

NEW TESTAMENT

WITH PSALMS & PROVERBS



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H O L Y B I B L E

New Testament

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NLT™

Tyndale House Publishers
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32	31	30	29	28	27	26
7	6	5	4	3	2	1

CONTENTS

A Note to Readers	A4
Welcome to the New Testament!.....	A5
How to Know Jesus Personally.....	A7
Where Can I Find It?.....	A9

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew.....	1	2 Timothy.....	231
Mark.....	37	Titus	234
Luke	60	Philemon	236
John	98	Hebrews.....	237
Acts.....	125	James.....	249
Romans.....	160	1 Peter.....	253
1 Corinthians.....	177	2 Peter.....	258
2 Corinthians.....	192	1 John.....	261
Galatians	202	2 John.....	265
Ephesians	208	3 John.....	266
Philippians	213	Jude.....	267
Colossians.....	217	Revelation.....	269
1 Thessalonians	221	_____	
2 Thessalonians	224	Psalms.....	289
1 Timothy.....	226	Proverbs.....	376

A NOTE TO READERS

The *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation (NLT) is one of the best-known Bible translations in the English-speaking world. The NLT is the result of many years of work by a committee of top biblical scholars and linguists. The NLT Bible Translation Committee (BTC) was first commissioned in the late 1980s. The BTC scholars were committed to creating a fresh Bible translation that was both accurate and understandable. For over eight years this committee of twelve worked hand in hand with over ninety additional scholars to carefully craft the translation using the best Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic texts. They incorporated the latest linguistic and cultural insights to create a translation that is profoundly accurate without sacrificing readability.

The goal of the BTC was to convey to contemporary readers the meaning and content of the ancient texts as accurately and clearly as possible. The result is a translation that seeks to communicate as powerfully to people today as the original texts communicated to readers and listeners in the biblical world. Since written copies were scarce in the ancient world, people regularly received Scripture by listening to it as it was read aloud. Therefore, the NLT translation process included reading the text aloud to ensure that it would communicate effectively and beautifully, whether read in public or in private. The NLT is the result of an exacting scholarly translation process, designed to ensure that it is accurate, understandable, and audibly enjoyable for all uses—from sermons to teaching to serious Bible study to group discussions to everyday reading for all ages and stages of life.

The New Living Translation communicates God's word powerfully to all who read or hear it. Our continuous prayer is that God uses it to speak his timeless truth to the church and the world.

The Publishers

For more on the New Living Translation, including a description of the translation process and a list of the NLT scholars, visit newlivingtranslation.com.

WELCOME TO THE NEW TESTAMENT!

Many Books, One Message

This New Testament may look like one book, but it is actually twenty-seven books rolled into one. Each New Testament book is unique. But though each book has its own style and character, each contributes to God's life-changing message. What is that message? Through the New Testament, God makes it clear that he loves us and has a plan to rescue us and our world from the destructive power of sin.

God's Message

Why is this book so important? Because the Bible is the very word of God. It came from God himself. Over hundreds of years, he chose individuals to write down what he wanted to tell us. This process is called "inspiration." One of Jesus' closest followers, Peter, wrote, "Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God" (2 Peter 1:20-21). Although these authors wrote in Greek, their words have been carefully translated into many languages. So today we can read God's message in our own language—modern English.

God's Message for Today

In 2 Timothy 3:16-17, the apostle Paul reminded his student, Timothy, that "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work." This is still true today, even though the Bible was written hundreds of years ago. Its message is timeless, personal, and powerful because it comes from God. Millions have discovered that the Scripture speaks to their deepest needs, and people from all over the world turn to it daily for words of comfort, encouragement, hope, inspiration, and guidance. There they find satisfying answers to life's most perplexing questions and difficult problems.

The Bible, however, is more than just an answer book for our problems. It is also made up of inspiring stories, beautiful poetry, convicting messages, and the life-giving story of Jesus Christ.

God's Message for You

What is God's message for *you*? Read this amazing book carefully, looking for how God worked in the lives of people many years ago. Then look deeper to discover the timeless truths that can be applied to your life today. Look for ways that God's timeless truths apply to *you*. How does he want *your* life to change? As God speaks to you through his holy word, do what you know he wants you to do—obey him. James 1:22-25 says, "But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it."

How to Begin Reading the New Testament

Eventually, you will want to read the entire Bible, which includes both Old and New Testaments. However, you don't have to read straight through from

the beginning. Since the Bible is a library of books, you can begin almost anywhere. And this New Testament is a great place to start.

Start your reading with the book of Mark (page 37). This book will give you a dramatic introduction to the events that changed the world and can open the door to the abundant life. It is a short, fast-moving biography of Jesus, written by a young man who probably witnessed most of Jesus' three-year ministry. In addition, Mark probably knew Jesus' disciples well and drew on their memories to help write this book.

Then follow the story of the first Christians by reading the book of Acts (page 125). This picks up where Mark ends and tells the story of how the earliest believers spread the Good News of Jesus all over the world. Next read the book of Romans (page 160), one of the many letters written by the apostle Paul. It was sent to a group of first-century Christians in Rome. In it Paul clearly explains how selfish, arrogant, sinful humans can find acceptance with God. After you finish Romans, read some of the shorter letters, like Galatians (page 202), Ephesians (page 208), Philippians (page 213), and Colossians (page 217).

For further guidance, see *Where Can I Find It?* on page A9.

HOW TO KNOW JESUS PERSONALLY

God wants all of us to experience a life that has meaning, direction, love, and peace. God makes this kind of life possible through a personal relationship with his Son, Jesus. But before you accept Jesus as your Savior, here are five truths that will help to clarify what God wants for you:

1. God has a plan for your life. "No one can receive anything unless God gives it from heaven" (John 3:27, page 101). God created you and has a good plan for you. To know that plan, you must get to know God personally and learn to listen to his direction. God's plan always unfolds in the context of a relationship with him.

2. God's plan gives meaning. "Jesus replied, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty'" (John 6:35, page 105). Many people seek meaning and purpose for their lives but never find it because they look for meaning in the wrong things and the wrong people. When you follow God's plan for your life, the most important part of which is to know Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you will find meaning and purpose in all that you do.

3. God's plan gives direction. "Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, 'I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life'" (John 8:12, page 108). Without God's direction, you may not know what to do with your life. But if you have God in your life, he will lead you and show you how to make your life count for him and his Kingdom.

4. God's plan brings peace. "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid" (John 14:27, page 117). When you follow Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you will be at peace with God. You will also be filled with God's peace. So when troubles come, you will be able to have peace as you endure hardships.

5. God's plan is for you to have an eternal relationship with him. "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16, page 101). Before Adam and Eve sinned (from Genesis 3 in the Old Testament), they had a good relationship with God, and they weren't ashamed to enter his presence. But after they sinned, their relationship with God changed, and they were ashamed to draw near to God. Sin had separated them and all their descendants—including you—from God. But God did not want sin to keep people from having a relationship with him. So he provided a way for people to be cleansed of their sins and live with him in heaven forever. He sent his only Son, Jesus, as the perfect payment for the sins of all people.

So How Do You Enter a Relationship with God?

You are important to God, whether you are aware of it or not. Throughout your entire life, he has been reaching out to establish a relationship with you. He has done everything necessary to break down whatever barriers might stand in the way. But as is true of any relationship, part of the burden falls on you.

First, you need to recognize that you have been separated from God by sin. "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard" (Romans 3:23, page 162). "As the Scriptures say, 'No one is righteous—not even

one'" (Romans 3:10, page 162). Since everyone has sinned, no one deserves eternal life with God. And no one can work hard enough to earn it. So God gives eternal life to everyone who believes that Jesus Christ is his Son. Before you can appreciate what Jesus has done for you, you need to recognize that you are a sinner in need of God's forgiveness. If you never acknowledge this, you will never receive God's forgiveness and the eternal life he freely offers.

Second, you need to ask God to forgive you. "Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault" (Colossians 1:22, page 217). If you recognize that you are a sinner, then you may be ready to ask God to forgive you. Do you believe that Jesus is the eternal Son of God, who died to pay the penalty for your sins? If you do and you have never thanked Jesus for dying for you, thank him right now in a simple prayer: "Lord, thank you for paying for the sins I have committed. I give my life to you. Teach me the right way to live. Amen."

Third, you need to turn from your sins and embrace a new calling. "Those who have been born into God's family do not make a practice of sinning, because God's life is in them. So they can't keep on sinning, because they are children of God" (1 John 3:9, page 262). As a Christian, you may sin from time to time. But you cannot continue to live a sinful lifestyle. Putting your faith in Jesus means that you are choosing to turn away from your old sinful nature. It also means that you are choosing to live to please God. You can please God by obeying the commands he has given in the Bible, which include, above all, the commands to love God and love other people. Your obedience demonstrates that you belong to Jesus, that you are alive in him and living the eternal life that he has made possible.

WHERE CAN I FIND IT?

