

## INTRODUCTION to the Old Testament Stories

In this “Children’s Bible History” book there are 33 stories from the Old Testament and 53 stories from the New Testament. This Lower Level is written for Kindergarten through the Third Grade. Many of these stories can be told on the appropriate level to children in the Three and Four Year Classes. These little ones will love the simple stories from the Old Testament and then learning about Jesus, their Savior. As Jesus said, “Let the **little** children come to Me.” These are the first building blocks of faith, the faith to be fed and nourished as they grow. The faith of a little one is beautiful, so simple, so trusting, and accepting of Jesus’ love for them.

In the Old Testament, they must first learn about the eternal, holy, almighty, all wise and loving God who created everything in the world in six days by saying, “Let there be.” His Creation was amazing, beautiful, and perfect in every way. God, then, created man and woman in His image to be His dear children to live in the Garden of Eden. The children must learn that a great angel, Satan, rebelled against God and caused Adam and Eve to sin, thus bringing sin into His perfect world.

Now we are all sinners. God in His Divine Love promised Adam and Eve to send a Savior. He said in Genesis 3:15, “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her **Seed (Jesus, the Messiah)** He will crush your head, and you will crush His heel.” God promised to send a Savior to redeem man by bringing to him the forgiveness of sin. Whoever recognizes his sinfulness and believes God’s promise would be forgiven and come to heaven after death to live with God forever. So that all would recognize the coming Redeemer, know Him, and believe in Him, God gave His verbally inspired message of the coming of the Messiah, the Savior, in the Old Testament and its fulfillment in the New Testament.

In the Creation account, we note that God said, “Let Us make man in Our image,” thus showing the Triune God, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, yet we acknowledge God as One God and Lord of all.

In the Old Testament, Jesus as the Second Person of the Trinity is clearly seen and made known by these eleven pictures.

**The Angel of the Lord (the Malakh Jahweh)** – Jesus, the Second Person of the Trinity.

**The Promised Seed** – Jesus, the Messiah.

**The Word** – Jesus - the Messenger setting before mankind the way and will of God.

**The Prophet** – Jesus- the divine Teacher.

**The High Priest** – Jesus - who would atone for the sin of the world.

**The Lamb** – Jesus - who would be sacrificed in death on the cross.

**The Suffering Servant** – Jesus, as portrayed in prophesy especially in the book of Isaiah.

**The Incarnate Wisdom** –Jesus - setting before mankind the light of Salvation.

**The Divine Shepherd** –Jesus, who would gather His flock.

**The Divine Rock** – Jesus, who would protect and bring His people to their everlasting home.

**The Divine King** – Jesus - who would conquer sin, death, and hell and reign forever.

In the Old Testament stories, you will see the appearance of **The Angel of the Lord** as God's Divine Messenger and Spokesman, carrying out God's judgments. Please note that this is not just one of God's created angels, but Christ Himself, the Second Person of the Trinity, who speaks for God the Father and carries out His Will setting up the time of His coming as Jesus Christ, the Messiah, in the New Testament.

- Note: The bullet points following each story are meant to hi-light the main points, people or events of the story for a quick and easy reference. They may be used as a guide in directing discussion and formulating questions. They may offer additional information.
- The Bible references given for each story indicate only the book and chapter of the Bible from which each story is taken.

It is the goal and the desire of the writers of this series to set before God's people what has meant so much to them and what has sustained them through the years. In the end, what is left behind to strengthen the next generation and to glorify God is all that really matters.

Therefore, this material is being made free of charge to anyone who would like to download it from the Web. You may store it on your computer, for personal use, reference, or study. You may reproduce it in single sheet form for Bible Class, Sunday School, or other teaching reasons. If someone desires to translate it, permission is given as long as an electronic copy is provided to Books of the Way.

**The only thing that the writers ask as far as limiting your usage is that if you desire to have this material made into a book, whether spiral, comb, or perfect binding, that all such binding is done only by Books of the Way. You have received this freely, at no time are you permitted to sell it to make a profit for yourself. May the Lord bless you as you grow in His Word.**

## OLD TESTAMENT

6. CREATION
8. ADAM AND EVE IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN
10. CAIN AND ABEL
11. NOAH AND THE FLOOD
12. THE TOWER OF BABEL
13. ABRAHAM, THE FATHER OF ALL BELIEVERS
14. ABRAHAM AND ISAAC
15. ISAAC AND REBEKAH
16. JACOB WORKS FOR LABAN
17. JOSEPH
18. JOSEPH IN EGYPT
19. JOSEPH IN PRISON
21. JOSEPH MEETS HIS BROTHERS
22. MOSES, THE DELIVERER OF ISRAEL
24. THE TEN PLAGUES IN EGYPT
26. ISRAEL LEAVES EGYPT
27. ISRAEL COMES TO MT. SINAI
29. ISRAEL'S JOURNEY IS ENDED
31. THE FALL OF JERICHO
32. SAMSON
33. RUTH
34. SAMUEL
35. DAVID AND GOLIATH
37. ELIJAH, THE PROPHET
38. ELIJAH AND THE PROPHETS OF BAAL
39. ELIJAH TAKEN TO HEAVEN IN THE FIERY CHARIOT
40. ELISHA HELPS A WIDOW
41. ELISHA BRINGS A BOY BACK TO LIFE
42. ELISHA AND NAAMAN
43. JONAH, THE PROPHET TO NINEVEH
44. NEBUCHADNEZZAR, KING OF BABYLON
45. THE FIERY FURNACE
46. DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN

## NEW TESTAMENT

47. INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT
48. GABRIEL COMES TO ZECHARIAH
49. GABRIEL COMES TO MARY
50. THE BIRTH OF JESUS
51. THE WISE MEN
52. JESUS IN THE TEMPLE
53. JOHN THE BAPTIST
54. THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS
55. JESUS CALLS FOUR OF HIS DISCIPLES
56. THE FIRST MIRACLE
57. THE SAMARITAN WOMAN
58. JESUS HEALS THE OFFICIAL'S SON
59. JESUS CALLS HIS DISCIPLES
60. THE LARGE CATCH OF FISH
61. HEALING THE MAN WHO COULD NOT WALK
62. HEALING THE CENTURION'S SERVANT & RAISING THE WIDOW'S SON AT NAIN
63. JESUS HEALS A MAN ON THE SABBATH
64. THE SINFUL WOMAN
65. JESUS STILLS THE STORM
66. JESUS HEALS THE MAN POSSESSED BY DEVILS
67. THE DAUGHTER OF JAIRUS RAISED FROM THE DEAD
68. FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND
69. JESUS HEALS THE DEAF AND BLIND
70. FEEDING OF THE FOUR THOUSAND
71. THE TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS
72. JESUS' LOVE FOR LITTLE CHILDREN
73. THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN
74. THE PRODIGAL SON
75. JESUS HEALS THE LEPERS
76. THE PHARISEE AND THE PUBLICAN
77. THE WIDOW'S MITE, AN OFFERING OF LOVE
78. ZACCHAEUS
79. MARY AND MARTHA
80. JESUS RAISES LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD
81. THE ANOINTING OF JESUS FOR HIS BURIAL
82. PALM SUNDAY
83. FIVE WISE AND FIVE FOOLISH YOUNG WOMEN
84. JESUS CELEBRATES THE PASSOVER
85. THE LORD'S SUPPER
86. GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE
87. JESUS BEFORE THE HIGH PRIEST
88. JESUS BEFORE PILATE

89. JESUS IS CONDEMNED
90. THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS
91. JESUS' WORDS FROM THE CROSS
92. JESUS' DEATH AND BURIAL
93. THE RESURRECTION
94. JESUS APPEARS TO THE DISCIPLES AND THOMAS
95. THE ASCENSION
96. PENTECOST – THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GIVEN
97. PETER HEALS THE LAME BEGGAR
98. PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH
99. JESUS APPEARS TO SAUL
100. PETER IS TAKEN OUT OF PRISON BY AN ANGEL

## CREATION

### Genesis 1



The Bible tells us about the beginning of everything in the story of Creation. There was a time when there was nothing but God. This we call eternity. In eternity, God decided in love to create a beautiful world. It would be perfect.

On the first day of Creation, God created a huge muddy mass. God said, “Let there be light.” After a time of darkness, then came a time of light. It was the first day.

On the second day of Creation, God said, “Let there be a sky between the water.” As soon as God said this, there was a blue sky above the water.

On the third day of Creation, God said, “Let the water under the heaven come together in one place and let the dry land appear.” Immediately dry land and mountains came out of the water. There were streams, rivers, lakes, and oceans. God then spoke to the dry land and said, “Let there be grass, plants and trees.” Immediately the land was covered with grass, plants, and trees bearing seeds and fruit. God saw that it was good.

On the fourth day of Creation, God spoke to the sky above the earth, “Let there be lights in the sky to give light upon the earth.” Immediately the sky became filled with millions of stars. He made the sun to give light and warmth for the day. He made the moon to shine at night. God saw that it was good.

On the fifth day of Creation, God said, “Let there be fish in the waters and birds to fly in the sky.” Immediately the waters were filled with small and large fish and all kinds of living creatures. The sky was filled with all kinds of birds. God saw that it was good.

On the sixth day of Creation, God finished creating the world. The sky and the streams, rivers, lakes, and oceans were full of His wonders, but the land was silent. God said to the land, “Let there be every kind of animal.” Immediately there were small and large animals and creatures. God saw that it was good.

Last of all, God said, “Let us make man in our image, and let them rule over the fish, the birds, and animals.” In the creation of man, God made an image out of dirt, breathed into

his nose the breath of life, and the image became a man. God named him Adam. Then God had Adam name all the animals.

One thing was missing. Adam had no helper to live with him. So God made Adam fall asleep. Then God took a rib out of Adam and made a woman. When Adam woke up he knew what God had done. Adam named the woman Eve. Now everything was created. Everything was perfect.

God made the seventh day a day of rest.

- 1st day – God created light
- 2<sup>nd</sup> day – God separated the waters from above and below the sky
- 3<sup>rd</sup> day – God created dry land and vegetation and brought the water together.
- 4<sup>th</sup> day – God created the sun, moon, stars, and planets
- 5<sup>th</sup> day – God created the birds and fish
- 6<sup>th</sup> day – God created the animals. He created man and woman in His image giving them a physical body and a spiritual soul
- Everything was created in six days and it was perfect.
- God made the 7<sup>th</sup> day a day of rest.

## ADAM AND EVE IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN

### Genesis 2, 3



God made a special beautiful place called the Garden of Eden in which Adam and Eve could live and have a family. In the center of the garden were two special trees, the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Adam and Eve could eat from all the trees, except the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. If they ate of it, they would die. This meant they would lose their image of God, their perfect knowledge of God, their holiness, and they would come

under God's judgment.

How long this time of peace and holiness lasted in the Garden of Eden, we don't know. But trouble began with Satan, the leader of many angels, who rebelled against God. God put him out of heaven with the angels who followed him. Satan had been a great angel, but now he was angry and wanted to hurt God's children, Adam and Eve.

Satan used a snake to speak to Eve and tried to make God look unfair by asking whether God had really said that they could not eat from any tree in the garden. Eve said that they could eat from all of the trees except the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. If they ate from it, they would die. Satan said that they would not die, that God just said that because if they ate from the tree, they would be like God knowing both good and evil. Eve loved God and wanted to be more like God. The fruit on the tree looked good to eat. She picked some, ate it, and gave some to Adam. Adam ate it, also.

As soon as they ate the fruit, they died spiritually. They were no longer in the image of God. They were now sinful and felt guilt and shame. They tried to cover themselves with leaves for clothing. When God came to visit them in the garden, they were afraid and tried to hide. God called, "Where are you? Did you eat of the tree I commanded you not to eat?" Adam blamed Eve saying, "The woman you gave to be with me, she gave it to me and I ate it." God said to Eve, "What have you done?" Eve blamed the snake and said, "The snake fooled me, and I ate it."

God spoke to the snake, Satan, Adam, and Eve. The snake had been the most intelligent of all the animals, now it would crawl in the dirt. God, in love and mercy for Adam and Eve, gave the Promise of a Savior coming to earth to save man and to destroy Satan. God said, "I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your seed and her **Seed**. He shall crush your head, and you shall crush His heel." (Genesis 3:15) In these words, God said He would send a Savior descended from Eve who would crush Satan, but He would suffer. God gave the promise that one day His Son, Jesus, would be born to be the Savior of the world.

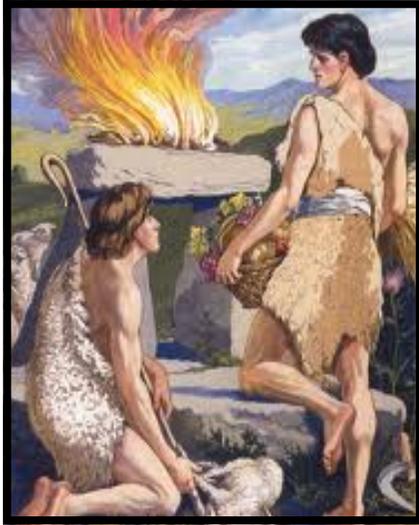
To Eve, God said that she would have sorrow and pain in life and in bearing children. She would depend on her husband, and he would be responsible for her. To Adam, God said that the land would no longer be friendly. There would be weeds, and he would have to work hard to make a living for himself and his family.

God killed some animals and from their skins made Adam and Eve clothing. God then sent Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden to make their living by farming. To make sure that no person ever entered the Garden of Eden again, God blocked the entrance with Cherubim or angels and a flaming sword to keep anyone from eating from the Tree of Life and living forever in sin.

- Adam and Eve lived in the beautiful Garden of Eden.
- Satan tempted Eve and she ate from the forbidden tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. She gave the fruit to Adam and he ate.
- Through the sin of Adam and Eve, sin entered into the world and all men became sinful.
- God judged the snake, Satan, Adam, and Eve and gave the Promise of the Savior.
- The word **Seed** in Genesis 3:15 is singular and points directly to Christ. The **Seed** is the promised **Messiah, Jesus Christ**.
- Adam and Eve could no longer live in the Garden of Eden.

## CAIN AND ABEL

### Genesis 4



Everything was different now. The beauty and peace of the Garden of Eden were gone. The animals and birds were no longer tame and friendly. Adam had to work hard.

Sometime after they left the Garden of Eden, God gave them a son. They called him “Cain” which means “Possession.” Eve said, “I have gotten a man with the Lord.” They thought that Cain was the promised Savior. When Eve’s second son was born, they named him “Abel” which means “vanity, useless.”

Adam and Eve taught their family about sin, the promise of the Savior, and to worship God with burnt offerings in thanks and faith in the coming Savior.

Since Cain was a farmer like his father, he brought an offering from his crops, but God rejected Cain and his offering because it was not offered in faith. Abel was a shepherd and he brought a lamb for an offering. God accepted him and his offering because it was offered in faith. Cain was angry. God told Cain to be careful, because sin, like a wild animal, was crouching at his door wanting to destroy him.

Later when Cain and Abel were out in the field, Cain killed Abel. God asked Cain where Abel was. Cain replied, “I don’t know. Am I my brother’s keeper?” God said to Cain that because he had killed his brother, he would be cursed and he would always be afraid that someone would kill him.

Instead of repenting and telling God that he was sorry for his sin, Cain told God that His punishment was unfair and would make him leave God. Cain moved away with his wife to the land of Nod. There he built a city which he named Enoch after his first born son. His descendants became the unbelievers of the world.

When Adam and Eve were 130 years old, Eve gave birth to Seth. Eve said that Seth was the son given her to replace Abel. It is said that Adam and Eve had many children, 33 sons and 23 daughters. People lived long lives then, because God wanted the earth to have many people in it. Adam lived to be 930 years old. Seth lived to be 912

- When Cain was born, Eve thought that he was the promised Savior.
- When Abel was born, his name meant, “Useless, not necessary.”
- Cain killed Abel. Cain was cursed and left home with his sister wife.
- Later Seth was born to replace Abel. Seth became the “Bearer of the Promise of the Savior,”
- Tradition says Adam and Eve had 33 sons and 23 daughters.
- Adam lived to be 930 and Seth lived to be 912.

## NOAH AND THE FLOOD

### Genesis 6-9



The people living in God's beautiful world began to turn away from God. After about 1656 years, only Noah, his wife, their three sons and their wives were believers in the true God, only eight people out of all the people living in the world.

God had made the Promise to Adam and Eve that He would send a Savior. God gave this same Promise to Noah. God told Noah that because the world had become so evil, He was going to destroy it. During the next 120 years, Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, build an ark, a very large boat. God was going to send a flood over the whole world. All the wicked people, the birds, and animals would die. Only Noah and his family with pairs of animals and birds would be safe in the ark.

God gave Noah the plan of how to build the ark. It was to be very large to hold his family and pairs of every kind of animals and birds. When the ark was finished, Noah and his family collected food for themselves, the animals, and the birds, and put it in the ark. When everything was ready, and Noah and his family were in the ark, God closed the door. Then it began to rain.

The Bible says that God opened the windows of heaven, and it rained for forty days and nights without stopping. The waters became so high that they covered the highest mountains. The ark floated all alone on the water wherever the wind took it. The water stayed this high for five months. Then God sent a wind to dry the earth. Finally, Noah set a dove free and when it came back with an olive leaf, he knew there was dry ground. After a year and ten days in the ark, God told Noah to leave the ark and let all the animals and birds go free. They had been safe in the ark for a year and ten days.

When Noah left the ark, he built an altar and gave an offering, giving thanks to God for His love and protection. God spoke to Noah and his sons and promised that from them the Savior would come. They were God's people. God, also, promised that there would never again be a world-wide flood. As a reminder, God said the rainbow in the sky would always be a sign of His Promise.

- God was going to send a flood to destroy the wicked people.
- Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, built an ark in 120 years.
- It rained for 40 days and nights and the water covered the highest mountains.
- Noah, his wife, their sons and their wives, 8 people, were safe in the ark with pairs of animals and birds for a year and ten days.
- God gave His Messianic Covenant to Noah. The rainbow was to remind the world of God's Promise.

## THE TOWER OF BABEL

### Genesis 11



About one hundred years had passed since God sent the Flood over the whole world. God had told the people to spread out over the earth, but the people did not want to do this.

They lived in a city where they began building a huge water-proof tower to reach high into the sky. They wanted to be safe if God would send another flood. The people living there wanted to show how great they were. They all knew the one true God, but they decided to disobey God.

One night, God changed the language that all spoke into many languages. The next morning they spoke different languages. They had to find the people who talked like they did. This made it impossible for them to live and work together. It forced many of the people to leave the city and obey God in spreading out all over the world. This tower became known as the Tower of Babel, which means “confusion,” because there God divided the people into many languages.

As the different groups of people left Babel, they took with them the knowledge of the true God, Creation, the Promise of a Savior, the Flood, and God’s punishment for unbelief and sin. They did not try to keep their faith pure. Within two hundred years after Babel, people began worshiping the moon god and other gods in addition to the true God.

- The people wanted to stay in one place, disobeying God’s command to spread out over the earth. The people wanted to become great and to build a water-proof tower to protect them from any flood that God might send.
- God changed the languages of the people over night forcing them to leave and spread out over the earth.
- The city became known as Babel and the tower as the Tower of Babel.
- All the people at this time knew the true God, but soon they began to worship the moon god and other gods and idols.

## ABRAHAM, THE FATHER OF ALL BELIEVERS

### Genesis 12-21



About two hundred years after the Tower of Babel, and three hundred years after Noah, God chose Abram to be the bearer of His Promise which had been given to Adam and Eve and again to Noah. God told Abram to leave where he was living and go to a land God would show him.

God blessed Abram and said that a great nation would come from him, and that all the people in the world would be blessed through him. God said that Abram would have a son. In this Promise, God said the Messiah, Jesus the Savior of world, would be born from his descendants.

Abram obeyed God and left his home in Ur of the Chaldees. He settled in Haran for about ten years.

When Abram was about 75 years old, God guided him to the land of Canaan. When Abram and Sarai, his wife, had been in this new land of Canaan for about ten years, they still had no son. The Divine Word and Spokesman for God (Jesus in His Old Testament role), came to Abram in a vision to again give the promise of a son. He told Abram to step outside and see the numberless stars, so his descendants would be. Abram believed the Divine Word and God counted it to Abram for righteousness.

Fourteen years later, when Abram was 99, God appeared to him again. God changed Abram's name to "Abraham" meaning "Father of Nations." He changed Sarai's name to "Sarah" or "Princess or Mother of a People."

God told Abraham that he and Sarah would have a son and he was to be called "Isaac." Isaac means "Laughter," because at his birth people could be happy and rejoice since now the Promise of a Savior would continue in Isaac. As God had said, Isaac was born to Sarah and Abraham when Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90. Isaac grew into a strong young man.

- God chose Abram to be the bearer of His Promise given to Adam and Eve and again to Noah. God told Abram to go to a land which He would show him.
- Abram obeyed God and moved to the land of Canaan.
- God changed Sarai's name to Sarah and Abram to Abraham.
- God said Sarah would have a son. He was to be named "Isaac," meaning "Laughter," since people could now rejoice because God's Promise of a Savior would continue in Isaac.
- Isaac was born to Sarah when she was 90 and Abram was 100.

## ABRAHAM AND ISAAC

### Genesis 22-23



One day God tested Abraham's faith by telling him to take Isaac and go to the mountains of Moriah where he was to offer Isaac as an offering to God. Abraham obeyed God. Early the next morning, Abraham split wood for the sacrifice, called two of his men to go with them, got Isaac and they left. When they got to the mountain, Abraham told his men to wait there while he and Isaac would go up the mountain to worship and then they would return.

As they began climbing the mountain, Isaac asked, "Where is the lamb for the sacrifice?" He was carrying the wood, his father had the fire and the knife, but there was no lamb. Abraham said, "God will provide the lamb." When they came to the place that God had chosen, they built the altar, Abraham tied Isaac, and laid

him on the altar. Isaac now knew God's command. When Abraham took his knife to kill Isaac, the Angel of the Lord, (Jesus in the Old Testament) called out, "Abraham, Abraham." "Here I am," Abraham replied. The Angel of the Lord told Abraham not to harm Isaac, that he had shown his faith. Abraham heard a sound and looking around saw a wild ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took Isaac off the altar. They offered the ram as the sacrifice. Abraham named the place "Jehovah Jireh" meaning, "In the mount of the Lord, God will provide."

Once again the Angel of the Lord spoke and said that since Abraham had shown such love and obedience, God would bless him in his descendants because from him the Messiah would be born. In Abraham the whole world would be blessed. Abraham and Isaac returned to the men waiting for them, just as Abraham had said.

The mountain where Abraham went to sacrifice Isaac became the place where Jerusalem was built, the City of Peace. This is where Jesus, our Savior, died on the cross to bring peace to the whole world.

Some years later, Sarah died. Abraham bought the Cave of Machpelah where his family was to be buried. There he buried Sarah.

- Isaac was born to Sarah and Abraham when Abraham was 100 and Sarah 90.
- God tested Abraham's faith by telling Abraham to sacrifice his son, Isaac.
- The Angel of the Lord provided a lamb for the sacrifice instead of Isaac.
- This was the place that God's Son, the Lord Jesus, became the sacrifice to atone for all sin. This place became Jerusalem, the City of Peace.

## ISAAC AND REBEKAH

### Genesis 24-26



When Abraham was 140 years old and Isaac was 40 years old, Abraham sent his servant back to the family home in Haran to find a wife for Isaac. God blessed the trip, and his servant brought back Rebekah to be Isaac's wife.

For twenty years Isaac and Rebekah had no children. Isaac prayed to God and when he was 60, God granted them a set of twins, Esau, the first born, and Jacob. God told Rebekah that her two sons would become two nations, the younger would be the greater.

