are powerless when confronted by His might.

For some people, the idea that God is all-powerful is little comfort, because they are skeptical about His willingness to get intimately involved in their affairs. They assume we must live by luck or by good breaks produced by our own hard work and cleverness.

However, when we look at the universe, we see order and design. Everything has its place, its purpose. God’s Word confirms that He has a design for this world and for every person in it: “I have a plan for the whole earth, a hand of judgment upon all the nations” (Isaiah 14:26).

Such unlimited power would be terrifying if God were a tyrant who meted out His power indiscriminately. Fortunately, the Bible says God acts out of love and righteousness. Simply put, God cares for us. No matter what you might be facing, God can help you. Nothing is too hard for Him. There is no need too great for Him to meet. There is no problem too complicated for Him to solve. There is no foe too strong for Him to conquer. There is no prayer too difficult for Him to answer.

Some of us may question why God does not answer our prayers when and in the way that we ask. But God is not a genie or Santa Claus; He does not give us everything we want just the way we want it. We must remember that, in addition to His power, God has perfect knowledge. He alone knows everything, so He knows what we need far better than we do.

No matter what happens anywhere in the world at any moment, God is in control. This is a comforting truth. Would you like to live in a world where everyone could do whatever he or she wanted? Can you imagine the chaos? While it might seem at times that this world is chaotic and out of control, God knows what is in the future. He is not the author of evil and suffering, and neither is He responsible for the consequences of humankind’s sins.

God is seeking faithful servants to be channels of His incredible power. The Bible is full of instances in which God did extraordinary miracles through His servants. Although we feel weak at times, through the power of the name of Jesus Christ and through faith in our almighty and powerful God, we can stand firm and say no to temptation. We can quit any habit or addiction. We can speak up to tell the truth at any time.

If we really believe that God is all-powerful, we will no longer walk in fear and unbelief. Like Abram, we will place our faith in God—not necessarily *great faith* in God, but faith in a *great God*, who is omnipotent. In turn, He will lead us into a life full of adventure and purpose. There is no better way to live!

**COVENANTS**

*Covenants may be described either as events, such as a ceremony in which a covenant is sworn between two parties, or as relationships, such as the ongoing relationship between God and His people. Many different covenants punctuate Old Testament history. These covenants generally follow the pattern of Ancient Near-Eastern treaties between great empires and their servant nations. They were typically made between God as the Great King and an individual human leader who represented the servant nation. Covenants bound both parties to certain behaviors. The Great King promised blessings and benevolence in return for the obedience of the servant nation, and threatened punishment should the servant nation rebel. In the New Testament, Jesus became the Servant King over the nation of Israel.*

Covenant	Requirements	Blessings & Curses
Covenant with Adam as the head of humanity (Genesis 1:28-30; 2:15-17)	Work and keep the Garden of Eden, minister to the Lord therein, and refrain from eating of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Multiply and take dominion over the earth.	Obedience would bring humanity’s rule over the earth as God’s vice-regents. Disobedience would result in the death of the entire human race.
Covenant with Noah as the head of humanity (Genesis 6:18-22; 9:1-17)	Observe and maintain God’s moral requirements, including multiplying and taking dominion over the earth.	Blessing of global stability so that life and multiplication could continue. Disobedience would result in death.
Covenant with Abraham as the head of Israel (Genesis 15:9-21; 17:1-27)	Serve God faithfully and blamelessly, and maintain the practice of circumcision in order to multiply and take dominion over the earth.	Obedience would bring blessings to all nations through Abraham’s many descendants and inheritance of the Promised Land. The disobedient would fall under God’s judgment.
Covenant with Israel through the mediation of Moses (Exodus 19–24)	Keep the whole Mosaic Law, including the command to inhabit the Promised Land and extend God’s kingdom to the ends of the earth.	Obedience would be blessed with long, prosperous life in the Promised Land. Disobedience would bring many curses, culminating in exile.
Covenant with David as the head of Israel (2 Samuel 7; Psalms 89; 132)	The nation and its Davidic kings were to keep the whole Mosaic Law. The kings were to be especially faithful to God.	Obedience would provide godly leadership to the nation, resulting in prosperity and the expansion of the kingdom to the whole earth. Disobedience would bring exile.
New Covenant, made with Jesus as the head of Israel (Isaiah 54:10; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 34:25; 37:26; Hebrews 8:6-13)	Perfect obedience to God’s law, and the perfect fulfillment of all His prior requirements. Attainable only through the obedience of Christ.	The obedience of Christ results in eternal life of dominion over the new earth for the faithful. Disobedience of unbelievers is punished by eternal condemnation in hell.



**NEW TESTAMENT**

## KEY PLACES IN MATTHEW



The broken lines (---) indicate modern boundaries.

Jesus' earthly story begins in the town of Bethlehem in the Roman province of Judea (2:1). A threat to kill the infant king led Joseph to take his family to Egypt (2:14). When they returned, God led them to settle in Nazareth in Galilee (2:22, 23). At about age 30, Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River and was tempted by Satan in the Judean wilderness (3:13; 4:1). Jesus set up his base of operations in Capernaum (4:12, 13) and from there ministered throughout Israel, telling parables, teaching about the Kingdom, and healing the sick. He traveled to the region of the Gadarenes around Gadara and healed two demon-possessed men (8:28ff); fed over 5,000 people with five loaves and two fish on the shores of Galilee near Bethsaida (14:15ff); healed the sick in Gennesaret (14:34ff); ministered to the Gentiles in Tyre and Sidon (15:21ff); visited Caesarea Philippi, where Peter declared Him to be the Messiah (16:13ff); and taught in Perea, east of the Jordan (19:1). As He set out on His last visit to Jerusalem, He told the disciples what would happen to Him there (20:17ff). He spent some time in Jericho (20:29) and then stayed in Bethany at night as He went back and forth to Jerusalem during His last week (21:17ff). In Jerusalem He would be crucified, but He would rise again.



# MATTHEW

## PURPOSE

*To present Jesus as the deliverer—the Messianic King—that God promised and the Old Testament Scriptures foretold.*

**Matthew knew that the world** was in trouble—people in his day knew things weren’t quite right. They were longing for God to appear and bring some change to the trouble they faced under the oppression of a foreign power that had subjugated the whole known world.

God had promised the people of Israel that He would bring them a Deliverer/King who ultimately would lead them into a wonderful realm of peace and blessing. The entire world would experience transformation through His coming. This Deliverer would be called the *Messiah*—a Hebrew word that means “anointed one.” To speak of someone being anointed is to note that that person has been particularly blessed by God for a particular task. Jesus is that Messiah. (The Greek word for “anointed one” is *Christ*, another title for Jesus.)

Matthew’s purpose is to demonstrate that Jesus is that Messiah and to display what changes will follow in the world in the wake of His coming. Jesus came from the right family line to fulfill the promise of the Messiah (1:1-17). He was born where the prophets said the Messiah would be born (2:5-6). Throughout this Gospel, Matthew makes clear that Jesus fulfilled the promises of the Old Testament regarding the coming Messiah (for example, see 4:13-16; 11:10-15; 12:15-21; 21:1-5; 26:31-32, 52-54; 27:9). And Jesus’ miracles are presented as evidence that God’s Kingdom has broken into the world through Jesus in a unique and powerful way (8:14-17; 12:28).

The change that was to come in the world is found in Jesus’ own words, which make up over sixty percent of Matthew’s Gospel. In the numerous recorded sermons of Jesus found in Matthew (5:1–7:28; 10:5-42; 23:1-39; 24:1–25:46), we can hear Jesus explain the kind of life His entrance into the world would usher in.

Matthew closes his account of Jesus’ inaugural mission with Jesus’ commission—given to His followers—to extend His presence, influence, and power throughout the whole world (28:16-20). Jesus is indeed the deliverer, the Savior, and the Messiah for all people everywhere.

### DISCOVER GOD IN MATTHEW

We can grow in our understanding of God’s priorities, passions, and character as we watch the life and ministry of Jesus, the Messiah, God’s promised deliverer unfold. Jesus came to live out His Father’s plan and to reveal the Father to us.

**Promise Keeper:** Right from the start, Matthew reminds us that Jesus’ life and ministry were nothing less than the fulfillment of what God had promised long before (for example, see 1:22; 2:5; 3:3). Throughout his Gospel, Matthew affirms time and again that Jesus is the demonstration of God’s faithfulness to His Word.

**Ever-present God:** One of the first prophecies that Matthew cites affirmed that Jesus would be called *Immanuel*, a Hebrew name that means “God is with us” (1:22-23). This theme of God’s presence among His people surfaces often throughout the book (for example, 5:3-10; 6:6, 8), and Jesus’ acts of deliverance from oppression signify the reality of this truth (12:28).

**Loving Father:** In the many teachings of Jesus that Matthew records, Jesus typically referred to God as “Father” and pictured Him as One who cares for those who choose to become disciples (for example, see 6:28-34; 7:7-11). Jesus also taught His disciples to pray by addressing God as “Father” (6:9), which conveys a sense of tenderness and closeness.

## GROWING THROUGH MATTHEW

Matthew’s Gospel provides ample insights for the follower of Jesus through both His life and His words.

**The Values of the Kingdom:** In what is called the Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5–7), Jesus explained what really matters in His Kingdom. These words are not a how-to guide for getting into heaven, but a description of the kind of attitude that should be found among those who seek to live under Jesus’ influence and rule.

**The Servants of the Kingdom:** When Jesus sent out His twelve closest followers for the first time (chapter 10), He detailed how they were to serve God and people. Because Jesus had come to bring a new kind of life, the twelve were to go out spreading that kind of life. They were to live as extensions of Jesus’ own ministry in every community they visited.

**The Growth of the Kingdom:** In chapter 13, Jesus told a number of parables that explained how His Kingdom would move throughout the earth. A few of the parables pictured the variety of responses people would have toward His message—some would receive Jesus and His message and some would not (13:1-23, 36-43). But in spite of the mixed response, Jesus made it clear that His Kingdom would ultimately reign victorious (13:24-33, 47-50).

**The Priorities of the Kingdom:** In a series of short messages (chapters 18–19), Matthew records Jesus’ words regarding what needs to be foremost in the mind and heart of every one of His followers. Living out the kind of life Jesus intends for His followers will require humility (18:1-10), a heart ready to forgive others (18:21-35), and a willingness to live for the values of Jesus’ Kingdom above all else (19:16-30).

**The Future of the Kingdom:** Although Jesus inaugurated the “breaking in” of God’s Kingdom into this world, Jesus told His friends and followers that the full realization of Kingdom life was still in the future (chapters 24–25). Even though Jesus didn’t tell them all the details, it is clear from what He said that there is hardship ahead for those who seek to follow Him—but that trouble will ultimately give way to a glorious victory for Jesus and those who believe in Him.

## DISCOVERY VERSES

But Jesus said, “Let the children come to Me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children.”  
(MATTHEW 19:14)

Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And He healed every kind of disease and illness. When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.  
(MATTHEW 9:35-36)

A sign was fastened to the cross above Jesus’ head, announcing the charge against Him. It read: “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.” (MATTHEW 27:37)

## MATTHEW FACTS

**Author:** Matthew. No evidence or tradition argues otherwise. (Papias, an earlier church father who lived c. AD 60–130, made a widely known reference to the writings of Matthew.) The author of this Gospel demonstrates a familiarity with the money and taxes of the day (17:24, 27; 18:24; 25:15-30), which adds support to his identity as Matthew (also called Levi son of Alphaeus; see Mark 2:14).

