

## **Biblenotes**

**The entire Holy Bible is summarized with easy-to-read review notes and keypoints, useful for everyone and a resource for Bible study.**

FORWARD/SOURCES

SUMMARY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

SUMMARY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

KEYPOINTS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

KEYPOINTS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

OLD TESTAMENT NOTES – Book-by-Book

NEW TESTAMENT NOTES – Book-by-Book

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## **Forward:**

### **The Important Points of the Bible are in this Review.**

Everyone should learn something about the Bible, regardless of his religious preferences. The Bible presents a historical religion and is very difficult to read and understand. For these reasons, these Bible Review Notes were written as a compilation of important points from the viewpoint of a scientist/engineer/researcher. There has been no attempt to discuss or debate these points, merely to present them in summarized fashion.

BibleNotes was published on the web March 12, 1997. The summaries took one year to complete. Over one million readers have used this site for information, education and review.

BibleNotes has been awarded a Five Star Rating in 2000 by Schoolzone's panel of over 400 expert teachers.

The Hot Site for the day was awarded to BibleNotes on June 16, 1999 by USA Today.

## Sources:

*The Holy Bible, New International Version* (International Bible Society; The Zondervan Corporation, Grand Rapids, Michigan; 1991) was used for quoted verses for the great majority of this work: See [Notice of Copyright](#). Also *The Holy Bible, King James Version* (American Bible Society, New York; 1992) was used for some references that are better known in the wording of the King James Version. When not stated, the verses are from *The Holy Bible, New International Version (NIV)*. All verses and references are given in standard form of Book, Chapter: Verse -- as in this example:

### **1 Kings 11:5-7**

*where*

- 1 Kings = Book
- 11 = Chapter
- 5-7 = Verses 5 through 7

*The Living Bible* (Tyndale House Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois; 1972) was also used for reading as an aid in this work, because of its simplicity in wording/paraphrases.

The 39 books of the Old Testament are reviewed in order of presentation in the *NIV* in OLD TESTAMENT NOTES -- Book-by-Book. The 27 books of the New Testament are reviewed in order of presentation in the *NIV* in NEW TESTAMENT NOTES -- Book-by-Book. Additionally both the Old and New Testaments are reviewed in an overall short summary.

## **Summary of the Old Testament:**

After Adam and Eve, the Hebrew lineage truly began with Abraham (about 1900 B.C.).

### **Abraham's Personal Covenant** (contract) with God (Genesis 12, 15, 17)

God said that Abraham would be the father of "many nations" and that Abraham and his descendants should circumcise the male babies on the eighth day after birth to seal the contract.

From Abraham came Isaac, then Jacob (whose name was changed to **Israel**), who had twelve sons, giving rise to the twelve "tribes" of Israel. One of Jacob's sons, Joseph, was sold into slavery in Egypt, leading to Jacob and his family coming to Egypt and later their descendants becoming slaves in Egypt. Moses (about 1250 B.C.) led the Exodus (freeing of Israelites from bondage) from Egypt and the Covenant of God with the Hebrew nation was made:

### **Hebrew People's Covenant (Old Covenant) with God** (Exodus 34:27-28)

God gave the people the Ten Commandments for the people of Israel to obey in order that He be their God.

There were constant problems with the Jewish people believing in idols and other "gods." Finally the people reached the Promised Land and settled there after Moses' death. "Judges" led the people until about 1000 B.C. when Kings were installed, yet these were still thought of as people doing God's bidding (not as other nations' kings which had all power being theirs alone). King David and King Solomon led a united, strong country -- which became divided after Solomon's death:

**Southern Kingdom** -- called Judah, though consisting of both the "tribes" of Judah and Benjamin; this group included the city of **Jerusalem**. The Southern Kingdom fell to the Babylonians in 586 B.C.

**Northern Kingdom**-- called Israel, consisting of the other 10 "tribes"; this group included Samaria. The Northern Kingdom fell to the Assyrians around 722 B.C.

Although the Hebrews rebuilt the Temple in Jerusalem in 520 B.C., they never regained strength and were eventually conquered by Rome.

The struggles of the Hebrew people and their dispersion from their country were thought to be from their belief in idols and heathen "gods" (mostly resulting from their marrying non-Jews who brought in outside religions). The prophets (including Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel) were spokesmen for God to the people and to their leaders: they often disagreed with the men in power and had no fear of expressing their messages from God -- generally directing against the idolatry and "false gods."