Abraham got to know Isaac and Rebekah's sons for fifteen years before he died at the age of 175. Isaac and Ishmael buried Abraham beside Sarah in the Cave of Machpelah.

When Esau and Jacob grew up, they were very different. Jacob wanted the blessing of being the first born son, and the promise that from his descendants the Messiah or Jesus would be born. Rebekah wanted Jacob to have this blessing, so she helped Jacob trick his father. When Esau found out that his father, Isaac, had given the blessing to Jacob, he was very angry and said he would kill his brother. Jacob had to leave home and Isaac sent him to their family home in Haran.

On the way to Haran, Jacob found a place to rest and set up a stone for a pillow. As he slept, he had a wonderful dream. In his dream, he saw the Angel of the Lord standing at the top of a ladder which reached all the way from heaven down to the place where he was. Angels were coming down the ladder to the earth and going back up the ladder to the Angel of the Lord. The Angel of the Lord said that He was the God of Abraham and his father Isaac. He told Jacob that his descendants, the believers in Jesus the Savior, the coming Messiah, would be from all over the world. They would be like dust, there would be so many. The whole world would be blessed through His coming. This was the promise that Jesus would be born from Jacob's descendants. The Angel of the Lord said that He would be with Jacob and would bring Jacob safely back to his home again.

- When Isaac was 40, Abraham sent his servant to the family home at Haran to find a wife for Isaac. Rebekah agreed to leave her family and marry Isaac.
- After twenty years, twin boys, Esau and Jacob, were born to Isaac and Rebekah
- Jacob tricked his father, Isaac, and received the blessing of the first born and the Messianic Blessing.
- Jacob had to leave home and went to the family home in Haran.
- Jacob had a dream of angels going up and down a ladder from heaven to earth.
- The Angel of the Lord spoke to Jacob from the top of the ladder, saying He was the God of Abraham and Isaac. The Angel of the Lord said that Jacob would be the bearer of the Messianic Promise. He would bring Jacob safely back home.

## JACOB WORKS FOR LABAN

### Genesis 29-31



Jacob lived in Haran for many years working for his Uncle Laban as a shepherd. He loved Laban's daughter, Rachel, and worked for seven years with no wages to be able to marry her. Remember how Jacob cheated his brother Esau out of his blessing? Now Laban tricked Jacob and gave Leah, his older daughter, to Jacob as his wife instead of Rachel. Jacob was very upset and promised to work for Laban another seven years with no wages if he could marry Rachel. The next week, Jacob and Rachel were married.

After these fourteen years, Jacob again agreed to work for Laban. This time he was to be paid for his work. He was given sheep, goats, and cattle. The Lord blessed Jacob so that he received the strongest and best of all the animals. Finally, Jacob was a very rich man having great flocks of animals and many servants. Jacob wanted to go back to his home in Canaan. God had promised him that he would someday go back to his home, and that God would protect and bless him. After twenty years, Jacob planned to leave with his two wives, their maid servants, eleven sons, and one daughter. They left when Laban was away because Jacob was afraid that Laban would try to stop him. Laban was angry when he returned and found that Jacob had left with his family and everything that was his. He caught up with Jacob, but when they met, they made peace.

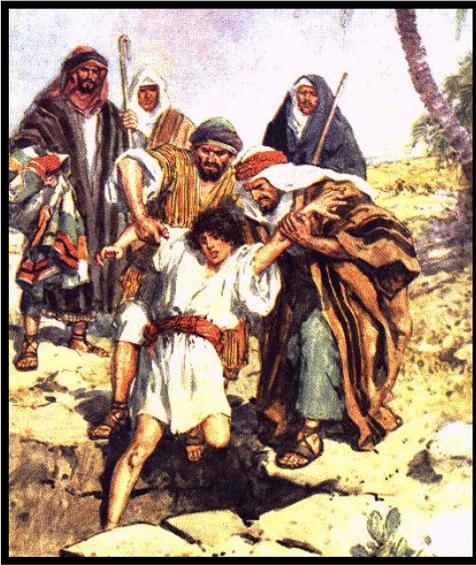
Jacob would need to face his brother, Esau, who had said that he would kill Jacob for stealing his blessing. God encouraged Jacob by letting him see a company of angels. Jacob would not be alone on his trip home. One night the Angel of the Lord came to Jacob and made him fight by wrestling with him. He crippled Jacob's leg, but Jacob would not let go. Jacob asked the Angel of the Lord for a blessing. The Angel of the Lord gave Jacob a new name, "Israel" meaning "Prince of God." From Jacob's line, the Messiah, the Savior, would be born. Jacob named the place Peniel, meaning "I have seen God face to face and my life is preserved."

When Jacob met Esau, they met in peace, also. Now Jacob was safely on his way back home to Canaan. When Jacob finally reached his home, he had been gone about thirty years. Rebekah, his mother, had died. Isaac, his father, lived to be 180. When Isaac died, Jacob and Esau buried him in the Cave of Machpelah beside Rebekah.

- Jacob worked for his Uncle Laban for twenty years. He married Leah and Rachel.
- When Jacob left to go back to his home in Canaan, he had two wives, 11 sons, 1 daughter, many servants, and great flocks of animals.
- When Jacob wrestled with the Angel of the Lord, he was crippled. The Angel of the Lord blessed him and gave him the name of "Israel."

## JOSEPH

### Genesis 37



When Jacob returned to Canaan, his beloved wife, Rachel, died giving birth to their son, Benjamin. Jacob buried her in Bethlehem. Rachel's son, Joseph, was dearly loved by his father, Jacob. Joseph was a godly and obedient son, but the other brothers were rough and were not godly. Because Joseph would tell his father about the bad things his brothers did, his brothers began to hate Joseph. When Jacob had a special coat of many colors made for Joseph, the brothers were jealous and hated him even more.

One morning Joseph said that he had a dream. While they were cutting and bundling the grain, his bundle of grain stood up straight, and all of their bundles bowed down before his. The brothers were angry and said they would never bow down before Joseph.

Joseph had a second dream in which the sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed to him. This dream even made Jacob scold Joseph saying "Will your mother and I and your brothers bow down to the ground before you?" However, Jacob thought about the dream, but the brothers hated Joseph still more.

Jacob sent Joseph's brothers a long distance away to find grass and water for their flocks. When Jacob did not hear from his sons, he sent Joseph to bring back a report. Joseph was seventeen at this time. It took Joseph many days to find his brothers. When his brothers saw him coming, they talked about killing him. Reuben, the oldest, said they should put him in the dry well which was near-by. When Joseph came to them, they grabbed him, took off his coat, and threw him into the well. A caravan of Ishmaelites came by on their way to Egypt to sell spices and perfume. The brothers took Joseph out of the well and sold him for twenty pieces of silver. Joseph was chained and taken away to Egypt to be sold as a slave.

The brothers agreed on a plan. They killed a young goat, ripped Joseph's coat, rolled it in the bloody dirt, and sent it back to Jacob. Jacob believed the story that some animal had killed Joseph. The brothers could not comfort their father who mourned for his son.

- Joseph's mother, Rachel, died giving birth to Benjamin.
- Jacob loved Joseph and had a special coat made for him.
- In Joseph's two dreams, his brothers, mother, and father bowed down to him.
- When Joseph was sent to check on his brothers and their flocks, his brothers sold him to a caravan of Ishmaelites going to Egypt to sell spices and perfumes.
- Jacob believed the report that Joseph had been killed by a wild animal.

## JOSEPH IN EGYPT

### Genesis 39



God had a special plan in bringing Joseph to Egypt. He had chosen Joseph to save thousands of people from dying from hunger and to bring his father Jacob and his family to Egypt. While it seemed bad for Joseph to be sold into slavery, God used it for good to begin His Messianic Nation of Israel. God had told Abraham that His people would become a nation in a foreign land as slaves, but that He would bring them out of that land with wealth and lead them back to their homeland in Canaan after four hundred

years. What God has said will happen, always happens just as He has said.

Joseph had to walk to Egypt chained to a camel. When he got there he was put on a stage for everyone to see if he would be a strong and healthy slave. God guided Potiphar, an Egyptian official, to buy Joseph as a slave for his home. He had been sold by his brothers for twenty pieces of silver, but Potiphar would have paid more for him. Potiphar was an important Egyptian official in charge of the prisons in Egypt.

Now Joseph was just a slave in a strange land. It must have been hard for him, as he had to learn a new language and way of living. Joseph was young and strong. His faith in God gave him the strength to do well in everything he was told to do. Potiphar saw how Joseph was blessed in all he did, so he put him in charge of his household and everything he owned. Joseph took care of everything and all he did pleased Potiphar.

But one day his master's wife asked him to do something very wrong, to be her lover. Because Joseph loved God, he would not do it. This made the woman angry and she told lies about Joseph. Potiphar was angry, but perhaps he did not believe the lies his wife told about Joseph. He did not have Joseph killed, but he put him in the king's prison.

- God had a special plan for Joseph.
- Joseph was sold as a slave to Potiphar, an important Egyptian official, for about thirty pieces of silver.
- God blessed Joseph in all he did. Potiphar put him in charge of everything he had.
- Because Potiphar's wife falsely accused Joseph, he was put in prison

## JOSEPH IN PRISON

### Genesis 39-41



Now Joseph was in prison, and it seemed that all God's blessings had come to an end. God still had more for him to learn. He had to learn Egyptian law. But even in prison, God blessed Joseph. Soon he was put in charge of the prison. Joseph had to carry out the orders given to him and take care of all the other prisoners.

The king of Egypt was called Pharaoh. One day two of Pharaoh's officials were sent to the prison. One was the butler who handed Pharaoh his cup. The other was the baker who baked all the bread and cakes for Pharaoh.

One day when Joseph visited the prisoners he noticed that the butler and baker seemed very unhappy. When he asked them why they were sad, they told him that they had each had a dream and they wanted to know what the dreams meant. Joseph said that God gives the meaning of dreams. He asked what the dreams were. The butler said that in his dream, he saw a grapevine with three branches that grew grapes. In his hand he held Pharaoh's cup. He squeezed the grapes into the cup and gave it to Pharaoh. Joseph said that in three days he would get his position back serving Pharaoh. He asked the butler to remember him and to tell Pharaoh about him, so that he could be set free.

The baker thought the interpretation of the butler's dream was good, so he told Joseph his dream. He was going to the palace with three white baskets on his head for Pharaoh. The birds came and ate what was in the top basket. Joseph said that the three baskets were three days, that in three days Pharaoh would hang him and the birds would eat him.

As God had revealed the dreams to Joseph, they came true. The butler got his job back three days later. The baker was hung three days later. The butler was so happy to be serving Pharaoh again that he forgot about Joseph.

Two years went by, and then Pharaoh had two dreams. He wanted to know what his dreams meant. He called for his wise men, but no one could tell him the meaning. Then the butler remembered Joseph and he told Pharaoh about Joseph being able to give the meaning of dreams. So Pharaoh sent for Joseph to come from the prison to give him the meaning of his dreams.

When Joseph came, he said that only God can give the meaning of dreams. Pharaoh told Joseph his dreams. He said that he was standing by a river and seven nice fat cows came out of it and began to eat grass by the river. Then seven skinny cows came up out of the river and ate the seven fat cows, and they were still skinny.

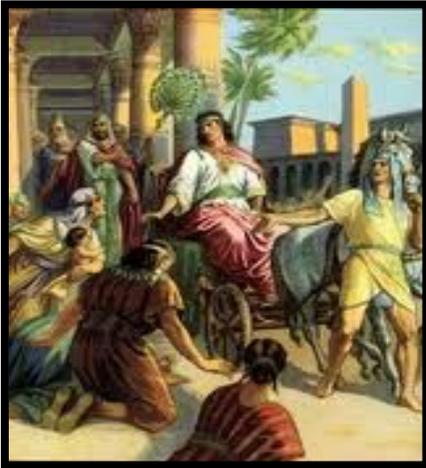
In his second dream, he saw seven large good heads of grain. Suddenly, seven dried up heads of grain came up and ate the large good heads of grain. Joseph told Pharaoh that the two dreams had the same meaning. Joseph said, “God has told you what He is going to do. First, there will be seven good years of good crops and plenty of food. Then there will be seven years of bad crops and the people will be hungry.” Joseph told Pharaoh to find a man to store up the food in the seven good years.

Pharaoh was pleased and made Joseph the second ruler of the land and gave him a royal signet ring, clothing, and chariot. He gave Joseph a wife, Asenath, the daughter of a priest. They had two sons, Manasseh, meaning “God has made me forget all my troubles and my father’s house,” and Ephraim, meaning “God has made me to be blessed in the land of my troubles.” It had been thirteen years since he was sold into slavery.

- Joseph was put in charge of the prison. There he told the meaning of two dreams.
- When Joseph gave the meaning of Pharaoh’s dreams, he was made the 2nd ruler of Egypt.
- Asenath became Joseph’s wife. They had two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.
- God blessed Joseph and directed everything in his life.

## JOSEPH MEETS HIS BROTHERS

### Genesis 42-46



Joseph made a good plan to store up the grain during the seven years of good crops. When there was no rain and the crops were very bad, people from many countries came to Egypt to buy grain and food. When Jacob heard that grain was being sold in Egypt, he sent his sons to buy grain, but he kept Benjamin, the youngest, at home. When the brothers got to Egypt, they were taken before Joseph. Joseph remembered his dream as his brothers bowed before him. His brothers did not know it was Joseph because he looked like an Egyptian ruler. Joseph accused them of being spies and put them in jail for three days. Then Joseph said that one brother would stay in jail and the rest could go home. If they wanted to see him again, they had to bring their youngest brother, Benjamin, with them. Joseph heard them say that God was punishing them for selling their brother. This brought tears to his eyes. He told his servant to put their money back in their sacks of grain.

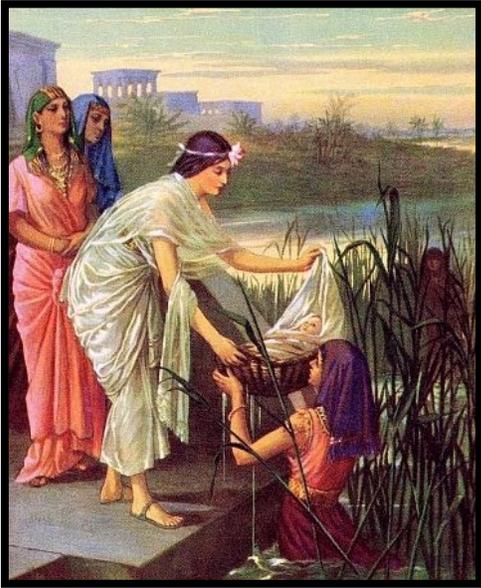
On the way home, they found the money in the sacks, and they were afraid that now they would be considered thieves. When they got home, they told Jacob what had happened and what the Egyptian ruler said about Benjamin having to come with them next time if they came back. Once the grain was gone, Jacob sent them again to Egypt, this time with Benjamin. When the brothers came to Joseph with Benjamin, Joseph told his servant to prepare a feast for them. When Joseph came, they again bowed before him and gave him their gifts. When the food was brought in, Benjamin was given the largest portion, but the brothers were not jealous. To their surprise they were seated by age. Joseph, however, ate alone because he was an Egyptian ruler. When it was time for them to leave, Joseph ordered his servant to fill the sacks with grain and to put their money into their sacks. In Benjamin's sack, he was also told to put Joseph's silver cup. When the brothers had started home, the servant came to them and accused them of stealing the cup. Whoever had the cup in his sack would stay as a slave. When he found the cup in Benjamin's sack, the brothers were very upset. All of them returned to Joseph.

Judah told Joseph of his father's love for Rachel's two sons, Joseph who was dead and Benjamin. He offered to stay as a slave in place of Benjamin. Then Joseph cried and told them that he was Joseph. He said that God had used them to send him to Egypt to prepare a place for them. All the families must come to Egypt so he could care for them. Wagons were sent home with them to help them move to Egypt. When the brothers got home, they told their father everything. Jacob said, "Joseph, my son, is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."

- Joseph revealed himself to his brothers and sent for Jacob's family to come to Egypt.

## MOSES, THE DELIVERER OF ISRAEL

### Exodus 1-4



While Joseph lived, God's people, the Israelites, were safe and God blessed them. Then a Pharaoh came to power and passed a law that all the Israelites were slaves. He ordered all Israelite baby boys to be thrown into the river to be eaten by crocodiles. He was afraid that the Israelites would become a great nation. The Israelites did not want to be slaves. They wanted to be free, leave Egypt, and go back to their home in Canaan. They prayed for God to help them.

God heard their prayers and gave a baby boy to Amram and Jochabed. When they could not hide him in their home, they made a basket out of reeds, put the baby in it, and let it float in the Nile River. This part of the river was where the

princess would bathe and there were no crocodiles. The baby had a brother, Aaron, and sister, Miriam. Miriam's mother told her to watch over the baby.

When the princess came to the river, she saw the little floating basket and sent a maid to get it. When the princess opened it, the baby cried. She picked him up to comfort him. Miriam ran up and asked if she could get a nurse for the baby. The princess told her to get one so Miriam got the baby's mother.

The princess claimed the baby and named him, Moses. She had Moses' mother take care of him when he was a baby. Then Moses went to live with the princess where he was safe. He became very famous in Egypt.

When he was forty years old, he killed an Egyptian who was beating a slave. He had to flee for his life. God guided Moses to the home of Jethro, priest of the Midianites. Moses stayed with Jethro for forty years and married Zipporah, his daughter. They had two sons, Gershom meaning "I have been a stranger in a strange land" and Eliezer meaning "The God of my father was my help and saved me from Pharaoh."

Moses became a desert shepherd learning to know the desert well. This was necessary because he was going to lead the two million people of Israel through it for the last forty years of his life.

When Moses was 80, the Angel of the Lord came to him in a burning bush. Moses went to see it and heard the Angel of the Lord speak, telling him to lead Israel to the Promised Land of Canaan. Their prayers had been heard. The Angel of the Lord said that Moses was to tell Israel that He was the "I Am God, the Ever-living God."

Moses was now a humble shepherd and he told God that he was not able to do this. The Angel of the Lord gave him two miracles; one to turn a staff into a snake, and the other to turn his hand into a leper's hand, then to heal it. Moses still made excuses in not going. The Angel of the Lord said he would send Aaron, his brother, to help him. Aaron would speak for Moses; but Moses would speak for God to Aaron.

God sent Aaron to meet Moses and together they went to Egypt. There they spoke to the elders of Israel, who believed that God was going to deliver them from the Egyptians. They bowed their heads and worshiped.

- After Joseph's death, a Pharaoh made the Israelites into slaves and commanded the baby boys be thrown into the river to be eaten by crocodiles.
- God heard the Israelites' prayers. Moses was born and kept safe by being the son of the princess.
- Moses had to flee from Egypt when he killed an Egyptian.
- Moses lived with Jethro, the priest of Midian, for forty years.
- He married Zipporah, the priest's daughter, and they had two sons, Gershom and Eliezer. Moses was a desert shepherd.
- The Angel of the Lord came to Moses in the burning bush and said He was the "I Am God, the Ever-living God."
- The Angel of the Lord sent Moses and his brother, Aaron, to Egypt to deliver the Israelites.

## THE TEN PLAGUES IN EGYPT

### Exodus 4-12



God told Moses and Aaron to go to Pharaoh and ask him to let the Israelites leave. As a sign from God, Moses had Aaron throw down his staff and it turned into a serpent. When Pharaoh's magicians turned their staffs into snakes, Moses' serpent ate their serpents.

Again and again, Moses and Aaron would come to Pharaoh and say, "Let

my people go." When Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the people go, God would send another punishment on them. The punishment was called a plague.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> plague, Aaron hit the water of the Nile River with his staff and it turned to blood. All the fish died and all the water in Egypt turned to blood. The magicians could turn the water into blood, also. The people had to dig new wells for water. Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the people go.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> plague was frogs everywhere. If God would take away the frogs, Pharaoh would let the people go. When God had all the frogs die, Pharaoh would not let them go.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> plague was tiny gnats that bit the people. The magicians could not produce gnats. They said, "This is the finger of God." Pharaoh hardened his heart and wouldn't let them go. After this, the Israelites were safe from all the plagues God sent on the Egyptians.

The 4<sup>th</sup> plague was flies that were everywhere except in the land of Goshen where God's people lived. When God took the flies away, Pharaoh hardened his heart.

The 5<sup>th</sup> plague was a disease on goats, cattle, horses, and camels, causing them to die. Pharaoh heart was hardened and he would not let the Israelites go.

The 6<sup>th</sup> plague was boils or sores on all the Egyptians. God hardened Pharaoh's heart and he would not let the people go.

The 7<sup>th</sup> plague was a terrible storm, hail, lightning, and thunder which destroyed the crops in the field. When the storm stopped, God hardened Pharaoh's heart.

The 8<sup>th</sup> plague was a plague of locust, like grasshoppers. They covered everything and ate up everything green. When the locusts were gone, God hardened Pharaoh's heart and he would not let the people go.

The 9<sup>th</sup> plague terrified the Egyptians. They were in total darkness so thick it was like it could be felt. The Israelites had light in Goshen. When the darkness was gone, Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go and threatened to kill Moses if he saw him again.

The 10<sup>th</sup> plague caused Pharaoh to let the Israelites leave. The Angel of the Lord passed over all the Egyptian homes and the first born of all people and animals died. The Israelites prepared for this coming plague by putting blood around the door of their house, so that the Angel of the Lord would pass by their homes.

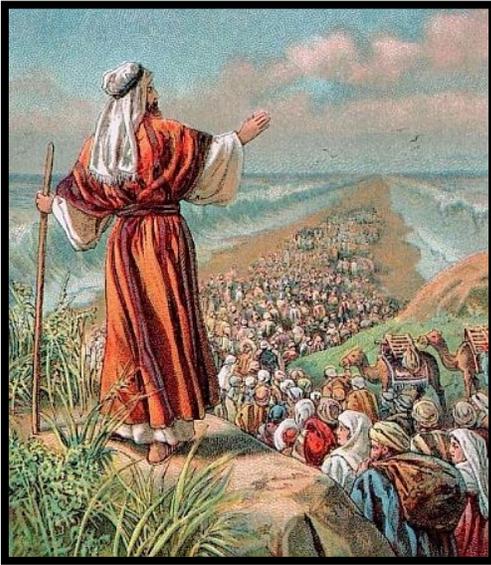
The Israelites did as God had said. That night they had a special meal of roast lamb and unleavened bread. They were to be ready to leave Egypt. When the Angel of the Lord passed over Egypt that night, there was a great cry in all the Egyptian homes because the first born of all the people and animals died.

The Egyptians in fear gave the Israelites their jewels and wealth. The Israelites left as a wealthy and mighty nation. They had been in Egypt for 430 years.

- Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, “Let my people go.”
- When Pharaoh would not let God’s people go, God sent a punishment or plague.
- 1<sup>st</sup> plague – water turned to blood.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> plague – frogs everywhere.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> plague – tiny gnats that bit the people. The Israelites were spared the following plagues.
- 4<sup>th</sup> plague – flies everywhere.
- 5<sup>th</sup> plague – disease on the animals causing them to die.
- 6<sup>th</sup> plague – boils or sores on all the Egyptians.
- 7<sup>th</sup> plague – terrible storm, lightning, thunder, and hail which destroyed the crops.
- 8<sup>th</sup> plague - locust everywhere ate up everything green.
- 9<sup>th</sup> plague – total darkness for three days terrified the Egyptians. Israelites had light in Goshen.
- 10<sup>th</sup> plague – The Angel of the Lord passed over all Egypt killing the first born of people and animals in all the homes of the Egyptians.
- God’s people, the Israelites, were spared by putting the blood of a lamb around their door. The Angel of the Lord passed over their homes.
- God’s people were to celebrate the Feast of the Passover each year, remembering how the blood of the lamb protected them.
- Through all the plagues, the fish, the land, the crops, and the animals were destroyed by God’s judgment.
- Pharaoh finally let the Israelites leave Egypt. They were now a mighty and wealthy nation led by Moses after being in Egypt for 430 years.