The Sermon on the Mount	<i>Matthew 5-7</i>page 4
The Beatitudes	<i>Matthew 5:3-11</i>page 4
The Lord's Prayer	<i>Matthew 6:9-13</i>page 6
The Golden Rule	<i>Luke 6:31</i>page 69
God Loved the World	<i>John 3:16</i>page 101
The Love Chapter	<i>1 Corinthians 13</i>page 187
The Faith Chapter	<i>Hebrews 11</i>page 245

———— Great Stories of the New Testament ————

Jesus Is Born	<i>Matthew 1:18-25</i>page 1 <i>Luke 2:1-20</i>page 62
Wise Men Visit Jesus	<i>Matthew 2:1-12</i>page 2
Jesus Is Tempted	<i>Matthew 4:1-11</i>page 3
Jesus Walks on Water	<i>Matthew 14:22-36</i>page 17
Jesus Feeds 5,000	<i>Matthew 14:13-21</i>page 17 <i>Mark 6:30-44</i>page 44
The Good Samaritan	<i>Luke 10:25-37</i>page 77
The Lost Son	<i>Luke 15:11-32</i>page 84
Jesus and Zacchaeus	<i>Luke 19:1-10</i>page 88
Jesus Raises Lazarus	<i>John 11:1-44</i>page 112
The Triumphal Entry	<i>Matthew 21:1-11</i>page 24
The Last Supper	<i>Matthew 26:17-30</i>page 31 <i>John 13:1-30</i>page 115
Jesus' Crucifixion	<i>Matthew 27:32-56</i>page 34 <i>John 19:16-42</i>page 121
Jesus' Resurrection	<i>Matthew 28:1-15</i>page 35 <i>Luke 24:1-34</i>page 96
Jesus' Ascension	<i>Luke 24:50-53</i>page 97 <i>Acts 1:6-11</i>page 125
The Holy Spirit Comes	<i>Acts 2:1-13</i>page 126

———— Great Verses to Memorize ————

Matthew 5:43-45	<i>Love for Enemies</i>page 6
Matthew 6:33	<i>Seek the Kingdom</i>page 7
Matthew 11:28-29	<i>Come to Me</i>page 13
John 3:16	<i>God's Love</i>page 101
John 11:25	<i>Resurrection</i>page 112
John 14:6	<i>Christ Alone</i>page 116
John 14:27	<i>Peace</i>page 117
Acts 16:31	<i>Faith</i>page 145

Romans 1:16	<i>Good News</i> page 160
Romans 3:23	<i>Sin and Salvation</i> page 162
Romans 5:1-2	<i>Peace with God</i> page 164
Romans 6:23	<i>Eternal Life</i> page 165
Romans 8:28	<i>God's Plan</i> page 167
Romans 12:1-2	<i>Commitment to God</i> page 171
1 Corinthians 10:13	<i>Temptation</i> page 184
2 Corinthians 5:17	<i>New Persons</i> page 195
2 Corinthians 9:7	<i>Giving Cheerfully</i> page 198
Galatians 5:22-23	<i>Fruit of the Spirit</i> page 206
Ephesians 3:20	<i>God's Power</i> page 210
Philippians 4:6	<i>Joy and Peace</i> page 216
Philippians 4:13	<i>Strength</i> page 216
Colossians 1:15-17	<i>Christ the Creator</i> page 217
Colossians 3:13	<i>Forgiveness</i> page 219
Colossians 3:15	<i>Peace from Christ</i> page 219
Hebrews 4:12	<i>God's Word</i> page 239
Hebrews 10:24-25	<i>Encouragement</i> page 244
James 1:5-8	<i>Wisdom, Prayer</i> page 249
1 Peter 5:7	<i>Worry</i> page 257
1 John 1:8-9	<i>Confession, Forgiveness</i> page 261
Revelation 3:20	<i>Salvation</i> page 272

Matthew

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*:

- ² Abraham was the father of Isaac.
Isaac was the father of Jacob.
Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers.
- ³ Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah (whose mother was Tamar).
Perez was the father of Hezron.
Hezron was the father of Ram.*
- ⁴ Ram was the father of Amminadab.
Amminadab was the father of Nahshon.
Nahshon was the father of Salmon.
- ⁵ 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.
- ⁶ Jesse was the father of King David.
David was the father of Solomon (whose mother was Bathsheba, the widow of Uriah).
- ⁷ Solomon was the father of Rehoboam.
Rehoboam was the father of Abijah.
Abijah was the father of Asa.*
- ⁸ Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat.
Jehoshaphat was the father of Jehoram.*
Jehoram was the father* of Uzziah.
- ⁹ Uzziah was the father of Jotham.
Jotham was the father of Ahaz.
Ahaz was the father of Hezekiah.
- ¹⁰ Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh.
Manasseh was the father of Amon.*

Amon was the father of Josiah.

- ¹¹ Josiah was the father of Jehoiachin* and his brothers (born at the time of the exile to Babylon).
- ¹² After the Babylonian exile: Jehoiachin was the father of Shealtiel.
Shealtiel was the father of Zerubbabel.
- ¹³ Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud.
Abiud was the father of Eliakim.
Eliakim was the father of Azor.
- ¹⁴ Azor was the father of Zadok.
Zadok was the father of Akim.
Akim was the father of Eliud.
- ¹⁵ Eliud was the father of Eleazar.
Eleazar was the father of Matthan.
Matthan was the father of Jacob.
- ¹⁶ Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary.
Mary gave birth to Jesus, who is called the Messiah.

¹⁷All 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

¹⁸This 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. ¹⁹Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement* quietly.

²⁰As 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

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

child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. ²¹And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus,* for he will save his people from their sins."

²²All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet:

²³ "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.'"

²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. ²⁵But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.

Visitors from the East

2 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, ²"Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose,* and we have come to worship him."

³King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. ⁴He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?"

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

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.'"

⁷Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. ⁸Then 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!"

⁹After 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. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! ¹¹They 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.

¹²When 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.

The Escape to Egypt

¹³After 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."

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

¹⁶Herod 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. ¹⁷Herod'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."*

The Return to Nazareth

¹⁹When 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."

²¹So Joseph got up and returned to the land of Israel with Jesus and his mother. ²²But 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

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

Galilee. ²³So the family went and lived in a town called Nazareth. This fulfilled what the prophets had said: "He will be called a Nazarene."

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

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

"He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the LORD's coming!
Clear the road for him!'"*

⁴John'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. ⁵People from Jerusalem and from all of Judea and all over the Jordan Valley went out to see and hear John. ⁶And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to watch him baptize,* he denounced them. "You brood of snakes!" he exclaimed. "Who warned you to flee the coming wrath? ⁸Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God. ⁹Don'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. ¹⁰Even now the ax of God's judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the trees. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹"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.*

¹²He 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."

3:2 Or has come, or is coming soon. **3:3** Isa 40:3 (Greek version). **3:7** Or coming to be baptized. **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. **4:6** Ps 91:11-12. **4:7** Deut 6:16.

The Baptism of Jesus

¹³Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. ¹⁴But 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?"

¹⁵But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires.*" So John agreed to baptize him.

¹⁶After 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. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."

The Temptation of Jesus

4 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. ²For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry.

³During that time the devil* came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread."

⁴But 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."*

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, ⁶and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say,

"He will order his angels to
protect you.
And they will hold you up with
their hands
so you won't even hurt your
foot on a stone."*

⁷Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the LORD your God.'*"

⁸Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹"I will give it all to you," he said, "if you will kneel down and worship me."

¹⁰"Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "For the Scriptures say,

'You must worship the LORD
your God
and serve only him.'*"

¹¹ Then the devil went away, and
angels came and took care of Jesus.

The Ministry of Jesus Begins

¹² When Jesus heard that John had
been arrested, he left Judea and
returned to Galilee. ¹³ He went first
to Nazareth, then left there and
moved to Capernaum, beside the
Sea of Galilee, in the region of Zeb-
ulun and Naphtali. ¹⁴ This fulfilled
what God said through the prophet
Isaiah:

¹⁵ "In the land of Zebulun and of
Naphtali,
beside the sea, beyond the
Jordan River,
in Galilee where so many
Gentiles live,
¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light.
And for those who lived in the
land where death casts its
shadow,
a light has shined."*

¹⁷ From then on Jesus began to
preach, "Repent of your sins and
turn to God, for the Kingdom of
Heaven is near."*

The First Disciples

¹⁸ One day as Jesus was walking
along the shore of the Sea of Gal-
ilee, he saw two brothers—Simon,
also called Peter, and Andrew—
throwing a net into the water, for
they fished for a living. ¹⁹ Jesus
called out to them, "Come, follow
me, and I will show you how to fish
for people!" ²⁰ And they left their
nets at once and followed him.

²¹ A little farther up the shore he
saw two other brothers, James and
John, sitting in a boat with their fa-
ther, Zebedee, repairing their nets.
And he called them to come, too.

²² They immediately followed him,
leaving the boat and their father
behind.

Crowds Follow Jesus

²³ Jesus traveled throughout the re-
gion of Galilee, teaching in the syna-
gogues and announcing the Good
News about the Kingdom. And he
healed every kind of disease and
illness. ²⁴ News about him spread
as far as Syria, and people soon
began bringing to him all who were

sick. And whatever their sickness or
disease, or if they were demon pos-
sessed or epileptic or paralyzed—he
healed them all. ²⁵ Large crowds
followed him wherever he went—
people from Galilee, the Ten Towns,*
Jerusalem, from all over Judea, and
from east of the Jordan River.

The Sermon on the Mount

5 One day as he saw the crowds
gathering, Jesus went up on the
mountainside and sat down. His dis-
ciples gathered around him, ² and
he began to teach them.

