



## Selected Stories from the Torat, Zabur and Injil The Holy Bible

The Torat, Zabur and Injil are God's word and daily transform millions of lives. This printer-friendly selection of stories will give you an overview of God's Story: the perfect beginning, tragic corruption, plan of redemption and salvation, and the happily ever after. This resource is compiled by: [www.journeytotruth.tv](http://www.journeytotruth.tv)

### How to Read the Stories

Here is a helpful tool for how to read the stories of the Holy Bible, like the guys in the videos. You can do it by yourself or with friends.

- Pray – Ask God to help you understand his word.
- Read the story two or three times
- Repeat the story in your own words.
- Discuss:
  1. Anything that surprises you from the story?
  2. What do we see God doing in this story?
  3. What do we see people doing in this story?
  4. How can I specifically apply it to my life this week?
  5. Who can I share this story with this week?
- Pray for each other.

The following week take turns at the beginning to ask if they were obedient to the scripture, and whom they shared the story with. The more you read, the more you will want to worship God. Take time to pray and sing songs of worship to God. Youtube is a great resource for worship songs. The numbers in the Journey to Truth logos correspond to the relevant episode of that theme or story.

### Stories

#### Perfect Beginning

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10. New Birth and Salvation

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12. Abiding

13. Lord's Supper & Prayer

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# Perfect Beginning

## 1. Creation

Taken from Genesis 1 & 2.

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

<sup>3</sup>And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. <sup>4</sup>God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light 'day', and the darkness he called 'night'. And there was evening, and there was morning – the first day.

<sup>6</sup>And God said, 'Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.' <sup>7</sup>So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. <sup>8</sup>God called the vault 'sky'. And there was evening, and there was morning – the second day.

<sup>9</sup>And God said, 'Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.' And it was so. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry ground 'land', and the gathered waters he called 'seas'. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>11</sup>Then God said, 'Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.' And it was so. <sup>12</sup>The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening, and there was morning – the third day.

<sup>14</sup>And God said, 'Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, <sup>15</sup>and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth.' And it was so. <sup>16</sup>God made two great lights – the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. <sup>17</sup>God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, <sup>18</sup>to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup>And there was evening, and there was morning – the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup>And God said, 'Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.' <sup>21</sup>So God created the great creatures of the sea and every

living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup>God blessed them and said, 'Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.' <sup>23</sup>And there was evening, and there was morning – the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup>And God said, 'Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.' And it was so. <sup>25</sup>God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup>Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.'

<sup>27</sup>So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup>God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'

<sup>29</sup>Then God said, 'I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. <sup>30</sup>And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground – everything that has the breath of life in it – I give every green plant for food.' And it was so.

<sup>31</sup>God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning – the sixth day.

**2** Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

<sup>3</sup>By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. <sup>4</sup>Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.





# Tragic Corruption

## 2. Adam and Eve and the Fall

*Taken from Genesis 2 & 3.*

<sup>15</sup>The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. <sup>16</sup>And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; <sup>17</sup>but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.'

<sup>18</sup>The Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.'

<sup>19</sup>Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup>So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. <sup>21</sup>So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. <sup>22</sup>Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

<sup>23</sup>The man said,

'This is now bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called "woman",  
for she was taken out of man.'

<sup>24</sup>That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

<sup>25</sup>Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

**3** Now the snake was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God really say, "You must not eat from any tree in the garden"?''

<sup>2</sup>The woman said to the snake, 'We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>but God did say, "You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die."''

<sup>4</sup>'You will not certainly die,' the snake said to the woman. <sup>5</sup>'For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'

<sup>6</sup>When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realised that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

<sup>8</sup>Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the Lord God called to the man, 'Where are you?'

<sup>10</sup>He answered, 'I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.'

<sup>11</sup>And he said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?'

<sup>12</sup>The man said, 'The woman you put here with me – she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.'

<sup>13</sup>Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this you have done?'