**Written to:** Matthew clearly was interested in the fulfillment of the Old Testament Scriptures as has already been noted; there are more direct references and allusions to the Old

Testament in Matthew than in the other Gospels. Matthew also gives indication that his readers were familiar with Jewish practices of the day (see, for example, 12:9-10; 15:1-2). These observations, supported by some references from early church history, suggest that Matthew was writing primarily to a Jewish audience.

**Date of writing:** Matthew noted that the guards' story of what happened at the empty tomb of Jesus is one "they still tell . . . today" (28:15), suggesting that some time had passed since the events of the resurrection. Matthew made no reference, however, to the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem (AD 70), which would have been very significant to his Jewish readers. Thus, Matthew probably wrote his account sometime between the mid-50s and the mid-60s.

**Setting:** Since Jesus spent all of His earthly life in and around the land of Palestine, Matthew's Gospel is set in Palestine and the neighboring areas.

**OUTLINE**

- ▶ **MATTHEW 1:1–4:11**—Presentation of Jesus as the Messiah
- ▶ **MATTHEW 4:12–11:30**—Proclamation of Jesus the Messiah
- ▶ **MATTHEW 12:1–20:28**—Progressive Rejection of Jesus as the Messiah
- ▶ **MATTHEW 20:29–28:20**—Jesus' Death and Resurrection the Fulfillment of Old Testament Messianic Prophecies

**THE ANCESTORS OF JESUS THE MESSIAH**

**1** This is a record of the ancestors of Jesus the Messiah, a descendant of David\* and of Abraham:

**1:1-17**  
//Luke 3:23-38  
  
**1:1**  
Gen 22:18  
1 Chr 17:11  
  
**1:2**  
Gen 21:3, 12;  
25:26; 29:35  
1 Chr 1:34  
  
**1:3**  
Gen 38:29-30  
Ruth 4:12, 18-19  
1 Chr 2:4-5, 9

- <sup>2</sup> Abraham was the father of Isaac.  
Isaac was the father of Jacob.  
Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers.
- <sup>3</sup> Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah (whose mother was Tamar).  
Perez was the father of Hezron.  
Hezron was the father of Ram.\*
- <sup>4</sup> Ram was the father of Amminadab.

1:1 Greek *Jesus the Messiah, son of David*. 1:3 Greek *Aram*, a variant spelling of Ram; also in 1:4. See 1 Chr 2:9-10.

**1:1** Matthew was a Jewish author writing for readers who were concerned about the Jewish faith and history. He began his account of the good news about Jesus by providing a genealogy that shows readers: (1) Jesus is a true Jew, descended from Abraham; (2) Jesus has a claim to the Jewish throne because He descended from David; and (3) Jesus is the promised Messiah, a title that refers to a promised Deliverer who would come from God and establish God's Kingdom on earth.

**1:2-17** Matthew's genealogy may not include all those in Jesus' lineage. Matthew was selective in highlighting key people in the genealogy in order to underscore Jesus' royal heritage. Matthew arranged the names in three groups of fourteen, which was the number assigned to David's name by Hebrew scholars who practiced *gematria*. Gematria consists of two main practices: the assignment of numbers to Hebrew letters and words, and the study of the meaning of those numbers. Gematria predates Kaballa and should not be confused with this mystical sect of Judaism.



**▶ BIBLE**

**1:1-16 God's covenant with Abraham.** God doesn't make small promises. He made a covenant with Abraham (Genesis 12:1-9) promising to bless Abraham's descendants, and ultimately all the peoples of the world. In Galatians 3:16, Paul emphasized that this promise was to be fulfilled through a single descendant of Abraham. That person is Jesus Christ. He blesses all those who look to God and place their faith in Him to provide a Savior (Galatians 3:29). Look to God for salvation, for He is just as faithful to fulfill His marvelous promises today as He was with Abraham. (**See Bible> Unity> Christ> Christ in the promise to Abraham**, TopicGuide page A10.)

**1:3-6** Uncharacteristic of genealogies of the day, Matthew's genealogy noted four women: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba. These women played significant roles in the life of the nation of Israel—and were celebrated in the Old Testament for their actions—yet their highest honor is their mention here as a significant part of Jesus' lineage.

Amminadab was the father of Nahshon.

Nahshon was the father of Salmon.

<sup>5</sup> Salmon was the father of Boaz (whose mother was Rahab).

Boaz was the father of Obed (whose mother was Ruth).

Obed was the father of Jesse.

<sup>6</sup> Jesse was the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon (whose mother was Bathsheba, the widow of Uriah).

<sup>7</sup> Solomon was the father of Rehoboam.

Rehoboam was the father of Abijah.

Abijah was the father of Asa.\*

<sup>8</sup> Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat.

Jehoshaphat was the father of Jehoram.\*

Jehoram was the father\* of Uzziah.

<sup>9</sup> Uzziah was the father of Jotham.

Jotham was the father of Ahaz.

Ahaz was the father of Hezekiah.

<sup>10</sup> Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh.

Manasseh was the father of Amon.\*

Amon was the father of Josiah.

<sup>11</sup> Josiah was the father of Jehoiachin\* and his brothers (born at the time of the exile to Babylon).

<sup>12</sup> After the Babylonian exile:

Jehoiachin was the father of Shealtiel.

Shealtiel was the father of Zerubbabel.

<sup>13</sup> Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud.

Abiud was the father of Eliakim.

Eliakim was the father of Azor.

<sup>14</sup> Azor was the father of Zadok.

Zadok was the father of Akim.

Akim was the father of Eliud.

<sup>15</sup> Eliud was the father of Eleazar.

Eleazar was the father of Matthan.

Matthan was the father of Jacob.

<sup>16</sup> Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary.

Mary gave birth to Jesus, who is called the Messiah.

<sup>17</sup>All those listed above include fourteen generations from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the Babylonian exile, and fourteen from the Babylonian exile to the Messiah.

## THE BIRTH OF JESUS THE MESSIAH

<sup>18</sup>This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Joseph, her fiancé, was a good man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement\* quietly.

<sup>20</sup>As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within

1:7 Greek *Asaph*, a variant spelling of Asa; also in 1:8. See 1 Chr 3:10. 1:8a Greek *Joram*, a variant spelling of Jehoram; also in 1:8b. See 1 Kgs 22:50 and note at 1 Chr 3:11. 1:8b Or *ancestor*; also in 1:11. 1:10 Greek *Amas*, a variant spelling of Amon; also in 1:10b. See 1 Chr 3:14. 1:11 Greek *Jeconiah*, a variant spelling of Jehoiachin; also in 1:12. See 2 Kgs 24:6 and note at 1 Chr 3:16. 1:19 Greek *to divorce her*.

1:4-5

Ruth 4:13, 17-22  
1 Chr 2:10-12, 15  
Heb 11:31

1:6

Ruth 4:17, 22  
2 Sam 12:24  
1 Chr 2:13-15

1:7-10

1 Chr 3:10-14

1:11

2 Kgs 24:14-16  
1 Chr 3:15-16  
Jer 27:20  
Dan 1:1-2

1:12

1 Chr 3:17, 19  
Ezra 3:2

1:16

Matt 27:17, 22  
Luke 2:11

1:18-25

//Luke 2:1-7

1:18

Luke 1:27, 35  
Gal 4:4

1:19

Deut 24:1

1:20

Luke 1:35

1:16 Matthew comments carefully about Jesus' relationship to Joseph and Mary, anticipating what he will reveal about

Jesus' unique birth. In 1:18 Matthew reveals that Mary "became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit."

**1:21** her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>And she will have a son, and you are to name Him Jesus,\* for He will save His people from their sins.”  
 Luke 1:31; 2:11, 21  
 Acts 5:31; 13:23  
 Heb 7:25

<sup>22</sup>All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord’s message through His prophet:  
**1:23** <sup>23</sup>“Look! The virgin will conceive a child!  
 She will give birth to a son,  
 and they will call Him Immanuel,\*  
 which means ‘God is with us.’”  
 \*Isa 7:14; 8:8, 10  
 John 1:14  
 1 Tim 3:16

<sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. <sup>25</sup>But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named Him Jesus.  
**1:25**  
 Luke 1:31

**VISITORS FROM THE EAST**

**2:1** Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men\* from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, <sup>2</sup>“Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw His star as it rose,\* and we have come to worship Him.”  
 Luke 1:5; 2:4-7

**2:2** <sup>3</sup>King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup>He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”  
 Num 24:17  
 Jer 23:5  
 Matt 2:9  
 Rev 22:16

1:21 *Jesus* means “The LORD saves.” 1:23 Isa 7:14; 8:8, 10 (Greek version). 2:1 Or *royal astrologers*; Greek reads *magi*; also in 2:7, 16. 2:2 Or *star in the east*.



**► GOD**

**1:21-23 “God is with us.”** The God we worship is not some distant, uninvolved deity who is unconcerned about our lives and what is happening in our world. Our God is not only aware of what is occurring on this planet, but He is also willing and able to intervene on our behalf. How do we know this? In an incredible act of grace, God came in the person of the Son and took on human flesh in order to live among us and rescue us from our sin. Look around you—can you see how God is with you? Or do you find it hard to see His work? Ask God to help you see Him working in your life and your world. (**See God**> *God’s Names*> *Son*> *Immanuel*, TopicGuide page A19.)

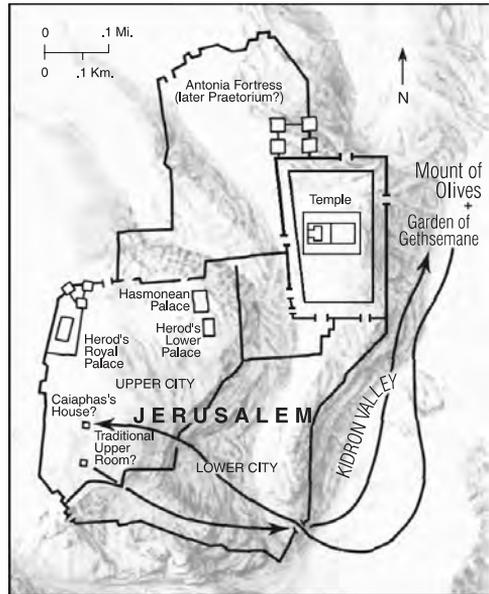
**1:23** This is the first of many Old Testament quotes that Matthew offers as he presents Jesus as the Messiah, the promised Deliverer that the nation of Israel was looking for. This quote comes from Isaiah 7:14, part of a passage in which the prophet spoke about God’s plans for the nation’s future.

**2:1-2** The wise men who came looking for the newborn Jewish king would have likely been counselors and advisers of the royal courts in lands to the east of Israel. Such men would have studied both religious texts and natural signs in a desire to discern what was going on in the world. They had seen a unique star in the sky that suggested to them that Israel was to have a new king.



**► WORSHIP**

**2:1-11 The wise men worshiped the Christ child.** How seriously do you take your worship? How much do you let your hunger for worship influence your life? Consider the wise men mentioned in these verses. They must have journeyed for months and faced untold hardships. They sacrificed the comforts their position afforded and risked their lives at the hands of bandits and, not the least, King Herod. And what was their goal? Simply to worship Jesus. Are you easily dissuaded from finding a good church or a quiet moment to worship God? It’s always worth the effort to find a way to worship Jesus the King. (**See Worship**> *NT*> *Christ’s Supremacy*> *Jesus is God with us*, TopicGuide page A29.)



**THE PASSOVER MEAL AND GETHSEMANE**

Jesus, who would soon be the final Passover Lamb, ate the traditional Passover meal with His disciples in the upper room of a house in Jerusalem. During the meal they partook of the bread and wine, which would be the elements of future Communion celebrations, and then went out to the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives.