## ISRAEL LEAVES EGYPT

### Exodus 13-15



When the Israelites left Egypt, they were a nation of about two million people. It had been 430 years since Joseph brought his father Jacob, his brothers, and their families to Egypt. Now they were on their way back home to Canaan where Jesus, the Savior, would be born in about 1400 years. For the next forty years the Angel of the Lord would guide them in a Pillar of Cloud by day and a Pillar of Fire by night. They could always see and know that the Angel of the Lord was with them.

Now Pharaoh was sorry he had let God's people leave, so he got his six hundred chariots and soldiers and chased after the Israelites. The Israelites had camped by the Red Sea, and when

they saw the Egyptian army coming, they were afraid. Moses said, "Don't be afraid, watch and see what the Lord does."

The Angel of the Lord in the Pillar of Cloud went between the Israelites and the Egyptian army. It was dark over the Egyptians and light over the Israelites. Moses lifted his staff over the Red Sea and the water began to divide. All night long God sent a wind that divided the water into two parts with dry land in between. Now the Israelites could walk through the Red Sea on dry ground between two walls of water. It took about a whole day for all the people and their animals to cross over to the other side of the Red Sea.

When they were all safely on the other side, the Angel of the Lord let the Egyptians see the Israelites and the way across the Red Sea between the walls of water. The chariots started across, but God caused them to get stuck. When all the chariots were between the walls of water, Moses held out his staff over the sea. The Angel of the Lord brought the walls of water together and drowned the whole Egyptian army.

This caused the Israelites to fear God and believe the words of Moses. The people sang and praised God for saving them from the Egyptians.

- The Israelites left Egypt a nation of about two million people.
- The Angel of the Lord in the Pillar of Cloud by day and the Pillar of Fire by night guided them. They could always see the presence of the Angel of the Lord.
- Pharaoh's army chased after the Israelites causing the Israelites to be afraid.
- Moses said to watch what God would do. He held up his staff over the Red Sea.
- When the Angel of the Lord divided the Red Sea, they crossed on dry ground.
- The Angel of the Lord caused the Egyptian army to be drowned in the Red Sea.

## ISRAEL COMES TO MT. SINAI

### Exodus 15 Numbers 13, 14



After crossing the Red Sea, the Israelites traveled to Marah where the people complained that the water was bitter and they could not drink it. God told Moses to cut down a little tree and throw it into the water. Immediately, they could drink the good, pure water.

From Marah they journeyed into the Desert of Sin where the Israelites complained to Moses that they did not have enough food to eat. Moses prayed to God for help. The next morning, God sent manna which covered the ground like small round

snowflakes or sleet. Each person could gather two quarts. When the sun came up, the manna would melt away. On Friday, the day before their Sabbath day on Saturday, each person was to gather four quarts. If they gathered more than was allowed, it would spoil, smell, and become wormy. The manna tasted like wafers and honey. It could be eaten plain or cooked. For the next forty years, God fed the Israelites with manna.

Coming to Rephidim, the Israelites again complained to Moses that there was no water. When Moses prayed to God, God told him to hit a rock. Water came out of the rock for the people and their animals to drink. While there, they were attacked by the Amalekites. All day until evening, Aaron and Hur held up the hands of Moses over the fighting. God blessed the Israelites with a great victory, defeating the Amalekites.

From Rephidim, they made the short journey to Mt. Sinai where they stayed for two years. During this time, God spoke to them in love through Moses who organized and taught them. Moses told the people to be faithful and how to worship God with sacrifices.

God had Moses come up into the mountain for forty days and nights to be with Him. God wrote the Ten Commandments on two tablets of stone and gave him the plans for the tabernacle. While at Mt. Sinai they built the tabernacle, their tent temple, which could be moved whenever they moved from place to place. The second time Moses was with God on the mountain for forty days and nights, God finished instructing Moses.

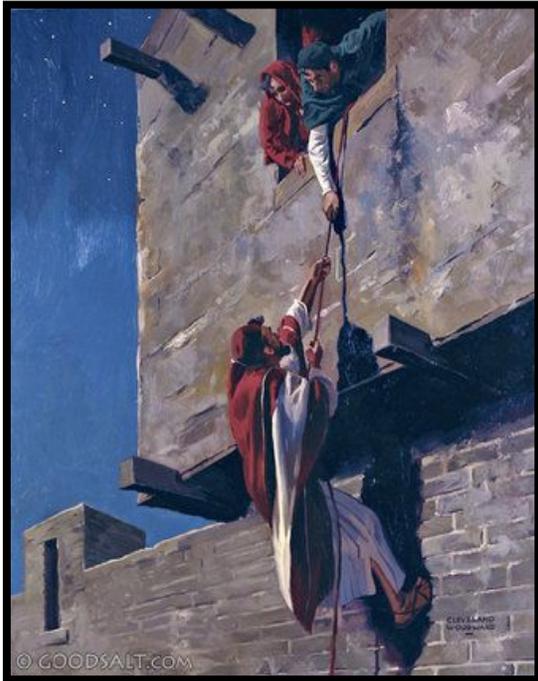
After two years, when they were ready to enter Canaan, Moses sent twelve men to spy out the land for forty days. Ten of them gave a bad report saying that they were not strong enough to conquer the land. Two of them, Joshua and Caleb, said that they could conquer the land with God's help. The people complained to Moses and wanted to go

back to Egypt. In judgment, the Angel of the Lord killed the ten spies. The Israelites would now have to wander in the desert for thirty-eight more years, making a total of forty years in the desert. All those twenty years old and older, would die and would never enter the Promised Land of Canaan.

- The Israelites murmured and complained. God gave them water and manna.
- At Mt. Sinai, God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.
- The ten spies gave a bad report. Only Joshua and Caleb gave a good report.
- It would be forty years of wandering before they would enter Canaan, the place where the Messiah, Jesus our Savior, was to be born.

## ISRAEL'S JOURNEY IS ENDED

### Deuteronomy 34, Joshua 2-4



Moses was the greatest of all the prophets. He talked to God face to face. Moses, now 120 years old, had faithfully led the Israelites for forty years in their journey from Egypt to the Promised Land of Canaan.

God let Moses know that it was time for him to die. Moses gave the nation of Israel a final message. God then had Moses climb Mt. Nebo across from Jericho. In a miracle, God let Moses see all the Promised Land. Then God took his life and buried him.

Joshua was now the new leader. He chose two men to go to Jericho to give them a report of the city. The two men went to an inn owned by a woman named Rahab.

The king of Jericho was told that two spies had come into the city, so he sent some men to capture them. Rahab had hidden the two men under stalks of flax on the flat roof. When the king's men came, Rahab told them that the spies had just left. If they hurried, they could catch them.

When the king's men left, Rahab went up to the roof and told the two men that since she had protected them, would they be kind to her and her family when the Israelites would come to Jericho. The men agreed and told her to tie a scarlet rope in the window and all in her house would be safe. Since she lived on the city wall, she let them down the wall through a window with a rope and told them to run to the mountain and hide for three days before going back to Joshua.

To get to Jericho, the Israelites had to cross the Jordan River. God told Joshua how to cross the river. The priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant were to walk into the river. When their feet touched the Jordan River, the water stopped flowing and piled up in a big wall forming a lake fifteen miles long. The priests stood in the middle of the river on dry ground while all the people crossed. It probably took about a day for all the Israelites to cross over into Canaan.

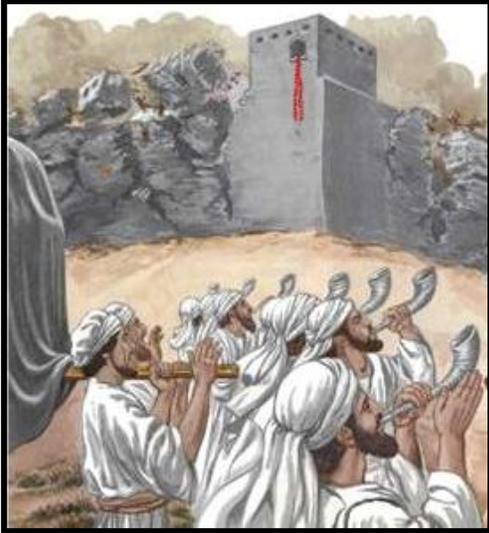
So that they would always remembered how they crossed the Jordan, the Angel of the Lord told Joshua that twelve men, a man from each tribe, were to take twelve stones from the place where the priest were standing with the Ark of the Covenant and to build a monument on the Canaan side of the Jordan River. Joshua did as he was instructed and built the monument.

When all was finished, the priest came out of the river with the Ark of the Covenant and the water began to flow again. They made their camp at Gilgal and began gathering food from the land. The next morning there was no manna. God had brought them to the Promised Land.

- Moses, in a miracle, viewed the Promised Land from Mt. Nebo before God took his life and buried him.
- The spies that Joshua sent into Jericho were protected by Rahab.
- The Israelites followed the priests crossing the Jordan River on dry ground.
- God's promise to bring them back to the Promised Land was fulfilled.

## THE FALL OF JERICHO

### Joshua 1-24



While the nation of Israel camped near Jericho, Joshua went to look over the city walls to plan Israel's attack. He looked ahead and saw a man standing with a drawn sword. Joshua asked Him whether he was a friend or an enemy. The man answered, "As the Captain of the army of God, I am come to you." It was the Angel of the Lord. Joshua fell on his face and said, "What does my Lord have to say to me?" The Angel of the Lord repeated what He had said to Moses at the Burning Bush. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy."

The Angel of the Lord told Joshua how to take Jericho. For six days, seven priests were to carry the Ark of the Covenant before the army of Israel led by seven other priests with trumpets of ram's horns as they marched around the city of Jericho. The priests were to blow the horns, but the army was to be silent. On the seventh day, they were to go around the city seven times and then stop and blow a long loud blast. The army was to shout with a loud voice and the walls of Jericho would fall flat. The soldiers were to go into the city and totally destroy it. The gold, silver, brass, and iron was to be saved for the tabernacle. No one could take anything for themselves.

Joshua did as he was told. The army marched around Jericho for six days. On the seventh day, they marched around seven times, the priest blew a long loud blast on their horns, and the army shouted with a loud voice. The walls fell down! The scarlet rope hung from Rahab's window, so she and all her family were spared according to the agreement with the two men. Jericho was taken and burned.

Now the Israelites had returned home to their Promised Land of Canaan after the long years of slavery in Egypt and their long journey home. God had kept His promise.

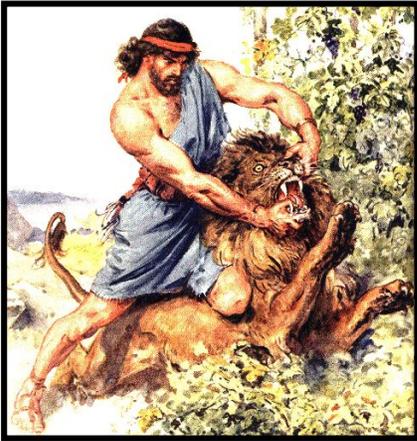
Joshua told the Israelites to be faithful to God and God would bless them. Joshua's most famous words are, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Hearing this, Israel vowed to serve and obey God.

Not long after this, Joshua died at the age of 110.

- The Angel of the Lord told Joshua how to take the city of Jericho.
- God had the walls fall down when the priests and army marched around it.
- Rahab's family was spared. She married into the tribe of Judah and became an ancestor of Christ.

## SAMSON

### Judges 13-16



The Israelites turned away from God. They worshiped false gods and idols. So God brought the Philistines against them. When they looked for deliverance, God raised up Samson for them. Samson was very special. The Angel of the Lord told his parents that he would be a Nazarite. A Nazarite was one who could never cut his hair, drink strong drink, or eat certain kinds of meat. Samson was given very great strength. He was like a “one man army.” Because of his great strength, the Philistines were afraid and did not harm the Israelites.

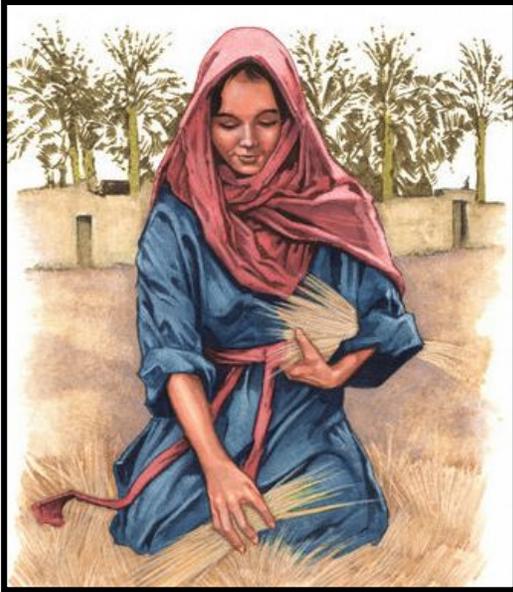
One day, Samson killed a lion that attacked him. Another time, he let some of his people tie him up with ropes. As the Philistines came toward him, he broke free of the ropes. He picked up a jaw bone of a donkey and killed a thousand Philistines with it. Another time, after visiting a Philistine woman, he found the city gate locked. Samson took hold of this huge gate, broke it loose, and carried it away for many miles on his shoulders. After this Samson fell in love with Delilah, a Philistine woman, and visited her often. The leaders of the Philistines offered Delilah a lot of money if she would find out the secret of his great strength. Delilah begged Samson to tell her. Each time he told her how to tie him up so that he would be weak, she would tie him up and then cry out, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson.” Samson would get up and break free. This upset Delilah. Finally, he told her that he was a Nazarite and could not cut his hair. Knowing his secret, she told the leaders to come with their money. While he was sleeping, she had his head shaved. This time when he woke up, his strength was gone and the Philistines took him prisoner. They put out his eyes, chained him, and forced him to turn a large grinding stone like an animal would.

Some time later, the Philistines held a festival in the temple of their god, Dagon. Three thousand Philistines, including all their leaders were there. They called for Samson to come and entertain them. Then Samson asked the boy to take him to the temple and let him lean on the main pillars of the temple. Taking one pillar in his right hand and another pillar in his left hand, he prayed for God to restore his strength and to let him die with the Philistines. He bent over with all his strength and made the pillars break and fall. The whole temple fell down killing all the leaders of the Philistines and many people. He killed more Philistines in his death than in his life.

- The Angel of the Lord told Samson’s parents that he was to be a Nazirite.
- God made Samson the judge of Israel. He delivered his people from the Philistines by his great strength.
- Samson pulled down the pillars of the temple of Dagon killing thousands of Philistines and their leaders. In his death, he killed more than in his life.

## RUTH

### Book of Ruth



A family in Bethlehem, Naomi, her husband, and their two sons moved to the neighboring country of Moab because in Israel there was no rain and there was not much food to eat. They stayed in Moab about ten years. The sons grew up and got married. Then sadness came to the home. Naomi's husband and both sons died. Naomi decided to go back to Bethlehem. She told her two daughter-in-laws, Orpah and Ruth, to go back to their families and stay in Moab. Orpah said good-bye to Naomi and Ruth and went back to her family..

Ruth loved Naomi and said to her, "Don't ask me to leave you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay. I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God is my God."

Together, Naomi and Ruth went back to Bethlehem. Naomi was very sad, because her husband and sons had died. Now she only had Ruth to take care of her.

When they came to Bethlehem, it was the time of barley harvest. Barley was used by the poor for baking. God had commanded that the poor people could walk in the fields and pick up whatever grain was missed or dropped.

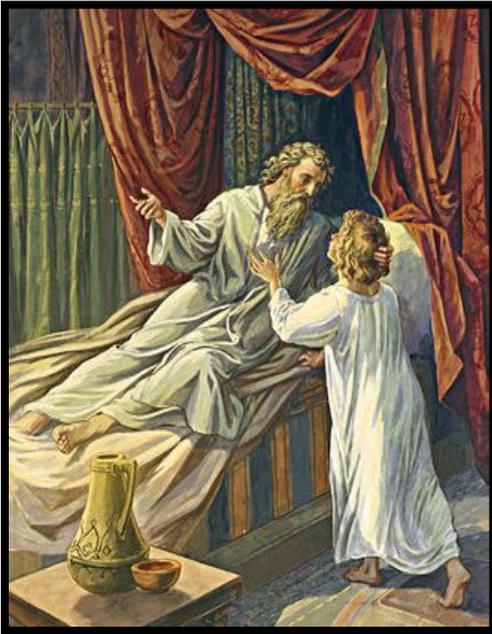
God guided Ruth to go to the fields of Boaz, a relative of Naomi. Boaz told his men to drop some grain so she would have more to pick up. When Ruth went home, she had a lot of grain. Naomi was pleased that Ruth picked up grain in the fields of Boaz.

Boaz was a very good man. He asked Ruth to only come to his fields to pick up grain. After the harvest was over, Boaz married Ruth. Now Naomi was no longer sad. God blessed Ruth and Boaz with a son named Obed.

- Naomi with her husband and two sons moved to Moab where the sons married Moabite women, Orpah and Ruth.
- Naomi's husband and sons died.
- Ruth refused to leave Naomi, choosing Naomi's God, not heathen idols of Moab.
- Ruth picked up grain in the fields of Boaz.
- Boaz married Ruth and they had a son named Obed.
- Obed, was the father of Jesse, who was the father of King David. In this way Ruth became the second Gentile woman to be an ancestor of Jesus.

## SAMUEL

### 1 Samuel 1-8



Hannah was very sad because she did not have any children. Every year she went with her husband to their church, called a tabernacle. Eli was the priest there. He saw Hannah praying. In her prayer she promised God that if He would give her a son, she would give him back to serve God all his life.

God heard Hannah's prayer and the next year God gave her a son. She named him Samuel, meaning "an answer to a prayer to God." Samuel stayed with his mother and father until he was a little boy. Hannah remembered her promise to God. She took Samuel to the tabernacle to live and serve with Eli, the priest. In this way, she was giving him back to God, because now he would be helping Eli, the priest, and serving God in the tabernacle. Every year she would come to

see him and bring him a new set of clothing. God blessed Hannah and gave her more children, three sons and two daughters.

Samuel was a good helper to Eli. Samuel slept in a room near Eli. One night the Lord called to Samuel saying "Samuel, Samuel." Samuel thought it was Eli calling him. He got up and went to Eli. Eli said, "I did not call you." Samuel went back to bed and again he heard, "Samuel, Samuel" He got up and went to Eli. Eli said, "I did not call you."

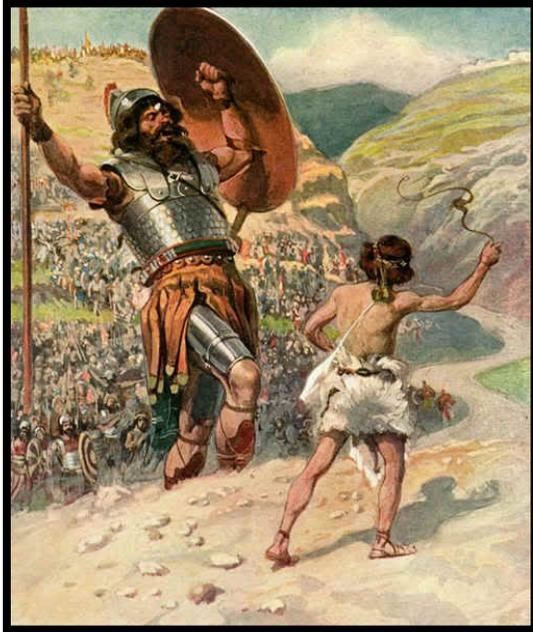
The third time Samuel heard "Samuel, Samuel," he again went to Eli. Now Eli knew that it was God calling Samuel. Eli said to Samuel, "Go and lie down. When you hear the voice calling you again, say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening'." When the God called again, He told Samuel many things that were going to happen.

As Samuel grew up, God spoke to him often. Samuel became a great priest and judge of God's people, Israel.

- God answered Hannah's prayer and gave her a son. She named him Samuel.
- According to her promise, when Samuel was a little boy, she took him to live with Eli, the priest, and to serve God in the tabernacle.
- God called to Samuel in the night, saying, "Samuel, Samuel."
- Samuel became a great priest and judge of Israel.

## DAVID AND GOLIATH

### 1 Samuel 17



For a long time, Samuel was the priest and leader of God's people. When Samuel was an old man, the people came to him and said, "Give us a king to rule over us." Samuel was not pleased, but God said, "You may give them a king if they want one."

God had Samuel choose Saul, a tall, handsome young man. At first Saul was a good king, but he became proud and did not obey God. Then God had Samuel go to Bethlehem and ask to see Jesse's sons. As each son came to Samuel, Samuel said, "This is not the one God has chosen." The father said, "I have one other son, David, the youngest. He is watching the sheep." When David came before Samuel, Samuel said, "This is the one God has chosen to be the next

king. Pour oil on his head."

Time passed and King Saul and his army were at war with the Philistines. Three of David's brothers were fighting in Saul's army. David's father sent David to take food to them. When David came to Saul's army, he saw the Philistine army on the other side of the valley. Then he heard and saw Goliath, a giant, come from the Philistine army and say, "Who will come out and fight me?" He cursed and insulted Israel and their God. He was over nine feet tall. Everyone in Saul's army was afraid to fight him.

David said, "I'll fight him. God will help me." King Saul did not think that David could fight the giant. Then he wanted David to wear his armor and take his sword. David said, "I can't fight like this." So he took off Saul's armor. David took only his staff and his sling. He picked up five smooth stones as he walked toward Goliath. Goliath laughed at him and said, "Do you think I am a dog that you come to me with a stick?" Goliath made fun of David and of God, too. David answered, "I come to you in the name of the Lord." He took one of the smooth stones and put it in his sling. He aimed at the giant and let the stone fly out of his sling. The stone hit the giant in the head and he fell down. David ran to him, took his sword, and cut off Goliath's head. When the enemy soldiers saw what happened, they started to run away. The army of Saul followed them and won a great victory over the Philistines that day.

Saul had David come to the palace to live and play the harp when the bad moods came on him. David became a great warrior and leader of the army. This made Saul jealous and he tried many times to kill David. When Saul became proud and continued to disobey God, God rejected him as king.

God sent Samuel to anoint David to be the next king. Finally, Saul and his sons died in the battle with the Philistines. David then became the king of Israel.

David was the greatest king of Israel. While he was king, the Israelites were believers in the true God. King David wanted to build a beautiful temple in Jerusalem, but God told David that his son, Solomon, would build the great temple. God gave David the plan of how the temple was to be built. David made a big supply of everything needed to build the temple.

David was king for forty years. During David's life, he wrote most of the wonderful Psalms in the Bible showing his great faith. It was from David's descendants that Jesus was born.

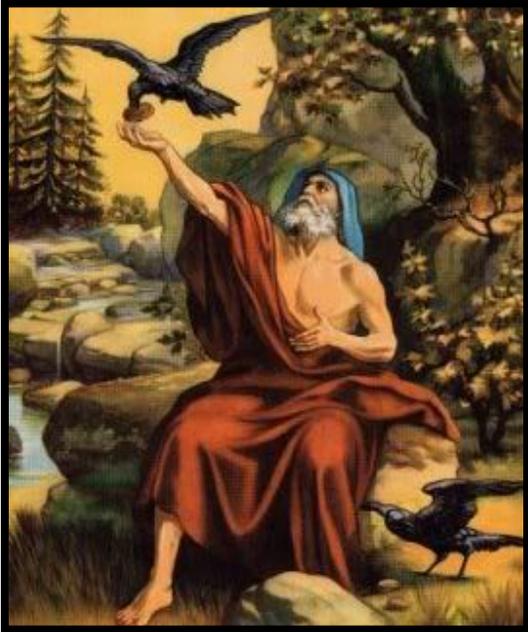
David and Bathsheba's son, Solomon, became the king of Israel after King David died. King Solomon was known for his great wisdom and for building the temple in Jerusalem. But Solomon became proud and foolishly built temples for the idols which his many wives worshiped and where he worshiped, also. This led God's people into idolatry and turning away from the true God. The Bible shows us through the Book of Proverbs, which Solomon wrote, that he repented of his sins against God. Solomon ruled for forty years.