The woman said, 'The snake deceived me, and I ate.'

<sup>14</sup>So the Lord God said to the snake, 'Because you have done this,

'Cursed are you above all livestock  
and all wild animals!  
You will crawl on your belly  
and you will eat dust  
all the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup>And I will put enmity  
between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and hers;  
he will crush your head,  
and you will strike his heel.'

<sup>16</sup>To the woman he said,

'I will make your pains in childbearing very severe;  
with painful labour you will give birth to children.  
Your desire will be for your husband,  
and he will rule over you.'

<sup>17</sup>To Adam he said, 'Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, "You must not eat from it,"

'Cursed is the ground because of you;  
through painful toil you will eat food from it  
all the days of your life.

<sup>18</sup>It will produce thorns and thistles for you,  
and you will eat the plants of the field.

<sup>19</sup>By the sweat of your brow  
you will eat your food  
until you return to the ground,  
since from it you were taken;  
for dust you are  
and to dust you will return.'

<sup>20</sup>Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

<sup>21</sup>The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. <sup>22</sup>And the Lord God said, 'The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live for ever.' <sup>23</sup>So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. <sup>24</sup>After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life

# God's Plan of Redemption and Salvation

## 3. Abraham's Faith

Taken from Genesis 15 & 22.



**15** After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision:

'Do not be afraid, Abram.  
I am your shield,  
your very great reward.'

<sup>2</sup>But Abram said, 'Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?' <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, 'You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.'

<sup>4</sup>Then the word of the Lord came to him: 'This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.' <sup>5</sup>He took him outside and said, 'Look up at the sky and count the stars – if indeed you can count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your offspring be.'

<sup>6</sup>Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

### Abraham tested

**22** Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, 'Abraham!'

'Here I am,' he replied.

<sup>2</sup>Then God said, 'Take your son, your only son, whom you love – Isaac – and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain that I will show you.'

<sup>3</sup>Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. <sup>4</sup>On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. <sup>5</sup>He said to his servants, 'Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.'

<sup>6</sup>Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he

himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, <sup>7</sup>Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, 'Father?'

'Yes, my son?' Abraham replied.

'The fire and wood are here,' Isaac said, 'but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?'

<sup>8</sup>Abraham answered, 'God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.' And the two of them went on together.

<sup>9</sup>When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup>Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. <sup>11</sup>But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, 'Abraham! Abraham!'

'Here I am,' he replied.

<sup>12</sup>'Do not lay a hand on the boy,' he said. 'Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.'

<sup>13</sup>Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup>So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, 'On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.'

<sup>15</sup>The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time <sup>16</sup>and said, 'I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup>I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, <sup>18</sup>and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.'

<sup>19</sup>Then Abraham returned to his servants, and they set off together for Beersheba. And Abraham stayed in Beersheba.

# God's Plan of Redemption and Salvation

## 4. Moses and the Passover

Taken from Exodus 3, 11 & 12.

This can be done in two parts: The Burning Bush, The Passover.



### Moses and the burning bush

**3** Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup>There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. <sup>3</sup>So Moses thought, 'I will go over and see this strange sight – why the bush does not burn up.'

'When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, 'Moses! Moses!'

And Moses said, 'Here I am.'

<sup>5</sup>'Do not come any closer,' God said. 'Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.' <sup>6</sup>Then he said, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

<sup>7</sup>The Lord said, 'I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. <sup>8</sup>So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey – the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. <sup>9</sup>And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. <sup>10</sup>So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.'

<sup>11</sup>But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?'

### The plague on the firstborn

**11** Now the Lord said to Moses, 'I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. After that, he will let you go from here, and when he does, he will drive you out completely. <sup>2</sup>Tell the people that men and women alike are to ask their neighbours for articles of silver and gold.' <sup>3</sup>(The Lord made the Egyptians favourably disposed towards the people, and Moses himself was highly regarded in Egypt by Pharaoh's officials and by the people.)