5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they said, "for this is what the prophet wrote:

2:5  
John 7:42

6 'And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah,  
are not least among the ruling cities\* of Judah,  
for a ruler will come from you  
who will be the shepherd for My people Israel.\*"

2:6  
\*Mic 5:2

7 Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. 8 Then he told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find Him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship Him, too!"

9 After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! 11 They entered the house and saw the child with His mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

2:9  
Matt 2:2

2:11  
Ps 72:10  
Isa 60:6

12 When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

2:12  
Matt 2:22

**THE ESCAPE TO EGYPT**

13 After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and His mother," the angel said. "Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill Him."

2:13  
Matt 1:20; 2:19

14 That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, His mother, 15 and they stayed there until Herod's death. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: "I called My Son out of Egypt."\*

2:15  
\*Hos 11:1

16 Herod was furious when he realized that the wise men had outwitted him. He sent soldiers to kill all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under, based on the wise men's report of the star's first appearance. 17 Herod's brutal action fulfilled what God had spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

18 "A cry was heard in Ramah—  
weeping and great mourning.  
Rachel weeps for her children,  
refusing to be comforted,  
for they are dead."\*

2:18  
\*Jer 31:15

**THE RETURN TO NAZARETH**

19 When Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. 20 "Get up!" the angel said. "Take the child and His mother back to the land of Israel, because those who were trying to kill the child are dead."

2:19  
Matt 1:20; 2:12

2:20  
Exod 4:19

2:6a Greek *the rulers*. 2:6b Mic 5:2; 2 Sam 5:2. 2:15 Hos 11:1. 2:18 Jer 31:15.

2:6 Tucked away in the Old Testament book of Micah was a prophecy about a future ruler of Israel (Micah 5:2). This prophecy came some 700 years before the birth of Jesus.

2:12 Though some readers may be troubled by the notion that wise men sought signs in the heavens and other forms of divination to learn of the birth of Jesus, Matthew makes it clear that God Himself was revealing important truths to these men.

2:13 To escape King Herod, who had been appointed by the Romans over the land of Israel, Joseph fled with his family to Egypt. At this time there were a considerable number of Jewish residents in the land of Egypt who had moved there either voluntarily or by force during prior international conflicts.

2:15 This reference is from the Old Testament prophet Hosea (11:1). The prophecy appears to have held two meanings: One regarding the nation of Israel (which was "called" out of Egypt during the time of the Exodus), and the other regarding Jesus, the Messiah and Son of God. Many Old Testament prophecies contain similarly layered meanings.

**2:22** <sup>21</sup>So Joseph got up and returned to the land of Israel with Jesus and His mother. <sup>22</sup>But when he learned that the new ruler of Judea was Herod's son Archelaus, he was afraid to go there. Then, after being warned in a dream, he left for the region of Galilee. <sup>23</sup>So the family went and lived in a town called Nazareth. This fulfilled what the prophets had said: "He will be called a Nazarene."

Matt 2:12  
**2:23**  
 Judg 13:5, 7  
 Luke 2:39  
 John 1:45-46  
 Acts 4:10; 24:5

**JOHN THE BAPTIST PREPARES THE WAY**

**3** In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching. His message was, <sup>2</sup>"Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near."<sup>\*</sup> <sup>3</sup>The prophet Isaiah was speaking about John when he said,

**3:1-12**  
 //Mark 1:1-8  
 //Luke 3:1-18  
 //John 1:19-28

"He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,  
 'Prepare the way for the LORD's coming!  
 Clear the road for Him!'"<sup>\*\*</sup>

**3:4**  
 Lev 11:22  
 2 Kgs 1:8

**3:7**  
 Matt 12:34; 23:33  
 Rom 5:9  
 1 Thes 1:10

<sup>4</sup>John's clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>People from Jerusalem and from all of Judea and all over the Jordan Valley went out to see and hear John. <sup>6</sup>And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River.

**3:8**  
 Acts 26:20

**3:9**  
 John 8:33, 37, 39  
 Acts 13:26  
 Rom 4:12

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to watch him baptize,<sup>\*</sup> he denounced them. "You brood of snakes!" he exclaimed. "Who warned you to flee God's coming wrath? <sup>8</sup>Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God. <sup>9</sup>Don't just say to each other, 'We're safe, for we are descendants of Abraham.' That means nothing, for I tell you, God can create children of Abraham from these very stones. <sup>10</sup>Even now the ax of God's judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the

**3:10**  
 Matt 7:19  
 Luke 13:7  
 John 15:6

3:2 Or *has come, or is coming soon.* 3:3 Isa 40:3 (Greek version). 3:7 Or *coming to be baptized.*

**2:22** When Herod died, Rome divided the land he ruled among three of his sons. Archelaus ruled in the south (including the region around Jerusalem), Antipas governed the area around the Sea of Galilee (where Nazareth was) and along the eastern bank of the Jordan River, and Philip presided over the lands north and east of the Sea of Galilee (a predominantly Gentile area). Antipas was the youngest of the three, and although he ended up being a troubling ruler in his own right, Archelaus might well have seemed like a greater threat to the safety of Joseph and his young family as they returned to the land of Israel.

**3:3** The Old Testament prophet Isaiah ministered during a time when God's judgment had fallen on Israel because of sin. But in chapter 40 of his book, the prophet brought a word of comfort from God. God promised one day to restore the nation and bring blessing. The quote Matthew used came from this section, where God promised to come to His people once more (Isaiah 40:3).

**3:6** The word *baptize* means "to dip" or "to immerse." The Jews of John's time used baptism to signify one's change of heart toward God. Gentiles who had converted to Judaism were baptized as a picture of their cleansing before God.

**3:7** There were a number of religious factions in Israel during this time. Matthew mentions two here: the Pharisees, who were teachers of the Scriptures and tended to be religiously and politically conservative; and the Sadducees, who were primarily made up of the aristocracy and the priests who served in the Temple. The Sadducees tended to be more liberal in both their religious and political views.

**3:7-12** Matthew noted earlier that John the Baptist was fulfilling a prophecy of consolation from Isaiah (Matthew 3:3). John spoke of the "coming One"; however, his message included judgment as well as comfort. The coming of the Kingdom of God in the person of the Messiah would create trouble for some in the nation.

**► GOD**

**3:3-11 Spiritual blessing in Christ.** John the Baptist declared that he was preparing the way for "the LORD's coming." By quoting Isaiah 40:3, he was announcing the arrival of God Incarnate on the scene. And what would God do when He arrived? From John's vantage point, one of God's most significant deeds would be to pour out the Holy Spirit on the people of God, much as John immersed people in water. The followers of Jesus were to be "Spirit-powered" people. Such an outpouring may take many different forms—some rather surprising—but the Spirit's presence in our lives will always bring about change in our character (Galatians 5:16-26). Today, display the promise of the Spirit by bearing the fruit of the Spirit—godly character. (**See God**> *Salvation*> *Son*> *Baptizes with the Holy Spirit*, TopicGuide page A15.)

**► HOLINESS**

**3:9 A right heart.** Many people seem to think that they are at peace with God simply because of their upbringing. The misguided idea is that if you are from the "right group," God must automatically accept you. But that's just not true. John the Baptist pointed this out to the religious people of his day. They thought that being descendants of Abraham was all that was needed to settle their accounts with God. John said no, Jesus said no (Luke 13:1-3), and Paul said no (Romans 2:29). With God, the matter of the heart is always the heart of the matter. (**See Holiness**> *Submission*> *Yielding to Spirit*> *Surrender your heart*, TopicGuide page A41.)

trees. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>“I baptize with\* water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not worthy even to be His slave and carry His sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.\* <sup>12</sup>He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with His winnowing fork. Then He will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into His barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire.”

**3:11**  
John 1:26-27, 31, 33  
Acts 1:5; 2:3-4;  
13:24; 19:4

**3:12**  
Matt 13:30

## THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

<sup>13</sup>Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. <sup>14</sup>But John tried to talk Him out of it. “I am the one who needs to be baptized by You,” he said, “so why are You coming to me?”

<sup>15</sup>But Jesus said, “**It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires.\***” So John agreed to baptize Him.

<sup>16</sup>After His baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened\* and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on Him. <sup>17</sup>And a voice from heaven said, “This is My dearly loved Son, who brings Me great joy.”

**3:13-17**  
Mark 1:9-11  
Luke 3:21-22  
John 1:31-34

**3:16**  
Isa 11:2

**3:17**  
Gen 22:2  
Ps 2:7  
Isa 42:1  
Matt 12:18; 17:5  
Mark 9:7  
Luke 9:35

## THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

**4** Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. <sup>2</sup>For forty days and forty nights He fasted and became very hungry.

<sup>3</sup>During that time the devil\* came and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread.”

<sup>4</sup>But Jesus told him, “**No! The Scriptures say,**

**‘People do not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’\*\***

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took Him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, <sup>6</sup>and said, “If You are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say,

**4:1-11**  
//Mark 1:12-13  
//Luke 4:1-13

**4:1**  
Gen 3:1-7  
1 Thes 3:5

**4:2**  
Exod 34:28  
1 Kgs 19:8

**4:4**  
\*Deut 8:3

**4:6**  
\*Ps 91:11-12

3:11a Or in. 3:11b Or in the Holy Spirit and in fire. 3:15 Or for we must fulfill all righteousness. 3:16 Some manuscripts read opened to Him. 4:3 Greek the tempter. 4:4 Deut 8:3.

**3:13** Jesus came from Galilee in the north to be baptized by John, who was ministering in the south. Jesus had grown up in Nazareth in the region of Galilee (see 2:22-23), and apparently He was still living there at this time.

**3:15** John’s baptism symbolized the washing and renewing that comes from the repentance from sin. When Jesus came to be baptized, John recognized that there was no reason for Jesus to undergo such a ritual, since Jesus was sinless. Jesus, however, submitted to John’s “ministry of preparation”—not because He needed to be cleansed or to repent of sin, but because in doing so Jesus demonstrated He was prepared to fulfill all of God’s righteous commands, even those that seemed unsuitable for Him, such as His death on the cross.



### ► SPIRITUAL WARFARE

**4:1-17 Facing the foe.** If you were about to face an enemy in a duel, it would be crucial that you were acquainted with and adequately trained in the use of the weapons at hand. Jesus sets before all His followers the model for how we, too, can fight the enemy of our souls.

Scripture is the weapon; Jesus quoted and applied it. Unless we, too, are well acquainted with this spiritual weapon, we might find ourselves in trouble when spiritual battles rage around us. Are you ready to do battle, or are you unsure that there even is a battle around you? Read the Bible and you’ll discover God has equipped you to fight—not with guns and such things—but with prayer and His Word (Ephesians 6:12-13; 1 Timothy 1:18). (**See *Spiritual Warfare*> Resisting Sin and Evil> Resisting Temptation> How to Resist> By Scripture, TopicGuide page A45.**)

**4:3** The devil is a spiritual being who constantly seeks to deceive God’s people. He is not God’s equal, but is a created angel who has turned against his Creator in rebellion (John 8:44; 13:2; Revelation 12:9).

**4:3-11** The devil asked whether Jesus was the “Son of God.” Clearly, the devil understood this title to denote divine authority and power, which would mean that Jesus ought to be able to perform certain deeds. The expression speaks of someone who is in a familial relationship with God and who possesses deity Himself (John 1:49; 10:36; 19:7 Romans 1:4). This expression is not found anywhere else except Genesis 6:2-4 (see note at Genesis 6).

will say to Me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in Your name and cast out demons in Your name and performed many miracles in Your name.' <sup>23</sup>But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from Me, you who break God's laws.'