The Beatitudes

³ "God blesses those who are
poor and realize their
need for him,*
for the Kingdom of Heaven
is theirs.
⁴ God blesses those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
⁵ God blesses those who are
humble,
for they will inherit the
whole earth.
⁶ God blesses those who hunger
and thirst for justice,*
for they will be satisfied.
⁷ God blesses those who are
merciful,
for they will be shown
mercy.
⁸ God blesses those whose
hearts are pure,
for they will see God.
⁹ God blesses those who work
for peace,
for they will be called the
children of God.
¹⁰ God blesses those who are
persecuted for doing
right,
for the Kingdom of Heaven
is theirs.

¹¹ "God blesses you when people
mock you and persecute you and
lie about you and say all sorts of
evil things against you because
you are my followers. ¹² Be happy
about it! Be very glad! For a great
reward awaits you in heaven. And
remember, the ancient prophets
were persecuted in the same way.

Teaching about Salt and Light

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth.
But what good is salt if it has lost
its flavor? Can you make it salty
again? It will be thrown out and
trampled underfoot as worthless.

4:10 Deut 6:13. **4:15-16** Isa 9:1-2 (Greek version). **4:17** Or *has come, or is coming soon*. **4:25** Greek *Decapolis*. **5:3** Greek *poor in spirit*. **5:6** Or *for righteousness*.

¹⁴"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Teaching about the Law

¹⁷"Don't misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose. ¹⁸I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God's law will disappear until its purpose is achieved. ¹⁹So if you ignore the least commandment and teach others to do the same, you will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But anyone who obeys God's laws and teaches them will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.

²⁰"But I warn you—unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven!

Teaching about Anger

²¹"You have heard that our ancestors were told, 'You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.'^{*} ²²But I say, if you are even angry with someone,^{*} you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot,^{*} you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone,^{*} you are in danger of the fires of hell.^{*}

²³"So if you are presenting a sacrifice^{*} at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, ²⁴leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.

²⁵"When you are on the way to court with your adversary, settle your differences quickly. Otherwise, your accuser may hand you over to the judge, who will hand you over to an officer, and you will be thrown

into prison. ²⁶And if that happens, you surely won't be free again until you have paid the last penny.^{*}

Teaching about Adultery

²⁷"You have heard the commandment that says, 'You must not commit adultery.'^{*} ²⁸But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹So if your eye—even your good eye^{*}—causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your hand—even your stronger hand^{*}—causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

Teaching about Divorce

³¹"You have heard the law that says, 'A man can divorce his wife by merely giving her a written notice of divorce.'^{*} ³²But I say that a man who divorces his wife, unless she has been unfaithful, causes her to commit adultery. And anyone who marries a divorced woman also commits adultery.

Teaching about Vows

³³"You have also heard that our ancestors were told, 'You must not break your vows; you must carry out the vows you make to the LORD.'^{*} ³⁴But I say, do not make any vows! Do not say, 'By heaven!' because heaven is God's throne. ³⁵And do not say, 'By the earth!' because the earth is his footstool. And do not say, 'By Jerusalem!' for Jerusalem is the city of the great King. ³⁶Do not even say, 'By my head!' for you can't turn one hair white or black. ³⁷Just say a simple, 'Yes, I will,' or 'No, I won't.' Anything beyond this is from the evil one.

Teaching about Revenge

³⁸"You have heard the law that says the punishment must match the injury: 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.'^{*} ³⁹But I say, do not resist an evil person! If someone

5:21 Exod 20:13; Deut 5:17. **5:22a** Some manuscripts add *without cause*. **5:22b** Greek uses an Aramaic term of contempt: *If you say to your brother, 'Raca.'* **5:22c** Greek *if you say, 'You fool.'* **5:22d** Greek *Gehenna*; also in 5:29, 30. **5:23** Greek *gift*; also in 5:24. **5:26** Greek *the last kodrantes* [i.e., quadrans]. **5:27** Exod 20:14; Deut 5:18. **5:29** Greek *your right eye*. **5:30** Greek *your right hand*. **5:31** Deut 24:1. **5:33** Num 30:2. **5:38** Greek *the law that says: 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'* Exod 21:24; Lev 24:20; Deut 19:21.

slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek also. ⁴⁰If you are sued in court and your shirt is taken from you, give your coat, too. ⁴¹If a soldier demands that you carry his gear for a mile,* carry it two miles. ⁴²Give to those who ask, and don't turn away from those who want to borrow.

Teaching about Love for Enemies

⁴³"You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor'* and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴But I say, love your enemies!* Pray for those who persecute you! ⁴⁵In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. ⁴⁶If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. ⁴⁷If you are kind only to your friends,* how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. ⁴⁸But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Teaching about Giving to the Needy

6 "Watch out! Don't do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven. ²When you give to someone in need, don't do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. ³But when you give to someone in need, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. ⁴Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

Teaching about Prayer and Fasting

⁵"When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. ⁶But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

⁷"When you pray, don't babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. ⁸Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him! ⁹Pray like this:

Our Father in heaven,
may your name be kept holy.
¹⁰ May your Kingdom come soon.
May your will be done on
earth,
as it is in heaven.
¹¹ Give us today the food we
need,*
¹² and forgive us our sins,
as we have forgiven those
who sin against us.
¹³ And don't let us yield to
temptation,*
but rescue us from the evil
one.*

¹⁴"If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. ¹⁵But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

¹⁶"And when you fast, don't make it obvious, as the hypocrites do, for they try to look miserable and disheveled so people will admire them for their fasting. I tell you the truth, that is the only reward they will ever get. ¹⁷But when you fast, comb your hair* and wash your face. ¹⁸Then no one will notice that you are fasting, except your Father, who knows what you do in private. And your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

Teaching about Money and Possessions

¹⁹"Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

²²"Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. ²³But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have

5:41 Greek *milion* [4,854 feet or 1,478 meters]. **5:43** Lev 19:18. **5:44** Some manuscripts add *Bless those who curse you. Do good to those who hate you.* Compare Luke 6:27-28. **5:47** Greek *your brothers*. **6:11** Or *Give us today our food for the day; or Give us today our food for tomorrow.* **6:13a** Or *And keep us from being tested.* **6:13b** Or *from evil.* Some manuscripts add *For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.* **6:17** Greek *anoint your head.*

is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!

²⁴"No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.

²⁵"That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? ²⁷Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?

²⁸"And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, ²⁹yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. ³⁰And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

³¹"So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' ³²These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. ³³Seek the Kingdom of God* above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

³⁴"So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.

Do Not Judge Others

7"Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. ²For you will be treated as you treat others.* The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged.*

³"And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye* when you have a log in your own? ⁴How can you think of saying to your friend, 'Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye? ⁵Hypocrite! First get rid of the log

in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye.

⁶"Don't waste what is holy on people who are unholy.* Don't throw your pearls to pigs! They will trample the pearls, then turn and attack you.

Effective Prayer

⁷"Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

⁹"You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? ¹⁰Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! ¹¹So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.

The Golden Rule

¹²"Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.

The Narrow Gate

¹³"You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell* is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. ¹⁴But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.

The Tree and Its Fruit

¹⁵"Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. ¹⁶You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. ¹⁹So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.

6:33 Some manuscripts do not include of God. **7:2a** Or For God will judge you as you judge others. **7:2b** Or The measure you give will be the measure you get back.

7:3 Greek your brother's eye; also in 7:5. **7:4** Greek your brother. **7:6** Greek Don't give the sacred to dogs. **7:13** Greek The road that leads to destruction.

True Disciples

²¹"Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. ²²On judgment day many 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.' ²³But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.'

Building on a Solid Foundation

²⁴"Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. ²⁵Though 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. ²⁶But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. ²⁷When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash."

²⁸When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, ²⁹for he taught with real authority—quite unlike their teachers of religious law.

Jesus Heals a Man with Leprosy

8 Large crowds followed Jesus as he came down the mountain-side. ²Suddenly, a man with leprosy approached him and knelt before him. "Lord," the man said, "if you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean."

³Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!" And instantly the leprosy disappeared. ⁴Then Jesus said to him, "Don't tell anyone about this. Instead, go to the priest and let him examine you. Take along the offering required in the law of Moses for those who have been healed of leprosy.* This will be a public testimony that you have been cleansed."

The Faith of a Roman Officer

⁵When Jesus returned to Capernaum, a Roman officer* came and pleaded with him, ⁶"Lord, my young servant* lies in bed, paralyzed and in terrible pain."

⁷Jesus said, "I will come and heal him."

⁸But the officer said, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come into my home. Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed. ⁹I know this because I am under the authority of my superior officers, and I have authority over my soldiers. I only need to say, 'Go,' and they go, or 'Come,' and they come. And if I say to my slaves, 'Do this,' they do it."

¹⁰When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. Turning to those who were following him, he said, "I tell you the truth, I haven't seen faith like this in all Israel! ¹¹And I tell you this, that many Gentiles will come from all over the world—from east and west—and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the feast in the Kingdom of Heaven. ¹²But many Israelites—those for whom the Kingdom was prepared—will be thrown into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

¹³Then Jesus said to the Roman officer, "Go back home. Because you believed, it has happened." And the young servant was healed that same hour.