'So Moses said, 'This is what the Lord says: "About midnight I will go throughout Egypt. <sup>5</sup>Every firstborn son in Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, to the firstborn son

of the female slave, who is at her hand mill, and all the firstborn of the cattle as well. <sup>6</sup>There will be loud wailing throughout Egypt – worse than there has ever been or ever will be again. <sup>7</sup>But among the Israelites not a dog will bark at any person or animal." Then you will know that the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel. <sup>8</sup>All these officials of yours will come to me, bowing down before me and saying, "Go, you and all the people who follow you!" After that I will leave.' Then Moses, hot with anger, left Pharaoh.

<sup>9</sup>The Lord had said to Moses, 'Pharaoh will refuse to listen to you – so that my wonders may be multiplied in Egypt.' <sup>10</sup>Moses and Aaron performed all these wonders before Pharaoh, but the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let the Israelites go out of his country.

### The Passover

**12** The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, <sup>2</sup>'This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. <sup>3</sup>Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. <sup>4</sup>If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbour, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. <sup>5</sup>The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. <sup>6</sup>Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. <sup>7</sup>Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the door-frames of the houses where they eat the lambs. <sup>8</sup>That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. <sup>9</sup>Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water, but roast it over a fire – with the head, legs and internal organs. <sup>10</sup>Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. <sup>11</sup>This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord's Passover.

<sup>12</sup>'On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. <sup>13</sup>The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

<sup>14</sup>‘This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord – a lasting ordinance. <sup>15</sup>For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast. On the first day remove the yeast from your houses, for whoever eats anything with yeast in it from the first day until the seventh must be cut off from Israel. <sup>16</sup>On the first day hold a sacred assembly, and another one on the seventh day. Do no work at all on these days, except to prepare food for everyone to eat; that is all you may do.

<sup>17</sup>‘Celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread, because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions out of Egypt. Celebrate this day as a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. <sup>18</sup>In the first month you are to eat bread made without yeast, from the evening of the fourteenth day until the evening of the twenty-first day. <sup>19</sup>For seven days no yeast is to be found in your houses. And anyone, whether foreigner or native-born, who eats anything with yeast in it must be cut off from the community of Israel. <sup>20</sup>Eat nothing made with yeast. Wherever you live, you must eat unleavened bread.’

<sup>21</sup>Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, ‘Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. <sup>22</sup>Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the door-frame. None of you shall go out of the door of your house until morning. <sup>23</sup>When the Lord goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the door-frame and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.

<sup>24</sup>‘Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. <sup>25</sup>When you enter the land that the Lord will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. <sup>26</sup>And when your children ask you, “What does this ceremony mean to you?” <sup>27</sup>then tell them, “It is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.”’ Then the people bowed down and worshipped. <sup>28</sup>The Israelites did just what the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron.

<sup>29</sup>At midnight the Lord struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. <sup>30</sup>Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead.

## The exodus

<sup>31</sup>During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, ‘Up! Leave my people, you and the

Israelites! Go, worship the Lord as you have requested. <sup>32</sup>Take your flocks and herds, as you have said, and go. And also bless me.’

<sup>33</sup>The Egyptians urged the people to hurry and leave the country. ‘For otherwise,’ they said, ‘we will all die!’ <sup>34</sup>So the people took their dough before the yeast was added, and carried it on their shoulders in kneading troughs wrapped in clothing. <sup>35</sup>The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. <sup>36</sup>The Lord had made the Egyptians favourably disposed towards the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians.

<sup>37</sup>The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Sukkoth. There were about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children. <sup>38</sup>Many other people went up with them, and also large droves of livestock, both flocks and herds. <sup>39</sup>With the dough the Israelites had brought from Egypt, they baked loaves of unleavened bread. The dough was without yeast because they had been driven out of Egypt and did not have time to prepare food for themselves.