As other kings followed, the people began turning from God and following the gods and idols of the heathen nations around them. The great kingdom of Israel was split after this into two parts because of idolatry, Israel in the North and Judah in the South.

- When Samuel was old, the people wanted a king to rule over them.
- Saul, chosen to be the first king, was a good king at first. When he became proud and disobeyed God, God had Samuel choose David to be the next king.
- Goliath, a giant in the Philistine army, mocked God and was killed by David.
- After Saul was rejected by God, David became the greatest king of Israel.
- David ruled for forty years and the people believed in the true God.
- David wrote most of the Psalms in the Bible which showed his great faith.
- Solomon, the son of David and Bathsheba, became the next king of Israel.
- Solomon is known for his great wisdom and for building the temple in Jerusalem.
- Solomon led the Israelites away from the worship of the true God by building temples for the idols his many wives worshiped, and in which he, also, worshiped.
- Solomon wrote the Book of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon which shows that in his old age he became penitent for bringing idolatry into Israel. He reigned for forty years.

## ELIJAH, THE PROPHET

### 1 Kings 16, 17



Ahab was one of the most evil of all the kings of Israel that followed King Solomon. He married Jezebel who was, also, evil and brought to Israel the worship of Baal, the heathen god of the sun, light, and life. God sent Elijah, the prophet, to help His people. Elijah told Ahab there would be no rain because of their worshiping Baal.

Then God told Elijah to go and hide by a little brook where he would have water to drink. God sent ravens or crows to bring him bread and meat in the evening and morning. The birds would pick up the food in the market and carry it in their beaks to Elijah. When the brook dried up, God sent Elijah to a town in Sidon to stay with a widow and her son.

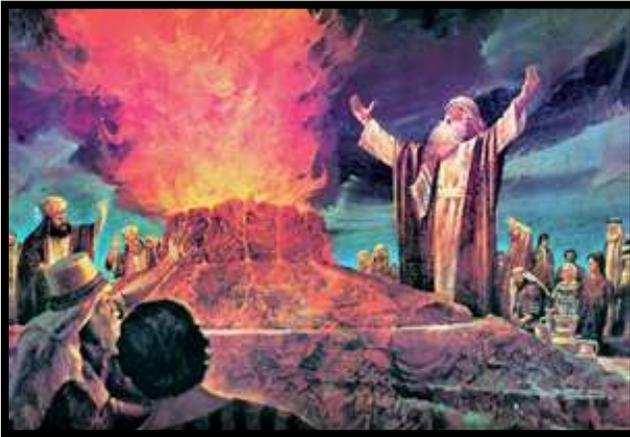
When Elijah got there, the widow was gathering sticks to cook a last meal for herself and her son. Elijah asked her for some water to drink. As she was going to get it, he asked her to bring him a piece of bread to eat. She said that she was gathering sticks to build a fire to cook a last meal for herself and her son and then they would die. Elijah told her that the God of Israel said that the barrel of flour and the jar of cooking oil would never be used up. She believed Elijah and made him some bread. She always had enough flour and oil to make bread, just as God had promised. God gave this widow and her son a special blessing from Elijah's miracle of the flour and oil never being used up.

After Elijah had been there for some time, the son became sick and died. The widow was very sad. Elijah took her son to his room and laid him on his bed. He stretched himself over the child three times and prayed to God. God answered his prayer and the son came back to life. Elijah took the child to his mother and said, "See, your son is living." The woman joyfully said, "Now I know that you are a man of God."

- Wicked King Ahab and Jezebel, his wife, led Israel to worship Baal.
- God gave Israel the great prophet, Elijah, to help them.
- God had the ravens bring food to Elijah.
- While Elijah was with a widow and her son, God had Elijah perform two miracles: the oil and flour which was not used up and the widow's son who was brought back to life.

## ELIJAH AND THE PROPHETS OF BAAL

### 1 Kings 18



God sent Elijah, the prophet, to King Ahab with a message. He told Ahab to tell the people of Israel and the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal to come to Mt. Carmel.

When all had come to Mt. Carmel, Elijah spoke to the people. He said that some of the people believed Baal was god, and some believed that the God of Israel was God. Who is the true God? This would be a contest to prove who the true God is. The

priests of Baal built an altar and laid the pieces of bullock on the wood on the altar with out any fire. Elijah would do the same. The God who answered by fire and burned up the sacrifice would be the true God. All agreed that the contest was fair.

Since the prophets believed that Baal was the god of the sun, they thought he would answer their prayers with fire. They began praying and calling on Baal in the morning, but there was no fire. Elijah called out to the prophets of Baal, “Call a little louder. Perhaps Baal is talking to other gods, or on a trip, or maybe even sleeping.” The prophets of Baal called louder and louder. They even jumped on the altar and cut themselves trying to get Baal to answer with fire. By evening, there still was no fire.

Elijah then called to the people to come near him. He built an altar of stones and dug a ditch around the altar. He put the pieces of bullock on the wood on the altar. He had water poured over the sacrifice and the wood on the altar until the ditch around the altar was filled with water. Elijah came to the altar and prayed. He asked God to show His divine power and send fire. Then the people would know that He alone was God and that Elijah was His prophet.

God suddenly sent fire which burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, and the water in the ditch. The people fell on their faces and shouted, “The Lord, He is the God, The Lord, He is the God.” Elijah told the people to catch all the prophets of Baal and he had them killed. This was a great victory for God and His prophet, Elijah.

- Ahab called the people and Baal’s prophets to come to a contest at Mt. Carmel.
- The prophets of Baal prepared their sacrifice. Baal could not send fire.
- Elijah prepared his sacrifice and poured water over it.
- The God of Israel sent fire which burned up the sacrifice, wood, altar, and water.
- All the people confessed, “The Lord is God.”
- The prophets of Baal were killed

## ELIJAH TAKEN TO HEAVEN IN THE FIERY CHARIOT

### 2 Kings 1, 2



The work of Elijah was coming to an end. The worship of Baal had been cut down. There were schools for God's prophets. God was once more held in honor.

Elijah knew that he would soon be taken to heaven, so he made a last visit to the schools of the prophets. God had chosen Elisha to follow Elijah and to be the next great prophet. So together they visited the schools of

the prophets.

Elijah told Elisha to stay at the school, that God was sending him to the Jordan River. Elisha said that he would not leave Elijah. So together they walked to the Jordan River. Fifty of the students followed and watched as Elijah and Elisha came to the river. Elijah took his mantle or coat, folded it, and hit the water with it. The water parted and they crossed over on dry ground.

Elijah turned to Elisha and said, "Ask what I should do for you, before I am taken away from you." Elisha replied, "I pray you, let a double portion of your spirit be upon me." Elijah said, "What you have asked is hard for me to grant, but if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be as you asked."

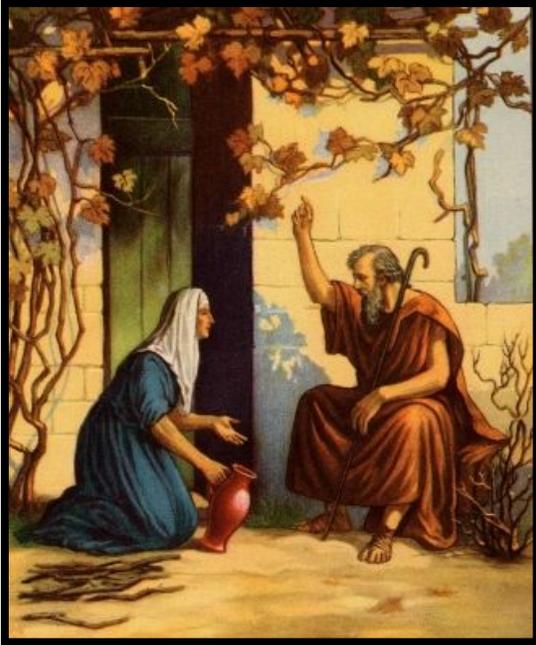
As they talked, suddenly a chariot of fire drawn by horses of fire parted them, and Elijah went up to heaven in the whirlwind. Elisha saw it, and cried out, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and the horsemen."

Elisha picked up Elijah's mantle, which had fallen from Elijah, and went back to the Jordan River. He took the mantle, folded it, and said, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?" When he hit the water, the water parted and he walked over on dry ground. When the students saw this, they said, "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha."

- When Elijah hit the Jordan River with his mantle, the water divided.
- Elijah was taken to heaven by a chariot of fire in a whirlwind.
- Elisha received a double portion of Elijah's spirit.
- Elisha hit the water of the Jordan River with Elijah's mantle, and it divided.

## ELISHA HELPS A WIDOW

### 2 Kings 3, 4



Elisha traveled all over the land helping and teaching people. He would visit the schools of the prophets.

One day, a widow of one of the prophets came to Elisha and asked for help. She said to him, “O man of God, my husband is dead. You know that he served the Lord while he lived. He owed some money to a man. Now that man has come and says that he will take my two sons to be his slaves unless I pay the debt.”

Elisha asked, “How can I help you? What do you have?” The widow said, “I have nothing in the house but a jar of cooking oil.”

Elisha said, “Go to your neighbors and borrow as many jars as you can. Then start pouring the oil into the jars.” She began to fill all the jars with the oil. She poured and poured, filling every jar.

When all the jars were full of oil, she told her sons to get more jars. They tried to find more jars, but they could not find any more. Then the oil stopped flowing.

Now she had many jars of oil to sell. She had enough money to pay the debt. The rest of the money she could keep. Now she had some money for herself and her sons to live on.

- Because of God’s blessing, Elisha’s miracle helped a poor widow pay her debt.
- She filled many jars with the oil from her jar of oil.

## ELISHA BRINGS A BOY BACK TO LIFE

### 2 Kings 2



Elisha's journeys took him by the house of a woman, known as the Shunamite woman. One day as he was going by, she stopped him and invited him to eat and have a time of rest. After that, he often stopped at her house. She said to her husband, "I know this man is a man of God. Let us make a little room on the roof of the house and put in it a bed, a table, a stool, and a candle."

When Elisha came, he was very pleased. He asked her what he could do for her. She said that she didn't need anything. Elisha's servant said to Elisha, "She has no son, and her husband is old. Elisha told his servant to call her. When she came and stood at the door, Elisha told her that she would have a son. As Elisha had said, she had a son.

When her son was a little boy, he ran out to the field at harvest time. Suddenly he became very sick and his head hurt. His father had one of his servants take the boy home to his mother. She held him on her lap until noon, and then he died. When she saw that he was dead, she carried him to Elisha's bed, laid him on it, and closed the door.

She called to her husband and said, "Let me take a donkey and one of your servants and go find Elisha." He asked, "Why do you want to go now?" She answered, "It will be well." She told the servant to drive fast.

When Elisha saw her coming, he sent his servant to see if all was well. She said, "All is well." When she came before Elisha, she caught hold of his feet and said, "Did I ask you for a son?" Then she told him what had happened. Elisha told his servant to take his staff, hurry to her home, and to lay his staff on the boy's face.

The mother said to Elisha, "I will not leave you." Elisha got up and went with her. As they were coming to the house, the servant met them and said that the child was still dead. When Elisha came to the house, he went to his room and closed the door. He prayed to God. He then placed himself over the child, face to face. The child's body became warm. He got up, walked around the room and stretched himself over the child again. The child sneezed seven times and opened his eyes.

Elisha called his servant and told him to call the boy's mother. When she came into the room, Elisha said, "Take up your son." She fell at Elisha's feet, bowed to the ground, then took up her son and went out.

- Elisha brought back to life the Shunamite's son

## ELISHA AND NAAMAN

### 2 Kings 5



A young girl was taken away from her home in Israel by some enemy soldiers. She was taken to Syria where she lived in the home of Naaman. Naaman was a great general of the army of Syria. He was a good friend of the king, also. This girl was a servant to Naaman's wife. It seems that she was treated kindly in their home.

In time, she learned that there was a great fear and sadness in the home. Her master, Naaman, had found that he had leprosy. Leprosy was a very bad disease for which there was no cure. The skin would become white with sores. This Israelite girl told her master's wife that there was a prophet where she came from who could cure him. The name of that prophet was Elisha.

Naaman went to the king and told him what the girl from Israel had said to his wife. The king said, "Go, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel, saying, "With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy."

Naaman went to Samaria with rich gifts of gold, silver, and clothing. When Naaman came to the king, the king was very upset. "Am I God that I can heal a man of leprosy?" When Elisha heard what had happened, he sent the king a letter saying, "Send the man to me." The king sent Naaman to Elisha's house. Elisha did not go out to Naaman. He sent his servant to tell Naaman to wash seven times in the Jordan River.

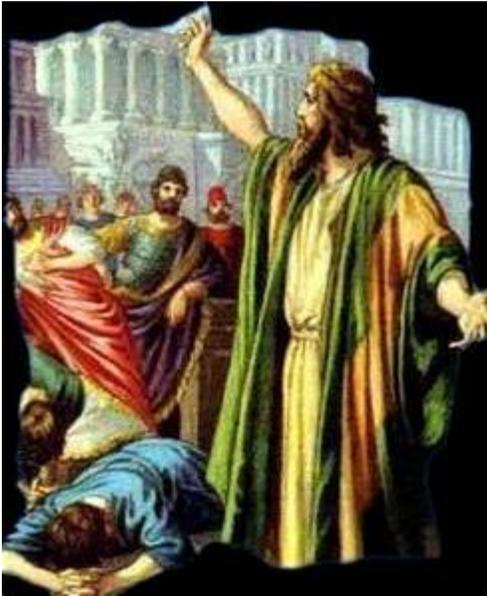
Naaman turned away in anger. He said, "The rivers in my country are better than the Jordan River. Why can't I wash in them and be clean?" He was not going to wash in the Jordan River. His soldiers came to him showing great love and honor. They said, "If the prophet had asked you to something hard, you would have done it. Why don't you do what he said?" Then Naaman went down to the Jordan River and washed seven times. The leprosy went away, and his skin was fresh and clean, like the skin of a child.

When Naaman saw the leprosy was gone, he went back to Elisha's house to thank him. He said, "Now I know that there is no God except your God. Let me give you a gift." But Elisha would not take any gift. Naaman then asked Elisha, "Will you give to me as much dirt as two mules can carry? I will build an altar to the God of Israel. I will never again worship any other gods with burnt offerings or sacrifices."

- The servant girl said a prophet in Israel could heal Naaman's leprosy.
- Elisha said Naaman should wash seven times in the Jordan River.
- Because of this miracle, Naaman knew that Elisha's God was the true God.

## JONAH, THE PROPHET TO NINEVEH

### Jonah



Jonah was one of God's prophets. One day God told Jonah, "Go to the city of Nineveh. Tell the people that they are doing wrong and that I will punish them for being wicked." Jonah did not like this city or country and he wanted God to punish them. He did not want to preach to them and have them repent and find God's mercy.

Instead of obeying God, Jonah decided to run away. He bought a ticket on a ship going far away. After getting on the ship, he went down below deck and went to sleep.

God sent a terrible storm. The wind blew and the waves beat against the ship. The sailors were afraid and prayed to their gods. The captain woke up Jonah and told him to pray to his God.

The sailors thought that someone on the ship had caused the bad storm. They cast lots to see who it was. The lot fell on Jonah.

Jonah said that he was the one causing the bad storm, because he was disobeying God. They asked him how to calm the storm. Jonah told them to throw him in the sea. The sailors did not want to do this, but the storm became so fierce that they were afraid that the ship would break apart. Finally, they threw Jonah into the sea. As soon as they did this, the storm stopped and the sea became calm. God had a great fish swallow Jonah. God protected him in the belly of the fish for three days, then God had the fish spit him out on the land. Jonah did not disobey again. He went to Nineveh.

Nineveh was a very large city. Jonah went to its center and began preaching that in forty days God would destroy Nineveh if they did not repent. The people listened and believed Jonah. They repented and put on sack cloth. When the message came to the king, he took off his royal robe and put on sack cloth. He said, "Who knows, God may show mercy and turn from His fierce anger so that we won't be killed." When God saw them repent of their evil, He did not bring destruction upon Nineveh.

- God told Jonah to go and preach repentance to Nineveh.
- In disobedience, Jonah got on a ship and tried to run away.
- When God sent a terrible storm, Jonah was thrown into the sea and swallowed by a great fish. In three days, it spat Jonah out on land.
- The fish was probably a Sperm Whale, since it breaths air, Jonah could live in its stomach. History records a man being swallowed by a whale and surviving.
- When Jonah preached repentance to Nineveh, the king and the people of Nineveh repented and were spared God's destruction.

## NEBUCHADNEZZAR, KING OF BABYLON

### Daniel 2



Nebuchadnezzar, the great king of Babylon, built Babylon to be one of the greatest cities in the world. It was fifteen miles square with fields inside its walls. The walls of the city were about three hundred feet high and eighty feet thick, so wide that chariots could ride on top of the walls. Babylon was famous for its hanging gardens built for his queen.

Because God's people turned away from Him and worshiped idols, God punished them by letting Nebuchadnezzar take them captives to Babylon. God's people were to live in captivity for seventy years before they returned to their homeland in Canaan. Among the young men taken as captives were Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and Daniel. When Daniel and his three friends came to Babylon, they were given special training for three years for high ranking positions in the government. They were to be fed the royal food, but they asked for only vegetables and water. After ten days, they looked healthier than those eating the royal food. God blessed these young men. When the three years were up, Nebuchadnezzar gave them high positions in his kingdom.

God sent Nebuchadnezzar a special dream. When he woke up he knew the dream was important, but he could not remember it. None of his wise men could tell the king the dream or the meaning. When Daniel came to the king, he said that only God could give the dream and the meaning. God let Daniel know the dream and its meaning. Daniel told the king, "In your dream God let you see a great image of a man. Its head was of gold, chest and arms of silver, its stomach and thighs of brass, and its legs of iron, and its feet of iron and clay mixed. It stood before a mountain. Suddenly without hands, a stone was cut out of the mountain and it began rolling toward the image. It crushed the entire image. A wind blew the dust away, but the stone kept growing until it became a great mountain and filled the entire earth."

Daniel said, "This is the meaning of your dream. Nebuchadnezzar, you are the head of gold, the ruler over all. After you will come kingdoms of silver, brass, iron and clay. As you watched, a Stone was cut out of a mountain and it rolled toward the image and crushed the entire image to dust which the wind carried away. Then the Stone grew into a huge mountain and filled the whole earth. In the days of this last kingdom, God will set up an everlasting Kingdom. God has let you know what kingdoms will follow yours." Nebuchadnezzar bowed before Daniel. He made Daniel the Prime Minister of Babylon.

- Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were brought to Babylon and given special training for high positions in Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom.
- Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar his dream and the meaning.
- The great image represented the kingdoms which would follow. All would be destroyed by the Stone, who would establish His everlasting kingdom.

## THE FIERY FURNACE

### Daniel 3



Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, had a huge gold covered image built. It was ninety feet high and nine feet wide. He called all his officials to come to the dedication of the image. He told them that when the royal orchestra began to play, all were to fall down and worship the image. All who did not fall down and worship the image would be thrown into the fiery furnace. It was reported to the king that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not bow down.

When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were brought before the king, he asked them if they would now bow down. If not, they would be thrown into the fiery furnace. They

said, “Our God is able to save us from the burning fiery furnace, O king, but if He does not save us, we want you to know that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image.” The king was furious and ordered the furnace to be heated seven times hotter. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were tied up and thrown into the blazing furnace. The heat killed the men who threw them in. But as they fell into the furnace, the ropes burned off, they stood up, and walked around.

Nebuchadnezzar looked and said, “Didn’t we throw three men into the fire? I see four men walking in the fire. The fourth looks like the Son of God.” God had sent the Angel of the Lord, the Son of God, to save them.

Then Nebuchadnezzar came near the burning furnace and said, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the most high God, come out.” When they came out, all saw that they were not burned and there was no smell of fire on their clothes. Nebuchadnezzar said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent His angel, and delivered His servants who trusted in Him. Therefore I make a law. If any people, or nation says anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, they shall be cut in pieces. There is no other God that can save like this.” The king gave Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego high positions in Babylon.

- Nebuchadnezzar had a golden image built. Any who would not bow down and worship it, would be thrown into the fiery furnace.
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused and were thrown into the furnace.
- God sent the Angel of the Lord, the Son of God, to save them.
- Nebuchadnezzar published a decree proclaiming the true God. This protected God’s people during the seventy year captivity.

## DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN

### Daniel 6



When Darius was the king in Persia, he gave Daniel a very high position in his kingdom. This made some Persian officials jealous. They could not find anything that Daniel did wrong. They knew he was faithful in all he did. They, also, knew that every day he opened his window and prayed to his God. They wrote a special law and got Darius to sign it. The law said: “Anyone who prays to any god in the next thirty days, except to you, O King, shall be thrown into the den of lions.” Darius, being proud, signed the law. He did not know why they wanted him to sign it.

Daniel heard about this new law, yet he opened his window and prayed three times a day as he always did. The officials told Darius that Daniel had prayed to his God and had broken the king’s law. The king was very upset and tried all day to

find a way to save Daniel. The officials again went to Darius and demanded that Daniel be taken to the lions’ den because he had disobeyed the king’s law. Finally, Darius gave the order that Daniel be thrown into the den of lions. He said to Daniel, “Your God, whom you serve, will protect you.”

The king did not sleep that night, and early in the morning he went to the lions’ den. He called, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God been able to protect you from the lions?” Daniel replied, “Oh king, live forever, my God sent His Angel and shut the lions’ mouths. They did not hurt me.” The king ordered that Daniel be taken out of the den.

Darius then wrote and signed a new law which was sent everywhere in his kingdom. It said “In every part of my kingdom, people must fear the God of Daniel. He is the living God. His Kingdom will not be destroyed. He has saved Daniel from the lions.”

- Daniel was made the Prime Minister under Darius in Persia.
- Daniel was not hurt in the lions’ den, because God sent the Angel of the Lord to close the lions’ mouths.
- God in this way protected His people under Persian rule during their captivity.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

The New Testament is the record of the fulfillment of the prophecies of the Old Testament. It reveals what the Old Testament foretold. The New Testament brings into focus the full meaning and purpose of the Old Testament. As you enter the New Testament, you are entering the Messianic Age which was first foretold in the Garden of Eden. God described the coming Messiah to all people throughout the Old Testament.

The preparation for the coming Messiah can be seen in the consolidation of nations by the six great empires of the history: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greek, and Roman, the establishment of one world-wide language, and the forty year period of peace called the Pax Romana during which Jesus was born. This was necessary so that the message of God's redemption of the human race in Christ could easily be taken from country to country. Under Rome there was one set of laws and one system of highways from country to country. It can, also, be clearly seen in the religious toleration of that day so that nothing would hinder the proclamation of God's salvation in Christ.

Two prophecies in the Old Testament told when the Messiah, Jesus would be born. Isaac prophesied that Esau would some day rule over Jacob. Jacob prophesied that the time would come when there would be no Jewish king on the throne of Judah. When Herod the Great, an Edomite, sat on the Jewish throne as the Jewish king, believers among the Jews who knew these prophecies were looking for the Messiah to be born. The prophet Malachi said the Old Testament Angel of the Lord, the Messenger of the Covenant, in whom God's people delighted, would suddenly come to His temple. He would be the Lord they were seeking.