7:23

Matt 25:12, 41  
Luke 13:25-27

7:24-27

//Luke 6:47-49

7:24

2 Tim 2:19

Jas 1:22

7:26

Jas 1:23

7:27

Ezek 13:10-12

7:28

Matt 13:54

Mark 1:22; 6:2

Luke 4:32

John 7:46

### BUILDING ON A SOLID FOUNDATION

<sup>24</sup>"Anyone who listens to My teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. <sup>25</sup>Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. <sup>26</sup>But anyone who hears My teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. <sup>27</sup>When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash."

<sup>28</sup>When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at His teaching, <sup>29</sup>for He taught with real authority—quite unlike their teachers of religious law.

## MY RESPONSE TO GOD

### *Trouble in the Church*

MATTHEW 18:15-20

Loving parents discipline their children because they want them to grow up to be strong, wise, and mature. God also disciplines His children because He loves them and wants them to be holy (Hebrews 12:11; 1 Peter 1:15-16). God commands the church to participate in His work by practicing another kind of discipline—confronting and correcting serious sin (1 Corinthians 5:12-13; 2 Corinthians 2:6).

What are the effects of church discipline?

- It protects the church's purity (1 Corinthians 5:7).
- It corrects, restores, and strengthens repentant sinners (Matthew 18:15; Galatians 6:1-2; James 5:20).
- It produces strong, healthy faith (Titus 1:13).
- It limits the influence of false teachers (Titus 1:10-11).
- It sets an example to the rest of the body (1 Timothy 5:20).

Some churches miss out on these wonderful blessings of discipline because they think it's just not nice to confront sin. But in trying to be nice, they end up seriously harming all the members of the church. Other churches become too judgmental; they focus solely on disciplining sinners and show no interest in restoring broken sinners. This attitude, too, is ultimately damaging to the whole church.

God calls the church to consistently and gently confront and correct serious sin. We find the principles for this in Matthew 18:15-19, where Christ's instructions are to go to a friend in private and point out the offense. If that isn't effective, we are to take others with and do it again. If the offender refuses to listen to your pleas, then take your evidence to the church. If the person repents, then you have won that person back. But if not, the church should no longer treat the sinner as a Christian—but only as long as the person lives in unrepentant sin. When sinners repent, welcome them back (2 Corinthians 2:5-11). This is how God calls us to deal with trouble in the church.

# INDEX TO DISCOVERY ARTICLES ON CHARACTER OF GOD

God is All Powerful .....	<i>Genesis 15:1</i>	page 31
God Is Faithful .....	<i>Exodus 3:7-12, 14-15</i>	page 113
Discovering God through His Law .....	<i>Exodus 20</i>	page 144
Pure as Sugar .....	<i>Leviticus 10:10</i>	page 203
God Is Just .....	<i>Numbers 21:4-9</i>	page 281
Directions to Where? .....	<i>Numbers 33:2</i>	page 307
The Ten Commandments and the Believer .....	<i>Deuteronomy 5</i>	page 326
God Is Absolute Truth .....	<i>Deuteronomy 18:18-22</i>	page 349
An Ever-Present Friend .....	<i>1 Kings 8:27</i>	page 609
God's Majesty .....	<i>1 Chronicles 29:10-11</i>	page 755
True Freedom .....	<i>Psalms 119:45</i>	page 1107
The Broken Record of Sin .....	<i>Psalms 130:3-4</i>	page 1121
Proof of the Pudding .....	<i>Proverbs 3:5-6</i>	page 1149
To Fear or Not to Fear? .....	<i>Ecclesiastes 12:13</i>	page 1221
The Good of the People .....	<i>Isaiah 40:10</i>	page 1313
Accomplish It All .....	<i>Daniel 2:17</i>	page 1583
No Shifting Foundations .....	<i>Malachi 3:6</i>	page 1737
Kingdom Now, Kingdom Later .....	<i>Matthew 13:24-30</i>	page 1771
God as a Father .....	<i>John 3:1</i>	page 1915
Virus Control .....	<i>Romans 3:23</i>	page 2029
The Most Glorious Demotion .....	<i>Philippians 2:5</i>	page 2139
Once and for All .....	<i>Hebrews 13:5</i>	page 2217
God Is Love .....	<i>1 John 4:19</i>	page 2261

# INDEX TO OUR RESPONSE TO GOD ARTICLES

Seeking God through His Word . . . . .	<i>Genesis 1-2</i>	page 8
Resisting Temptation . . . . .	<i>Genesis 34:2</i>	page 70
Embracing God's Will and Master Plan . . . . .	<i>Genesis 41:37-57</i>	page 80
Written by God or Man? . . . . .	<i>Exodus 31</i>	page 166
God Lives with People . . . . .	<i>Leviticus 26</i>	page 224
A Cloud to Follow . . . . .	<i>Numbers 9:15-23</i>	page 260
Our Daily Bread . . . . .	<i>Deuteronomy 8:3</i>	page 332
Building Intimacy through Spiritual Disciplines . . . . .	<i>Joshua 1</i>	page 382
Bragging about God . . . . .	<i>Joshua 4</i>	page 388
The Army of the Lord . . . . .	<i>Joshua 5:13-15</i>	page 390
Blaming God for Everything . . . . .	<i>Ruth 1:20-21</i>	page 474
God-centered, Biblical, Relevant . . . . .	<i>1 Samuel 12</i>	page 502
How God Deals With People . . . . .	<i>2 Samuel 7:4-17</i>	page 554
Culture Wars . . . . .	<i>2 Samuel 23:3</i>	page 582
The Mystery of His Magnificence . . . . .	<i>1 Kings 8</i>	page 606
Where Is Your Bible? . . . . .	<i>Ezra 7:25</i>	page 836
Responding to God's Word . . . . .	<i>Nehemiah 8</i>	page 856
No Chance with God . . . . .	<i>Esther 3</i>	page 874
The King of Pain . . . . .	<i>Job 1</i>	page 888
A Reflection of God . . . . .	<i>Psalms 8:5</i>	page 962
The Gospel and Guilt . . . . .	<i>Psalms 67:4</i>	page 1034
Lighting the Path . . . . .	<i>Psalms 119:103-105, 130, 133</i>	page 1108
Two Are Better than One . . . . .	<i>Ecclesiastes 4:9-12</i>	page 1210
Intimacy with God . . . . .	<i>Song of Songs 4:2</i>	page 1230
Worth the Wait . . . . .	<i>Jeremiah 29:11-13</i>	page 1428
The Good Shepherd . . . . .	<i>Ezekiel 34</i>	page 1554
The Scandalous Love of God . . . . .	<i>Hosea 1-3</i>	page 1608

Reaching out to Everyone . . . . .	<i>Jonah 4:2</i>	page 1668
From Complaints to Confidence . . . . .	<i>Habakkuk 3:16-19</i>	page 1698
God's Work First . . . . .	<i>Zechariah 8:9</i>	page 1722
Trouble in the Church . . . . .	<i>Matthew 8:15-20</i>	page 1756
One God, Three Persons . . . . .	<i>Mark 1:9-11</i>	page 1808
Jesus Wins! . . . . .	<i>Luke 4:4</i>	page 1856
Spiritual Breathing . . . . .	<i>Luke 22:32</i>	page 1898
God Talk . . . . .	<i>John 1</i>	page 1910
Abiding and Obeying . . . . .	<i>John 15:1</i>	page 1944
One Prayer, Many Divisions . . . . .	<i>John 17:21</i>	page 1948
Right Here, Right Now . . . . .	<i>Acts 1</i>	page 1962
One People under God . . . . .	<i>Acts 6:1</i>	page 1972
The Source of Our Significance . . . . .	<i>Acts 17:27</i>	page 1998
Peace with God . . . . .	<i>Romans 5</i>	page 2032
Saved from What? . . . . .	<i>Romans 6-8</i>	page 2034
Every Part Appreciated . . . . .	<i>Romans 12:6</i>	page 2046
Guided by the Spirit . . . . .	<i>1 Corinthians 2</i>	page 2058
Connected with Others . . . . .	<i>1 Corinthians 12:13</i>	page 2076
A New Creation . . . . .	<i>2 Corinthians 5</i>	page 2094
We Are God's Temple . . . . .	<i>2 Corinthians 6:16</i>	page 2098
Following the Spirit . . . . .	<i>Galatians 5</i>	page 2118
Equipped for Battle . . . . .	<i>Ephesians 6</i>	page 2132
The Painful Promise . . . . .	<i>2 Timothy 3:12</i>	page 2182
Was Abraham a Christian? . . . . .	<i>Hebrews 11</i>	page 2214
What Is the Church Like? . . . . .	<i>1 Peter 2:9-10</i>	page 2238
Evaluating Our Enemy . . . . .	<i>Jude 1</i>	page 2276
Making All Things New . . . . .	<i>Revelation 21:5</i>	page 2308

# INDEX TO MAPS

Key Places in Genesis	<i>Genesis 1</i>	page 5
Jacob Moves to Egypt	<i>Genesis 46:1</i>	page 88
Key Places in Exodus	<i>Exodus 1</i>	page 102
Moses Flees to Midian	<i>Exodus 2:15</i>	page 108
The Exodus	<i>Exodus 13:17</i>	page 132
Key Places in Numbers	<i>Numbers 1</i>	page 242
Israel's Departure from Sinai	<i>Numbers 10:11</i>	page 261
Route of the Scouts	<i>Numbers 13:21</i>	page 266
Preparing to Enter the Promised Land	<i>Numbers 33:49</i>	page 305
The Borders of the Promised Land	<i>Numbers 34:1</i>	page 308
Events in Deuteronomy	<i>Deuteronomy 1</i>	page 316
Key Places in Joshua	<i>Joshua 1</i>	page 378
Spy Mission to Jericho	<i>Joshua 2</i>	page 383
The Conquered Land	<i>Joshua 12</i>	page 402
The Land Yet to Be Conquered	<i>Joshua 13:1-7</i>	page 404
The Tribes East of the Jordan	<i>Joshua 13:8-33</i>	page 405
The Tribes West of the Jordan	<i>Joshua 18</i>	page 412
The Cities of Refuge	<i>Joshua 20</i>	page 416
Key Places in Judges	<i>Judges 1</i>	page 427
Setting for the Story of Ruth	<i>Ruth 1</i>	page 473
Key Places in 1 Samuel	<i>1 Samuel 1</i>	page 480
The Ark's Travels	<i>1 Samuel 6:19-21</i>	page 493
Key Places in 2 Samuel	<i>2 Samuel 1</i>	page 538
Key Places in 1 Kings	<i>1 Kings 1</i>	page 588
Two Coronations	<i>1 Kings 1</i>	page 591
Solomon's Kingdom	<i>1 Kings 4</i>	page 598
Solomon's Building Projects	<i>1 Kings 9:15</i>	page 612
Friends and Enemies	<i>1 Kings 11:14</i>	page 616
The Kingdom Divides	<i>1 Kings 12:12</i>	page 619
The Showdown at Carmel	<i>1 Kings 18:20</i>	page 632
Key Places in 2 Kings	<i>2 Kings 1</i>	page 648
Elisha & the Arameans	<i>2 Kings 6:8-23</i>	page 661
Israel Taken Captive	<i>2 Kings 17:6</i>	page 682
Judah Exiled	<i>2 Kings 25</i>	page 699
Key Places in 1 Chronicles	<i>1 Chronicles 1</i>	page 700
Key Places in 2 Chronicles	<i>2 Chronicles 1</i>	page 761
The Assyrian Empire	<i>2 Chronicles 32:9</i>	page 811
The Battle at Carchemish	<i>2 Chronicles 35:20</i>	page 818
Exile to Babylon	<i>2 Chronicles 36:17</i>	page 820
The Medo-Persian Empire	<i>Ezra 6</i>	page 832
The Restoration of the City Walls	<i>Nehemiah 3</i>	page 848
The World of Esther's Day	<i>Esther 1</i>	page 872
Exile in Babylon	<i>Ezekiel 1:3</i>	page 1499
Judah's Enemies	<i>Ezekiel 25</i>	page 1537
Taken to Babylon	<i>Daniel 1:3</i>	page 1581
Jonah's Roundabout Journey	<i>Jonah 1</i>	page 1665
Key Places in Matthew	<i>Matthew 1</i>	page 1740
The Passover Meal & Gethsemane	<i>Matthew 1</i>	page 1745
Jesus' Trial	<i>Matthew 26:57</i>	page 1796
The Way of the Cross	<i>Matthew 27:32</i>	page 1801
Key Places in Mark	<i>Mark 1</i>	page 1804