Jesus Heals Many People

¹⁴When Jesus arrived at Peter's house, Peter's mother-in-law was sick in bed with a high fever. ¹⁵But when Jesus touched her hand, the fever left her. Then she got up and prepared a meal for him.

¹⁶That evening many demon-possessed people were brought to Jesus. He cast out the evil spirits with a simple command, and he healed all the sick. ¹⁷This fulfilled the word of the Lord through the prophet Isaiah, who said,

"He took our sicknesses
and removed our diseases."*

The Cost of Following Jesus

¹⁸When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he instructed his disciples to cross to the other side of the lake.

¹⁹Then one of the teachers of religious law said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go."

²⁰But Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man* has no place even to lay his head."

²¹Another of his disciples said, "Lord, first let me return home and bury my father."

8:4 See Lev 14:2-32. **8:5** Greek *a centurion*; similarly in 8:8, 13. **8:6** Or *child*; also in 8:13. **8:17** Isa 53:4. **8:20** "Son of Man" is a title Jesus used for himself.

²²But Jesus told him, "Follow me now. Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead.*"

Jesus Calms the Storm

²³Then Jesus got into the boat and started across the lake with his disciples. ²⁴Suddenly, a fierce storm struck the lake, with waves breaking into the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. ²⁵The disciples went and woke him up, shouting, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"

²⁶Jesus responded, "Why are you afraid? You have so little faith!" Then he got up and rebuked the wind and waves, and suddenly there was a great calm.

²⁷The disciples were amazed. "Who is this man?" they asked. "Even the winds and waves obey him!"

Jesus Heals Two Demon-Possessed Men

²⁸When Jesus arrived on the other side of the lake, in the region of the Gadarenes,* two men who were possessed by demons met him. They came out of the tombs and were so violent that no one could go through that area.

²⁹They began screaming at him, "Why are you interfering with us, Son of God? Have you come here to torture us before God's appointed time?"

³⁰There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding in the distance.

³¹So the demons begged, "If you cast us out, send us into that herd of pigs."

³²"All right, go!" Jesus commanded them. So the demons came out of the men and entered the pigs, and the whole herd plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned in the water.

³³The herdsmen fled to the nearby town, telling everyone what happened to the demon-possessed men. ³⁴Then the entire town came out to meet Jesus, but they begged him to go away and leave them alone.

Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man

9 Jesus climbed into a boat and went back across the lake to his own town. ²Some people brought to him a paralyzed man on a mat. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "Be encouraged, my child! Your sins are forgiven."

³But some of the teachers of religious law said to themselves, "That's blasphemy! Does he think he's God?"

⁴Jesus knew* what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you have such evil thoughts in your hearts? ⁵Is it easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up and walk'? ⁶So I will prove to you that the Son of Man* has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!"

⁷And the man jumped up and went home! ⁸Fear swept through the crowd as they saw this happen. And they praised God for giving humans such authority.

Jesus Calls Matthew

⁹As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him.

¹⁰Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. ¹¹But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with such scum?*"

¹²When Jesus heard this, he said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do." ¹³Then he added, "Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.*' For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."

A Discussion about Fasting

¹⁴One day the disciples of John the Baptist came to Jesus and asked him, "Why don't your disciples fast* like we do and the Pharisees do?"

¹⁵Jesus replied, "Do wedding guests mourn while celebrating with the groom? Of course not. But someday the groom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.

¹⁶"Besides, who would patch old clothing with new cloth? For the new patch would shrink and

8:22 Greek *Let the dead bury their own dead.* **8:28** Other manuscripts read *Gerasenes*; still others read *Gergesenes*. Compare Mark 5:1; Luke 8:26. **9:4** Some manuscripts read *saw*. **9:6** "Son of Man" is a title Jesus used for himself. **9:11** Greek *with tax collectors and sinners?* **9:13** Hos 6:6 (Greek version). **9:14** Some manuscripts read *fast often*.

rip away from the old cloth, leaving an even bigger tear than before.

¹⁷“And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the old skins would burst from the pressure, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. New wine is stored in new wineskins so that both are preserved.”

Jesus Heals in Response to Faith

¹⁸As Jesus was saying this, the leader of a synagogue came and knelt before him. “My daughter has just died,” he said, “but you can bring her back to life again if you just come and lay your hand on her.”

¹⁹So Jesus and his disciples got up and went with him. ²⁰Just then a woman who had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding came up behind him. She touched the fringe of his robe, ²¹for she thought, “If I can just touch his robe, I will be healed.”

²²Jesus turned around, and when he saw her he said, “Daughter, be encouraged! Your faith has made you well.” And the woman was healed at that moment.

²³When Jesus arrived at the official’s home, he saw the noisy crowd and heard the funeral music. ²⁴“Get out!” he told them. “The girl isn’t dead; she’s only asleep.” But the crowd laughed at him. ²⁵After the crowd was put outside, however, Jesus went in and took the girl by the hand, and she stood up! ²⁶The report of this miracle swept through the entire countryside.

Jesus Heals the Blind

²⁷After Jesus left the girl’s home, two blind men followed along behind him, shouting, “Son of David, have mercy on us!”

²⁸They went right into the house where he was staying, and Jesus asked them, “Do you believe I can make you see?”

“Yes, Lord,” they told him, “we do.”

²⁹Then he touched their eyes and said, “Because of your faith, it will happen.” ³⁰Then their eyes were opened, and they could see! Jesus sternly warned them, “Don’t tell anyone about this.” ³¹But instead, they went out and spread his fame all over the region.

³²When they left, a demon-possessed man who couldn’t

speak was brought to Jesus. ³³So Jesus cast out the demon, and then the man began to speak. The crowds were amazed. “Nothing like this has ever happened in Israel!” they exclaimed.

³⁴But the Pharisees said, “He can cast out demons because he is empowered by the prince of demons.”

The Need for Workers

³⁵Jesus 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. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷He said to his disciples, “The harvest is great, but the workers are few. ³⁸So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.”

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve Apostles

10 Jesus called his twelve disciples together and gave them authority to cast out evil* spirits and to heal every kind of disease and illness. ²Here are the names of the twelve apostles:

first, Simon (also called Peter), then Andrew (Peter’s brother), James (son of Zebedee), John (James’s brother),

³ Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew (the tax collector), James (son of Alphaeus), Thaddaeus,*

⁴ Simon (the zealot*), Judas Iscariot (who later betrayed him).

⁵Jesus sent out the twelve apostles with these instructions: “Don’t go to the Gentiles or the Samaritans, ⁶but only to the people of Israel—God’s lost sheep. ⁷Go and announce to them that the Kingdom of Heaven is near.* ⁸Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received!

⁹“Don’t take any money in your money belts—no gold, silver, or even copper coins. ¹⁰Don’t carry

10:1 Greek *unclean*. **10:3** Other manuscripts read *Lebbaeus*; still others read *Lebbaeus who is called Thaddaeus*. **10:4** Greek *the Cananean*, an Aramaic term for Jewish nationalists. **10:7** Or *has come*, or *is coming soon*.

a traveler's bag with a change of clothes and sandals or even a walking stick. Don't hesitate to accept hospitality, because those who work deserve to be fed.

¹¹ "Whenever you enter a city or village, search for a worthy person and stay in his home until you leave town. ¹² When you enter the home, give it your blessing. ¹³ If it turns out to be a worthy home, let your blessing stand; if it is not, take back the blessing. ¹⁴ If any household or town refuses to welcome you or listen to your message, shake its dust from your feet as you leave. ¹⁵ I tell you the truth, the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah will be better off than such a town on the judgment day.

¹⁶ "Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and harmless as doves. ¹⁷ But beware! For you will be handed over to the courts and will be flogged with whips in the synagogues. ¹⁸ You will stand trial before governors and kings because you are my followers. But this will be your opportunity to tell the rulers and other unbelievers about me.* ¹⁹ When you are arrested, don't worry about how to respond or what to say. God will give you the right words at the right time. ²⁰ For it is not you who will be speaking—it will be the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

²¹ "A brother will betray his brother to death, a father will betray his own child, and children will rebel against their parents and cause them to be killed. ²² And all nations will hate you because you are my followers.* But everyone who endures to the end will be saved. ²³ When you are persecuted in one town, flee to the next. I tell you the truth, the Son of Man* will return before you have reached all the towns of Israel.

²⁴ "Students* are not greater than their teacher, and slaves are not greater than their master. ²⁵ Students are to be like their teacher, and slaves are to be like their master. And since I, the master of the household, have been called the prince of demons,* the

members of my household will be called by even worse names!

²⁶ "But don't be afraid of those who threaten you. For the time is coming when everything that is covered will be revealed, and all that is secret will be made known to all. ²⁷ What I tell you now in the darkness, shout abroad when daybreak comes. What I whisper in your ear, shout from the house-tops for all to hear!

²⁸ "Don't be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell.* ²⁹ What is the price of two sparrows—one copper coin*? But not a single sparrow can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it. ³⁰ And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. ³¹ So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows.

³² "Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. ³³ But everyone who denies me here on earth, I will also deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴ "Don't imagine that I came to bring peace to the earth! I came not to bring peace, but a sword.

³⁵ 'I have come to set a man
against his father,
a daughter against her
mother,
and a daughter-in-law against
her mother-in-law.