In the beginning words of his Gospel, John shows that the Divine Word of the Old Testament, became Jesus of the New Testament. He was the Son of God, the Second Person of the Trinity with God the Father and the Holy Spirit from all eternity. Jesus, born of the virgin Mary, was the Promised Messiah, the Savior of the world. John points to His divinity when he says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made, without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the Light of men. The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

## GABRIEL COMES TO ZECHARIAH

### Luke 1



God announced the coming birth of Jesus, the Messiah, to Zechariah, a priest. God chose him to be the father of John the Baptist, the herald of the Savior.

When Zechariah was serving as priest in the temple, an angel appeared to him and said, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife, Elizabeth, will have a son. You must name him, John. He will be a joy and delight to you. Many people will rejoice because of his birth. He will be great in the sight of the Lord and will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will go before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? My wife and I are old." The angel answered, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God. I have been sent to tell you this good news. Now you will be silent and not able to speak until your son is born, because you did not believe my words."

The people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. When he came out, he could not speak to them. They finally understood that he had seen a vision in the temple, because he kept making signs to them.

When his time of service at the temple was completed, he returned home. After this, his wife, Elizabeth, became pregnant. Elizabeth spoke some beautiful words, saying, "The Lord has done this for me. In these days He has shown His favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."

- Zechariah was told by Gabriel that his wife, Elizabeth, would give birth to a son to be named John. John means, "God is gracious."
- John would be the herald of Jesus, the coming Messiah.
- Zechariah was not able to speak until the child was born, because he did not believe the angel's message.

## GABRIEL COMES TO MARY

### Luke 1



God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary who was engaged to be married to Joseph. The angel said to her, "Greetings, the Lord is with you. Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will give birth to a son. You are to name Him, Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. His kingdom will never end." Mary asked the angel, "How will this be, since I am not married?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. That holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age. Nothing is impossible with God." Mary answered, "I am the Lord's servant. May it be as you have said."

Mary went to the home of Zechariah and Elizabeth and stayed about three months. Elizabeth said to Mary, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear. Why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives came to share her joy. They thought he should be named Zechariah after his father, but Elizabeth said, "No! He is to be called John." They asked Zechariah what the child should be named. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." Immediately, he could speak. Zechariah, filled with the Holy Spirit, prophesied, "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because He has come and has redeemed His people. And you, my child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for Him."

When Mary returned from her visit to Elizabeth, it was obvious that she was pregnant. Joseph decided to quietly break the engagement. When he was thinking about this, an angel came to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because her baby is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son. You must give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins." When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel had commanded and took Mary home to be his wife.

- The Archangel Gabriel announced Jesus' birth to Mary.
- Mary visited Elizabeth for the three months before John was born.
- Elizabeth and Zechariah named their son, John, as they had been told.
- Joseph was told by an angel in a dream that Mary would give birth to Jesus.

## THE BIRTH OF JESUS

### Luke 2



When the time was near for Jesus to be born, Caesar Augustus, the Roman Emperor, made a law that everyone was to register to be taxed. Joseph and Mary had to leave Nazareth where they were living and go to Bethlehem because they were from the family of David. It was a long journey for Mary.

When they came to Bethlehem, they could find no place to rest and stay. Finally, Joseph found an inn with a stable for animals where they could stay. It was there that Jesus was born that night. Mary wrapped her baby in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger on a bed of hay.

God gave the good news of the birth of Jesus that night to shepherds who were watching over their sheep. An angel from the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them. The shepherds were very frightened. The angel said to them, “Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; you will find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.” Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

When the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said, “Let us go to Bethlehem, and see what has come to pass, which the Lord has made known unto us.” They hurried and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. When they had seen it, they told everyone. All who heard it wondered about what the shepherds had told them. The shepherds praised God for all the things that they had heard and seen.

The baby boy was given the name “Jesus” as Gabriel had told Mary He was to be named.

- Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem to register to be taxed. This fulfilled the prophecy that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. Micah 4:2
- Jesus’ birth was announced by an angel to shepherds.

## THE WISE MEN

### Matthew 2



When Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the days of Herod the king, wise men came from the East to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is He that is born King of the Jews? We have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." When Herod heard these things, he was troubled and called in the chief priests and scribes and asked them where Christ should be born. They said, "In Bethlehem, for this is what the prophet has written: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the Shepherd of My people Israel.'" When Herod found out the time when the star had appeared, he sent the wise men to Bethlehem. He said, "Go and look for the child. As soon as you find Him, come back and tell me, so that I can go and worship Him."

The wise men went to Bethlehem, and the star they had seen in the East led them to the place where the child was. Since the journey for the wise men must have taken months, Mary and Joseph were now living in a house. When the wise men saw the child with His mother, Mary, they bowed down and worshiped Him. They brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The wise men were warned in a dream by God not to go back to Herod, so they went back to their country another way.

When they had gone, an angel came to Joseph in a dream saying, "Get up, take the child and His mother and go to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill Him." That night Joseph and Mary took baby Jesus to Egypt, where they stayed until the death of Herod. This fulfilled what the prophet long ago had said, "Out of Egypt I called my son." The rich gifts which the wise men brought in worship to baby Jesus were undoubtedly used to take care of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus while they were in Egypt. When the wise men did not go back to Herod, he gave orders to kill the little baby boys two years old and younger in Bethlehem.

After Herod died, an angel told Joseph in a dream, "Take the child and His mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead." Joseph was afraid to go back to Bethlehem. Joseph went back to Nazareth where they had lived.

- The wise men from the East asked where they could find the king of the Jews.
- The scribes and the chief priests said that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. Micah 5:2 The star led them to find Jesus in Bethlehem.
- The wise men brought rich gifts to Jesus, bowed down, and worshiped Him.
- Joseph was warned in a dream to go to Egypt.
- After the death of Herod, Joseph took his family back to Nazareth.

## JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

### Luke 2



Every year Mary and Joseph went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. When Jesus was twelve years old, the people from the village went up to the Feast of the Passover as usual. The boys were to walk with the women, the men walking ahead of them.

When they came to Jerusalem and arrived at the temple, according to the Jewish custom, the twelve year old boys were examined and were then called “sons of the law.”

After the Feast was over, the boys could walk with the men or with the women. Mary and Joseph started home each thinking Jesus was with the other. They did not know that Jesus had stayed in Jerusalem. After they had traveled all day, they could not find Jesus. They looked for Him in the evening, but He was not in the camp. They went a day’s journey back to Jerusalem and did not find Him the next day. As they were looking for Him on the third day, they found Him in the temple sitting with the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard Him was amazed at His understanding and His answers.

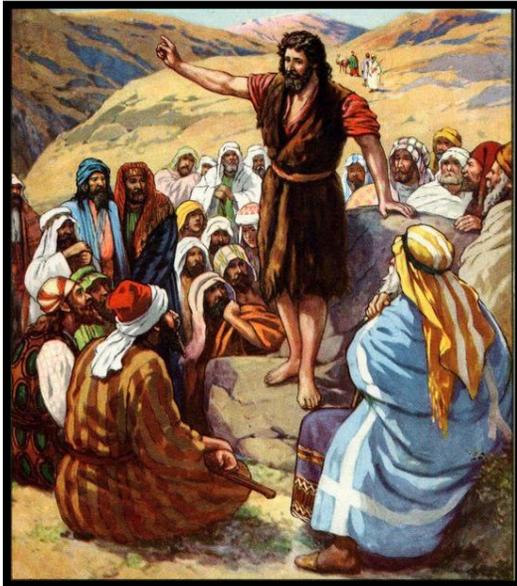
When His parents saw Him, His mother said, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been looking for you everywhere." Jesus answered, "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know I would be about my Father's business?" It was a gentle reminder that He was here on earth as the Messiah or Christ. They should have known where He would be.

Jesus went home with them to Nazareth and was obedient to them. Mary remembered and thought about what had happened. As Jesus grew, He pleased both God and men.

- At age twelve, Jewish boys went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover to become “sons of the law.”
- Jesus stayed behind in the temple.
- Returning to Jerusalem, they found Jesus in the temple on the third day.
- Jesus said, “Didn’t you know I would be about my Father’s business?”

## JOHN THE BAPTIST

### Matthew 3 Luke 3



John, the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth and known as John the Baptist, was sent by God to announce the coming of Jesus and to prepare the people to receive Him as the Messiah. John said of Jesus, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is greater, because He was before me.'" John went into all the country around the Jordan River preaching about the forgiveness of sins. John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. Many people came to John confessing their sins and were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

The Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask John who he was. John answered, "I am not the Christ." They asked him, "Who are you? Are you Elijah? Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." Finally, they said, "Who are you?" John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

Some asked him, "Why do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" "I baptize with water," John replied, "but there is one you do not know. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. He is the one who comes after me, the things of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

When Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John, John said to him, "I need to be baptized by you. Why do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "It is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." God's will had to be fulfilled.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, heaven opened, and John saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and sitting on Jesus' head. A voice from heaven, God the Father, said, "You are my beloved Son, with you, I am well pleased."

Jesus was about thirty years old when He began His ministry.

- John the Baptist preached and baptized for the forgiveness of sins.
- Jesus came to John to be baptized because it was God the Father's will.
- A voice from heaven said, "You are my beloved Son." A dove sat on Jesus.
- The Three Persons of the Trinity were present, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Jesus began His ministry at the age of thirty.

## THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

### Matthew 4 Luke 4



After being baptized, Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert to be tempted by Satan. After fasting for forty days and forty nights, Jesus was hungry. Satan came to Him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

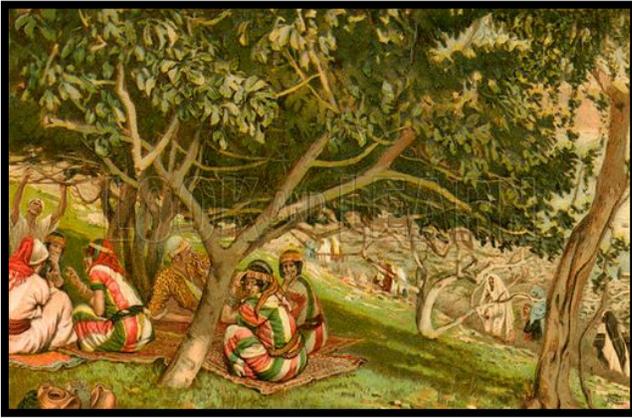
Satan then took Him to Jerusalem and had Him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. It is written, 'He will command His angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, Satan took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world. "All this I will give you, if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Get away from me, Satan. It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'" When the devil left Him, angels came and attended Him.

- Jesus had to meet Satan as a true sinless man and overcome him.
- Satan tempted Jesus to turn stones into bread to satisfy His hunger after eating nothing for forty days. Fasting means not eating.
- Satan miraculously took Jesus to a high wall of the temple in Jerusalem where there was a 600 foot drop. He said, "Jump off, the angels will hold you up in their hands."
- We must not test God by foolish actions.
- Satan then miraculously took Jesus to a high mountain about 100 miles from Jerusalem. He said, "Bow down and worship me. I will give you the world."
- Jesus said to Satan: "Get away from me, Satan. Man must follow God's Word."
- We are not to tempt God. We are to worship and serve God.

## JESUS CALLS FOUR OF HIS DISCIPLES

### John 1



The next day when John saw Jesus coming toward him, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" John was with two of his disciples. When they saw Jesus passing by, they followed Him. Jesus asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Teacher, where are you staying?" "Come and you will see,," Jesus said. So they spent the day with Him. Andrew was one of the two who had followed Jesus.

The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother, Simon Peter, and bring him to Jesus. He told him, "We have found the Messiah." Jesus looked at Peter and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Peter."

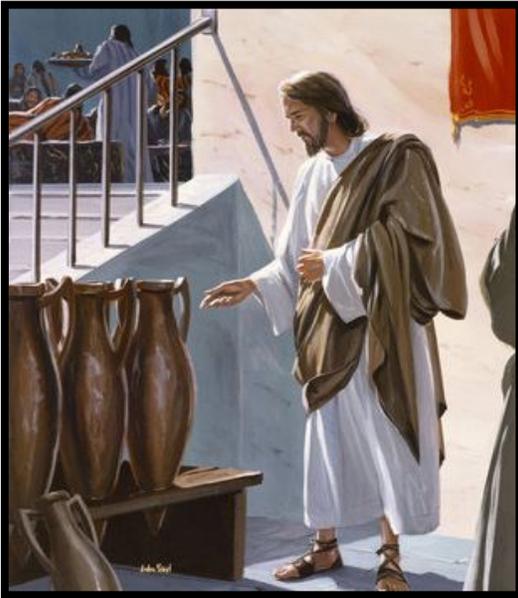
Finding Philip, Jesus said to him, "Follow me." Philip found Nathanael and said, "We have found the one Moses and the prophets wrote about, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip.

When Jesus saw Nathanael he said, "Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false." "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree." Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God, the King of Israel." Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that. I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of man."

- John, with two of his disciples, saw Jesus and he said, "Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."
- Andrew, one of John's followers, brought his brother, Simon Peter, to Jesus.
- Philip found Nathanael and brought him to Jesus.
- Jesus said that Simon Peter would be called Peter.
- Jesus began His ministry by calling Andrew, Peter, Philip, and Nathanael to follow Him. They recognized Him as the Messiah.
- Evangelism is shown by Andrew who brought Peter, and Philip who brought Nathanael to Jesus.

## THE FIRST MIRACLE

### John 2



Jesus' first miracle took place at a wedding at Cana. Mary, the mother of Jesus, was there. Jesus and His disciples were there, too. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to Him, "They have no more wine." Jesus said, "My time has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever He tells you."

Nearby there were six very large stone water jars. Jesus told the servants, "Fill the jars with water." When the jars were filled with water, Jesus told them to take some to the master of the banquet. The master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not know where this good wine had come from. The servants who had filled the jars knew. He called the bridegroom and said,

"Everyone brings out the best wine first, but you have saved the best wine till now." This was the first of Jesus' public miracles. Now His disciples put their faith in Him.

Jesus went to Capernaum with His mother, brothers, and disciples where they stayed for a few days. When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts, He found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. Jesus made a whip out of cords, and drove them all out of the temple area. He overturned the tables of the money changers and scattered the money. He said to them, "Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!"

The Jews demanded of Him, "What miracle will you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" Jesus spoke of His body, not the temple.

- At the wedding in Cana, Mary told the servants to do whatever Jesus said. They filled six very large stone jars with water, about 200 gallons.
- Jesus' first miracle was turning the water into wine.
- Jesus cleansed the temple by driving out the money changers and animals.
- When asked by what authority He did this, He said, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." This pointed to His death and resurrection.

## THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

### John 4



When Jesus was traveling through Samaria, He stopped by Jacob's well to rest while His disciples went into the town to buy food. When a Samaritan woman came to get water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" She said to Him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. Why do you ask me for a drink?" Jesus answered her, "If you knew who it is that asks you for a drink, you would ask Him for some living water."

The woman said, "Sir, you have nothing to get the water and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well? Jacob, his sons, and his flocks and herds drank from this well." Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst." The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to get water."

Jesus told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." "I have no husband," she said. Jesus said to her, "What you have said is true. You have no husband. You have had five husbands, and the one you are living with is not your husband." "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. I know that Messiah, who is called Christ, is coming. When He comes, He will explain everything to us." Then Jesus said, "I am he."

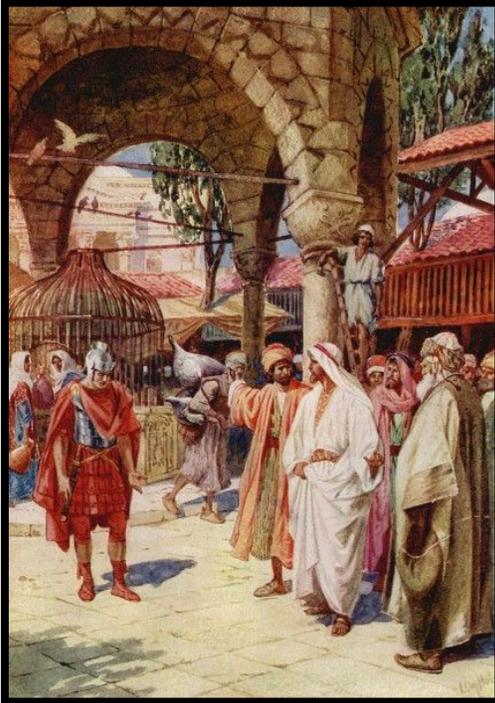
Jesus' disciples returned and were surprised to find Him talking to the Samaritan woman. The woman hurried to the town and said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"

The Samaritans came to Him and asked Him to stay with them. Many became believers. They said, "Now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."

- Jesus asked a Samaritan woman for a drink. She was surprised because Jews do not associate with Samaritans. She asked for His living water.
- She told the people that Jesus must be the promised Messiah.
- Many people came to Him and believed because they heard Jesus themselves.

## JESUS HEALS THE OFFICIAL'S SON

### John 4



After the two days in Samaria, Jesus left for Galilee. When a royal official heard that Jesus was in Galilee, he went to find him. His son was very sick at his home in Capernaum about fifteen miles away. The official found Jesus and begged him to come and heal his son who was dying.

Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders you will never believe." The official said, "Sir, come down before my child dies." Jesus replied, "You may go. Your son will live."

The man believed Jesus, stayed there overnight, and started home the next day. While he was still on the way, his servants met him saying, "Your son is living."

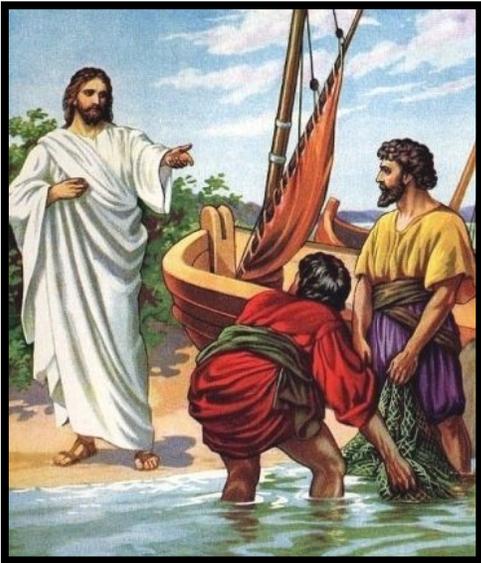
The official asked his servants, "When did my son get better?" The servants said, "The fever left him yesterday at the seventh hour." Then the father knew that it was the exact time that Jesus had said to him, "Go home. Your son lives."

So the official and everyone in his household believed in Jesus.

- When an official came to ask Jesus to heal his son, Jesus did not go with the official. He only said, "Your son will live."
- Believing, the official went home and found his son was healed just at the time Jesus had said.
- He and everyone in his home believed in Jesus because of the miracle.

## JESUS CALLS HIS DISCIPLES

Matthew 4 Mark 1 Luke 5,6



As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw Peter and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake. They were fishermen. He said to them, "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed Him. When He had gone a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, fixing their nets. Jesus called to them. They left their father Zebedee and followed Jesus.

Jesus went with James and John to the home of Peter and Andrew. Peter's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever. Jesus went to her, took her hand, and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them. That evening, the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-

possessed. The whole town gathered at the door. Jesus healed many and drove out many demons.

Some time later, Jesus saw Matthew, a tax collector, sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him. Matthew got up, left everything to follow Jesus.

Matthew held a great banquet for Jesus at his house. There was a large crowd of tax collectors and others who were eating with them. The Pharisees and the teachers said to His disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and `sinners'?" Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have come not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Jesus went to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came, He called His followers to Him and chose twelve to be His disciples. Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

- Jesus said to Peter and Andrew, "Follow me; I will make you fishers of men."
- Jesus called James and his brother John, sons of Zebedee to follow Him.
- Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law. There many were healed.
- Jesus found Matthew, a tax collector, and said, "Follow me."
- At a great banquet which Matthew held for Jesus, Jesus told the Pharisees that He came to call sinners to repentance, not the righteous.
- Jesus called His twelve disciples: Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James, Simon, called the Zealot, Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot.

## THE LARGE CATCH OF FISH

### Luke 5



One day when Jesus was standing by the lake, He saw two boats. The fishermen were by the boats washing their nets because they had been fishing all night.

Jesus got into one of the boats that belonged to Peter. Then He began to teach the crowd of people from the boat.

When He had finished teaching the people many things, He said to Peter,

"Row out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch of fish."

Peter answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." They caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.

They called to James and John in the other boat to come and help them. They filled both boats so full of fish that they began to sink. They were all surprised at the large number of fish in their nets.

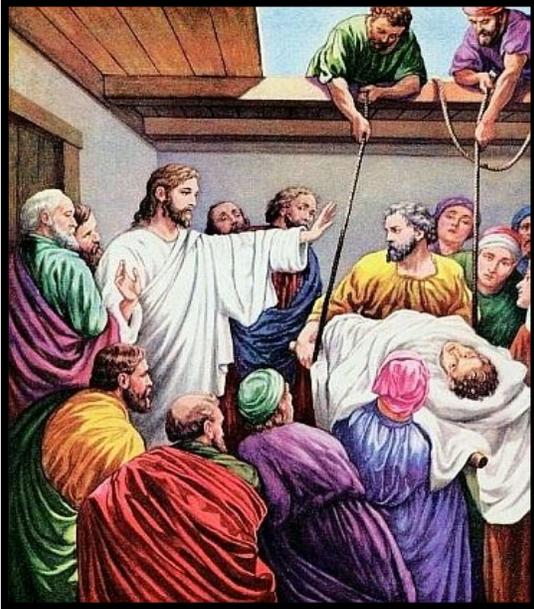
When Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' feet and said, "Go away from me, Lord, I am a sinful man!" Jesus said to Peter, "Don't be afraid, from now on you will catch men."

The disciples pulled their boats up on shore. They left their boats and followed Jesus. Wherever Jesus went, crowds of people followed Him.

- Jesus taught the people from Peter's boat.
- When Peter let down the nets, he caught so many fish that James and John brought their boat. Both boats were filled with fish.
- The miraculous catch of fish was a picture of the disciples' future work, being fishers of men, bringing people to know Jesus.

## HEALING THE MAN WHO COULD NOT WALK

### Luke 5



As Jesus was preaching in a house one day, some men came carrying a man on a mat who could not walk. They tried to take him into the house, but there was such a great crowd that they could not get into the house. They had heard about the wonderful miracles that Jesus had done, healing all the people who were brought to Him. They wanted to lay this man who could not walk at Jesus' feet so Jesus could heal him.

When they could not get in the door, they thought of another plan. They went up on the flat roof where they made a hole in the roof. They put ropes around the man on the mat and lowered him on his mat into the middle of the crowd right in front of Jesus.

When Jesus saw their faith and what they had done, He said, "Man, your sins are forgiven."

The Pharisees and the teachers began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God?" Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Get up and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of man can forgive sins, He said to the man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat, and go home."

Immediately, the man stood up, took up his mat, and went home praising God. Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God and said, "We have seen wonderful things today."

- When the men could not take a man on a mat into the house where Jesus was, they made a hole in the roof and let the man down in front of Jesus. The men showed love to the man by using every means to take him to Jesus.
- Jesus said to the man, "Your sins are forgiven. Take up your mat and go home." Jesus showed that the Son of man had the power to forgive sins and to heal.
- Blasphemy is to speak against God.

## HEALING THE CENTURION'S SERVANT RAISING THE WIDOW'S SON AT NAIN Luke 7



When Jesus came to Capernaum, a Roman Centurion or officer, sent some Jewish leaders to Jesus asking Him to come and heal his servant who was sick and dying. They urged Jesus to come because the Roman Centurion loved the Jewish nation and had built them a synagogue.