Upper Room & Gethsemane . . . . .	<i>Mark 1</i>	page 1809
Jesus' Trial . . . . .	<i>Mark 14:53</i>	page 1838
Jesus' Route to Golgotha . . . . .	<i>Mark 15:21</i>	page 1841
Key Places in Luke . . . . .	<i>Luke 1</i>	page 1846
Jesus' Trial . . . . .	<i>Luke 22:66</i>	page 1903
Jesus Led Away to Die . . . . .	<i>Luke 23:26</i>	page 1904
Key Places in John . . . . .	<i>John 1</i>	page 1908
Betrayal in the Garden . . . . .	<i>John 18:1-11</i>	page 1949
Jesus' Trial & Crucifixion . . . . .	<i>John 18:12-19:37</i>	page 1950
Key Places in Acts . . . . .	<i>Acts 1</i>	page 1958
Philip's Ministry . . . . .	<i>Acts 8:4</i>	page 1976
Saul Travels to Damascus . . . . .	<i>Acts 9:1-19</i>	page 1979
Saul's Return to Tarsus . . . . .	<i>Acts 9:26-30</i>	page 1980
Peter's Ministry . . . . .	<i>Acts 10:1</i>	page 1981
Paul's First Missionary Journey . . . . .	<i>Acts 13:1</i>	page 1986
Paul's Second Missionary Journey . . . . .	<i>Acts 15:36</i>	page 1993
Paul's Third Missionary Journey . . . . .	<i>Acts 18:23</i>	page 2000
Paul's Journey to Rome . . . . .	<i>Acts 21:17</i>	page 2006
The Gospel Goes to Rome . . . . .	<i>Romans 1</i>	page 2024
Corinth & Ephesus . . . . .	<i>1 Corinthians 1</i>	page 2057
Paul Searches for Titus . . . . .	<i>2 Corinthians 2:13</i>	page 2091
Cities in Galatia . . . . .	<i>Galatians 1</i>	page 2112
Location of Ephesus . . . . .	<i>Ephesians 1</i>	page 2124
Location of Philippi . . . . .	<i>Philippians 1</i>	page 2136
Location of Colosse . . . . .	<i>Colossians 1</i>	page 2145
Location of Thessalonica . . . . .	<i>1 Thessalonians 1</i>	page 2156
Location of Thessalonica . . . . .	<i>2 Thessalonians 1</i>	page 2163
Titus Goes to Crete . . . . .	<i>Titus 1</i>	page 2189
The Churches of Peter's Letter . . . . .	<i>1 Peter 1</i>	page 2236
The Seven Churches of Revelation . . . . .	<i>Revelation 1</i>	page 2282

# INDEX TO CHARTS

Days of Creation .....	<i>Genesis 1:1</i>	page 3
Covenants .....	<i>Genesis 15:1</i>	page 31
Names of God .....	<i>Exodus 3:14</i>	page 111
The Plagues .....	<i>Exodus 7–11</i>	page 124
The Hebrew Calendar .....	<i>Exodus 12</i>	page 128
Key Tabernacle Pieces .....	<i>Exodus 35</i>	page 174
The Offerings .....	<i>Leviticus 1</i>	page 188
The Festivals .....	<i>Leviticus 23</i>	page 227
Arrangement of Tribes around the Tabernacle .....	<i>Numbers 2</i>	page 245
Judges of Israel .....	<i>Judges 2–6</i>	page 432
The Cycle of Sin in Judges .....	<i>Judges 4:1</i>	page 436
Kings to Date & Their Enemies .....	<i>1 Kings 16:28</i>	page 629
Kings to Date & Their Enemies .....	<i>1 Kings 22:40</i>	page 642
Harmony of the Books of Kings and Chronicles .....	<i>1 Kings 12</i>	page 644
Kings to Date & Their Enemies .....	<i>2 Kings 1:17</i>	page 652
Kings to Date & Their Enemies .....	<i>2 Kings 14:16</i>	page 676
Kings to Date & Their Enemies .....	<i>2 Kings 15:30</i>	page 679
Kings to Date & Their Enemies .....	<i>2 Kings 24:17</i>	page 697
The Davidic Dynasty .....	<i>1 Chronicles 17:10</i>	page 734
The Persian Kings of Ezra's Day .....	<i>Ezra 1</i>	page 825
The Return from Exile .....	<i>Ezra 2</i>	page 826
Writing Prophets .....	<i>Isaiah 1</i>	page 1242

# FOUR SPIRITUAL LAWS

By Bill Bright

*Just as there are physical laws that govern the physical universe, so are there spiritual laws that govern your relationship with God.*

## LAW 1: GOD LOVES YOU AND OFFERS A WONDERFUL PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE

### GOD'S LOVE

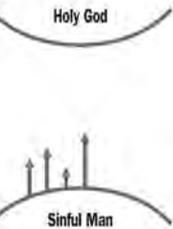
*"God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life"* JOHN 3:16.

### GOD'S PLAN

*[Christ speaking] "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" [that it might be full and meaningful]* JOHN 10:10 NKJV.

*Why is it that most people are not experiencing the abundant life? Because . . .*

## LAW 2: MAN IS SINFUL AND SEPARATED FROM GOD. THEREFORE, HE CANNOT KNOW AND EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE AND PLAN FOR HIS LIFE.



### MAN IS SINFUL

*"Everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard"* ROMANS 3:23.

Man was created to have fellowship with God; but, because of his own stubborn self-will, he chose to go his own independent way and fellowship with God was broken. This self-will, characterized by an attitude of active rebellion or passive indifference, is an evidence of what the Bible calls sin.

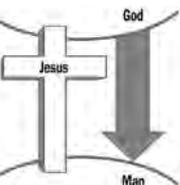
### MAN IS SEPARATED

*"The wages of sin is death" [spiritual separation from God]* ROMANS 6:23.

This diagram illustrates that God is holy and man is sinful. A great gulf separates the two. The arrows illustrate that man is continually trying to reach God and the abundant life through his own efforts, such as a good life, philosophy, or religion—but he inevitably fails.

*The third law explains the only way to bridge this gulf . . .*

## LAW 3: JESUS CHRIST IS GOD'S ONLY PROVISION FOR MAN'S SIN. THROUGH HIM YOU CAN KNOW AND EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE AND PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE.



### HE DIED IN OUR PLACE

*"God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners"* ROMANS 5:8.

### HE IS THE ONLY WAY TO GOD

*"Jesus told him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through Me'"* JOHN 14:6.

This diagram illustrates that God has bridged the gulf that separates us from Him by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross in our place to pay the penalty for our sins.

*It is not enough just to know these three laws . . .*

**LAW 4: WE MUST INDIVIDUALLY RECEIVE JESUS CHRIST AS SAVIOR AND LORD; THEN WE CAN KNOW AND EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE AND PLAN FOR OUR LIVES.**

**WE MUST RECEIVE CHRIST**

*"To all who believed Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God"* JOHN 1:12.

**WE RECEIVE CHRIST THROUGH FAITH**

*"God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it."* EPHESIANS 2:8,9.

**WHEN WE RECEIVE CHRIST, WE EXPERIENCE A NEW BIRTH**

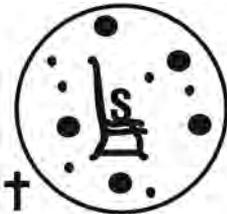
(READ JOHN 3:1-8.)

**WE RECEIVE CHRIST THROUGH PERSONAL INVITATION**

*[Christ speaking] "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear My voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends"* REVELATION 3:20.

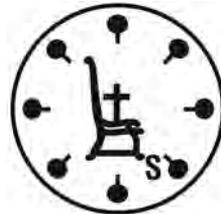
Receiving Christ involves turning to God from self (repentance) and trusting Christ to come into our lives to forgive our sins and to make us what He wants us to be. Just to agree intellectually that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died on the cross for our sins is not enough. Nor is it enough to have an emotional experience. We receive Jesus Christ by faith, as an act of the will.

*These two circles represent two kinds of lives:*



**Self-Directed Life**

- S** Self is on the throne
- †** Christ is outside the life
- Interests are directed by self, often resulting in discord and frustration



**Christ-Directed Life**

- †** Christ is in the life and on the throne
- S** Self is yielding to Christ, resulting in harmony with God's plan
- Interests are directed by Christ, resulting in harmony with God's plan

Which circle best represents your life?

Which circle would you like to have represent your life?

*The following explains how you can receive Christ:*

**YOU CAN RECEIVE CHRIST RIGHT NOW BY FAITH THROUGH PRAYER (PRAYER IS TALKING WITH GOD)**

God knows your heart and is not so concerned with your words as He is with the attitude of your heart.

The following is a suggested prayer:

*Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be.*

Does this prayer express the desire of your heart?

If it does, I invite you to pray this prayer right now, and Christ will come into your life, as He promised.

**HOW TO KNOW THAT CHRIST IS IN YOUR LIFE**

Did you receive Christ into your life? According to His promise in Revelation 3:20, where is Christ right now in relation to you? Christ said that He would come into your life. Would He mislead you? On what authority do you know that God has answered your prayer? (The trustworthiness of God Himself and His Word.)

**THE BIBLE PROMISES ETERNAL LIFE TO ALL WHO RECEIVE CHRIST**

*“He has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God’s Son does not have life”* 1 JOHN 5:11–12.

*Thank God often that Christ is in your life and that He will never leave you* HEBREWS 13:5.

You can know on the basis of His promise that Christ lives in you and that you have eternal life from the very moment you invite Him in. He will not deceive you.

*An important reminder . . .*

**DO NOT DEPEND ON FEELINGS**

The promise of God’s Word, the Bible—not our feelings—is our authority. The Christian lives by faith (trust) in the trustworthiness of God Himself and His Word. This train diagram illustrates the relationship among fact (God and His Word), faith (our trust in God and His Word), and feeling (the result of our faith and obedience). (Read John 14:21.)

The train will run with or without the caboose. However, it would be useless to attempt to pull the train by the caboose. In the same way, as Christians we do not depend on feelings or emotions, but we place our faith (trust) in the trustworthiness of God and the promises of His Word.

**NOW THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED CHRIST**

The moment you received Christ by faith, as an act of the will, many things happened, including the following:

- Christ came into your life (Revelation 3:20; Colossians 1:27).
- Your sins were forgiven (Colossians 1:14).
- You became a child of God (John 1:12).
- You received eternal life (John 5:24).
- You began the great adventure for which God created you (John 10:10).

Can you think of anything more wonderful that could happen to you than receiving Christ? Would you like to thank God in prayer right now for what He has done for you? By thanking God, you demonstrate your faith.