<sup>40</sup>Now the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt was 430 years. <sup>41</sup>At the end of the 430 years, to the very day, all the Lord’s divisions left Egypt. <sup>42</sup>Because the Lord kept vigil that night to bring them out of Egypt, on this night all the Israelites are to keep vigil to honour the Lord for the generations to come.

## Passover restrictions

<sup>43</sup>The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, ‘These are the regulations for the Passover meal:

‘No foreigner may eat it. <sup>44</sup>Any slave you have bought may eat it after you have circumcised him, <sup>45</sup>but a temporary resident or a hired worker may not eat it.

<sup>46</sup>‘It must be eaten inside the house; take none of the meat outside the house. Do not break any of the bones. <sup>47</sup>The whole community of Israel must celebrate it.

<sup>48</sup>‘A foreigner residing among you who wants to celebrate the Lord’s Passover must have all the males in his household circumcised; then he may take part like one born in the land. No uncircumcised male may eat it. <sup>49</sup>The same law applies both to the native-born and to the foreigner residing among you.’

<sup>50</sup>All the Israelites did just what the Lord had commanded Moses and Aaron. <sup>51</sup>And on that very day the Lord brought the Israelites out of Egypt by their divisions.

# God's Plan of Redemption and Salvation

## 5. Prophecy about the Saviour

*Taken from Isaiah 53.*

He grew up before him like a tender shoot,  
and like a root out of dry ground.  
He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to  
him,  
nothing in his appearance that we should  
desire him.  
<sup>3</sup>He was despised and rejected by mankind,  
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.  
Like one from whom people hide their faces  
he was despised, and we held him in low  
esteem.  
<sup>4</sup>Surely he took up our pain  
and bore our suffering,  
yet we considered him punished by God,  
stricken by him, and afflicted.  
<sup>5</sup>But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was on  
him,  
and by his wounds we are healed.  
<sup>6</sup>We all, like sheep, have gone astray,  
each of us has turned to our own way;  
and the Lord has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.  
<sup>7</sup>He was oppressed and afflicted,  
yet he did not open his mouth;  
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,  
and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.

<sup>8</sup>By oppression and judgment he was taken  
away.  
Yet who of his generation protested?  
For he was cut off from the land of the living;  
for the transgression of my people he was  
punished.  
<sup>9</sup>He was assigned a grave with the wicked,  
and with the rich in his death,  
though he had done no violence,  
nor was any deceit in his mouth.  
<sup>10</sup>Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and  
cause him to suffer,  
and though the Lord makes his life an  
offering for sin,  
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,  
and the will of the Lord will prosper in his  
hand.  
<sup>11</sup>After he has suffered,  
he will see the light of life and be satisfied;  
by his knowledge my righteous servant will  
justify many,  
and he will bear their iniquities.  
<sup>12</sup>Therefore I will give him a portion among the  
great,  
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,  
because he poured out his life unto death,  
and was numbered with the transgressors.  
For he bore the sin of many,  
and made intercession for the transgressors.

# God's Plan of Redemption and Salvation

## 6. Birth of Jesus Christ.

*Taken from Luke 1 & 2.*



### The birth of Jesus foretold

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you.'

<sup>29</sup>Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup>You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over Jacob's descendants for ever; his kingdom will never end.'

<sup>34</sup>'How will this be,' Mary asked the angel, 'since I am a virgin?'

<sup>35</sup>The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup>For no word from God will ever fail.'

<sup>38</sup>'I am the Lord's servant,' Mary answered. 'May your word to me be fulfilled.' Then the angel left her.

### The birth of Jesus

**2** In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup>(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup>So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to

Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup>He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup>and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

<sup>8</sup>And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'

<sup>13</sup>Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.'