Jesus went with them. When they came near the house of the Centurion, he sent some friends to Jesus saying, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come to my house, neither was I worthy to come to you myself. Just say the word and my

servant will be healed. I, also, am a man under authority. I have soldiers under me. I give orders to my soldiers. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

When Jesus heard this, He said to those following Him, "I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith." When the friends returned to the Centurion's house, they found that the servant was healed.

Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain. His disciples and a large crowd of people went with Him. As He came to the town gate, a dead person was being carried out. He was the only son of his mother who was a widow. A large crowd from the town was following with her. When the Jesus saw her, He felt sorry for her. Jesus said, "Don't cry." Then He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" The dead man sat up and began to talk. Jesus gave him back to his mother.

Everyone praised God and said. "A great prophet has come. God has come to help his people."

- A Roman Centurion believed that Jesus did not need to come to his house to heal his servant. He only needed to say the words. Jesus saw his love for his servant, and his faith, and He healed the servant.
- Jesus brought the dead son of a widow back to life. Jesus showed His love for His people and that He is the Lord of life and death.

## JESUS HEALS A MAN ON THE SABBATH

### John 5



In Jerusalem, there was a pool called Bethesda near the Sheep Gate which was surrounded by five covered porches. Here many crippled people would lie waiting for the time when an angel would come down to the pool and stir up the water. Whoever first stepped into the water would be healed. One man had been lying by the pool for thirty-eight years.

When Jesus saw him lying there, He asked him, "Do you want to get well?" "Sir," he said, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is

stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes ahead of me." Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." At once the man could walk. He picked up his mat and walked.

This took place on the Sabbath, so the Jews said to the man, "It is the Sabbath and the law forbids you to carry your mat." The man said, "The one who made me well said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'"

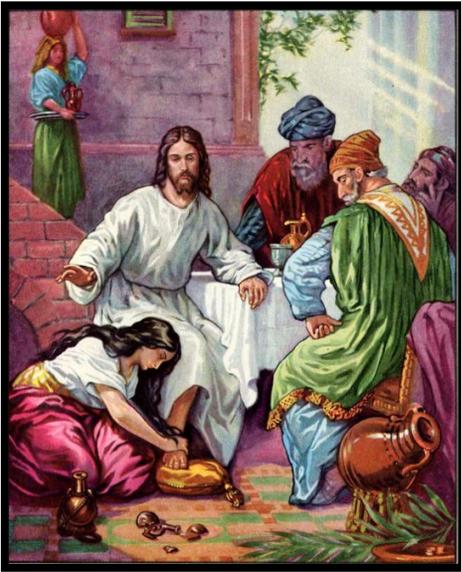
They asked him, "Who was the one who told you to pick it up and walk?" The man did not know. But when he saw Jesus at the temple, he told them that it was Jesus who had made him well. The Jews were angry that Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath.

Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at His work and I, too, am working." Then the Jews wanted to kill Him. Not only was He breaking the Sabbath, but He was calling God His Father, making Himself equal with God.

- The Jews believed that Jesus' miracles were a type of work and did not want Him to perform miracles on the Sabbath.
- Jesus' miracles showed He was the Messiah, the Son of God.
- Jesus made it clear that works of mercy on the Sabbath were not forbidden.

## THE SINFUL WOMAN

### Luke 7



Simon, a Pharisee, invited Jesus to have dinner at his house. So Jesus went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. When a woman who had lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at Simon's house, she brought a jar of perfume with her. She stood behind Jesus at His feet crying. She began to wet His feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them, and poured perfume on them.

Simon said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, He would know what kind of woman she is. She is a sinner." Jesus said to Simon, "I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," Simon said.

Jesus told him this story. "Two men owed money to a moneylender. One owed him a lot of money, the other owed him only a little money. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so the man said to both of them, 'You do not owe me any money now.' Which of them will love him more?" Simon replied, "The one who owed a lot of money." "You are right," Jesus said.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came to your house, but you did not give me any water for my feet. She wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little."

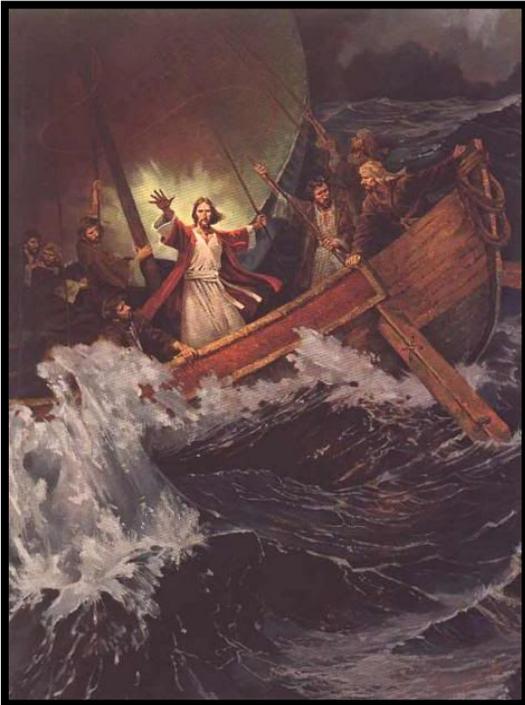
Jesus turned to the woman and said, "Your sins are forgiven. Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

The guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who forgives sins?"

- At Simon's home, a sinful woman showed her penitence and love by wiping her tears from Jesus' feet with her hair and pouring perfume on His feet.
- Jesus' story let Simon know that the woman's many sins were forgiven, and that she loved much. Simon had loved little.
- Jesus said, "Your sins are forgiven. Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

## JESUS STILLS THE STORM

### Mark 4



After teaching a great crowd all day by the sea shore, Jesus said to His disciples, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." Leaving the crowd behind, they got into the boat

While the disciples were rowing the boat across the lake, Jesus went to sleep. That night a terrible storm came up. The wind was blowing hard making huge waves in the water. The waves started coming over the boat. The disciples were afraid that the boat would sink and they all would drown.

In great fear, the disciples woke Jesus and said, "Master, don't you care if we drown?" Jesus got up and saw the terrible storm. He spoke to the wind and the waves and said, "Quiet! Be still!"

All of a sudden the wind stopped blowing hard. The huge waves stopped coming over the boat. The water was completely calm.

Jesus said to His disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith in me?" They asked each other, "Who is this that even the wind and the waves obey Him?"

Jesus had performed another great miracle.

- Jesus showed His disciples that He had power over the wind and waves when their boat was about to sink by saying, "Be still."
- We do not need to be afraid, Jesus is with us, too.

## JESUS HEALS THE MAN POSSESSED BY DEVILS

### Mark 5



After Jesus had stilled the storm, they went across the lake to the other shore. When Jesus got out of the boat, a man possessed by devils came to meet him. He wore no clothes and lived in caves. He had often been chained, but he tore the chains apart. Night and day he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

The man fell on his knees in front of Jesus shouting, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" The evil spirit answered, "My name is Legion, for there are many of us."

A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. The devils begged Jesus, "Send us into the pigs." Jesus gave His permission and the evil spirits left the man and went into the pigs. The herd of pigs, about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and they were drowned. Those taking care of the pigs ran off and reported this in the town.

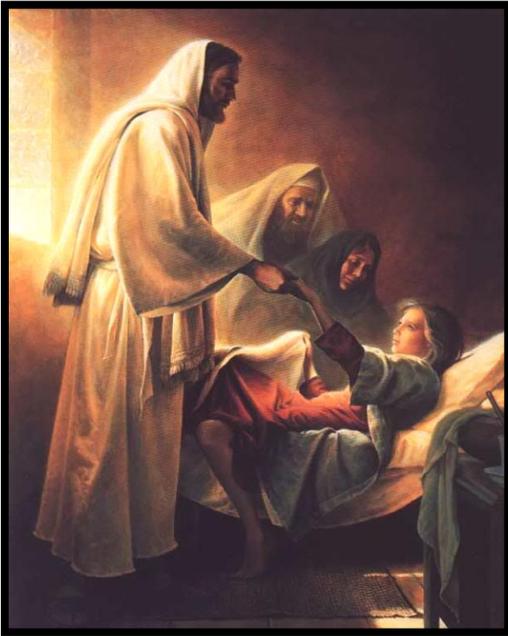
Many people from the town came to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the evil spirits sitting there. He was dressed and in his right mind. The people were so afraid that they asked Jesus to leave.

The man who had the devils sent out of him begged to go with Jesus. But Jesus said to him, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how He has had mercy on you."

- Jesus healed the man possessed by devils.
- Even the evil angels or devils know that Jesus is the Son of God.
- Jesus told the man to tell everyone what He had done for him.

## THE DAUGHTER OF JAIRUS RAISED FROM THE DEAD

### Mark 5



Wherever Jesus went, many people came and gathered around Him. One of the men who came to find Jesus was Jairus. Falling at the feet of Jesus, he pleaded, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." So Jesus went with him.

A large crowd followed and pressed around Jesus. A woman was there who had been sick for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors. She had spent all her money, but instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind Him and touched His robe. She thought, "If I just touch His clothes, I will be healed." Immediately, she was healed. Jesus turned around and asked, "Who touched me?"

His disciples answered, "People are crowding against you, and you ask, 'Who touched me?'" The woman came and fell at His feet trembling with fear. She told Him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be free from your suffering."

While Jesus was still speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus, saying, "Your daughter is dead. Don't bother Jesus to come any more." Jesus simply told Jairus, "Don't be afraid, just believe."

When they came to the home, Jesus heard the people crying. He said to them, "Why all this crying? The child is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at Him. After Jesus put them all out, He took the child's father, mother, Peter, James, and John and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum!" which means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!" The girl stood up and walked around.

She was twelve years old. Jesus told them to give her something to eat. All were completely astonished that Jesus had brought her back to life again.

- Wherever Jesus went, He showed that He was the Messiah by His miracles.
- One woman in the crowd of people was healed by touching Jesus' robe.
- Jairus' daughter died before Jesus came. Jesus told Jairus to believe. Jesus brought her back to life by saying, "Little girl, I say to you, get up."

## FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND

Matthew 14 John 6 Mark 6



Jesus said, "Have the people sit down."

Many people followed Jesus from the town and had been with Him all day while He taught them. He had pity on them and healed their sick. Jesus, looking over the great crowd, asked Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" Jesus knew what He was going to do, but He asked Philip to test him. Philip answered, "Eight months' wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" Andrew spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

There was plenty of grass in that place for everyone to sit. About five thousand men and, also, women and children were there. Jesus took the small loaves of bread, gave thanks and passed the bread out to everyone. Jesus took the fish, gave thanks, and passed the fish out to all the people. When everyone had enough to eat, Jesus said to His disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." They filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

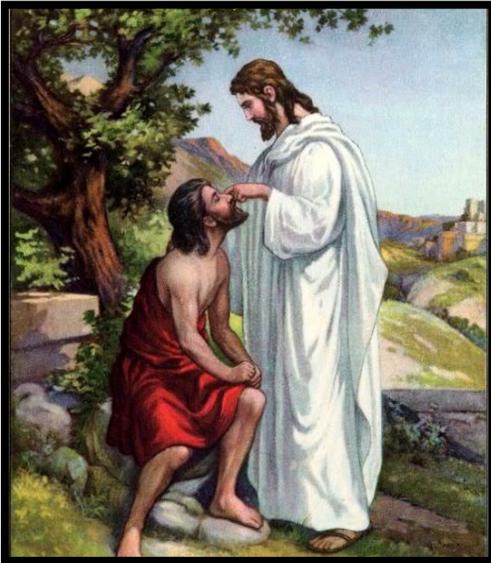
When the people saw the miracle that Jesus did, they said, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." Jesus, knowing that the people and the disciples wanted to make Him a "bread king," told His disciples to get into the boat and go to the other side of the lake while He sent the people away. Then He went up on a mountainside to pray. When evening came, Jesus had a bad storm come up. The disciples in the boat fought the storm all night. Just as it was getting light, Jesus came to them walking on the water. When the disciples saw Him walking on the water, they were afraid and cried out in fear, "It's a ghost." Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. It is I."

Peter called, "Lord, if it's you, tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," Jesus said. Peter got out of the boat, walked on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he felt the wind and saw the waves, he was afraid and began to sink. He cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus reached out His hand, caught him, and said, "Oh, you of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they climbed into the boat, suddenly the wind and waves were gone, and the boat was at the shore. The disciples in the boat were strengthened in their faith and worshiped Jesus, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

- The disciples saw five miracles: the feeding of the five thousand, the storm sent upon them, Jesus and Peter walking on the water, the wind and waves suddenly stopped, and the boat was immediately at land.
- Jesus was not a "bread king," but the Divine King, the Messiah.

## JESUS HEALS THE DEAF AND BLIND

Mark 7, 8, 10



Wherever Jesus went He performed miracles. One day some people brought to Him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk. They begged Jesus to place His hand on the man and to heal him. Jesus took the man away from all the people. He put His fingers into the man's ears. Then He spat and touched the man's tongue. Jesus looked up to heaven and said to him, "Ephphatha!" which means, "Be opened!" Immediately, the man could hear and he began to speak plainly.

The people were amazed and said, "He has done everything well. He makes the deaf to hear and the dumb to speak."

Again, some people brought a blind man to Jesus and begged Him to touch him. Jesus took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When He had spit on the man's eyes and put His hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?" The man looked up and said, "I see people. They look like trees walking around." Once more Jesus put His hands on the man's eyes. Then he could see clearly.

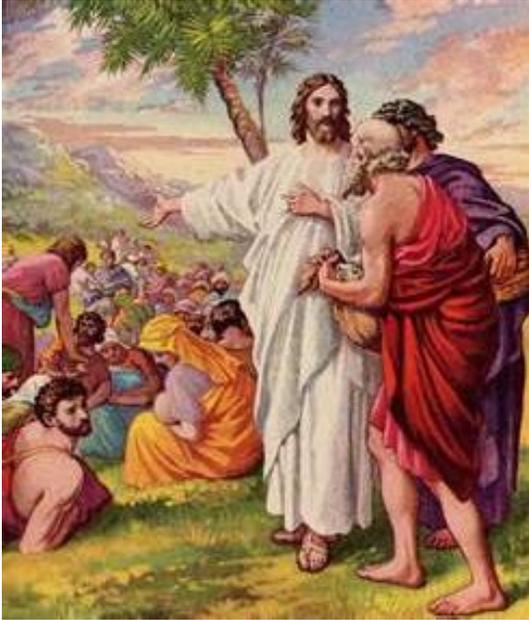
One day when Jesus was leaving Jericho with His disciples, they came to Bartimaeus, a blind man, sitting by the road begging. When he heard that Jesus was passing by, he began to cry out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me." Many people told him to be quiet, but he continued to cry out loudly, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me."

Jesus said, "Bring the blind man to me." Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said, "Lord, I want to be able to see." Jesus said, "Go, your faith has made you to see." Now Bartimaeus could see and he followed Jesus.

- Wherever Jesus went He performed miracles.
- When the people said, "He has done everything well. He makes the deaf to hear and the dumb to speak," they were referring to the words written in the Old Testament about the coming Messiah.
- Blind Bartimaeus recognized Jesus as the Messiah by calling out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me."

## FEEDING OF THE FOUR THOUSAND

### Matthew 15 Mark 8



During those days another large crowd gathered around Jesus while He taught them. Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called His disciples to Him and said, "I feel sorry for all these people. They have been with me three days and have nothing to eat. Many have come here from far away. I can not send them away hungry."

His disciples answered, "Where can we get enough bread to feed all these people?. There is no place for us to buy bread."

"How many loaves of bread do you have?" Jesus asked. "Seven," they answered.

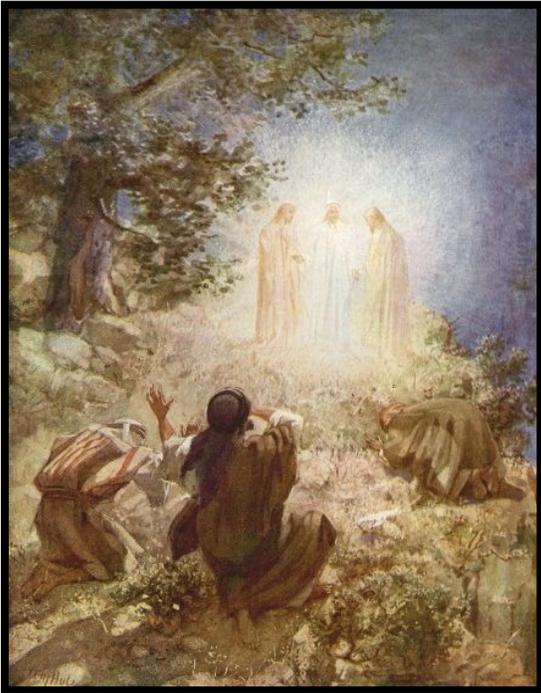
Jesus told the crowd to sit down on the ground. He took the seven small loaves of bread and gave thanks. Jesus broke the bread into pieces and gave them to His disciples to pass out among the people. They had a few small fish, also. Jesus gave thanks for them and told the disciples to pass out the fish.

All the people ate bread and fish. After everyone had eaten, the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of bread and fish that were left over. About four thousand men were present, as well as women and children.

- The feeding of the four thousand with seven loaves of bread and a few small fish was the second miracle of feeding a great crowd of people.
- Jesus provides everything we need in our lives.

## THE TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS

Matthew 17 Luke 9 Mark 9



Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain by themselves to pray. As Jesus prayed, He was transfigured before them. His clothes became white and shinning. Moses and Elijah were talking with Jesus. They spoke about Jesus' death and what would happen in Jerusalem.

Peter, James, and John were sleeping. When they woke up, they saw Jesus transfigured. Moses and Elijah were standing by Jesus. As Moses and Elijah were leaving, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us make three chapels--one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." Peter really did not know what he was saying. The disciples were greatly afraid.

While Peter was saying this, a cloud of God's glory came and covered them. They were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then a voice from God the Father came out of the cloud saying, "This is my beloved Son, listen to Him." When the voice had stopped, they looked around and saw only Jesus.

Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them that they should tell no one the things they had seen until the Son of man had risen from the dead. They told no one what had happened, but they wondered what the rising from the dead meant.

- Jesus was transfigured before Peter, James, and John on a mountain.
- Jesus spoke to Moses and Elijah about His coming death.
- Peter, not knowing what he was saying, wanted to build three chapels there for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah.
- God the Father spoke from the cloud of His Glory, called the Shekinah in the Old Testament, saying, "This is my beloved Son, listen to Him"

## JESUS' LOVE FOR LITTLE CHILDREN

### Matthew 18, 19



Scripture shows again and again that God loves people as only He can love. When Jesus came as the Messiah, people saw and felt that love. One day some parents brought their little children to Jesus to have Him show His love to them. The disciples did not understand Jesus' love for the little children. They tried to keep the mothers and fathers from bringing their little children to Jesus and bothering Him.

When Jesus saw this, He was not happy. He said to the disciples, "Let the little children come to me and forbid them not." Jesus took the children in His arms, put His hands on them and blessed them.

This taught the disciples a much needed lesson. They did not see what Jesus saw and felt. The disciples felt that the little children were not important in God's Kingdom and Jesus should not be bothered with them.

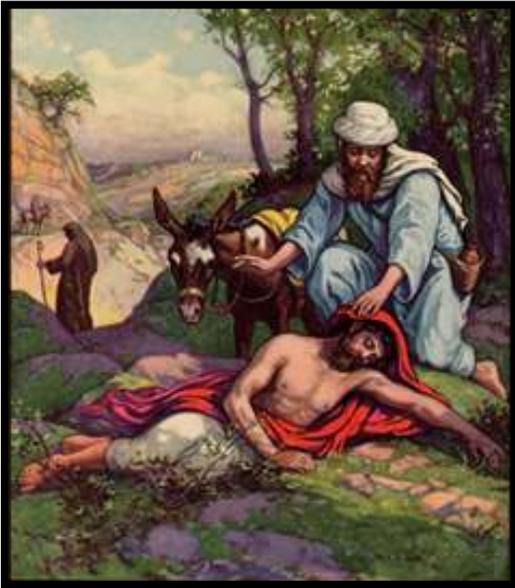
The disciples looked for importance and greatness in Jesus' Kingdom through great works and wisdom. This made the disciples ask Jesus, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" Jesus called a little child to Him and said to them, "Unless you become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes a little child in my name welcomes me." The greatest men and women in God's Kingdom are those who love, believe, and listen to God like little children.

Jesus said very clearly how He felt about His little believers. He said, "If anyone makes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large stone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones. In heaven their angels are always with my Father in heaven. My Father does not want any of these little ones to be lost."

- When parents brought their children to Jesus, the disciples felt that Jesus should not be bothered. Jesus rebuked the disciples and blessed the children.
- Children have guardian angels.
- Jesus sharply warned about hurting the faith of a child.
- Showing love to a little child is showing love for Jesus and it pleases Him.

## THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN

### Luke 10



A lawyer, who was an expert in the Law, tempted Jesus, saying, "Master, what shall I do to inherit everlasting life?" Jesus answered, "What is written in the Law?" The lawyer answering said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with your entire mind; and love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus replied, "You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live." The lawyer said to Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?"

Jesus answered him by telling this story. "A man was going from Jerusalem to Jericho when some robbers took his money, beat him, and took off his clothes. They ran away, leaving him half dead. A priest came by and saw him

lying there. He did not help him, but walked passed him. Also, a Levite came by and saw him lying there. He walked on and did not help him either."

"When a Samaritan came by, he saw the man lying there almost dead. He felt sorry for him. He poured oil and wine on his wounds and put on bandages. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn, and took care of him. Before he left the next day, he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him, and when I return, I will repay you for any extra expense you may have.'"

"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the Law replied, "The one who had mercy on him and helped him." Jesus said, "Go and do likewise."

Our faith must show itself. "No man lights a candle and then covers it or hides it, but he puts it so those who come in may see the light." No one lights a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be hidden. Instead he puts it on its stand, so that those who come in may see the light. The way we live and speak shows that we are followers of Jesus.

- Jesus told the parable to teach a lesson about caring for our neighbor and showing mercy. The good Samaritan showed mercy and took care of the man
- Our faith must show itself by doing good and showing mercy for Jesus' sake. Let your light (faith) shine brightly.

## THE PRODIGAL SON

### Luke 15



There was a man who had two sons. The younger son said to his father, "Father, give me my share of the inheritance." The father divided his property between his two sons. The younger son took his money and went to a far off country. There he wasted his money in wild living. After all his money was gone, he got a job feeding pigs. He was so hungry he even wanted to eat what the pigs ate. Finally he thought of his home and how all the servants had more than enough food to eat. He thought, "Here I am starving to death! I will go back to my father and say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am not worthy to be called your son. I will be one of your servants.'"

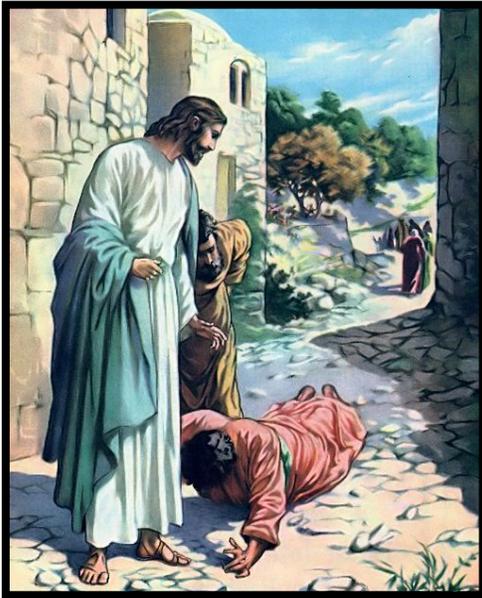
So he started home to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with love for him. He ran to his son, threw his arms around him, and kissed him. The son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am not worthy to be called your son. Let me be one of your servants." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Make a feast and we will celebrate. My son was dead but now he is alive. He was lost and now he is found."