*To enjoy your new life to the fullest . . .*

**SUGGESTIONS FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH**

Spiritual growth results from trusting Jesus Christ. A life of faith will enable you to trust God increasingly with every detail of your life, and to practice the following:

- G** Go to God in prayer daily (John 15:7).
- R** Read God’s Word daily (Acts 17:11); begin with the Gospel of John.
- O** Obey God moment by moment (John 14:21).
- W** Witness for Christ by your life and words (Matthew 4:19; John 15:8).
- T** Trust God for every detail of your life (1 Peter 5:7).
- H** Holy Spirit—allow Him to control and empower your daily life and witness (Galatians 5:16, 17; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 5:18).

**FELLOWSHIP IN A GOOD CHURCH**

God’s Word instructs us not to forsake “our meeting together” (Hebrews 10:25). If you do not belong to a church, do not wait to be invited. Take the initiative; call the pastor of a nearby church where Christ is honored and His Word is preached. Start this week, and make plans to attend regularly.

# NLT DICTIONARY/CONCORDANCE

## A

### ABANDON, ABANDONED,

#### ABANDONS (v)

to desert or forsake

Josh 1:5 . . . will not fail you or **a** you.  
 Josh 24:16 . . . We would never **a** the Lord  
 Ezra 9:9 . . . God did not **a** us in our slavery.  
 Neh 9:31 . . . completely or **a** them forever.  
 Ps 22:1 . . . why have You **a-ed** me?  
 Ps 37:25 . . . never seen the godly **a-ed**  
 Ps 37:28 . . . He will never **a** the godly.  
 Prov 15:10 . . . Whoever **a-s** the right path  
 Matt 27:46 . . . why have You **a-ed** me?  
 John 16:1 . . . you won't **a** your faith.  
 Rom 1:24 . . . So God **a-ed** them to do  
 Rom 1:28 . . . **a-ed** them to their foolish  
 2 Cor 4:9 . . . down, but never **a-ed** by God.  
 Heb 13:5 . . . I will never **a** you.

### ABASED (KJV)

Ezek 21:26 . . . mighty will be **brought down**.  
 Matt 23:12 . . . themselves will be **humbled**  
 Phil 4:12 . . . how to **live on almost nothing**

### ABIDE(TH), ABIDING (KJV)

Luke 2:8 . . . shepherds **staying** in the fields  
 John 12:46 . . . no longer **remain** in the dark  
 John 15:4 . . . be fruitful unless you **remain**

### ABOUND(ED) (KJV)

Prov 28:20 . . . person will **get a rich reward**  
 Matt 24:12 . . . Sin will **be rampant everywhere**  
 Rom 5:15 . . . **even greater** is God's wonderful  
 grace  
 Rom 5:20 . . . **grace became more abundant**  
 2 Cor 8:7 . . . **excel** also in this gracious act

### ABUNDANCE (n)

great quantity, affluence; more than ample  
 Job 36:31 . . . **giving them food in a**.  
 Ps 66:12 . . . **a place of great a**.  
 Jer 31:14 . . . The priests will **enjoy a**,  
 Matt 13:12 . . . have **a a** of knowledge.  
 Matt 25:29 . . . they will have **a a**.  
 John 1:16 . . . From His **a** we have all

### ABUSIVE (adj)

using harsh, insulting language; characterized  
 by wrong or improper use or action  
 1 Cor 5:11 . . . **worships idols, or is a**,  
 1 Cor 6:10 . . . **drunkards, or are a**,  
 Eph 4:29 . . . **use foul or a language**.

### ABYSS (KJV)

Luke 8:31 . . . to send them into the **bottomless  
 pit**  
 Rev 9:1-2 . . . the shaft of the **bottomless pit**  
 Rev 9:11 . . . is the angel from the **bottomless  
 pit**

### ACCEPT, ACCEPTED, ACCEPTS (v)

to receive willingly  
 Gen 4:4 . . . The Lord **a-ed** Abel  
 Gen 4:7 . . . be **a-ed** if you do what is right.  
 Deut 16:19 . . . Never **a** a bribe, for bribes  
 Job 42:8 . . . I will **a** his prayer.  
 Job 42:9 . . . the Lord **a-ed** Job's prayer.  
 Eccl 5:18 . . . to **a** their lot in life.  
 Luke 4:24 . . . no prophet is **a-ed** in his own  
 Luke 10:16 . . . Anyone who **a-s** your message  
 John 1:12 . . . believed Him and **a-ed** Him,

John 17:8 . . . They **a-ed** it and know that  
 Rom 11:12 . . . when they finally **a** it.  
 Gal 2:9 . . . they **a-ed** Barnabas and me  
 Col 2:6 . . . just as you **a-ed** Christ Jesus  
 1 Tim 1:15 . . . everyone should **a** it:  
 1 Tim 4:9 . . . everyone should **a** it.  
 Jas 1:21 . . . **a** the word God has planted

### ACCURSED (KJV)

Deut 21:23 . . . for anyone who is hung is **curse**d  
 Josh 6:18 . . . things **set apart for destruction**  
 1 Cor 12:3 . . . will **curse** Jesus, and no one  
 Gal 1:9 . . . let that person be **curse**d

### ACCUSE, ACCUSED, ACCUSES, ACCUSING (v)

to charge with fault or offense; blame  
 Job 22:4 . . . He **a-s** you and brings judgment  
 Ps 27:12 . . . For they **a** me of things  
 Dan 6:5 . . . finding grounds for **a-ing** Daniel  
 Luke 23:14 . . . **a-ing** him of leading a revolt.  
 John 5:45 . . . it isn't I who will **a**  
 John 7:7 . . . because I **a** it of doing evil.  
 John 8:46 . . . can truthfully **a** me of sin?  
 Acts 18:13 . . . **a-d** Paul of "persuading people  
 to worship  
 Rom 2:15 . . . and thoughts either **a** them  
 Rom 8:33 . . . Who dares **a** us whom God  
 Rev 12:10 . . . who **a-s** them before our God

### ACKNOWLEDGE,

#### ACKNOWLEDGES (v)

to express a gratitude of debt; to recognize as  
 valid; to confess (wrongdoing)  
 Jer 3:13 . . . Only **a** your guilt. Admit  
 Matt 10:32 . . . Everyone who **a-s** me publicly  
 Luke 12:8 . . . Son of Man will also **a**  
 Rom 1:28 . . . thought it foolish to **a** God,  
 1 Jn 2:23 . . . anyone who **a-s** the Son  
 1 Jn 4:3 . . . and does not **a** the truth

### ADD, ADDED (v)

to make or serve as an addition  
 Deut 4:2 . . . Do not **a** to or subtract from  
 Deut 12:32 . . . You must not **a** anything to  
 Prov 30:6 . . . Do not **a** to His words,  
 Eccl 3:14 . . . Nothing can be **a-ed** to it  
 Matt 6:27 . . . worries **a** a single moment  
 Luke 12:25 . . . worries **a** a single moment  
 Acts 2:47 . . . each day the Lord **a-ed** to their  
 Rev 22:18 . . . God will **a** to that person

### ADMONISH(ED) (KJV)

Jer 42:19 . . . Don't forget this **warning** I have  
 Eccl 12:12 . . . give you **some further advice**  
 Heb 8:5 . . . God **gave** him this **warning**  
 2 Thes 3:15 . . . **warn** them as you would

### ADMONITION (KJV)

1 Cor 10:11 . . . written down **to warn** us  
 Eph 6:4 . . . **instruction** that comes from the  
 Lord  
 Titus 3:10 . . . give a first and second **warning**

### ADOPT, ADOPTED (v)

to take another's child into one's own family  
 Rom 8:15 . . . when he **a-ed** you as his own  
 Rom 8:23 . . . full rights as his **a-ed** children,  
 Rom 9:4 . . . to be God's **a-ed** children.  
 Gal 4:5 . . . so that he could **a** us as  
 Eph 1:5 . . . decided in advance to **a** us

### ADULTERY (n)

unlawful sexual relations between a married  
 and an unmarried person; symbolic of idolatry  
 Exod 20:14 . . . You must not **commit a**.  
 Deut 5:18 . . . You must not **commit a**.  
 Prov 6:32 . . . who **commits a** is an utter fool,  
 Matt 5:27 . . . You must not **commit a**.  
 Matt 19:18 . . . You must not **commit a**.  
 Mark 10:11 . . . someone else **commits a**  
 Luke 18:20 . . . You must not **commit a**.  
 John 8:4 . . . caught in the act of **a**.  
 1 Cor 6:9 . . . **a**, or are male prostitutes,

### ADVICE (n)

recommendation regarding a decision or course  
 of conduct; counsel  
 1 Kgs 12:8 . . . **rejected the a** of  
 2 Chr 10:8 . . . **rejected the a** of  
 Prov 12:5 . . . **a** of the wicked is  
 Prov 12:26 . . . **godly give good a** to their  
 Prov 15:22 . . . Plans go wrong for **lack of a**;  
 Isa 44:25 . . . I cause the wise to give **bad a**,  
 Rom 11:34 . . . enough to give him **a**?

### ADVOCATE (n)

one that pleads the cause of another; defender  
 Job 16:19 . . . My **a** is there on high.  
 John 14:16 . . . he will give you another **A**,  
 John 14:26 . . . the Father sends the **A**  
 John 15:26 . . . I will send you the **A**—  
 John 16:7 . . . if I don't, the **A** won't come.  
 1 Jn 2:1 . . . an **a** who pleads our case

### AFRAID (adj)

fearful or apprehensive about an unwanted or  
 uncertain situation  
 Gen 3:10 . . . I was **a** because I was naked.  
 Gen 26:24 . . . Do not be **a**, for I am  
 Exod 3:6 . . . he was **a** to look at God.  
 Deut 1:21 . . . Don't be **a!**  
 Deut 20:1 . . . your own, do not be **a**.  
 Ps 23:4 . . . I will not be **a**, for you are  
 Isa 10:24 . . . do not be **a** of the Assyrians  
 Isa 41:10 . . . Don't be **a**, for I am  
 Isa 43:1 . . . Do not be **a**, for I have  
 Matt 8:26 . . . Why are you **a**?  
 Matt 10:31 . . . So don't be **a**;  
 Mark 5:36 . . . Don't be **a**.  
 John 14:27 . . . don't be troubled or **a**.  
 2 Tim 4:5 . . . Don't be **a** of suffering  
 1 Pet 3:14 . . . don't worry or be **a**

### ALCOHOL (n)

drink (as wine or beer) containing ethanol  
 Prov 20:1 . . . **a** leads to brawls.  
 Isa 5:22 . . . boast about all the **a** they

### ALCOHOLIC (adj)

containing alcohol  
 Num 6:3 . . . give up wine and other **a**

### ALIEN (KJV)

Exod 18:3 . . . **a foreigner** in a foreign land  
 Job 19:15 . . . I am like **a foreigner** to them  
 Eph 2:12 . . . You were **excluded from  
 citizenship**

### ALIENATED (KJV)

Ezek 48:14 . . . sold or traded or **used by  
 others**  
 Eph 4:18 . . . **wander far from the life** God  
 gives

Col 1:21 . . . who were **once far away from God**

**ALIVE** (adj)

animate, having life; active; aware  
 Gen 45:7 . . . keep you and your families **a**  
 Ps 41:2 . . . them and keeps them **a**.  
 Luke 24:23 . . . Jesus is **a!**  
 Acts 1:3 . . . ways that He was actually **a**.  
 Rom 6:11 . . . the power of sin and **a** to God  
 Rev 2:8 . . . who was dead but is now **a**:

**ALLELUIA** (KJV)

Rev 19:1 . . . shouting, "Praise the Lord!  
 Rev 19:3 . . . voices rang out: "Praise the Lord!  
 Rev 19:4 . . . "Amen! Praise the Lord!"  
 Rev 19:6 . . . "Praise the Lord! For the Lord

**ALMIGHTY** (n)

having absolute power over all; God  
 Gen 17:1 . . . I am El-Shaddai—"God A."  
 Exod 6:3 . . . as El-Shaddai—"God A"—  
 Ruth 1:20 . . . A has made life very bitter  
 Job 6:14 . . . without any fear of the **A**.  
 Job 33:4 . . . breath of the **A** gives me life.  
 Ps 91:1 . . . rest in the shadow of the **A**.  
 Rev 4:8 . . . the **A**—the one who always was,  
 Rev 15:3 . . . O Lord God, the **A**.  
 Rev 19:6 . . . our God, the **A**, reigns.