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'

<sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

# God's Plan of Redemption and Salvation

## 7. Healing of the Paralysed Man

*Taken from Mark 2.*



### Jesus forgives and heals a paralysed man

**2** A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. <sup>2</sup>They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. <sup>3</sup>Some men came, bringing to him a paralysed man, carried by four of them. <sup>4</sup>Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. <sup>5</sup>When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralysed man, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'

<sup>6</sup>Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, <sup>7</sup>'Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?'

<sup>8</sup>Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, 'Why are you thinking these things? <sup>9</sup>Which is easier: to say to this paralysed man, "Your sins are forgiven," or to say, "Get up, take your mat and walk"? <sup>10</sup>But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.' So he said to the man, <sup>11</sup>'I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.' <sup>12</sup>He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, 'We have never seen anything like this!'

# God's Plan of Redemption and Salvation

## 8. Crucifixion

Taken from Mark 14 & 15.



### Gethsemane

<sup>32</sup>They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I pray.'<sup>33</sup>He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. <sup>34</sup>'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,' he said to them. 'Stay here and keep watch.'

<sup>35</sup>Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. <sup>36</sup>'Abba, Father,' he said, 'everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.'

<sup>37</sup>Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. 'Simon,' he said to Peter, 'are you asleep? Couldn't you keep watch for one hour?' <sup>38</sup>Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.'

<sup>39</sup>Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. <sup>40</sup>When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him.

<sup>41</sup>Returning the third time, he said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. <sup>42</sup>Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!'

### Jesus arrested

<sup>43</sup>Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders.

<sup>44</sup>Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: 'The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.'<sup>45</sup>Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, 'Rabbi!' and kissed him. <sup>46</sup>The men seized Jesus and arrested him. <sup>47</sup>Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

<sup>48</sup>'Am I leading a rebellion,' said Jesus, 'that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? <sup>49</sup>Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.'<sup>50</sup>Then everyone deserted him and fled.

<sup>51</sup>A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, <sup>52</sup>he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.

### Jesus before the Sanhedrin

<sup>53</sup>They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law came

together. <sup>54</sup>Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.

<sup>55</sup>The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. <sup>56</sup>Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree.

<sup>57</sup>Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: <sup>58</sup>'We heard him say, "I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands."' <sup>59</sup>Yet even then their testimony did not agree.

<sup>60</sup>Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, 'Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?' <sup>61</sup>But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.

Again the high priest asked him, 'Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?'

<sup>62</sup>'I am,' said Jesus. 'And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.'

<sup>63</sup>The high priest tore his clothes. 'Why do we need any more witnesses?' he asked. <sup>64</sup>'You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?'

They all condemned him as worthy of death. <sup>65</sup>Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, 'Prophesy!' And the guards took him and beat him.

### Peter disowns Jesus

<sup>66</sup>While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. <sup>67</sup>When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him.

'You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus,' she said.

<sup>68</sup>But he denied it. 'I don't know or understand what you're talking about,' he said, and went out into the entrance.

<sup>69</sup>When the servant-girl saw him there, she said again to those standing round them, 'This fellow is one of them.'<sup>70</sup>Again he denied it.

After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, 'Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.'

<sup>71</sup>He began to call down curses, and he swore to them, 'I don't know this man you're talking about.'

<sup>72</sup>Immediately the cock crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: 'Before the cock crows twice you will disown me three times.' And he broke down and wept.

## Jesus before Pilate

**15** Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate.

<sup>2</sup>‘Are you the king of the Jews?’ asked Pilate.

‘You have said so,’ Jesus replied.

<sup>3</sup>The chief priests accused him of many things. <sup>4</sup>So again Pilate asked him, ‘Aren’t you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of.’

<sup>5</sup>But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.

<sup>6</sup>Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested. <sup>7</sup>A man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder in the uprising. <sup>8</sup>The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

<sup>9</sup>‘Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?’ asked Pilate, <sup>10</sup>knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. <sup>11</sup>But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to get Pilate to release Barabbas instead.

<sup>12</sup>‘What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?’ Pilate asked them.