When the older son came home from working in the field, he heard music and dancing. He asked one of the servants what was going on. "Your brother has come home and we are celebrating." The brother was jealous and angry and would not go in. His father went out and said to his son, "Please come in." But he answered, "All these years I've worked for you and I have never disobeyed your orders. You never gave me a feast to celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours comes home after wasting all his inheritance, you make a feast for him;" "My son," the father said, "you are always with me. Everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate, because your brother was dead and now he is alive. He was lost and now he is found."

- The father's younger son foolishly wasted his inheritance in a far country.
- When he returned home, he asked to be a hired servant.
- His father received him with joy and love, preparing a great celebration for him.
- The older son was jealous, because he thought he deserved more because he had been a faithful son.
- Our Father in Heaven forgives the sins of a penitent sinner.

## JESUS HEALS THE LEPERS

Matthew 8 Luke 17



Leprosy is a terrible disease for which there still is no cure. In the Old Testament and in Jesus' day, lepers had to stay away from people. Lepers lived in little groups and begged people to set out food so they could live.

They made their homes in caves. Whenever someone came near, they had to call out "unclean, unclean." According to God's law, a leper had to be pronounced "clean" by the priest before he could live with people.

Throughout Jesus' ministry, He healed many lepers. One time a leper came to Him saying, "Lord, if it is your will, you can make me clean." Jesus reached out to him and touched him, saying, "I am willing, be clean."

Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

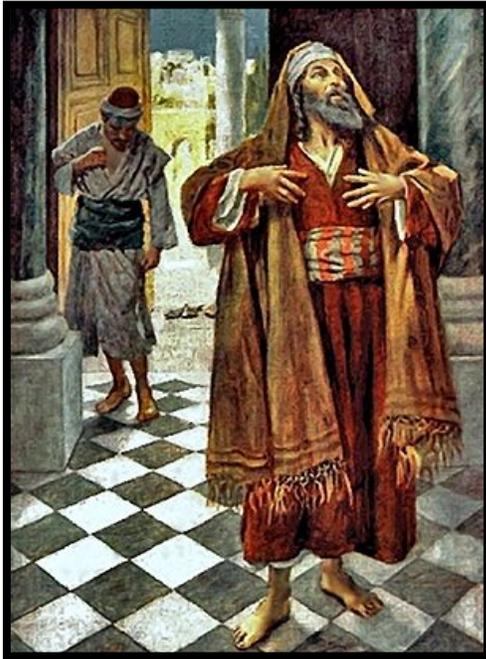
Another time Jesus healed the ten lepers, without touching them. This happened when Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem. Ten lepers stood far away from Him. They cried out in loud voices, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When Jesus came near them, He said, "Go show yourselves to the priests. As they walked away, they saw that their leprosy was gone. They had been healed.

One of them, a Samaritan, went back to Jesus. With a loud voice he glorified God. He fell on his face at Jesus' feet, thanking Him. Jesus said, "Weren't ten men cleansed? Where are the nine? Only this foreigner has come to me to give glory to God." He said to him, "Arise, go your way, your faith has made you well."

- There was no cure for leprosy, so lepers were forced to live away from people.
- When a leper was healed, a priest would pronounce him "clean."
- When ten lepers were healed, only one, a Samaritan or Gentile, thanked Jesus.
- The healed man became a missionary for Jesus.

## THE PHARISEE AND THE PUBLICAN

### Luke 18



When we pray to God, we must always be sorry and confess our sins. God will forgive us for Jesus' sake. Since Jesus died for all sins, He pleads for us in heaven now. He is the payment for all the sins of the whole world.

To some who were proud of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable or story.

Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself. He said in pride, "God, I thank you that I am not like other men, robbers, evildoers, and adulterers, or like the tax collector over there. I fast twice a week and I give a tenth of all everything I have."

"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but hit his chest and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' I tell you that this man went home justified before God. Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

John writes to us of Jesus' love and forgiveness in the following beautiful words: "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you, that you do not sin. If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the payment for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 1:7b-2:2

- In pride, the Pharisee thanked God that he was not a sinner like other men. He fasted twice a week, not just once, and gave a tithe or a tenth, of all he possessed.
- In humility, the Publican asked God for mercy, because he was a sinner.
- Scripture tells us that all men have sinned, but Jesus has paid for our sins, and in Him we find mercy and forgiveness.

## THE WIDOW'S MITE, AN OFFERING OF LOVE

### Mark 12



One day when Jesus was in the temple, He sat near the place where the offerings were put into the temple treasury.

He saw many rich people of high standing throw in large amounts of money. He could hear when a lot of money was given because the coins were dropped into a large metal horn. As the coins fell in, they made a clanging noise that could be easily heard. In this way, the rich people made a show of their great offerings.

Jesus watched as the rich put in a lot of money and He heard the clanging noise as it fell into the large metal horn.

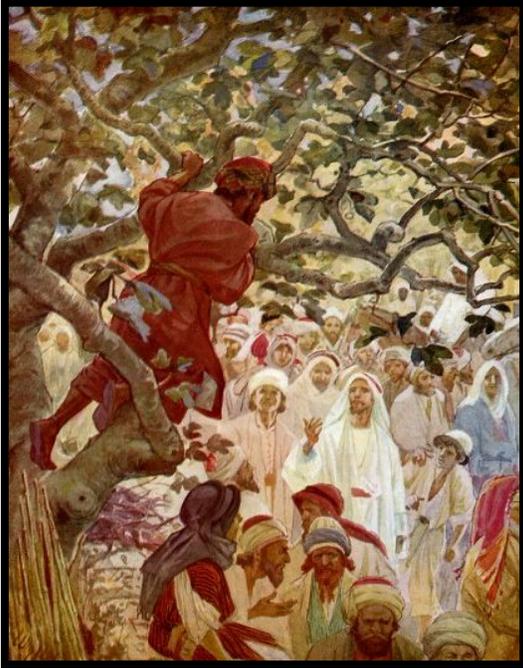
Then along came a poor widow who put in two small coins which were called “mites.” They were worth less than a penny. Those coins were so small they would only have made a very faint sound.

Jesus called His disciples to Him and said, “This poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They gave out of their wealth, but she has given out of her poverty everything she had.”

- The rich people made a show of their giving. Their money made a loud clanging noise as it fell into the metal horn.
- The poor widow dropped in only two very small coins, called “mites.” They made only a faint sound when they fell into the metal horn.
- The widow, out of love, gave all she had.
- Jesus sees when the heart is full of faith, penitence, and love.
- Because of Jesus’ love and mercy, our offerings are part of our worship and should be given out of love for Him

## ZACCHAEUS

### Luke 19



When Jesus was passing through Jericho, there was a man living there named Zacchaeus. He was chief among the publicans, a tax collector, and very rich.

He wanted to see Jesus, but there was a large crowd and he could not see over them because he was a short man. So he ran ahead and climbed into a sycamore or fig tree.

When Jesus came to the place where Zacchaeus was sitting in the tree, He said, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, because I am staying at your house today.”

Zacchaeus came down and joyfully took Jesus to his house. The people who saw this said, “He has gone to be a guest in the house of a sinner.”

At the home, Zacchaeus stood before Jesus and said, “Lord, I will give half of my possessions to the poor. If I have cheated any man, I will pay back four times the amount.” He was sorry that he had cheated people when he was a tax collector.

Jesus said to him, “This day salvation has come to this house. The Son of man is come to seek and to save those who are lost.”

- Zacchaeus, a tax collector, climbed a fig tree so he could see Jesus. Jesus told him to come down, because He wanted to stay with him that day.
- Zacchaeus showed his faith by promising to help the poor and repay all whom he had cheated.
- Jesus said He had come to seek and save those who are lost.

## MARY AND MARTHA

### Luke 10



One day Jesus and His disciples came to the home of Martha in Bethany. It seems that Martha owned the home and her sister Mary and her brother Lazarus lived with her.

Martha was working hard to make a meal for Jesus and His disciples. Martha wanted her sister Mary to help her. She saw that Mary was just sitting at the feet of Jesus. Mary wanted to hear everything Jesus was saying.

Martha came to Jesus and said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister is letting me do all the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

Jesus lovingly looked at her and said, "Martha, Martha, you are worried about many things, but only one thing is important. Mary has chosen what is best, and it will not be taken away from her. She is listening to my words."

- Martha tried to show her love for Jesus by serving Him.
- Mary sat at Jesus' feet listening to Him.
- Jesus said that Mary had chosen what is most important, to listen to His words.

## JESUS RAISES LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD

### John 11



Not long after this, Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha, was very sick. The sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." When He heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. It is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." He stayed where He was two more days. Then He said to His disciples, "Let us go back to Bethany. Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." His disciples answered, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get

better." Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. Let us go to him."

When Jesus got to Bethany, Lazarus had already been dead four days. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet Him. "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believes in me, though he was dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she told Him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God."

Martha went to tell Mary that Jesus was asking for her. When Mary came to Jesus, she fell at His feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her and the others with her crying, He, also, cried. Then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!" "Where have you laid him?" Jesus asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied.

The grave was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. "Take away the stone," Jesus said. "But, Lord," said Martha, "by this time there is a bad smell, for he has been dead four days." Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me." Then Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth was around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

Many of the Jews who had come and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in Him.

- Jesus did not come to help Mary and Martha right away when Lazarus was very sick. He came when Lazarus had been dead four days, so that God would be glorified in the raising of Lazarus.
- When Martha met Jesus, she showed her great faith in Jesus as the Messiah.

## THE ANOINTING OF JESUS FOR HIS BURIAL

### Matthew 26 Mark 14 John 12



Six days before the Passover, Jesus again came to Bethany where Lazarus had been raised from the dead. Many had come to see Lazarus.

A dinner was given in Jesus' honor at the home of Simon, who had been a leper. Martha served the dinner. Lazarus was there at the table with Jesus. Mary took a jar of expensive perfume, poured it on Jesus' feet, and wiped His feet with her hair. The house was filled with the smell of the perfume.

When the disciples saw this, they were upset. Judas said, "Why this waste? Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor?" It was worth a year's wages. Judas did not really care about the poor. He said it because he was a thief. As keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

"Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "You will always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. What she has done will be told in memory of her."

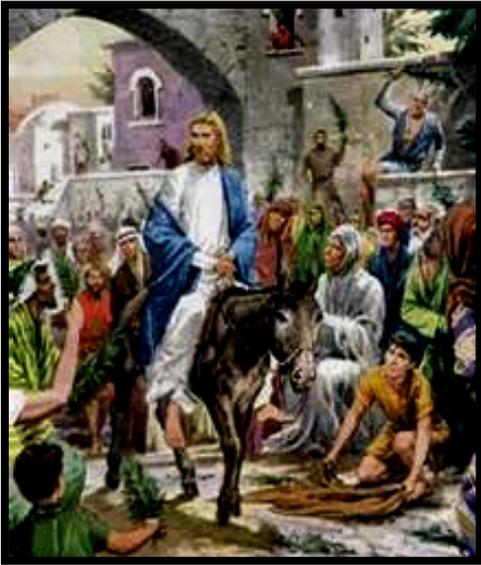
Then one of the disciples, Judas Iscariot, was angry that Jesus had publicly scolded him. He left and went to the chief priests. He asked them, "What are you willing to give me if I hand Jesus over to you?" The chief priest counted out thirty silver coins and gave them to Judas.

From then on, Judas watched for a time to hand Jesus over to the chief priests.

- When Simon had a dinner given in Jesus' honor, Mary poured expensive perfume on Jesus' feet. Jesus said that she had done this to prepare Him for His burial.
- Judas said that this was a great waste and was rebuked by Jesus.
- In anger, Judas went to the chief priests and received thirty silver coins to betray Jesus.

## PALM SUNDAY

### Matthew 21 Mark 11 Luke 19



A great crowd heard that Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem. As Jesus came to the Mount of Olives, He told two of His disciples. "Go to the village ahead of you. You will find a donkey and a colt on which no one has ever ridden. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying them?' Tell him, 'The Lord needs them.'"

The disciples went to the village and found it just as they had been told. As they were untying the donkey, the owners asked them, "Why are you untying the donkey?" They replied, "The Lord needs them." They brought them to Jesus, threw their robes on them, and put Jesus on the donkey.

As Jesus went along, people spread their robes on the road. When He came near the road that goes down from the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd began to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen. "Blessed is the King that is coming in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" Some took branches off the palm trees and laid them in the way saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest."

Some of the Pharisees said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" Jesus said, "If they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

When He was come into Jerusalem, the people asked, "Who is this?" The crowd answered, "This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee."

- When Jesus came into Jerusalem riding a donkey, the prophecy, written over four hundred years earlier by the prophet Zechariah, was fulfilled.
- The people proclaimed Jesus as the Messiah, saying "Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."

## FIVE WISE AND FIVE FOOLISH YOUNG WOMEN

### Matthew 25



Watch and be ready to receive Jesus.

Can a person figure out when Judgment Day will come? Jesus said, "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. You must be ready, because the Son of man will come when you do not expect Him."

Jesus used the picture of a wedding procession to show the difference between the wise and the foolish people on earth.

"The kingdom of heaven will be like ten young women who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all fell asleep.

At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all the young women woke up and got their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' 'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough oil for both of us. You must go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' But while they were gone to buy the oil, the bridegroom came. The young women who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later the others who went to buy oil came. They said, 'Sir, Sir, open the door for us!' But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.' Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."

To help prepare for that final day, Jesus gave this information, "Before Judgment Day there will be wars and rumors of war. Christians will be persecuted and hated because of me. Many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other. Many false prophets will come and fool many people. Because of great wickedness, the love of many will grow cold. But all who stand firm in their faith will be saved. This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world and then the end will come."

- Jesus said that no one knows when the end of the world will come, only His Father in Heaven. Therefore watch and be ready.
- The parable of the five wise young women and the five foolish young women teaches us that we must be prepared to meet Jesus on Judgment Day.
- There will be signs pointing to the end of the world. The love of many will grow cold. The Gospel will be preached to the whole world before the end.

## JESUS CELEBRATES THE PASSOVER

Matthew 26 Mark 14 Luke 22 John 13



It was time for the Passover. Peter and John asked Jesus, "Where do you want us to prepare the supper?" Jesus replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house he enters, and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, 'Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large upper room. Make preparations there.'" The disciples left, found the man carrying a jar of water, and

prepared for the Passover there.

The time of the Passover came. When Jesus and His disciples were together at the table, Jesus said to His disciples, "I wanted to eat this Passover meal with you before I suffer."

When the meal was ended, Jesus got up, took off His outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around His waist. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples' feet, drying them with the towel. He came to Peter, but Peter said, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet? No, you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." Peter replied, "Then, Lord, not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet."

When He had finished washing their feet, Jesus asked them. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' for that is what I am. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master. "

Jesus continued talking to His disciples. He was sad and said to them, "One of you is going to betray me." His disciples looked at one another wondering who it was. John who was next to Jesus asked Him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot. As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. "What you are about to do, do quickly," Jesus told him. Judas left, going out into the night.

- Jesus told Peter and John where to prepare the Passover meal.
- To teach His disciples a lesson in humility, He washed their feet.
- Judas, the betrayer, left after receiving the bread. This fulfilled Scripture, "He who shares my bread has lifted up his heel against me." Psalm 41:9

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

Matthew 26 Mark 14 Luke 22 John 13



While Jesus and His disciples were celebrating the Passover, Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper. This is what Jesus said to His disciples and to us, also.

Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body which is given for you. In the same way, He

took the cup when He had supped and given thanks, He said, this cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Jesus said to His disciples, "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

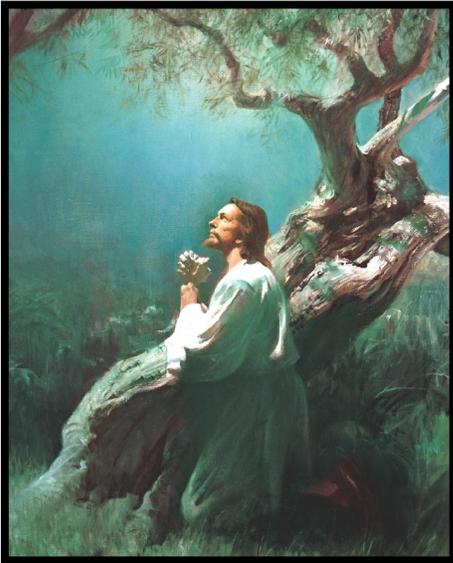
Simon Peter asked Him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later." Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? You will all leave me. But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."

Peter declared, "Even if all leave you, I will not." Jesus answered, "Today--yes, tonight--before the rooster crows two times you will deny me three times." Peter said, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you." All the others said the same.

- At this time, Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of sins.
- Peter boasted that he would lay down his life for Jesus, as did all the disciples.
- Jesus told Peter that he would deny Him and everyone would run away, fulfilling Scripture which said, "strike the shepherd, the sheep will be scattered." Zechariah 13:7

## GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

### Matthew 26 Mark 14 Luke 22



Jesus and His disciples went to the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus said, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." Taking Peter, James, and John with Him, He said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful. Stay here and keep watch with me." Going a little farther, He fell with His face to the ground and prayed, "Father, if it is possible, take this cup from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." When He rose from prayer, He found His disciples asleep. "Could you not watch with me for one hour?" He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done." Jesus went to His disciples and again found them sleeping. Jesus left them and prayed the third time and an angel came and strengthened Him, and He prayed so earnestly

that His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

When He came to the disciples, He said to them, "Sleep on now." A little later He said, "The hour is here, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us go! Here comes my betrayer!" Judas knew the place where Jesus often met with His disciples. So Judas came to the garden with the soldiers and some officials. They were carrying torches, lanterns, and weapons. Jesus asked them, "Who is it you want?" "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "I am he," Jesus said. When Jesus said, "I am he," they all fell backwards on the ground. Jesus asked them again, "Who is it you want?" They said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said, "I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go."

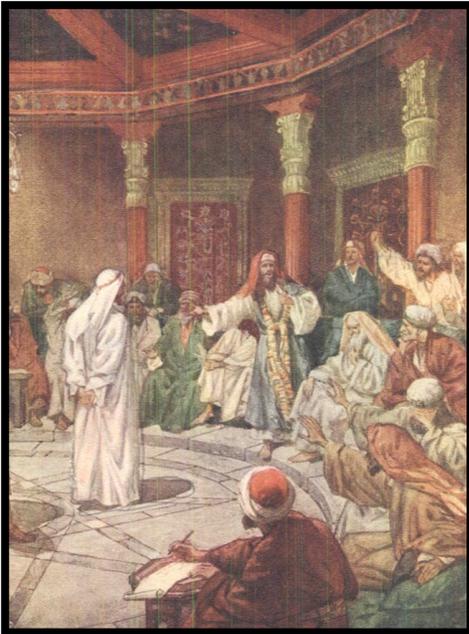
Jesus' disciples said, "Lord, should we strike with our swords?" Simon Peter drew his sword, struck Malchus, the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Don't you know that I can call on my Father, and He will give me thousands of angels? He touched the man's ear and healed him.

Judas had arranged a sign. "The one I kiss is the man." Going to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed Him. Jesus said, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of man with a kiss?" The men took Jesus and arrested Him. Then all His disciples ran away in fear.

- Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, while His disciples slept.
- When Jesus prayed to His Father in heaven, He said, "Your will be done."
- Jesus showed His divine power by knocking down the men coming to arrest Him.
- Jesus told Peter to put away his sword and healed the servant's ear.
- Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss. The disciples ran away in fear.

## JESUS BEFORE THE HIGH PRIEST

Matthew 26 Mark 14 Luke 22 John 18



After they had arrested Jesus, they brought Him to the high priest. The high priest questioned Jesus about His teaching. Jesus replied, "I always taught in the temple. I said nothing in secret. Why question me? Ask those who heard me." When Jesus said this, one of the officials hit Him in the face. "Is this the way you answer the high priest?" Jesus said, "If I said something wrong, tell me what I said that was wrong. If I spoke the truth, why did you hit me?"

Peter and John had followed Jesus. Because John knew the high priest, he went with Jesus into courtyard, but Peter waited outside. John came back, spoke to the girl there, and brought Peter in. It was cold, and they stood around a fire to keep warm. One of the servant girls saw Peter warming himself. She said, "You were with that man."

Peter denied it saying, "I don't know what you're talking about." The rooster crowed the first time. Again the servant girl said, "This fellow is one of them." Again Peter denied it. After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, "Surely you are one of them." Peter began to curse and swear, saying, "I don't know this man you're talking about." Immediately, the rooster crowed the second time. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the words the Lord had said to Him, "Before the rooster crows two times, you will deny me three times." Peter went outside and cried bitterly.

The chief priests, elders, and teachers of the Law came together to try and find a reason to put Jesus to death. Many said things against Him, but what they said did not agree. Then the high priest asked Jesus, "Aren't you going to answer the charges that these men are bringing against you?" But Jesus remained silent. So the high priest put Jesus under a special oath in which He had to answer. "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?" Jesus answered, "I am. You will see the Son of man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One, coming on the clouds of heaven." The high priest said. "Why do we need any more witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?" They all said He should die.

- Jesus was taken before the high priest for questioning.
- John took Peter to the courtyard where Peter denied Jesus three times.
- Jesus was put under a special oath so He had to answer. He said that He was the Christ, the Son of man and He would come again on the clouds of heaven.
- Accused of blasphemy (speaking against God), they said Jesus had to die.

## JESUS BEFORE PILATE

### Matthew 27 Mark 15 Luke 23 John 18



By now, it was early morning when Jesus was brought before Pilate. As Jesus stood before Pilate, they began to accuse Him, saying, "We have found this man causing trouble in our nation. He claims to be Christ, a king."

Pilate asked Him, "Don't you hear what they are saying against you?" Jesus did not answer. Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus said, "My kingdom is

not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight, but my kingdom is not from here." "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. For this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world. Everyone that is on the side of truth hears my voice." "What is truth?" Pilate asked.

Pilate went out to the Jews and said, "I find no reason for a charge against Him. But they insisted, "He stirs up the people all over Judea beginning in Galilee." When Pilate learned He was a Galilean, he sent Him to King Herod.

Herod was pleased to see Jesus. He hoped to see Jesus perform some miracle. Herod asked Him many questions, but Jesus would not answer him. The chief priests and the teachers of the law kept accusing Him. Then Jesus was dressed in a special robe, mocked and sent back to Pilate.

Pilate called together the chief priests and the rulers and said to them, "I have questioned this man. I find that He has done nothing wrong. I will punish Him and let Him go."

- Jesus again acknowledged that He was the Son of God and that He was a King.
- Jesus was questioned by Pilate and Herod who found no fault in Him.
- Pilate wanted to release Jesus.

## JESUS IS CONDEMNED

Matthew 27 Mark 15 Luke 23 John 19



It was the custom for Pilate at the time of the Passover to release someone from prison. There was a prisoner called Barabbas, who had been put in prison for trouble in the city and for murder. So Pilate asked them, "Who do you want me to release to you, Barabbas or Jesus, who is called the Christ?" The crowd cried out, "Away with this man! Release Barabbas!" Pilate still wanted to let Jesus go. But they kept shouting, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" For the third time he spoke to them: "Why? What crime has this man done? I have found in Him no reason to put Him to death. I will have Him punished and then let Him go."

Pilate had Jesus beaten. Once more Pilate said, "I am bringing Him out to you. Behold the man!" As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw Him, they shouted, "Crucify Him!" Pilate answered, "You take Him and crucify Him." The Jews said, "According to our law He must die because He claimed to be the Son of God."