There are many points of wisdom (Books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job). Poems and hymns of the Hebrew people are expressed in Psalms. In the latter writings, there was a general belief in **the**

**"last days"** (of the future around their time or at a time to come) and of **the Messiah** who would lead them with great power.

### **Summary of the New Testament:**

**Jesus Christ's life** (from the virgin birth to His ministry, crucifixion, and resurrection) is the basis for the four *Gospels* -- the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Jesus taught to love others as much as yourself and to love God as the one and only God. Jesus performed many miracles and healings, described the Kingdom of Heaven, and told people how to live as God wished them to live. Jesus' many story-illustrations were used to direct the people with things familiar to them. Jesus selected twelve disciples (since there were 12 "tribes" of Israel) to help Him and to spread the Word of God. Conflict with religious leaders (Pharisees and Sadducees) led to His crucifixion (death on the cross) after it was approved by Roman leaders (At the time of Jesus, Rome ruled the Jewish people, who longed for freedom.). Jesus Christ's death/sacrifice led to the:

**New Covenant** (contract) of God with all people (Jews and Gentiles [non-Jews])

(1) Written in their minds and hearts

(2) All who believe on Him are forgiven by Jesus Christ's sacrifice (by His blood) to take away their sins.

Refer to:

- Jeremiah 31:33 (Old Testament reference)
- Matthew 26:28
- Mark 14:24
- Luke 22:20
- Romans 8:3
- Philippians 3:9
- Hebrews 8:10
- Hebrews 9:15
- Hebrews 10:9-10

which is further described by

#### **John 3:16-- (from King James' Version)**

*"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

The requirements for Christians: are given in 1 John 3:23

"And this is His command: to believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and to love one another..."

After Christ's death and resurrection, Paul became converted to Christianity and extended the teachings to the Gentiles (Greeks, Romans, and other non-Jews), accounting for the early, rapid growth of Christianity in spite of great persecution of the believers. Jesus' death and resurrection and His expected return at **the "last days"** were told by Paul. Life after death was described by Paul (1 Corinthians 15:35-58), with a new, non-earthly body. The Revelation and other writings address **the "last days"** with Christians given life in heaven and others given to "the Lake of Fire" (hell).

## Key Points of the Old Testament:

The key points listed below list the chapters to read in the Bible for each point. The links go back to the summary pages.

• <b>First Sin Story</b> (Adam and Eve)	<a href="#">Genesis 2, 3</a>
• <b>Noah and his Ark</b>	<a href="#">Genesis 6-8</a>
• Tower of Babel (causing differing languages)	<a href="#">Genesis 11</a>
• <b>Abraham's Personal Covenant with God</b>	<a href="#">Genesis 12,15 &amp; 17</a>
• Test of Abraham (to sacrifice Isaac)	<a href="#">Genesis 22</a>
• Isaac's Blessing (given to Jacob, not Esau, by trickery)	<a href="#">Genesis 27</a>
• Joseph's Coat (and his being sold to slavery in Egypt)	<a href="#">Genesis 37</a>
• Burning Bush (God appoints Moses to lead Israel)	<a href="#">Exodus 3:2-4:17</a>
• <b>Passover</b> (Israel's first born children were saved)	<a href="#">Exodus 12:21-27</a>
• <b>TEN COMMANDMENTS (Old Covenant)</b>	<a href="#">Exodus 20-3-17;</a>
• Jericho (walls crumble to allow Hebrew battle victory)	<a href="#">Joshua 6</a>
• Samson and Delilah	<a href="#">Judges 13-16</a>
• David and Goliath	<a href="#">1 Samuel 16,17</a>
• David and Bathsheba	<a href="#">2 Samuel 11</a>
• King Solomon's Baby Decision	<a href="#">1 Kings 3:16-27</a>
• Elijah (and his showdown with prophets of Baal)	<a href="#">1 Kings 17-19</a>
• Elisha (and his miracles)	<a href="#">2 Kings 2-7</a>
• Esther (saving the Jews from destruction)	<a href="#">Esther</a>
• Job (his suffering, although a good person)	<a href="#">Job</a>

## Very Famous Psalms (poems, hymns, prayers)

- [Psalms 118:24](#)
- [Psalms 23 \(most remembered\)](#)