<sup>13</sup>‘Crucify him!’ they shouted.

<sup>14</sup>‘Why? What crime has he committed?’ asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, ‘Crucify him!’

<sup>15</sup>Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

## The soldiers mock Jesus

<sup>16</sup>The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. <sup>17</sup>They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. <sup>18</sup>And they began to call out to him, ‘Hail, king of the Jews!’ <sup>19</sup>Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spat on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. <sup>20</sup>And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

## The crucifixion of Jesus

<sup>21</sup>A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. <sup>22</sup>They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means ‘the place of the skull’). <sup>23</sup>Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. <sup>24</sup>And they crucified him.

Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

<sup>25</sup>It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. <sup>26</sup>The written notice of the charge against him read: the king of the Jews.

<sup>27</sup>They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>28</sup>Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, ‘So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, <sup>29</sup>come down from the cross and save yourself!’ <sup>31</sup>In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. ‘He saved others,’ they said, ‘but he can’t save himself!’ <sup>32</sup>Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.’ Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

## The death of Jesus

<sup>33</sup>At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>34</sup>And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ‘*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*’ (which means ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’).

<sup>35</sup>When some of those standing near heard this, they said, ‘Listen, he’s calling Elijah.’

<sup>36</sup>Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. ‘Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down,’ he said.

<sup>37</sup>With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

<sup>38</sup>The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. <sup>39</sup>And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, ‘Surely this man was the Son of God!’

<sup>40</sup>Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. <sup>41</sup>In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.

## The burial of Jesus

<sup>42</sup>It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, <sup>43</sup>Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus’ body. <sup>44</sup>Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. <sup>45</sup>When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. <sup>46</sup>So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. <sup>47</sup>Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.

# God's Plan of Redemption and Salvation

## 9. Resurrection

*Taken from Luke 24.*



Jesus has risen

**24** On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. <sup>2</sup>They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup>but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup>While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. <sup>5</sup>In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup>He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: <sup>7</sup>"The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again."<sup>8</sup> Then they remembered his words.

<sup>9</sup>When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. <sup>10</sup>It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup>But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. <sup>12</sup>Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

### On the road to Emmaus

<sup>13</sup>Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup>As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; <sup>16</sup>but they were kept from recognising him.

<sup>17</sup>He asked them, 'What are you discussing together as you walk along?'

They stood still, their faces downcast. <sup>18</sup>One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, 'Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?'

<sup>19</sup>'What things?' he asked.

'About Jesus of Nazareth,' they replied. 'He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed

before God and all the people. <sup>20</sup>The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; <sup>21</sup>but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. <sup>22</sup>In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning <sup>23</sup>but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.'

<sup>25</sup>He said to them, 'How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup>Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?' <sup>27</sup>And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

<sup>28</sup>As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going further. <sup>29</sup>But they urged him strongly, 'Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them.

<sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him, and he disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They asked each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?'

<sup>33</sup>They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together <sup>34</sup>and saying, 'It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.'<sup>35</sup> Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognised by them when he broke the bread.

### Jesus appears to the disciples

<sup>36</sup>While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'

<sup>37</sup>They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. <sup>38</sup>He said to them, 'Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? <sup>39</sup>Look at my hands and my feet. It is I

myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.'

<sup>40</sup>When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. <sup>41</sup>And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, 'Do you have anything here to eat?' <sup>42</sup>They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup>and he took it and ate it in their presence.

<sup>44</sup>He said to them, 'This is what I told you while I was still with you: everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.'

<sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup>He told them, 'This is what is written: the Messiah will

suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.'

### The ascension of Jesus

<sup>50</sup>When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup>While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>Then they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. <sup>53</sup>And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

# Happily Ever After

## 10. New Birth and Salvation

Taken from John 3.



### Jesus teaches Nicodemus

**3** Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus at night and said, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.’

<sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, ‘Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.’