**ALTAR, ALTARS** (n)

high places of worship on which sacrifices are offered or incense is burned  
 Gen 8:20 . . . Noah built an **a** to the Lord,  
 Gen 12:7 . . . Abram built an **a** there  
 Gen 22:9 . . . Abraham built an **a** and  
 Gen 26:25 . . . Isaac built an **a** there  
 Exod 27:1 . . . construct a square **a** 7½ feet  
 Exod 30:1 . . . make another **a** of acacia  
 Exod 37:25 . . . incense **a** of acacia wood.  
 Josh 8:30 . . . Joshua built an **a** to the Lord,  
 Josh 22:10 . . . a large and imposing **a**.  
 1 Sam 7:17 . . . Samuel built an **a** to the  
 2 Chr 4:1 . . . made a bronze **a** 30 feet long,  
 2 Chr 4:19 . . . Temple of God: the gold **a**;  
 2 Chr 32:12 . . . only at the **a** at the Temple  
 2 Chr 33:16 . . . restored the **a** of the Lord  
 Ezra 3:2 . . . rebuilding the **a** of the God  
 Isa 6:6 . . . coal he had taken from the **a**  
 Matt 5:23 . . . presenting a sacrifice at the **a**  
 Acts 17:23 . . . your **a**-s had this inscription  
 Heb 13:10 . . . an **a** from which the priests  
 Rev 6:9 . . . I saw under the **a** the souls

**AMBASSADOR, AMBASSADORS** (n)

an authorized representative or messenger  
 2 Cor 5:20 . . . So we are Christ's **a**-s;  
 Eph 6:20 . . . this message as God's **a**.

**AMBITION** (n)

aspiration to achieve a particular goal, good or bad  
 Gal 5:20 . . . anger, selfish **a**, dissension,  
 Phil 1:17 . . . They preach with selfish **a**,  
 Jas 3:14 . . . there is selfish **a** in your heart.

**ANCESTOR, ANCESTORS** (n)

one from whom a person is descended; forefather  
 Exod 3:15 . . . God of your **a**-s—the God of  
 Deut 19:14 . . . markers your **a**-s set up  
 Isa 9:7 . . . throne of His **a** David for all eternity.  
 Isa 43:27 . . . your first **a** sinned against Me; all  
 Mark 11:10 . . . Kingdom of our **a** David!  
 Luke 1:32 . . . the throne of his **a** David.  
 Rom 9:5 . . . Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are  
 their **a**-s,  
 Gal 1:14 . . . for the traditions of my **a**-s.  
 Heb 1:1 . . . to our **a**-s through the prophets.

**ANGEL, ANGELS** (n)

human or superhuman agent or messenger of God  
 Exod 23:20 . . . I am sending an **a**  
 2 Sam 24:16 . . . and said to the death **a**,  
 Ps 91:11 . . . will order His **a**-s to protect  
 Matt 4:6 . . . will order His **a**-s to protect  
 Matt 28:2 . . . an **a** of the Lord came down  
 Luke 1:26 . . . God sent the **a** Gabriel  
 Luke 2:9 . . . an **a** of the Lord appeared  
 Luke 20:36 . . . they will be like **a**-s.  
 Acts 12:7 . . . The **a** struck him on the side  
 1 Cor 6:3 . . . we will judge **a**-s?  
 2 Cor 11:14 . . . disguises himself as an **a**  
 Gal 1:8 . . . or even an **a** from heaven,  
 Heb 1:6 . . . all of God's **a**-s worship him.  
 Heb 2:7 . . . a little lower than the **a**-s  
 Heb 13:2 . . . entertained **a**-s without  
 1 Pet 1:12 . . . the **a**-s are eagerly watching  
 2 Pet 2:4 . . . even the **a**-s who sinned.  
 Jude 6 . . . I remind you of the **a**-s

**ANGER** (n)

a strong feeling of displeasure  
 Exod 34:6 . . . slow to **a** and filled with  
 Num 14:18 . . . slow to **a** and filled with  
 Deut 9:19 . . . furious **a** of the Lord,  
 Deut 29:28 . . . In great **a** and fury  
 2 Kgs 22:13 . . . Lord's great **a** is burning  
 Ps 30:5 . . . His **a** lasts only a moment,  
 Ps 78:38 . . . Many times He held back His **a**  
 Rom 1:18 . . . God shows His **a** from heaven  
 Rom 2:5 . . . a day of **a** is coming.  
 Eph 4:26 . . . by letting **a** control you.  
 1 Thes 5:9 . . . pour out His **a** on us.  
 Jas 1:20 . . . Human **a** does not produce  
 Rev 14:10 . . . the wine of God's **a**.

**ANGRY** (adj)

feeling or showing anger; wrathful  
 Exod 32:11 . . . so **a** with Your own people  
 Neh 9:17 . . . merciful, slow to become **a**,  
 Ps 103:8 . . . merciful, slow to get **a**  
 Prov 22:24 . . . Don't befriend **a** people  
 Jon 4:2 . . . slow to get **a** and filled  
 Matt 5:22 . . . if you are even **a** with  
 Mark 10:14 . . . He was **a** with His disciples.  
 John 3:36 . . . under God's **a** judgment.  
 Acts 4:25 . . . Why were the nations so **a**?  
 Jas 1:19 . . . to speak, and slow to get **a**.

**ANGUISH** (n)

extreme pain, distress, or anxiety  
 Isa 53:11 . . . by his **a**, he will be satisfied.  
 Zeph 1:15 . . . of terrible distress and **a**,  
 Matt 24:21 . . . greater **a** than at any time  
 Luke 16:24 . . . I am in **a** in these flames.  
 Rev 16:10 . . . ground their teeth in **a**,

**ANOINT, ANOINTED, ANOINTING** (v)

to smear or rub with oil; used for healing or consecration to sacred duty; used for grooming or burial; figurative for divine appointment  
 see also ANOINTED ONE  
 Exod 30:26 . . . oil to **a** the Tabernacle,  
 Exod 30:30 . . . A Aaron and his sons  
 Lev 8:12 . . . **a**-ing him and making him holy  
 1 Sam 15:1 . . . told me to **a** you as king  
 2 Sam 23:1 . . . man **a**-ed by the God of Jacob,  
 Ps 23:5 . . . honor me by **a**-ing my head  
 Ps 92:10 . . . You have **a**-ed me with  
 Isa 61:1 . . . the Lord has **a**-ed me  
 Dan 9:24 . . . and to **a** the Most Holy Place.  
 Acts 10:38 . . . you know that God **a**-ed Jesus  
 Heb 1:9 . . . your God has **a**-ed you,  
 Jas 5:14 . . . pray over you, **a**-ing you with oil  
**ANOINTED ONE** (n)  
 one chosen by divine election  
 1 Sam 2:10 . . . the strength of His **a** one."

1 Sam 26:9 . . . the Lord's **a** one?  
 Ps 132:17 . . . my **a** one will be a light for  
 Dan 9:25 . . . a ruler—the **A** One—  
 Isa 45:1 . . . says to Cyrus, His **a** one.

**ANTICHRIST, ANTICHRISTS** (n)

opponent of Christ; the personification of evil  
 1 Jn 2:18 . . . heard that the **A** is coming,  
 1 Jn 2:18 . . . many such **a**-s have appeared.  
 1 Jn 4:3 . . . has the spirit of the **A**,  
 2 Jn 7 . . . deceiver and an **a**.

**ANXIETY, CARE(S)** (KJV)

Ps 139:23 . . . and know my **anxious thoughts**  
 Phil 4:6 . . . Don't **worry** about anything  
 1 Pet 5:7 . . . all your **worries and cares** to  
 God,

**APPEAR, APPEARED, APPEARING, APPEARS** (v)

to come out of hiding and show up in public view; to make one's presence known  
 Gen 1:9 . . . so dry ground may **a**.  
 Num 14:10 . . . presence of the Lord **a**-ed  
 Deut 33:16 . . . **a**-ed in the burning bush.  
 Mal 3:2 . . . and face Him when He **a**-s?  
 Matt 1:20 . . . angel of the Lord **a**-ed to him  
 Matt 24:30 . . . will **a** in the heavens,  
 Luke 2:9 . . . angel of the Lord **a**-ed among  
 Luke 16:15 . . . You like to **a** a righteous  
 Phil 2:7 . . . When He **a**-ed in human form,  
 2 Thes 1:7 . . . the Lord Jesus **a**-s from  
 2 Tim 1:10 . . . by the **a**-ing of Christ Jesus,  
 2 Tim 4:1 . . . **a**-s to set up His Kingdom:  
 Heb 9:24 . . . **a** now before God on our  
 Heb 9:26 . . . He has **a**-ed at the end of the age  
 1 Pet 5:4 . . . when the Great Shepherd **a**-s,  
 1 Jn 3:2 . . . will be like when Christ **a**-s.

**APPROVAL** (n)

an act or instance of approving  
 Ps 90:17 . . . Lord our God show us his **a**  
 John 6:27 . . . the seal of His **a**.  
 Rom 14:4 . . . will receive His **a**.  
 1 Cor 11:19 . . . you who have God's **a**  
 2 Tim 2:15 . . . and receive His **a**.  
 Heb 11:4 . . . God showed His **a** of His gifts.