• Wisdom notes/ethics	<a href="#">Proverbs</a>
• Ecclesiastes Very Famous Section	<a href="#">Ecclesiastes 3:1-8</a>
• Isaiah's Very Famous Statement	<a href="#">Isaiah 2:4</a>
• Jeremiah's Famous Point	<a href="#">Jeremiah 32:19</a>
• Valley of the Dry Bones	<a href="#">Ezekiel 37</a>
• Ezekiel's Famous Point	<a href="#">Ezekiel 18:2</a>
• The Fiery Furnace (Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego)	<a href="#">Daniel 3</a>
• The Lion's Den (Daniel saved from lions)	<a href="#">Daniel 6</a>
• Jonah and the Whale	<a href="#">Jonah 1,2</a>

## Points on the "last days"-----

- [Isaiah 2,9,13,24,25,29,30,34,35,40,60,65,66](#)
- [Jeremiah 25,30,31 \(the "New Covenant"\)](#)
- [Ezekiel 20,30,38](#)
- [Daniel 8,10,12](#)
- [Micah 4](#)
- [Zephaniah 1,2,3](#)
- [Zechariah 2,12,14](#)
- [Malachi 3,4](#)

## Points on "the Messiah"-----

- [Isaiah 7,9,11,42,52,53](#)
- [Jeremiah 23,33](#)
- [Ezekiel 34](#)
- [Daniel 7,9](#)
- [Micah 5](#)
- [Zechariah 3,6,9,10](#)
- [Malachi 4](#)

## Key Points of the New Testament:

The key points listed below list the chapters to read in the Bible for each point. The links go back to the summary pages.

### Jesus Life Story-----Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

- Jesus' Birth
  - [Matthew 2](#)
  - [Luke 2](#)
- Jesus at Twelve Years Old
  - [Luke 2](#)
- Jesus' Baptism
  - [Matthew 3](#)
  - [Mark 1](#)
  - [Luke 3](#)
- Jesus' Transfiguration
  - [Matthew 17](#)
  - [Mark 9](#)
  - [Luke 9](#)
- Jesus in Jerusalem
  - [Matthew 21](#)
  - [Mark 11](#)
  - [Luke 19](#)
- Jesus' Last Supper
  - [Matthew 26](#)
  - [Mark 14](#)
  - [Luke 22](#)
  - [John 13](#)
- Jesus' Trial
  - [Matthew 26,27](#)
  - [Mark 14,15](#)
  - [Luke 22,23](#)
  - [John 18,19](#)
- Jesus' Crucifixion
  - [Matthew 27](#)
  - [Mark 15](#)
  - [Luke 23](#)
  - [John 19](#)
- Jesus' Resurrection
  - [Matthew 28](#)
  - [Mark 16](#)
  - [Luke 24](#)
  - [John 20](#)
- Jesus' Kingdom of Heaven
  - [Matthew 5,8,10,12,13,18,19](#)

- [Mark 4](#)
  - [Luke 6,12,13,17](#)
- Jesus' Statements on How to Live
  - [Matthew 5,6,7,18,23](#)
  - [Mark 12](#)
- Jesus' Story-Illustrations
  - [Matthew 7,13,18,20,22,23,25](#)
  - [Mark 12](#)
  - [Luke 8,11,12,14,15,16,18,19,20](#)
  - [John 10](#)
- Stories About Jesus
  - [Mark 2](#)
  - [Luke 5,7,10,17,18,19](#)
  - [John 2,3,4,6,9](#)
- Lazarus Raised from the Dead
  - [John 11](#)
- Jesus' Healings/Miracles
  - [Matthew 8,9,14,15,20](#)
  - [Mark 4,5,6,7,8,10](#)
  - [Luke 5,6,7,8,9,13,18](#)
  - [John 4,5,6](#)
- Jesus' Other Main Points
  - [Matthew 11,12,16,17,20,25,26](#)
  - [Mark 3,6,10,12](#)
  - [Luke 12,13,14,16,17,20](#)
  - [John 5,8,10,12](#)
- Jesus' Pharisees/Sadducees Disagreements
  - [Matthew 12,15,22](#)
  - [Mark 7,10](#)
  - [Luke 5,6,11,20](#)
  - [John 8](#)
- Jesus/Disciples Interactions
  - [Matthew 5,6,7](#)
  - [Mark 8,9,10,12,13](#)
  - [Luke 6,9,10,18](#)
  - [John 14,15,16,17](#)
- Jesus' Points on the "last days"
  - [Matthew 24](#)
  - [Mark 13](#)
  - [Luke 17,21](#)
  - [John 5,12](#)