³⁶ Your enemies will be right in
your own household!*

³⁷ "If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine. ³⁸ If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. ³⁹ If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.

⁴⁰ "Anyone who receives you receives me, and anyone who receives me receives the Father who sent me.

⁴¹ If you receive a prophet as one who speaks for God,* you will be

10:18 Or *But this will be your testimony against the rulers and other unbelievers.*

10:22 Greek *on account of my name.* **10:23** "Son of Man" is a title Jesus used for himself. **10:24** Or *Disciples.* **10:25** Greek *Beelzebul*; other manuscripts read *Beezebul*; Latin version reads *Beelzebub.* **10:28** Greek *Gehenna.* **10:29** Greek *one assarion* [i.e., one "as," a Roman coin equal to 1/16 of a denarius]. **10:35-36** Mic 7:6. **10:41** Greek *receive a prophet in the name of a prophet.*

given the same reward as a prophet. And if you receive righteous people because of their righteousness, you will be given a reward like theirs.⁴² And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded."

Jesus and John the Baptist

11 When Jesus had finished giving these instructions to his twelve disciples, he went out to teach and preach in towns throughout the region.

²John the Baptist, who was in prison, heard about all the things the Messiah was doing. So he sent his disciples to ask Jesus, ³"Are you the Messiah we've been expecting,* or should we keep looking for someone else?"

⁴Jesus told them, "Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen—⁵the blind see, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor."⁶ And he added, "God blesses those who do not fall away because of me.*"

⁷As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began talking about him to the crowds. "What kind of man did you go into the wilderness to see? Was he a weak reed, swayed by every breath of wind?⁸ Or were you expecting to see a man dressed in expensive clothes? No, people with expensive clothes live in palaces.⁹ Were you looking for a prophet? Yes, and he is more than a prophet.¹⁰ John is the man to whom the Scriptures refer when they say,

'Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, and he will prepare your way before you.*'

¹¹"I tell you the truth, of all who have ever lived, none is greater than John the Baptist. Yet even the least person in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he is!¹² And from the time John the Baptist began preaching until now, the Kingdom of Heaven has been forcefully advancing,* and violent people are attacking it.¹³ For before John came, all the prophets and the law of Moses looked forward to this present time.¹⁴ And if you are willing to accept what I say, he is Elijah, the one the

prophets said would come.*¹⁵ Any one with ears to hear should listen and understand!

¹⁶"To what can I compare this generation? It is like children playing a game in the public square. They complain to their friends,

¹⁷ 'We played wedding songs, and you didn't dance, so we played funeral songs, and you didn't mourn.'

¹⁸For John didn't spend his time eating and drinking, and you say, 'He's possessed by a demon.'¹⁹ The Son of Man,* on the other hand, feasts and drinks, and you say, 'He's a glutton and a drunkard, and a friend of tax collectors and other sinners!' But wisdom is shown to be right by its results."

Judgment for the Unbelievers

²⁰Then Jesus began to denounce the towns where he had done so many of his miracles, because they hadn't repented of their sins and turned to God.²¹ "What sorrow awaits you, Korazin and Bethsaida! For if the miracles I did in you had been done in wicked Tyre and Sidon, their people would have repented of their sins long ago, clothing themselves in burlap and throwing ashes on their heads to show their remorse.²² I tell you, Tyre and Sidon will be better off on judgment day than you.

²³"And you people of Capernaum, will you be honored in heaven? No, you will go down to the place of the dead.* For if the miracles I did for you had been done in wicked Sodom, it would still be here today.²⁴ I tell you, even Sodom will be better off on judgment day than you."

Jesus' Prayer of Thanksgiving

²⁵At that time Jesus prayed this prayer: "O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for hiding these things from those who think themselves wise and clever, and for revealing them to the childlike.²⁶ Yes, Father, it pleased you to do it this way!

²⁷"My Father has entrusted everything to me. No one truly knows the Son except the Father, and no one truly knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

11:3 Greek *Are you the one who is coming?* **11:6** Or *who are not offended by me.*

11:10 Mal 3:1. **11:12** Or *the Kingdom of Heaven has suffered from violence.* **11:14** See Mal 4:5. **11:19** "Son of Man" is a title Jesus used for himself. **11:23** Greek *to Hades.*

²⁸Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light."

A Discussion about the Sabbath

12 At about that time Jesus was walking through some grain-fields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, so they began breaking off some heads of grain and eating them. ²But some Pharisees saw them do it and protested, "Look, your disciples are breaking the law by harvesting grain on the Sabbath."

³Jesus said to them, "Haven't you read in the Scriptures what David did when he and his companions were hungry? ⁴He went into the house of God, and he and his companions broke the law by eating the sacred loaves of bread that only the priests are allowed to eat. ⁵And haven't you read in the law of Moses that the priests on duty in the Temple may work on the Sabbath? ⁶I tell you, there is one here who is even greater than the Temple! ⁷But you would not have condemned my innocent disciples if you knew the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.'* ⁸For the Son of Man* is Lord, even over the Sabbath!"

Jesus Heals on the Sabbath

⁹Then Jesus went over to their synagogue, ¹⁰where he noticed a man with a deformed hand. The Pharisees asked Jesus, "Does the law permit a person to work by healing on the Sabbath?" (They were hoping he would say yes, so they could bring charges against him.)

¹¹And he answered, "If you had a sheep that fell into a well on the Sabbath, wouldn't you work to pull it out? Of course you would. ¹²And how much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Yes, the law permits a person to do good on the Sabbath."

¹³Then he said to the man, "Hold out your hand." So the man held out his hand, and it was restored, just like the other one! ¹⁴Then the

Pharisees called a meeting to plot how to kill Jesus.

Jesus, God's Chosen Servant

¹⁵But Jesus knew what they were planning. So he left that area, and many people followed him. He healed all the sick among them, ¹⁶but he warned them not to reveal who he was. ¹⁷This fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah concerning him:

- ¹⁸ "Look at my Servant, whom I have chosen.
He is my Beloved, who pleases me.
I will put my Spirit upon him,
and he will proclaim justice to the nations.
¹⁹ He will not fight or shout
or raise his voice in public.
²⁰ He will not crush the weakest reed
or put out a flickering candle.
Finally he will cause justice to be victorious.
²¹ And his name will be the hope of all the world."*

Jesus and the Prince of Demons

²²Then a demon-possessed man, who was blind and couldn't speak, was brought to Jesus. He healed the man so that he could both speak and see. ²³The crowd was amazed and asked, "Could it be that Jesus is the Son of David, the Messiah?"

²⁴But when the Pharisees heard about the miracle, they said, "No wonder he can cast out demons. He gets his power from Satan,* the prince of demons."

²⁵Jesus knew their thoughts and replied, "Any kingdom divided by civil war is doomed. A town or family splintered by feuding will fall apart. ²⁶And if Satan is casting out Satan, he is divided and fighting against himself. His own kingdom will not survive. ²⁷And if I am empowered by Satan, what about your own exorcists? They cast out demons, too, so they will condemn you for what you have said. ²⁸But if I am casting out demons by the Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God has arrived among you. ²⁹For who is powerful enough to enter the house of a strong man and plunder his goods? Only someone even stronger—someone who could tie him up and then plunder his house.

12:7 Hos 6:6 (Greek version). **12:8** "Son of Man" is a title Jesus used for himself. **12:18-21** Isa 42:1-4 (Greek version for 42:4). **12:24** Greek *Beelzeboul*; also in 12:27. Other manuscripts read *Beezeboul*; Latin version reads *Beelzebub*.

³⁰"Anyone who isn't with me opposes me, and anyone who isn't working with me is actually working against me.

³¹"So I tell you, every sin and blasphemy can be forgiven—except blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, which will never be forgiven. ³²Anyone who speaks against the Son of Man can be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven, either in this world or in the world to come.

³³"A tree is identified by its fruit. If a tree is good, its fruit will be good. If a tree is bad, its fruit will be bad. ³⁴You brood of snakes! How could evil men like you speak what is good and right? For whatever is in your heart determines what you say. ³⁵A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. ³⁶And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle word you speak. ³⁷The words you say will either acquit you or condemn you."

The Sign of Jonah

³⁸One day some teachers of religious law and Pharisees came to Jesus and said, "Teacher, we want you to show us a miraculous sign to prove your authority."

³⁹But Jesus replied, "Only an evil, adulterous generation would demand a miraculous sign; but the only sign I will give them is the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰For as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights.

⁴¹"The people of Nineveh will stand up against this generation on judgment day and condemn it, for they repented of their sins at the preaching of Jonah. Now someone greater than Jonah is here—but you refuse to repent. ⁴²The queen of Sheba* will also stand up against this generation on judgment day and condemn it, for she came from a distant land to hear the wisdom of Solomon. Now someone greater than Solomon is here—but you refuse to listen.

⁴³"When an evil* spirit leaves a person, it goes into the desert, seeking rest but finding none. ⁴⁴Then

it says, 'I will return to the person I came from.' So it returns and finds its former home empty, swept, and in order. ⁴⁵Then the spirit finds seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they all enter the person and live there. And so that person is worse off than before. That will be the experience of this evil generation."

The True Family of Jesus

⁴⁶As Jesus was speaking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. ⁴⁷Someone told Jesus, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, and they want to speak to you."*

⁴⁸Jesus asked, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" ⁴⁹Then he pointed to his disciples and said, "Look, these are my mother and brothers. ⁵⁰Anyone who does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother!"