When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid. He asked Jesus, "Where do you come from?" But Jesus gave no answer. "Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you know I have power to free you or to crucify you?" Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above." Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jews kept shouting, "If you let this man go, you are not a friend of Caesar." When Pilate heard this, he said, "Here is your king," They shouted, "Take Him away! Crucify Him!" "Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked. "We have no king but Caesar." Pilate's wife sent him a message, "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man."

When Judas saw that Jesus was condemned, he was very sorry and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests, saying, "I have sinned, for I have betrayed innocent blood." "What is that to us?" they replied. Judas threw the money into the temple, went away, and hanged himself. The chief priests said, "It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money." With it they bought the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners, called the Field of Blood.

- The Jews said "crucify Him," because He said He was the Son of God.
- Judas, out of guilt, returned the money and hung himself.
- What the prophet said was fulfilled: "They took the thirty silver coins and bought the potter's field." Zechariah 11:12,13

## THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS

### Matthew 27 Mark 15 Luke 23 John 19



When Pilate saw that trouble was starting, he took water and washed his hands saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood. You crucify Him." The people answered, "Let His blood be on us and on our children!" Pilate had Jesus beaten, and then handed Him over to be crucified.

The soldiers put a purple robe on Him, twisted together a crown of thorns, and set it on His head. They began to call out to Him, "Hail, king of the Jews!" Again and again they hit Him in the face, struck Him

on the head with a staff, and spat on Him. Falling on their knees, they bowed to worship Him. When they had finished mocking Him, they took off the purple robe and put His own clothes on Him. Then they took Him to be crucified, carrying His own cross.

Because of the loss of blood and beatings, Jesus was too weak to carry the cross. So they made a man named Simon to help carry the cross behind Jesus

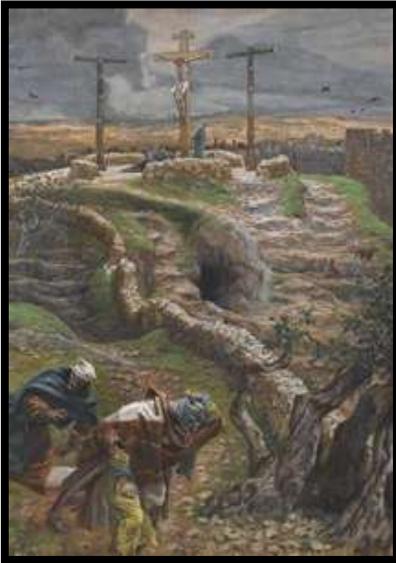
It was 9 o'clock, when they crucified Him. The soldiers took His clothes, dividing them into four parts. The undergarment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. "Let's not tear it," they said. "Let's decide by lot who will get it." This happened that the Scripture might be fulfilled which said, "They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing." Then the soldiers sat down to keep watch over Him.

Pilate had a sign fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. The sign was written in Hebrew, Latin and Greek. The chief priests said to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that He said. "I am the King of the Jews." Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

- Pilate said he was innocent of Jesus' death. The Jews said, "His blood be on us."
- Jesus was condemned to be crucified, was mocked, and beaten.
- Too weak to carry His cross to Golgotha, Simon, a Gentile, was made to carry it.
- Pilate put a sign on the cross which read "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."
- Scripture was fulfilled by the soldiers casting lots for His clothing. Psalm 22:18

## JESUS' WORDS FROM THE CROSS

Matthew 27 Mark 15 Luke 23 John 19



As Jesus was hanging on the cross, the people stood watching, and the rulers mocked. They said, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the Chosen One." The soldiers also came up and mocked Him. They said, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself. If you are the Son of God come down from the cross! He saved others, but He can't save Himself. He trusts in God, let God save Him. After all, He said, "I am the Son of God." Jesus said, **"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."**

They also crucified two robbers with Him, one on His right and one on His left, that Scripture might be fulfilled, "He was numbered with the transgressors." At first the robbers also insulted Him. Later one of the robbers said to his partner. "Don't you even fear God? We are being punished for our bad deeds, but this man

has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered, **"I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."**

Near the cross of Jesus stood His mother, His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother there, and His disciple John standing nearby, He said to His mother, **"Behold your son,"** and to John, He said, **"Behold your mother."** From that time on, John took her into his home.

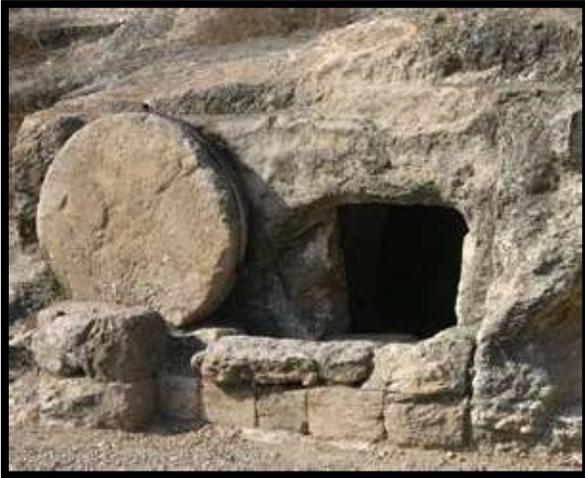
From 12:00 noon, until 3:00 p.m., darkness came over all the land for the sun stopped shining. Jesus cried out with a loud voice, **"Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"**--which means, **"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"** When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah. The rest said, "Now leave Him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save Him."

Later, knowing that all was now completed, Jesus said, **"I am thirsty."** A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. After He took a drink, Jesus said, **"It is finished."** With that, He bowed His head, and cried out in a loud voice, **"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."** When He had said this, He breathed His last.

- Jesus' words from the cross. The redemption of the world was completed.
- The promise of a Savior given to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden was fulfilled, Satan was crushed. Gen. 3:15

## JESUS' DEATH AND BURIAL

### Matthew 27 Mark 15 Luke 23 John 19



When Jesus died, the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, the earth shook, the rocks split, the tombs broke open, and it became dark. The people by the cross were terrified, and said, "Surely He was the Son of God!" Frightened, the people went away.

Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. The soldiers broke the legs of the men who had been crucified with Jesus, but when they came

to Jesus and found that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear. All of this happened so that the Scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of His bones will be broken." "They will look on the one they have pierced."

Joseph, a member of the Sanhedrin, went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph and Nicodemus took the body away. They wrapped Jesus' body with spices in strips of linen. Joseph placed Jesus in his own new tomb cut out of the rock in a garden near the place where Jesus was crucified. They rolled a large stone in front of the tomb and went away. The women saw where Jesus had been buried. They went home and rested on the Sabbath.

The chief priests and Pharisees went to Pilate, and said, "Sir, we remember that while He was still alive He said, 'After three days I will rise again.' So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day, otherwise His disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that He has been raised from the dead." Pilate told them to go and seal the tomb. So they put the Roman seal on the stone and placed soldiers to guard the tomb.

- God the Father sent an earthquake, the rocks and tombs split open, the Temple curtain was torn in two, and it became dark.
- Jesus' legs were not broken, but His side was pierced to fulfill Scripture. Psalm 34:20 Zechariah 12:10
- Joseph was given the body of Jesus to be buried in his own new tomb.
- Pilate ordered the tomb to be sealed with Roman soldiers guarding it.

## THE RESURRECTION

### Matthew 28 Mark 16 Luke 24 John 20



Early Easter morning, Jesus rose from the dead. An angel came down from heaven, rolled the stone away, and sat on it. His clothes were as white as snow. The guards were so afraid they fainted. When they came to, they hurried to the city and told the chief priests everything. The chief priests gave the soldiers a lot of money and told them to say, “His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we were asleep.”

Very early on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and some women went to the tomb. They asked each other, “Who will roll the stone away from the tomb?” When Mary Magdalene saw that the stone had been rolled away, she turned back and went running to Peter and John. She told them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb and we do not know

where they have put Him.”

When the other women went into the tomb and saw the angel, they were afraid. “Don’t be afraid,” the angel said, “You are looking for Jesus. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. Go and tell his disciples that He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see Him.” Trembling, the women ran from the tomb.

Having heard what Mary Magdalene said, Peter and John started running for the tomb with Mary following. John reached the tomb first. He looked in, but did not go in. Peter rushed into the tomb and saw the strips of linen and the burial cloth which had been around Jesus’ head, folded up by itself. The disciples went back to their homes, but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. She looked into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been. They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?” “They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put Him.” Then she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. “Woman,” He said, “why are you crying? Who are you looking for?”

Thinking He was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have put Him and I will get Him.” Jesus said to her, “Mary.” Then she knew it was Jesus. She cried out to Him “Rabboni” which means, My Great Master. Jesus replied, “Go tell my disciples that I am returning to my Father, and your Father, to my God and your God.” Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news, “I have seen the Lord.”

- The women at the tomb saw an angel who said, “Don’t be afraid, He has risen.”
- Mary Magdalene ran to tell Peter and John.
- When Mary Magdalene knew he was Jesus, she said, “My Great Master.”

## JESUS APPEARS TO THE DISCIPLES AND THOMAS

### John 20, 21



Jesus' disciples were together when suddenly, Jesus stood among them and said, "Peace be with you. Why are you troubled? Look at my hands and my feet. Touch me and see." Still they did not believe so He asked, "Do you have anything to eat?" They gave Him a piece of fish, and He ate it so that they would know it was really Him.

Thomas was not with the other disciples, so they told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But Thomas said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."

A week later his disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. See my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

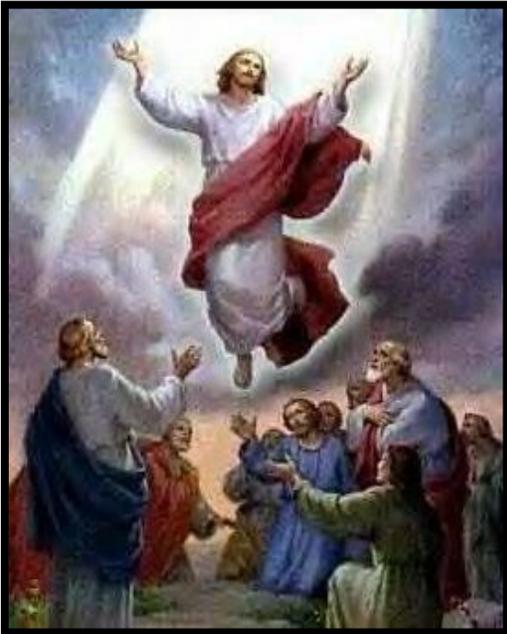
Sometime later, Peter and some of the disciples got into the boat to go fishing. They fished all night, but caught nothing. Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. He called to them, "Have you caught any fish?" "No," they answered. He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will catch some." When they did, their net was filled with fish. Then John said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Peter jumped into the water to go to Jesus.

The other disciples followed in the boat, pulling the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals with fish on it and some bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." Peter went back to the boat and helped drag the net ashore. It was full of one hundred fifty three large fish. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now they knew it was the Lord.

- Jesus came to the disciples and said to Thomas, "See my hands and side."
- Thomas believed. Jesus said, "Blessed are those who have not seen but believe."
- The disciples caught a 153 large fish when Jesus said to let down their net.
- Jesus was on the shore with fish on the burning coals.

## THE ASCENSION

### Matthew 28 Mark 16 Luke 24 Acts 1



Later Jesus again appeared to all his disciples and five hundred believers in Galilee. Jesus told his disciples that they were to stay in Jerusalem for the coming of the Holy Spirit whom God the Father had promised.

Jesus gave this command to his disciples, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the world."

Forty days after the Resurrection, Jesus took his disciples to the Mount of Olives. While He was blessing them, He began to ascend. They watched Him go higher into the sky until a cloud hid Him from their sight. They kept looking up into the sky, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. They said, "Why are you standing here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven."

Those who watched Jesus go up into heaven were Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James, Simon, and Judas son of James. In great joy they returned to Jerusalem. There they all joined together in prayer with the women, Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

- The Great Commission, "Go and make disciples of all nations, "was given to the disciples and, also ,to us.
- Jesus promised to be with us till the end of the world
- From the Mount of Olives, Jesus ascended into heaven forty days after his resurrection. Two angels told those present that Jesus will return the same way they saw Him rise into the sky.
- According to Jesus' command, they returned to Jerusalem to wait for the promised sending of the Holy Spirit.

## PENTECOST – THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GIVEN

### Acts 2



At the Feast of Harvest, which we now call Pentecost, the disciples were all together in one place giving thanks unto the Lord. Suddenly, a sound like the blowing of a wind came from heaven and filled the whole house. They saw what looked like tongues of fire on each of their heads. Filled with the Holy Spirit, they began to speak in other languages. There were God-fearing Jews from every nation

living in Jerusalem. When this sound was heard, a crowd came together and each one heard the disciples speaking in his own language. In amazement they asked, "How is it that we hear them telling about the wonderful works of God in our own languages?" They asked one another, "What does this mean?" Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

Then Peter stood up and said to the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, listen carefully to what I say. These men are not drunk. It's only nine in the morning! This is what the prophet Joel was talking about when he said, "In the last days, I will pour out my Spirit on all people, both men and women, and they will prophesy."

"Men of Israel, listen to this, Jesus did miracles, wonders, and signs. You put Him to death by nailing Him to the cross. But God raised Him from the dead. We are all witnesses of this. He is exalted at the right hand of God. The Holy Spirit has poured out, what you now see and hear. Therefore let all Israel know that God has made Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

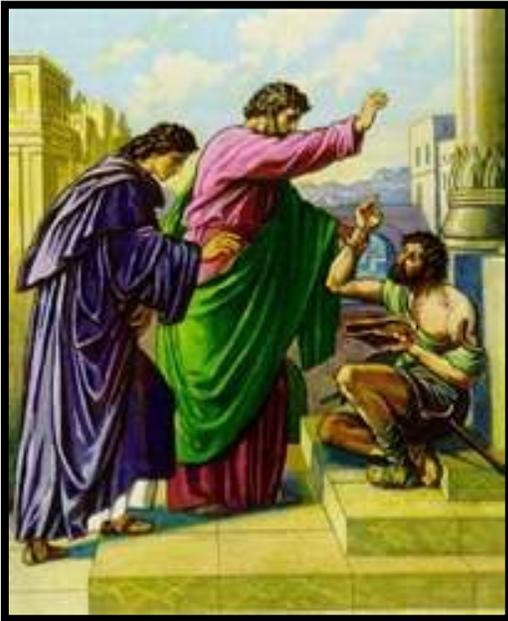
When the people heard this, they said, "What shall we do?" Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children."

Those who believed Peter's words were baptized. About three thousand believed and were baptized. Many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.

- At the Feast of Harvest, our Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was given as promised. The prophet Joel prophesied about this outpouring of the Spirit on God's people. Joel 2:28, 29
- Peter called on the people to repent and be baptized. About 3,000 were baptized.

## PETER HEALS THE LAME BEGGAR

### Acts 3, 4



One day Peter and John were going up to the temple. It was the time of prayer, about three in the afternoon. A man crippled from birth was carried every day to the temple gate called Beautiful, there he would beg for money. When he saw Peter and John, he asked them for money. Peter said, "Look at us!" Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ, walk." Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up. Immediately, he could stand and walk. He went with them into the temple courts, walking, jumping, and praising God.

The priests came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people about Jesus and put them in jail. The next day the rulers, elders and teachers of the law met in Jerusalem

and had Peter and John brought before them to question them: "By what power or what name did you heal this man?"

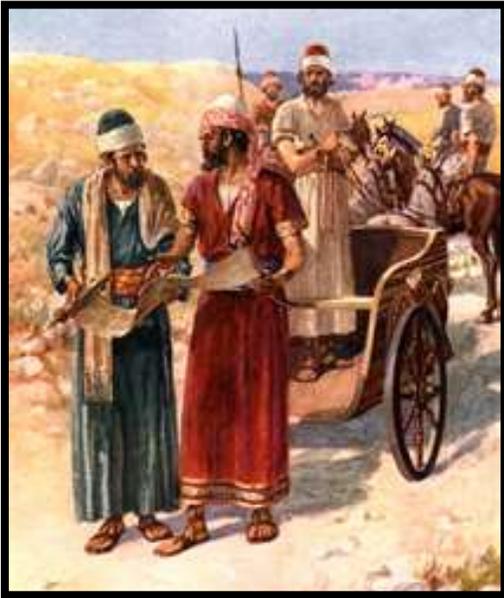
Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "If you are asking how this cripple was healed, then know this: It is by the name of Jesus Christ whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed." They commanded Peter and John not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But they replied, "Is it right to obey you rather than God? We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." After further threats they let them go.

On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

- Peter healed the lame beggar.
- Peter told the leaders of the Jews that he was healed in the name of Jesus Christ, whom they had crucified.
- Peter and John were put in jail overnight. When they were told that they must not speak or preach about Jesus, Peter replied that they would obey God, not man.
- Many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand.

## PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH

### Acts 8



Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached about Christ there. When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, many believed what he said and became Christians. The city was filled with joy.

One day an angel came to Philip and said, "Go south to the desert road that goes from Jerusalem to Gaza." On the road, he saw in a chariot an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. He had gone to Jerusalem to worship and was now on his way home. He was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah. The angel told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So Philip got into the chariot with him. The eunuch was reading this passage, "He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so He did not open his mouth." The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who the prophet is talking about?"

Then Philip told him about Jesus. The eunuch confessed his faith that Jesus was the Son of God. They came to some water and the eunuch said, "Here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" Then Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, but the eunuch went on his way rejoicing.

- Now the Gospel was beginning to be preached among the Gentiles. Philip preached Christ in Samaria and many became Christians.
- An angel came to Philip and told him to go on the road to Gaza where he met an Ethiopian in his chariot. Philip explained Scripture, beginning with the prophecy in Isaiah.
- The Ethiopian eunuch joyfully came to faith and asked to be baptized. After baptizing him, the Lord took Philip away, but the Ethiopian official went on his way rejoicing.

## JESUS APPEARS TO SAUL

### Acts 9



Saul seems to have taken charge of organizing the persecution against the believers. He went to the high priest and asked for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any Christians there, he could take them as prisoners.

On the way to Damascus, a light from heaven flashed around Saul. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless, hearing the sound but seeing no one. Saul got up from the ground,

but when he opened his eyes he could not see. They led him by the hand to Damascus. For three days he was blind.

In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord told him in a vision, "Go to the house of Judas and ask for a man named Saul. Place your hands on him to restore his sight." "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man. He has come here to arrest all who call on your name." But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! I have chosen this man to take my name to the Gentiles."

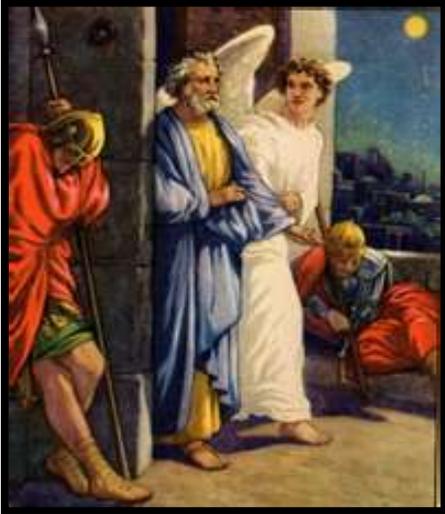
Ananias obeyed the Lord and went to the house where Saul was staying. He placed his hands on Saul, saying, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who came to you on the road, has sent me so that you may see again." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see. Saul now a believer in Jesus was baptized by Ananias.

Saul then changed his name to Paul, meaning "the little one." Paul became a great missionary, traveling to many places to teach about Jesus our Savior. He faithfully served as the apostle to the Gentiles for about thirty years. He suffered many things: being beaten, shipwrecked, stoned and left for dead, and put in jail, but he remained faithful to the end. The Apostle Paul had one aim in life, to bring people to know and believe in Jesus as the Son of God and the Savior of all mankind.

- Jesus appeared to Saul and blinded him on the way to Damascus.
- God sent Ananias to restore Saul's sight.
- Saul was baptized and began to preach.
- Saul changed his name to Paul, meaning "God's little one."
- God chose Paul to be his special missionary to the Gentiles. He served faithfully for thirty years enduring many hardships.
- Paul wrote thirteen Epistles, and probably the book of Hebrews.
- Paul was martyred by Nero, the Roman Emperor, and died in Rome in 67 A.D.

## PETER IS TAKEN OUT OF PRISON BY AN ANGEL

### Acts 12



King Herod Agrippa arrested Peter and had him put in prison. The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers. He was chained to the wall with two chains and soldiers stood guard at the door.

Suddenly, an angel came and a light shone in the cell where Peter was. The angel woke Peter and said, "Quick, get up! Put on your sandals and wrap your cloak around you, and follow me." The chains fell off and Peter followed him out of the prison. They passed the guards and the locked gate opened up. When they had walked down one of the streets, the angel left him. Then Peter knew that the Lord had sent his angel and rescued him from prison and

Herod. He went to the house of Mary the mother of John Mark. Many people were praying for him there.

Peter knocked at the door. Rhoda, a servant girl, came to answer the door. When she heard Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening the door. She cried out, "Peter is at the door!" They thought she was out of her mind. When she kept saying it was Peter, they said, "It must be his angel." Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. Peter motioned for them to be quiet and he told them how the Lord had brought him out of prison. He then told them to tell James the Lord's brother and the other believers in Jerusalem about what had happened. Then he left for another place.

In the morning, Peter could not be found. No one knew how he got out of prison. After Herod had a search made for him, he cross-examined the guards and ordered that they be killed.

Peter continued to preach about Jesus until he was an old man. He was martyred under Nero. Tradition says that he felt unworthy of being crucified like Jesus, so he was crucified upside down. When he died is not known. It could have been in Rome about the same time as Paul.

- Herod Agrippa had Peter put in prison.
- Freed from prison by an angel, Peter served in Asia and later in Asia Minor with Paul. He was arrested and taken to Rome.
- Peter was martyred. Tradition says he was crucified upside down under Nero.
- Peter wrote two books of the Bible, First and Second Peter.

## Books that are available through Books of the Way

### ➤ Sunday School / Bible Class / VBS / Personal Studies

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES - LOWER LEVEL

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES - INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES - UPPER / TEACHER'S LEVEL

CROSS WORD PUZZLES AND WORD FINDS FOR INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

COLORING SHEETS FOR LOWER LEVEL

*(These Study Materials can be downloaded at) [www.booksoftheway.com](http://www.booksoftheway.com)*

### ➤ Interlinear/Historical/Devotional

ACROSTIC PSALMS

PSALMS

PROVERBS

ECCLESIASTES

MINOR PROPHETS

### ➤ Doctrinal/Apologetics

ANGELS

ELEVEN PORTRAITS OF CHRIST

REACHING JEHOVAH WITNESSES IN THEIR HOUSE OF SAND

EVOLUTION THE SHADOW OF CREATION

THE OFFICE OF CHURCH AND MINISTRY

LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM TEACHING BOOK

### ➤ Historical

OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

### ➤ Devotional/Meditations

COME, FOLLOW ME - 365 DAYS IN SCRIPTURE

SHORT CHRISTIAN STORIES

*(6 stories in one book)*

### ➤ Sermonics

THE CATECHISM IN SERMONS

OLD TESTAMENT SERMON SERIES

LENTEN SERMONS SERIES

### ➤ Play/Program Christmas/Lent

CHRISTMAS - THE SHEPHERD AND THE LAMB

LENT - THE NET IS CAST

LENT - FROM PALMS TO FIRST FRUITS

Pastor Shawn Kauffeld  
 Email - [kauffeld@booksoftheway.com](mailto:kauffeld@booksoftheway.com)  
 Web page - [www.booksoftheway.com](http://www.booksoftheway.com)