<sup>4</sup> ‘How can someone be born when they are old?’ Nicodemus asked. ‘Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!’

<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, ‘Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. <sup>7</sup>You should not be surprised at my saying, “You must be born again.” <sup>8</sup>The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.’

<sup>9</sup> ‘How can this be?’ Nicodemus asked.

<sup>10</sup> ‘You are Israel’s teacher,’ said Jesus, ‘and do you not understand these

things?’ <sup>11</sup>Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. <sup>12</sup>I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven – the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.’

<sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup>Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. <sup>19</sup>This is the verdict: light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

# Happily Ever After

## 11. Baptism and Repentance

*Taken from Acts 2 & 9.*



<sup>37</sup> When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’

<sup>38</sup> Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.’

<sup>40</sup> With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, ‘Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.’ <sup>41</sup> Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.



### Philip and the Ethiopian

<sup>26</sup> Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Go south to the road – the desert road – that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ <sup>27</sup> So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means ‘queen of the Ethiopians’). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, <sup>28</sup> and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. <sup>29</sup> The Spirit told Philip, ‘Go to that chariot and stay near it.’

<sup>30</sup> Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ Philip asked.

<sup>31</sup> ‘How can I,’ he said, ‘unless someone explains it to me?’ So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

<sup>32</sup> This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

‘He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,  
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.  
Who can speak of his descendants?  
For his life was taken from the earth.’

<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, ‘Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?’ <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

<sup>36</sup> As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptised?’ <sup>38</sup> And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptised him. <sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and travelled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.



# Happily Ever After

## 12. Abiding

*Taken from John 15.*

### The vine and the branches

**15** <sup>1</sup>I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup>He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup>You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

<sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>This is to my Father's glory, that

you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

<sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup>My command is this: love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup>I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. <sup>17</sup>This is my command: love each other.

# Happily Ever After

## 13. Lord's Supper & Prayer

*Taken from 1 Corinthians 11 & Matthew 6.*

<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: the Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, <sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.' <sup>25</sup> In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.' <sup>26</sup> For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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<sup>5</sup> 'And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. <sup>7</sup> And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. <sup>8</sup> Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

<sup>9</sup> 'This, then, is how you should pray:

“Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,

<sup>10</sup> your kingdom come,  
your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup> Give us today our daily bread.

<sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.”

<sup>14</sup> For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

## Happily Ever After

### 14. Growing God's Kingdom

*Taken from Luke 10. This can be done in two parts.*

#### Jesus sends out the seventy-two

**10** After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. <sup>2</sup>He told them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. <sup>3</sup>Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. <sup>4</sup>Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

<sup>5</sup>'When you enter a house, first say, "Peace to this house." <sup>6</sup>If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. <sup>7</sup>Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

<sup>8</sup>'When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. <sup>9</sup>Heal those there who are ill and tell

them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you."<sup>10</sup> But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say,<sup>11</sup> "Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: the kingdom of God has come near."<sup>12</sup> I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

<sup>16</sup>'Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me.'

<sup>17</sup>The seventy-two returned with joy and said, 'Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.'

<sup>18</sup>He replied, 'I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. <sup>19</sup>I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. <sup>20</sup>However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.'

#### The parable of the good Samaritan

<sup>25</sup>On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he asked, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?'

<sup>26</sup>'What is written in the Law?' he replied. 'How do you read it?'

<sup>27</sup>He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, "Love your neighbour as yourself."'

<sup>28</sup>'You have answered correctly,' Jesus replied. 'Do this and you will live.'

<sup>29</sup>But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?'

<sup>30</sup>In reply Jesus said: 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went

away, leaving him half-dead. <sup>31</sup>A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup>So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup>But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. <sup>34</sup>He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup>The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. "Look after him," he said, "and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have."

<sup>36</sup>'Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?'

<sup>37</sup>The expert in the law replied, 'The one who had mercy on him.'

Jesus told him, 'Go and do likewise.'