**ARCHANGEL, ARCHANGELS** (n)

a leader and chief angel; biblically designated as Michael  
 Dan 12:1 . . . At that time Michael, the **a**  
 Dan 10:13 . . . one of the **a**-s, came to help me,  
 1 Thes 4:16 . . . with the voice of the **a**,

**ARGUE, ARGUING** (v)

to contend or disagree in words; to dispute  
 Job 13:8 . . . Will you **a** God's case  
 Job 40:2 . . . to **a** with the Almighty?  
 Prov 25:9 . . . When **a**-ing with your neighbor,  
 Isa 45:9 . . . those who **a** with their Creator.  
 Rom 14:1 . . . and don't **a** with them  
 1 Cor 11:16 . . . anyone wants to **a**

**ARM, ARMS** (n)

upper limb of the body; extension or projection of; lineage; figurative of power or might  
 Num 11:23 . . . Has my **a** lost its power?  
 Deut 4:34 . . . a powerful **a**, and terrifying  
 Deut 7:19 . . . strong hand and powerful **a**  
 Deut 33:27 . . . everlasting **a**-s are under you.  
 Ps 44:3 . . . it was not their own strong **a**  
 Ps 98:1 . . . His holy **a** has shown  
 Isa 40:11 . . . carry the lambs in His **a**-s,  
 Isa 65:2 . . . opened my **a**-s to a rebellious  
 Jer 27:5 . . . powerful **a** I made the earth  
 Mark 10:16 . . . took the children in His **a**-s  
 1 Pet 4:1 . . . you must **a** yourselves with

**ARMAGEDDON** (n)

the gathering place for the final battle between God's forces and Satan's forces associated with Christ's second coming  
*Rev 16:16 . . . with the Hebrew name **A**.*

**ARMOR** (n)

weapons of war or self-defense; figurative of spiritual resources

*Ps 91:4 . . . are your **a** and protection.*  
*Isa 59:17 . . . righteousness as his body **a***  
*Jer 46:4 . . . and prepare your **a**.*  
*Rom 13:12 . . . put on the shining **a***  
*Eph 6:11 . . . Put on all of God's **a***  
*Eph 6:13 . . . put on every piece of God's **a***  
*1 Thes 5:8 . . . protected by the **a** of faith*

**ARMY, ARMIES** (n)

large band of men organized and armed for war; any large multitude devoted to a cause

*Ps 33:16 . . . best-equipped **a** cannot save*  
*Ps 84:12 . . . LORD of Heaven's **A-ies**,*  
*Isa 6:3 . . . LORD of Heaven's **A-ies!***  
*Isa 45:13 . . . LORD of Heaven's **A-ies**,*  
*Isa 51:15 . . . the LORD of Heaven's **A-ies**.*  
*Joel 2:2 . . . great and mighty **a** appears.*  
*Joel 2:5 . . . like a mighty **a** moving into*  
*Joel 2:11 . . . This is His mighty **a**,*  
*Hag 1:5 . . . LORD of Heaven's **A-ies** says:*  
*Zech 8:6 . . . LORD of Heaven's **A-ies** says:*  
*Rev 19:14 . . . The **a-ies** of heaven,*  
*Rev 19:19 . . . the horse and His **a**.*

**ASHAMED** (v)

feeling shame, guilt, or disgrace

*Ps 69:6 . . . be **a** because of me,*  
*Jer 31:19 . . . I was thoroughly **a** of all I did*  
*Jer 48:13 . . . were **a** of their gold calf*  
*Mark 8:38 . . . If anyone is **a** of Me*  
*Luke 9:26 . . . If anyone is **a** of Me*  
*Rom 1:16 . . . I am not **a** of this Good News*  
*2 Tim 1:8 . . . So never be **a** to tell others*  
*2 Tim 2:15 . . . who does not need to be **a***

**ASLEEP** (adj)

state of bodily rest; figurative for physical death or spiritual dullness

*see also DIE, SLEEP*  
*Judg 4:21 . . . Sisera fell **a** from exhaustion,*  
*1 Kgs 18:27 . . . away on a trip, or is **a** and*  
*Matt 9:24 . . . isn't dead; she's only **a**."*  
*Matt 26:40 . . . found them **a**. He said to Peter,*  
*John 11:11 . . . Lazarus has fallen **a**, but now I*  
*1 Thes 5:6 . . . be on your guard, not **a** like*

**ASTRAY** (adv)

off the right path or route; in error, away from what is desirable or proper

*Prov 20:1 . . . Those led **a** by drink*  
*Isa 47:10 . . . 'knowledge' have led you **a**,*  
*Jer 50:6 . . . shepherds have led them **a***  
*1 Jn 2:26 . . . who want to lead you **a**.*

**ASTROLOGERS** (n)

one who studies the stars and planets to foresee or foretell future events by their positions and aspects

*Isa 47:13 . . . all your **a**, those stargazers*  
*Dan 2:2 . . . enchanters, sorcerers, and **a**,*

**ATHLETE, ATHLETES** (n)

a person who is trained or skilled in exercises, sports, or games requiring physical strength, agility, or stamina

*Ps 19:5 . . . like a great **a** eager to run*  
*1 Cor 9:25 . . . All **a-s** are disciplined*  
*1 Cor 9:27 . . . body like an **a**, training it*  
*2 Tim 2:5 . . . **a-s** cannot win the prize unless*

**ATONEMENT** (n)

reconciliation; reparation for an offense or injury; cleansing

*see also FORGIVENESS*  
*Exod 25:17 . . . cover—the place of **a**—*  
*Lev 23:27 . . . Day of **A** on the tenth day*  
*2 Chr 29:24 . . . to make **a** for the sins*  
*Prov 16:6 . . . faithfulness make **a** for sin.*

**ATTITUDE, ATTITUDES** (n)

a mental position with regard to a fact or state; a feeling or emotion toward a fact or state

*Eph 4:23 . . . your thoughts and **a-s**.*  
*Phil 2:5 . . . have the same **a** that Christ*  
*1 Pet 3:8 . . . keep a humble **a**.*  
*1 Pet 4:1 . . . with the same **a** He had,*

**AUTHORITY, AUTHORITIES** (n)

the right to govern; the freedom or ability to act

*Matt 28:18 . . . been given all **a** in heaven*  
*Luke 10:19 . . . have given you **a** over*  
*John 5:22 . . . absolute **a** to judge,*  
*Acts 1:7 . . . **a** to set those dates and times,*  
*Rom 13:1 . . . submit to governing **a-ies**.*  
*Rom 13:1 . . . For all **a** comes from God,*  
*Rom 13:2 . . . anyone who rebels against **a***  
*Rom 13:3 . . . without fear of the **a-ies**?*  
*1 Cor 4:3 . . . by any human **a**.*  
*1 Cor 15:24 . . . ruler and **a** and power.*  
*Eph 1:22 . . . things under the **a** of Christ*  
*Eph 3:10 . . . all the unseen rulers and **a-ies***  
*Eph 6:12 . . . against evil rulers and **a-ies***  
*Col 2:10 . . . every ruler and **a**.*  
*Col 2:15 . . . the spiritual rulers and **a-ies**.*  
*1 Tim 2:2 . . . all who are in **a** so that*  
*Titus 2:15 . . . You have the **a** to correct*  
*1 Pet 2:18 . . . accept the **a** of your masters*  
*1 Pet 3:1 . . . accept the **a** of your husbands.*  
*1 Pet 3:22 . . . the angels and **a-ies** and*  
*1 Pet 5:5 . . . accept the **a** of the elders.*  
*Jude 6 . . . the limits of **a** God gave them*

**AVOID, AVOIDING** (v)

to keep away from; to depart or withdraw from

*Prov 4:24 . . . **A** all perverse talk;*  
*Prov 14:16 . . . are cautious and **a** danger;*  
*Prov 16:6 . . . By fearing the LORD, people **a***  
*Prov 20:3 . . . **A-ing** a fight is a mark*  
*Eccl 7:18 . . . fears God will **a** both*  
*Rom 2:3 . . . think you can **a** God's*

**AWE** (n)

an emotion variously combining dread, respect, and wonder that is inspired by authority or the sacred

*see also FEAR, REVERENCE*  
*1 Kgs 3:28 . . . people were in **a** of the king,*  
*Ps 119:120 . . . I stand in **a** of Your*  
*Luke 5:26 . . . with great wonder and **a**,*  
*Acts 2:43 . . . sense of **a** came over them*  
*Heb 12:28 . . . holy fear and **a**.*

**AWESOME** (adj)

characterized by reverential fear; expressive of or inspiring awe

*see also WONDERFUL*  
*Exod 34:10 . . . the **a** power I will display*  
*Deut 7:21 . . . a great and **a** God.*  
*2 Sam 7:23 . . . You performed **a** miracles*  
*Neh 1:5 . . . the great and **a** God*  
*Job 10:16 . . . display Your **a** power*  
*Ps 47:2 . . . Most High is **a**.*  
*Ps 65:5 . . . answer our prayers with **a***  
*Ps 99:3 . . . Your great and **a** name.*  
*Ps 106:22 . . . such **a** deeds at the Red Sea.*  
*Ps 131:1 . . . too **a** for me to grasp.*  
*Dan 9:4 . . . a great and **a** God!*

**B**

**BABY, BABIES** (n)

infant child; youngest of a group; figurative of new or immature Christians

*Exod 2:7 . . . women to nurse the **b** for you?*  
*Luke 1:44 . . . **b** in my womb jumped for*  
*Luke 2:12 . . . find a **b** wrapped snugly*  
*Luke 2:16 . . . the **b**, lying in the manger.*  
*Acts 7:19 . . . to abandon their newborn **b-ies***  
*1 Cor 14:20 . . . Be innocent as **b-ies** when*  
*1 Pet 2:2 . . . Like newborn **b-ies**, you must*

**BABYLON** (n)

capital city of the Babylonian Empire; a city devoted to materialism and sensual pleasure; Biblical writers used as model of paganism and idolatry

*Ps 137:1 . . . Beside the rivers of **B**, we sat*  
*Jer 29:10 . . . will be in **B** for seventy years.*  
*Jer 51:37 . . . **B** will become a heap of ruins,*  
*Rev 14:8 . . . shouting, "**B** is fallen—*

**BAPTISM, BAPTISMS** (n)

a Christian sacrament; a washing with water for cleansing from sin, linked with repentance and admission into the community of faith; figurative of an ordeal or initiation

*Matt 3:16 . . . After His **b**, as Jesus came up*  
*Luke 3:7 . . . crowds came to John for **b**,*  
*Acts 19:3 . . . what **b** did you experience?*  
*Rom 6:3 . . . joined with Christ Jesus in **b**,*  
*Gal 3:27 . . . united with Christ in **b***  
*Eph 4:5 . . . one Lord, one faith, one **b**,*  
*Heb 6:2 . . . further instruction about **b-s**,*  
*1 Pet 3:21 . . . that water is a picture of **b**,*

**BEAST, BEASTS** (n)

devilish creature(s) ravishing the earth during the Tribulation; animals, as distinguished from plants or humans; a contemptible person

*Dan 7:3 . . . Then four huge **b-s** came up*  
*Dan 7:6 . . . authority was given to this **b**,*  
*1 Cor 15:32 . . . fighting wild **b-s**—those*  
*Rev 13:18 . . . number of the **b**, for it is*  
*Rev 16:2 . . . had the mark of the **b***  
*Rev 19:20 . . . accepted the mark of the **b***

**BEAUTY** (n)

a particularly graceful, ornamental, or excellent quality; the quality in a person or thing that gives pleasure to the senses

*2 Sam 11:2 . . . a woman of unusual **b***  
*Ps 50:2 . . . the perfection of **b**, God shines*  
*Prov 31:30 . . . and **b** does not last;*  
*Isa 28:1 . . . but its glorious **b** will fade*  
*Jas 1:11 . . . and its **b** fades away.*  
*1 Pet 1:24 . . . their **b** is like a flower spirit,*  
*1 Pet 3:4 . . . **b** of a gentle and quiet spirit,*

**BEGINNING** (n)

the point at which something starts; the first part; the origin, source

*Gen 1:1 . . . In the **b** God created*  
*John 1:1 . . . In the **b** the Word already*  
*Rom 16:25 . . . secret from the **b** of time.*  
*1 Jn 1:1 . . . one who existed from the **b**,*  
*Rev 21:6 . . . the **B** and the End.*  
*Rev 22:13 . . . the **B** and the End.*

**BELIEVE, BELIEVED, BELIEVES, BELIEVING** (v)

to trust in; to hold a firm conviction about; to accept as true, genuine, or real

*see also FAITH, TRUST*  
*Gen 15:6 . . . Abram **b-d** the LORD,*  
*Isa 53:1 . . . Who has **b-d** our message?*  
*Mark 9:23 . . . is possible if a person **b-s**.*  
*Mark 9:24 . . . I do **b**, but help me*  
*Luke 24:25 . . . You find it so hard to **b***  
*John 1:7 . . . so that everyone might **b***