Parable of the Farmer Scattering Seed

13 Later that same day Jesus left the house and sat beside the lake. ²A large crowd soon gathered around him, so he got into a boat. Then he sat there and taught as the people stood on the shore. ³He told many stories in the form of parables, such as this one:

"Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds. ⁴As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them. ⁵Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. ⁶But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn't have deep roots, they died. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants. ⁸Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! ⁹Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand."

¹⁰His disciples came and asked him, "Why do you use parables when you talk to the people?"

¹¹He replied, "You are permitted to understand the secrets* of the Kingdom of Heaven, but others are not. ¹²To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given, and they will have an

12:42 Greek *The queen of the south*. **12:43** Greek *unclean*. **12:47** Some manuscripts do not include verse 47. Compare Mark 3:32 and Luke 8:20. **13:11** Greek *the mysteries*.

abundance of knowledge. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them.
¹³That is why I use these parables,

For they look, but they don't
 really see.
 They hear, but they
 don't really listen or
 understand.

¹⁴This fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah that says,

'When you hear what I say,
 you will not understand.
 When you see what I do,
 you will not comprehend.

¹⁵ For the hearts of these people
 are hardened,
 and their ears cannot hear,
 and they have closed their
 eyes—
 so their eyes cannot see,
 and their ears cannot hear,
 and their hearts cannot
 understand,
 and they cannot turn to me
 and let me heal them.*

¹⁶"But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. ¹⁷I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but they didn't see it. And they longed to hear what you hear, but they didn't hear it.

¹⁸"Now listen to the explanation of the parable about the farmer planting seeds: ¹⁹The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don't understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts. ²⁰The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. ²¹But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word. ²²The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God's word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced. ²³The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or

even a hundred times as much as had been planted!"

Parable of the Wheat and Weeds

²⁴Here is another story Jesus told: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. ²⁵But that night as the workers slept, his enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat, then slipped away. ²⁶When the crop began to grow and produce grain, the weeds also grew.

²⁷"The farmer's workers went to him and said, 'Sir, the field where you planted that good seed is full of weeds! Where did they come from?'

²⁸"'An enemy has done this!' the farmer exclaimed.

"Should we pull out the weeds?' they asked.

²⁹"'No,' he replied, 'you'll uproot the wheat if you do. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest. Then I will tell the harvesters to sort out the weeds, tie them into bundles, and burn them, and to put the wheat in the barn.'"

Parable of the Mustard Seed

³¹Here is another illustration Jesus used: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed planted in a field. ³²It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of garden plants; it grows into a tree, and birds come and make nests in its branches."

Parable of the Yeast

³³Jesus also used this illustration: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like the yeast a woman used in making bread. Even though she put only a little yeast in three measures of flour, it permeated every part of the dough."

³⁴Jesus always used stories and illustrations like these when speaking to the crowds. In fact, he never spoke to them without using such parables. ³⁵This fulfilled what God had spoken through the prophet:

"I will speak to you in parables.
 I will explain things hidden
 since the creation of the
 world.*"

Parable of the Wheat and Weeds Explained

³⁶Then, leaving the crowds outside, Jesus went into the house. His

13:14-15 Isa 6:9-10 (Greek version). **13:35** Some manuscripts do not include *of the world*. Ps 78:2.

disciples said, "Please explain to us the story of the weeds in the field."

³⁷Jesus replied, "The Son of Man* is the farmer who plants the good seed. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed represents the people of the Kingdom. The weeds are the people who belong to the evil one. ³⁹The enemy who planted the weeds among the wheat is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world,* and the harvesters are the angels.

⁴⁰"Just as the weeds are sorted out and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the world. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will remove from his Kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴²And the angels will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father's Kingdom. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!

Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl

⁴⁴"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field.

⁴⁵"Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls. ⁴⁶When he discovered a pearl of great value, he sold everything he owned and bought it!

Parable of the Fishing Net

⁴⁷"Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a fishing net that was thrown into the water and caught fish of every kind. ⁴⁸When the net was full, they dragged it up onto the shore, sat down, and sorted the good fish into crates, but threw the bad ones away. ⁴⁹That is the way it will be at the end of the world. The angels will come and separate the wicked people from the righteous, ⁵⁰throwing the wicked into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹Do you understand all these things?"

"Yes," they said, "we do."

⁵²Then he added, "Every teacher of religious law who becomes a disciple in the Kingdom of Heaven is like a homeowner who brings from

his storeroom new gems of truth as well as old."

Jesus Rejected at Nazareth

⁵³When Jesus had finished telling these stories and illustrations, he left that part of the country. ⁵⁴He returned to Nazareth, his hometown. When he taught there in the synagogue, everyone was amazed and said, "Where does he get this wisdom and the power to do miracles?" ⁵⁵Then they scoffed, "He's just the carpenter's son, and we know Mary, his mother, and his brothers—James, Joseph,* Simon, and Judas. ⁵⁶All his sisters live right here among us. Where did he learn all these things?" ⁵⁷And they were deeply offended and refused to believe in him.

Then Jesus told them, "A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his own family." ⁵⁸And so he did only a few miracles there because of their unbelief.

The Death of John the Baptist

14 When Herod Antipas, the ruler of Galilee,* heard about Jesus, ²he said to his advisers, "This must be John the Baptist raised from the dead! That is why he can do such miracles."

³For Herod had arrested and imprisoned John as a favor to his wife Herodias (the former wife of Herod's brother Philip). ⁴John had been telling Herod, "It is against God's law for you to marry her." ⁵Herod wanted to kill John, but he was afraid of a riot, because all the people believed John was a prophet.

⁶But at a birthday party for Herod, Herodias's daughter performed a dance that greatly pleased him, ⁷so he promised with a vow to give her anything she wanted. ⁸At her mother's urging, the girl said, "I want the head of John the Baptist on a tray!" ⁹Then the king regretted what he had said; but because of the vow he had made in front of his guests, he issued the necessary orders. ¹⁰So John was beheaded in the prison, ¹¹and his head was brought on a tray and given to the girl, who took it to her mother. ¹²Later, John's disciples came for his body and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus what had happened.

13:37 "Son of Man" is a title Jesus used for himself. **13:39** *Or the age*; also in 13:40, 49. **13:55** Other manuscripts read *Joses*; still others read *John*. **14:1** Greek *Herod the tetrarch*. Herod Antipas was a son of King Herod and was ruler over Galilee.

Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

¹³As soon as Jesus heard the news, he left in a boat to a remote area to be alone. But the crowds heard where he was headed and followed on foot from many towns.

¹⁴Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

¹⁵That evening the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves."

¹⁶But Jesus said, "That isn't necessary—you feed them."

¹⁷"But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish!" they answered.

¹⁸"Bring them here," he said.

¹⁹Then he told the people to sit down on the grass. Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he gave the bread to the disciples, who distributed it to the people. ²⁰They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers. ²¹About 5,000 men were fed that day, in addition to all the women and children!

Jesus Walks on Water

²²Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home. ²³After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone.

²⁴Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. ²⁵About three o'clock in the morning* Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. ²⁶When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, "It's a ghost!"

²⁷But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here!*"

²⁸Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water."

²⁹"Yes, come," Jesus said.

So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw the strong* wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted.

³¹Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. "You have so little faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt me?"

³²When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. ³³Then the disciples worshiped him. "You really are the Son of God!" they exclaimed.

³⁴After they had crossed the lake, they landed at Gennesaret. ³⁵When the people recognized Jesus, the news of his arrival spread quickly throughout the whole area, and soon people were bringing all their sick to be healed. ³⁶They begged him to let the sick touch at least the fringe of his robe, and all who touched him were healed.

Jesus Teaches about Inner Purity

15 Some Pharisees and teachers of religious law now arrived from Jerusalem to see Jesus. They asked him, ²"Why do your disciples disobey our age-old tradition? For they ignore our tradition of ceremonial hand washing before they eat."

³Jesus replied, "And why do you, by your traditions, violate the direct commandments of God? ⁴For instance, God says, 'Honor your father and mother,*' and 'Anyone who speaks disrespectfully of father or mother must be put to death.*' ⁵But you say it is all right for people to say to their parents, 'Sorry, I can't help you. For I have vowed to give to God what I would have given to you.' ⁶In this way, you say they don't need to honor their parents.* And so you cancel the word of God for the sake of your own tradition. ⁷You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote,

⁸ 'These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.

⁹ Their worship is a farce,
for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.'*"

14:25 Greek *In the fourth watch of the night*. **14:27** Or *The 'I AM' is here*; Greek reads *I am*. See Exod 3:14. **14:30** Some manuscripts do not include *strong*. **15:4a** Exod 20:12; Deut 5:16. **15:4b** Exod 21:17 (Greek version); Lev 20:9 (Greek version). **15:6** Greek *their father*; other manuscripts read *their father or their mother*. **15:8-9** Isa 29:13 (Greek version).