## **12 Disciples/Apostles:**

- [Matthew 10:2-4](#)
- [Luke 6:13-16](#)

**New Covenant of God with the People:**

- [Matthew 26:28](#)
- [Mark 14:24](#)
- [Luke 22:20](#)
- [Romans 8:3](#)
- [Philippians 3:9](#)
- [Hebrews 8:10](#)
- [Hebrews 9:15](#)
- [Hebrews 10:9-10](#)

**Sermon on the Mount**----- [Matthew 5,6,7](#)  
**The Beatitudes**----- [Matthew 5:3-12](#)  
**The Lord's Prayer** ----- [Matthew 6:9-13](#)  
**Very Often-Quoted Verse**----- [John 3:16](#)

**"In Remembrance" of Jesus (Communion/Eucharist):**

- [Matthew 26:26-29](#)
- [Mark 14:22-24](#)
- [Luke 22:19-20](#)
- [First Corinthians 10:16-17; 11:23-26](#)

**The Great Gift:**

- [Matthew 26:6-13](#)
- [Mark 14:1-9](#)
- [John 12:1-8](#)

"Doubting Thomas"----- [John 20:25-29](#)

Jesus after Crucifixion

[Acts 1](#)

Disciples/Apostles Miracles:

[Acts 9,16,20](#)

Stephen Martyred----- [Acts 7](#)

**Paul's Way to Pray**----- [Ephesians 5:20](#)

**Paul's Dead-to-Life Questions** (Seed Yields Plant):

[1 Corinthians 15:35-58](#)

Paul's Christian Soldiers

- [Ephesians 6:10-17](#)
- [First Thessalonians 5:8](#)

Famous Statements from Paul

- [Romans 8:31](#)
- [First Corinthians 10:31](#)
- [First Corinthians 13:13](#)
- [Galatians 6:7](#)
- [First Thessalonians 5:1-2](#)
- [Second Timothy 4:7](#)

#### Conversion of Saul (renamed Paul) to Christianity

- [Acts 9,22](#)

#### Paul's Ministry and Growth of Christianity

- Main Points
  - [Romans \(main Christian thoughts\) 5,6,8,11,12,13,14,15](#)
  - [First Corinthians 7,8,10,11,14,15](#)
  - [Second Corinthians 3,5](#)
  - [Galatians 2,5,6](#)
  - [Ephesians 5,6](#)
  - [First Timothy 2](#)
- Paul's Points on the "last days"
  - [Romans 11](#)
  - [First Corinthians 1,7,10,15](#)
  - [Ephesians 1](#)
  - [First Thessalonians 4,5](#)
  - [Second Thessalonians 1,2](#)
- Paul's Other Points
  - [First Corinthians 6,10,11,12,13,16](#)
  - [Second Corinthians 5,7](#)
  - [Ephesians 4](#)
  - [Philippians 3,4](#)
  - [Colossians 1,2,3](#)
  - [First Thessalonians 4,5](#)
  - [First Timothy 6](#)
- Paul's Predestination Beliefs
  - [Romans 8,9](#)
  - [First Corinthians 1,2](#)
  - [Ephesians 1](#)

Jesus Likened to Melchizedek-----[Hebrews 7:24-25](#)

**Command for Christians**-----[1 John 3:23](#)

God is Love-----[1 John 4:8,9](#)

Description of John's Vision of the "last days"-----[Revelation](#)

- Judgment: [Revelation 20:11-15](#)
- New Jerusalem (i.e., Heaven): [Revelation 21,22](#)

Further Points on the "last days"  
[Second Peter 3](#)

### **Old Testament Notes – Book-by-Book:**

The Old Testament of the Bible covers mostly the time from around 1500 B.C. to 100 A.D. The first five books are the Pentateuch (or the Books of Moses; or the Torah) and are sacred to Jews, Christians, and Moslems.

## **Genesis (means beginning):**

At first, God (also called Yahweh or Jehovah) said, "Let there be light" (Genesis 1:3). Then... the heavens and earth -- all taking six days. God rested on the seventh day and declared it holy, giving rise to the observance of a holy day. God created the first man (Adam) and then the first woman (Eve) from one of the ribs of the man.