Psalms

BOOK ONE (Psalms 1–41)

- 1** Oh, the joys of those who
do not
follow the advice of the
wicked,
or stand around with
sinners,
or join in with mockers.
2 But they delight in the law of
the LORD,
meditating on it day and
night.
3 They are like trees planted
along the riverbank,
bearing fruit each season.
Their leaves never wither,
and they prosper in all
they do.
4 But not the wicked!
They are like worthless chaff,
scattered by the wind.
5 They will be condemned at the
time of judgment.
Sinners will have no place
among the godly.
6 For the LORD watches over the
path of the godly,
but the path of the wicked
leads to destruction.
- 2** Why are the nations so angry?
Why do they waste their
time with futile plans?
2 The kings of the earth prepare
for battle;
the rulers plot together
against the LORD
and against his anointed
one.
3 "Let us break their chains," they
cry,
"and free ourselves from
slavery to God."
4 But the one who rules in
heaven laughs.
The Lord scoffs at them.
5 Then in anger he rebukes
them,
terrifying them with his
fierce fury.

- 6** For the Lord declares, "I have
placed my chosen king on
the throne
in Jerusalem,* on my holy
mountain."
7 The king proclaims the LORD's
decree:
"The LORD said to me, 'You are
my son.'
Today I have become your
Father."
8 Only ask, and I will give you
the nations as your
inheritance,
the whole earth as your
possession.
9 You will break* them with an
iron rod
and smash them like clay
pots."
10 Now then, you kings, act
wisely!
Be warned, you rulers of
the earth!
11 Serve the LORD with reverent
fear,
and rejoice with trembling.
12 Submit to God's royal son,* or
he will become angry,
and you will be destroyed
in the midst of all your
activities—
for his anger flares up in an
instant.
But what joy for all who take
refuge in him!

3 *A psalm of David, regarding the time
David fled from his son Absalom.*

- 1** O LORD, I have so many
enemies;
so many are against me.
2 So many are saying,
"God will never rescue him!"
*Interlude**
3 But you, O LORD, are a shield
around me;
you are my glory, the one
who holds my head high.
4 I cried out to the LORD,

2:6 Hebrew *on Zion*. **2:7a** Or *Son*; also in 2:12. **2:7b** Or *Today I reveal you as my son*.
2:9 Greek version reads *rule*. Compare Rev 2:27. **2:12** The meaning of the Hebrew
is uncertain. **3:2** Hebrew *Selah*. The meaning of this word is uncertain, though it is
probably a musical or literary term. It is rendered *Interlude* throughout the Psalms.

and he answered me from
his holy mountain.

Interlude

- ⁵ I lay down and slept,
yet I woke up in safety,
for the LORD was watching
over me.
- ⁶ I am not afraid of ten thousand
enemies
who surround me on every
side.
- ⁷ Arise, O LORD!
Rescue me, my God!
Slap all my enemies in the
face!
Shatter the teeth of the
wicked!
- ⁸ Victory comes from you,
O LORD.
May you bless your people.

Interlude

4 *For the choir director: A psalm of
David, to be accompanied by stringed
instruments.*

- ¹ Answer me when I call to you,
O God who declares me
innocent.
Free me from my troubles.
Have mercy on me and hear
my prayer.
- ² How long will you people ruin
my reputation?
How long will you make
groundless accusations?
How long will you continue
your lies? *Interlude*
- ³ You can be sure of this:
The LORD set apart the godly
for himself.
The LORD will answer when I
call to him.
- ⁴ Don't sin by letting anger
control you.
Think about it overnight
and remain silent.

Interlude

- ⁵ Offer sacrifices in the right spirit,
and trust the LORD.
- ⁶ Many people say, "Who will
show us better times?"
Let your face smile on us,
LORD.
- ⁷ You have given me greater joy
than those who have
abundant harvests of
grain and new wine.
- ⁸ In peace I will lie down and
sleep,
for you alone, O LORD, will
keep me safe.

5 *For the choir director: A psalm of
David, to be accompanied by the flute.*

- ¹ O LORD, hear me as I pray;
pay attention to my
groaning.
- ² Listen to my cry for help, my
King and my God,
for I pray to no one but you.
- ³ Listen to my voice in the
morning, LORD.
Each morning I bring my
requests to you and wait
expectantly.
- ⁴ O God, you take no pleasure in
wickedness;
you cannot tolerate the sins
of the wicked.
- ⁵ Therefore, the proud may not
stand in your presence,
for you hate all who do evil.
- ⁶ You will destroy those who tell
lies.
The LORD detests murderers
and deceivers.
- ⁷ Because of your unfailing love,
I can enter your house;
I will worship at your Temple
with deepest awe.
- ⁸ Lead me in the right path,
O LORD,
or my enemies will conquer
me.
Make your way plain for me
to follow.
- ⁹ My enemies cannot speak a
truthful word.
Their deepest desire is to
destroy others.
Their talk is foul, like the stench
from an open grave.
Their tongues are filled with
flattery.*
- ¹⁰ O God, declare them guilty.
Let them be caught in their
own traps.
Drive them away because of
their many sins,
for they have rebelled
against you.
- ¹¹ But let all who take refuge in
you rejoice;
let them sing joyful praises
forever.
Spread your protection over
them,
that all who love your name
may be filled with joy.
- ¹² For you bless the godly,
O LORD;
you surround them with
your shield of love.

6 *For the choir director: A psalm of David, to be accompanied by an eight-stringed instrument.**

- ¹ O LORD, don't rebuke me in your anger
or discipline me in your rage.
- ² Have compassion on me, LORD,
for I am weak.
Heal me, LORD, for my bones
are in agony.
- ³ I am sick at heart.
How long, O LORD, until you
restore me?
- ⁴ Return, O LORD, and rescue me.
Save me because of your
unfailing love.
- ⁵ For the dead do not remember
you.
Who can praise you from the
grave?*
- ⁶ I am worn out from sobbing.
All night I flood my bed with
weeping,
drenching it with my tears.
- ⁷ My vision is blurred by grief;
my eyes are worn out
because of all my enemies.
- ⁸ Go away, all you who do evil,
for the LORD has heard my
weeping.
- ⁹ The LORD has heard my plea;
the LORD will answer my
prayer.
- ¹⁰ May all my enemies be
disgraced and terrified.
May they suddenly turn back
in shame.

7 *A psalm* of David, which he sang to the LORD concerning Cush of the tribe of Benjamin.*

- ¹ I come to you for protection,
O LORD my God.
Save me from my
persecutors—rescue me!
- ² If you don't, they will maul me
like a lion,
tearing me to pieces with no
one to rescue me.
- ³ O LORD my God, if I have done
wrong
or am guilty of injustice,
- ⁴ if I have betrayed a friend
or plundered my enemy
without cause,
- ⁵ then let my enemies capture me.
Let them trample me into
the ground

and drag my honor in the
dust. *Interlude*

- ⁶ Arise, O LORD, in anger!
Stand up against the fury of
my enemies!
Wake up, my God, and bring
justice!
- ⁷ Gather the nations before you.
Rule over them from on high.
- ⁸ The LORD judges the nations.
Declare me righteous, O LORD,
for I am innocent, O Most
High!
- ⁹ End the evil of those who are
wicked,
and defend the righteous.
For you look deep within the
mind and heart,
O righteous God.
- ¹⁰ God is my shield,
saving those whose hearts
are true and right.
- ¹¹ God is an honest judge.
He is angry with the wicked
every day.
- ¹² If a person does not repent,
God* will sharpen his sword;
he will bend and string his
bow.
- ¹³ He will prepare his deadly
weapons
and shoot his flaming arrows.
- ¹⁴ The wicked conceive evil;
they are pregnant with
trouble
and give birth to lies.
- ¹⁵ They dig a deep pit to trap
others,
then fall into it themselves.
- ¹⁶ The trouble they make for
others backfires on them.
The violence they plan falls
on their own heads.
- ¹⁷ I will thank the LORD because
he is just;
I will sing praise to the name
of the LORD Most High.

8 *For the choir director: A psalm of David, to be accompanied by a stringed instrument.**

- ¹ O LORD, our Lord, your majestic
name fills the earth!
Your glory is higher than the
heavens.
- ² You have taught children and
infants
to tell of your strength,*

6:TITLE Hebrew with stringed instruments; according to the sheminith. **6:5** Hebrew from Sheol? **7:**TITLE Hebrew A shiggaion, probably indicating a musical setting for the psalm. **7:12** Hebrew he. **8:**TITLE Hebrew according to the gittith. **8:2** Greek version reads to give you praise. Compare Matt 21:16.

silencing your enemies
and all who oppose you.

³ When I look at the night sky
and see the work of your
fiings—
the moon and the stars you
set in place—

⁴ what are mere mortals that
you should think about
them,
human beings that you
should care for them?*

⁵ Yet you made them only a little
lower than God*
and crowned them* with
glory and honor.

⁶ You gave them charge of
everything you made,
putting all things under their
authority—

⁷ the flocks and the herds
and all the wild animals,

⁸ the birds in the sky, the fish in
the sea,
and everything that swims
the ocean currents.

⁹ O LORD, our Lord, your majestic
name fills the earth!

9 *For the choir director: A psalm of
David, to be sung to the tune "Death
of the Son."*

¹ I will praise you, LORD, with all
my heart;
I will tell of all the marvelous
things you have done.

² I will be filled with joy because
of you.
I will sing praises to your
name, O Most High.

³ My enemies retreated;
they staggered and died
when you appeared.

⁴ For you have judged in my
favor;
from your throne you have
judged with fairness.