**First Sin Story** (Genesis 2,3): God provided the Garden of Eden, telling Adam and Eve not to eat fruit from the Tree of Conscience, since it provided awareness of right and wrong, good and bad, and caused eventual death. A snake convinced Eve to eat the fruit. This act condemned mankind to die and womankind to have painful childbirth, because God's instructions were not followed.

### **Lineage of Adam and Eve:**

Cain was their first child, followed by Abel. Cain was jealous of Abel and eventually killed him. Adam died at 930 years old. The oldest man was Methuselah, living to 969.

### **Noah:**

A large population occurred and humans had become wicked, so God told Noah that He was to destroy the life but that Noah (the truly righteous person of the time) would be saved, along with his family and a pair of each kind of bird and animal and reptile. Noah built a boat according to God's instruction ([Genesis 6:15] 450 ft. long, 75 ft. wide, 45 ft. high). Noah, at 600 years old, boarded the boat, and it rained for forty days and forty nights. After 150 days, the boat rested upon the mountains of Ararat. After almost six months more, Noah left the boat to restore the people and animals of the earth. Noah had three sons (Shem, Ham, and Japheth): from these three sons of Noah came all the nations of the earth. God promised to never send another flood to destroy the earth.

### **Tower of Babel** (Genesis 11):

A temple-tower was to be built, rising high to the skies, to demonstrate mankind's power. God gave people different languages to prevent this being built.

### **Abram/Abraham:**

God promised Abram (75 years old at the time -- possibly around 1900 B.C.) that He would cause him to be "the father of many nations." When Abram was 99 years old, God changed his name to Abraham (meaning Father of Nations) and changed his wife's name from Sarai to Sarah (meaning Princess). God told Abraham that He would give all the land of Canaan to Abraham and his children, forever. As part of the contract with God, Abraham was to circumcise every male (cutting off the foreskin of the penis) [Genesis 17: 10-12] on the eighth day after birth. God then told Abraham that he (at 100 years old) would have a son with his wife, Sarah (90 years old), and she gave birth to Isaac (meaning "he laughs").

**Sodom and Gomorrah** (two cities that were wicked): God allowed Lot (a nephew of Abram) and his family to leave while God destroyed the cities. Lot's wife looked back at the cities, against instructions of God, and was turned into a "pillar of salt" (Genesis 19:26).

Abraham lived and prospered in the Philistine country. A well named Beersheba ("Well of the Oath") was one of many that he established.

**Test of Abraham** (Genesis 22): Abraham was asked by God to sacrifice his son, Isaac, and Abraham was willing to carry out God's wishes. God stopped him from killing Isaac, and Abraham sacrificed a ram to God.

Abraham and Sarah were both buried near Hebron in the land of Canaan: this burial place became a prime one for the oldest persons of Biblical history.

**Isaac:**

Isaac married Rebekah and had two twin sons -- Jacob and Esau. Esau was a very hairy person who liked the outdoors and hunting. Jacob was not hairy and liked to cook, not to hunt. Isaac favored Esau; Rebekah favored Jacob. Jacob traded food to Esau for his "birthright," and Jacob and Rebekah tricked Isaac into giving his blessing to Jacob instead of Esau (Genesis 27). Jacob wore furry material so that his near-blind father would "feel" him to be like hairy Esau.

Jacob left his father to go find a mate to not marry one of "the daughters of the Canaanites." He met Rachel and worked for her father for seven years to marry her. He was tricked into marrying her sister, Leah, first, and had to work an additional seven years to marry Rachel. Finally, he left his father-in-law, Laban, and went back to where his brother Esau lived, Edom. Jacob was given a friendly reception by his brother Esau. Jacob moved to Bethel, where God told him his name would be changed from Jacob (meaning "he grasps the heel") to Israel (meaning "he struggles with God") [Genesis 35:10]. Rachel, Jacob's wife, had two sons -- Joseph and Benjamin. Jacob had twelve sons in all, leading to the twelve "tribes" of Israel.

**Coat of Many Colors:**

Joseph, 17, was given a "richly ornamented (i.e., bright-colored) robe" (Genesis 37:3) by his father, Jacob. His brothers were very jealous of him. They threw him into an empty well, then sold Joseph into slavery (going to Egypt). Joseph's brothers dipped his robe with goat's blood, convincing his father that he had died. In Egypt, Joseph became a great leader there by telling the fortunes of several men and eventually the Pharaoh. Reading the Pharaoh's dream, he predicted seven years of harvest followed by seven years of famine. The Pharaoh made Joseph leader of the project to prepare for these fourteen years. Joseph later met his brothers when they needed to buy food in the seven years of famine. He tricked them at first, but later let them all come to Egypt and live in the land of Goshen in Egypt.

## **Exodus (meaning "exit" or "going away from"):**

The beginning of 70 of Jacob's family in Egypt grew to a large nation, filling the land of Goshen. So the Egyptians made slaves of the Israelites (also called Hebrews). One of the sons of Jacob was named Levi. Out of the family of Levi, at a time when the Pharaoh had tried to kill all Israeli babies, the baby Moses was born. He was raised by Pharaoh's daughter. When Moses was grown, he killed an Egyptian that was beating a Hebrew. Moses then had to leave Egypt to avoid being killed. Moses went to the land of Midian, where he met Reuel (also called Jethro) and married his daughter Zipporah.

### **Burning Bush (Exodus 3:2):**

An Angel of the Lord appeared to Moses as "flames of fire from within a bush." Then God told him to be the person to free the Hebrews from Egypt. Moses begged to not be the person chosen as this spokesman. The Lord insisted and told him to throw down his staff (i.e., shepherd's rod) onto the ground -- at which point it was turned into a snake. The Lord told Moses to put his hand into his cloak (i.e., robe); it became "leprous, like snow" and then became all right when put into the cloak and withdrawn again. The Lord then told him that water would also be turned into blood. These things would allow the people in Egypt to know that Moses was indeed sent by God to them. Moses begged God further, so God allowed Moses' brother Aaron to be the spokesman to the people with Moses being the messenger from God.

Moses (80 years old) and Aaron (83 years old) went to Pharaoh and requested that the Hebrews be allowed to worship God for three days in the wilderness. Pharaoh did not allow this, so Moses and Aaron had to demonstrate the power of God with miracles and finally plagues, such as frogs, flies, hail, and locusts. Finally, (Exodus 11) God told Moses that He would send the "Destroyer" to kill the firstborn (i.e., oldest) sons of all in Egypt, except for those oldest sons of the people of Israel. The Hebrews were instructed by Moses to kill a lamb and coat the sides and tops of their doorframes with the blood of the lamb, so that the "Destroyer" would pass over their home (Genesis 12:23) -- hence the celebration thereafter of the Passover (celebrated forevermore, always around late March or first of April by our calendar). Pharaoh let the Hebrews go, after their 430 years in Egypt. Moses took the bones of Joseph with him out of Egypt. Pharaoh went after them when he realized that they were not coming back after their leaving to worship their God. The sea opened up for the Hebrews and they walked on dry ground, whereas it closed onto the following Egyptians, killing the army of Pharaoh. The time of the Exodus from Egypt was around 1250 B.C.

Two months after leaving Egypt, the Hebrews arrived between Elim and Mt. Sinai. The people griped about their condition, so God provided them with "manna" ([Exodus 16:31] meaning "what is it?") -- a bread-food that was white and tasted like wafers made with honey; formed from dew on the ground. At his father-in-law's suggestion, Moses appointed "judges" to administer justice to the people.

## **TEN COMMANDMENTS: God issued His Ten Commandments (Exodus 20):**

Exodus 20:3: (1) You shall have no other gods before Me.

Exodus 20:4: (2) You shall not make for yourself an idol...

Exodus 20:7: (3) You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God...

Exodus 20:8: (4) Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy... the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work...

Exodus 20:12: (5) Honor your father and your mother...

Exodus 20:13: (6) You shall not murder.

Exodus 20:14: (7) You shall not commit adultery.

Exodus 20:15: (8) You shall not steal.

Exodus 20:16: (9) You shall not give false testimony (i.e., not lie)...

Exodus 20:17:(10) You shall not covet your neighbor's house.... or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

God told Moses the laws that were to be applied to the people. There were twelve tribes of Israel, and altars were arranged to signify this. God instructed Moses on how to build a Tabernacle and an Ark (Exodus 25:10: of acacia wood, 3 3/4 ft. long, 2 1/4 ft. wide, 2 1/4 ft. high overlaid with gold (inside and out) containing inside the stone tablets engraved with the Ten Commandments). The Ark would be a place in the Holy of Holies for God to reside. Aaron and his sons were designated as the priests for God. The requirements for altars, incense, and offerings were described to Moses by God. Moses first went to Mt. Sinai to get the Ten Commandments and was there for 40 days and 40 nights. Since Moses was gone so long, his brother, Aaron, at the request of the people built a golden calf that they all worshipped. Moses saw this and, in disgust, destroyed the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments that God had given to him. He then went back to Mt. Sinai for another 40 days and 40 nights and made a contract (or Covenant) with God to not destroy the people if they would obey the Ten Commandments. God created the tablets again.