⁵ You have rebuked the nations
and destroyed the wicked;
you have erased their names
forever.

⁶ The enemy is finished, in
endless ruins;
the cities you uprooted are
now forgotten.

⁷ But the LORD reigns forever,
executing judgment from his
throne.

⁸ He will judge the world with
justice
and rule the nations with
fairness.

⁹ The LORD is a shelter for the
oppressed,
a refuge in times of trouble.

¹⁰ Those who know your name
trust in you,
for you, O LORD, do not
abandon those who
search for you.

¹¹ Sing praises to the LORD who
reigns in Jerusalem.*
Tell the world about his
unforgettable deeds.

¹² For he who avenges murder
cares for the helpless.
He does not ignore the cries
of those who suffer.

¹³ LORD, have mercy on me.
See how my enemies
torment me.
Snatch me back from the
jaws of death.

¹⁴ Save me so I can praise you
publicly at Jerusalem's
gates,
so I can rejoice that you
have rescued me.

¹⁵ The nations have fallen into
the pit they dug for
others.
Their own feet have been
caught in the trap they
set.

¹⁶ The LORD is known for his
justice.
The wicked are trapped by
their own deeds.

*Quiet Interlude**

¹⁷ The wicked will go down to
the grave.*
This is the fate of all the
nations who ignore God.

¹⁸ But the needy will not be
ignored forever;
the hopes of the poor will
not always be crushed.

¹⁹ Arise, O LORD!
Do not let mere mortals
defy you!
Judge the nations!

²⁰ Make them tremble in fear,
O LORD.
Let the nations know they
are merely human.

Interlude

8:4 Hebrew *what is man that you should think of him, / the son of man that you should care for him?* **8:5a** Or *Yet you made them only a little lower than the angels*; Hebrew reads *Yet you made him* [i.e., man] *a little lower than Elohim*. **8:5b** Hebrew *him* [i.e., man]; similarly in 8:6. **9:11** Hebrew *Zion*; also in 9:14. **9:16** Hebrew *Higgaion Selah*. The meaning of this phrase is uncertain. **9:17** Hebrew *to Sheol*.

Proverbs

The Purpose of Proverbs

1 These are the proverbs of Solomon, David's son, king of Israel.

² Their purpose is to teach people wisdom and discipline,
to help them understand the insights of the wise.

³ Their purpose is to teach people to live disciplined and successful lives,
to help them do what is right, just, and fair.

⁴ These proverbs will give insight to the simple,
knowledge and discernment to the young.

⁵ Let the wise listen to these proverbs and become even wiser.
Let those with understanding receive guidance

⁶ by exploring the meaning in these proverbs and parables,
the words of the wise and their riddles.

⁷ Fear of the LORD is the foundation of true knowledge,
but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

A Father's Exhortation: Acquire Wisdom

⁸ My child,* listen when your father corrects you.
Don't neglect your mother's instruction.

⁹ What you learn from them will crown you with grace
and be a chain of honor around your neck.

¹⁰ My child, if sinners entice you,
turn your back on them!

¹¹ They may say, "Come and join us.
Let's hide and kill someone!
Just for fun, let's ambush the innocent!"

¹² Let's swallow them alive, like the grave*;
let's swallow them whole,
like those who go down to the pit of death.

¹³ Think of the great things we'll get!

We'll fill our houses with all the stuff we take.

¹⁴ Come, throw in your lot with us;
we'll all share the loot."

¹⁵ My child, don't go along with them!

Stay far away from their paths.

¹⁶ They rush to commit evil deeds.

They hurry to commit murder.

¹⁷ If a bird sees a trap being set,
it knows to stay away.

¹⁸ But these people set an ambush for themselves;
they are trying to get themselves killed.

¹⁹ Such is the fate of all who are greedy for money;
it robs them of life.

Wisdom Shouts in the Streets

²⁰ Wisdom shouts in the streets.
She cries out in the public square.

²¹ She calls to the crowds along the main street,
to those gathered in front of the city gate:

²² "How long, you simpletons,
will you insist on being simpleminded?

How long will you mockers
relish your mocking?

How long will you fools hate knowledge?

²³ Come and listen to my counsel.

I'll share my heart with you
and make you wise.

²⁴ "I called you so often, but you wouldn't come.

I reached out to you, but
you paid no attention.

²⁵ You ignored my advice
and rejected the correction I offered.

²⁶ So I will laugh when you are in trouble!

I will mock you when
disaster overtakes you—

- 27 when calamity overtakes you
like a storm,
when disaster engulfs you
like a cyclone,
and anguish and distress
overwhelm you.
- 28 "When they cry for help, I will
not answer.
Though they anxiously
search for me, they will
not find me.
- 29 For they hated knowledge
and chose not to fear the
LORD.
- 30 They rejected my advice
and paid no attention when
I corrected them.
- 31 Therefore, they must eat the
bitter fruit of living their
own way,
choking on their own
schemes.
- 32 For simpletons turn away from
me—to death.
Fools are destroyed by their
own complacency.
- 33 But all who listen to me will
live in peace,
untroubled by fear of harm."

The Benefits of Wisdom

- 2** My child,* listen to what I say,
and treasure my commands.
- 2 Tune your ears to wisdom,
and concentrate on
understanding.
- 3 Cry out for insight,
and ask for understanding.
- 4 Search for them as you would
for silver;
seek them like hidden
treasures.
- 5 Then you will understand what
it means to fear the LORD,
and you will gain knowledge
of God.
- 6 For the LORD grants wisdom!
From his mouth come
knowledge and
understanding.
- 7 He grants a treasure of
common sense to the
honest.
He is a shield to those who
walk with integrity.
- 8 He guards the paths of the just
and protects those who are
faithful to him.
- 9 Then you will understand what
is right, just, and fair,
and you will find the right
way to go.

- 10 For wisdom will enter your
heart,
and knowledge will fill you
with joy.
- 11 Wise choices will watch over you.
Understanding will keep
you safe.
- 12 Wisdom will save you from evil
people,
from those whose words are
twisted.
- 13 These men turn from the right
way
to walk down dark paths.
- 14 They take pleasure in doing
wrong,
and they enjoy the twisted
ways of evil.
- 15 Their actions are crooked,
and their ways are wrong.
- 16 Wisdom will save you from the
immoral woman,
from the seductive words of
the promiscuous woman.
- 17 She has abandoned her
husband
and ignores the covenant
she made before God.
- 18 Entering her house leads to
death;
it is the road to the grave.*
- 19 The man who visits her is
doomed.
He will never reach the
paths of life.
- 20 So follow the steps of the good,
and stay on the paths of the
righteous.
- 21 For only the godly will live in
the land,
and those with integrity will
remain in it.
- 22 But the wicked will be
removed from the land,
and the treacherous will be
uprooted.

Trusting in the LORD

- 3** My child,* never forget the
things I have taught you.
Store my commands in your
heart.
- 2 If you do this, you will live
many years,
and your life will be satisfying.
- 3 Never let loyalty and kindness
leave you!
Tie them around your neck
as a reminder.
Write them deep within your
heart.

- 4 Then you will find favor with both God and people, and you will earn a good reputation.
- 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.
- 6 Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.
- 7 Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the LORD and turn away from evil.
- 8 Then you will have healing for your body and strength for your bones.
- 9 Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce.
- 10 Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine.
- 11 My child, don't reject the LORD's discipline, and don't be upset when he corrects you.
- 12 For the LORD corrects those he loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights.*
- 13 Joyful is the person who finds wisdom, the one who gains understanding.
- 14 For wisdom is more profitable than silver, and her wages are better than gold.
- 15 Wisdom is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her.
- 16 She offers you long life in her right hand, and riches and honor in her left.
- 17 She will guide you down delightful paths; all her ways are satisfying.
- 18 Wisdom is a tree of life to those who embrace her; happy are those who hold her tightly.
- 19 By wisdom the LORD founded the earth;
- by understanding he created the heavens.
- 20 By his knowledge the deep fountains of the earth burst forth, and the dew settles beneath the night sky.
- 21 My child, don't lose sight of common sense and discernment. Hang on to them,
- 22 for they will refresh your soul. They are like jewels on a necklace.
- 23 They keep you safe on your way, and your feet will not stumble.
- 24 You can go to bed without fear; you will lie down and sleep soundly.
- 25 You need not be afraid of sudden disaster or the destruction that comes upon the wicked,
- 26 for the LORD is your security. He will keep your foot from being caught in a trap.
- 27 Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it's in your power to help them.
- 28 If you can help your neighbor now, don't say, "Come back tomorrow, and then I'll help you."
- 29 Don't plot harm against your neighbor, for those who live nearby trust you.
- 30 Don't pick a fight without reason, when no one has done you harm.
- 31 Don't envy violent people or copy their ways.
- 32 Such wicked people are detestable to the LORD, but he offers his friendship to the godly.
- 33 The LORD curses the house of the wicked, but he blesses the home of the upright.
- 34 The LORD mocks the mockers but is gracious to the humble.*
- 35 The wise inherit honor, but fools are put to shame!

3:12 Greek version reads *loves, / and he punishes those he accepts as his children.*

Compare Heb 12:6. **3:34** Greek version reads *The LORD opposes the proud / but gives grace to the humble.* Compare Jas 4:6; 1 Pet 5:5.