## **Leviticus:**

God gave Moses specific instruction for sacrificing ox, sheep, goat, birds, or grain to God. Rules for "burnt" offerings were given. God instructed Moses and Aaron to tell the people what food to eat -- any animal with a split hoof (or cloven hoof) which chews the cud (Leviticus 11:2-3). This meant that camels, rabbits, and pigs were not to be eaten. Also, it was all right to eat any that have "fins and scales" (Leviticus 11:9) but no other water creatures. Some birds (eagles, "kites," ravens, hawks, owls, gulls, vultures, storks, bats) were also forbidden to eat, along with four-legged flying insects. The laws that God wished for the Hebrews were told to Moses. Homosexuality was forbidden (Leviticus 18:22). Holy feasts (i.e., festivals) were given for observing (Leviticus 23). The "Year of Jubilee" was explained as every fiftieth year (Leviticus 25:10), where all debts were forgiven and all land passed back to the original owners or their heirs. God constantly promises to remember the promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Leviticus 26: 42) and is often referred to as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Leviticus basically outlines the things that the Lord gave to Moses on Mount Sinai.

## **Numbers:**

The first census of all of the Hebrew men over twenty years old was taken two years after they had left Egypt, with the total being 603,550, excluding the Levites' 22,273 who were designated to take care of the Tabernacle. Only Aaron and his sons were designated for priesthood. The people of Israel had a special blessing designed for them to be given by Aaron and his sons (given in Numbers 6:24-26): "May the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace." The people were constantly griping about eating manna and their situation in the desert. Moses sent 12 "spies," one from each tribe, into the land of Canaan, where they stayed for forty days. They reported that the Promised Land was magnificent but with powerful people there, including giants. Two of the "spies" (one originally named Hoshea [meaning "salvation"] and later named Joshua [meaning "Jehovah is salvation"]; one named Caleb) said that the land could be taken by the Hebrews, for God was with them. The others did not agree. God was not pleased and stated (Numbers 14: 29) that no-one over twenty at the time of the census would ever enter the Promised Land, other than Joshua and Caleb. God also stated (Numbers 14:34) that the Hebrews must wander in the desert for forty years because of their rejection of Him. At one point in their wanderings, the people were rebelling against Moses and Aaron (as they had done many times) and had no water. God told Moses (Numbers 20: 8) to use Aaron's staff and to summon the people and talk to a rock and tell it to pour out water. Instead, Moses (Numbers 20:11) "struck the rock twice" with the staff, and water gushed out. Because of Moses' disobeying God at that place called Meribah (meaning "quarreling" or "Rebel Waters"), God said that Moses would not bring the people into the Promised Land.

Finally, a new census was ordered for men of twenty or older, with the number being 601,730, not including the Levites with their number of 23,000; however, none of the men over twenty were in the first census except Joshua and Caleb. God told Moses (Numbers 27: 12-14) that he could look from the Abarim mountains and see the Promised Land but could not go there and was to die in those mountains, with Joshua being his replacement as leader. Aaron died on Mount Hor (Numbers 33: 38-39) at the age of 123. God explained to Moses the setting up of the "Cities of Refuge" (Numbers 35:6) where one can be safe if he killed someone by accident.

## **Deuteronomy:**

Moses' address to the Hebrews reviewed all the time of the forty years since they left Egypt.

[The Ten Commandments](#) are repeated once again (Deuteronomy 5: 7-21).

The setting aside of the tribe of Levi to work for the Lord and not to have land portions in the Promised Land was described (Deuteronomy 10: 8-9). Once again, what to eat and not to eat are set out (Deuteronomy 14: 3-21). The rule that every 7 years people must "cancel debts" (Deuteronomy 15: 1) was mentioned -- called the Year of Release. Moses' instructions to set up three Cities of Refuge (Deuteronomy 19:2-3) is as in the Numbers' account. The rule for anyone who is a false witness against someone was given as: "...life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot." (Deuteronomy 19:21). It was pointed out that cross-dressing was wrong for either sex (Deuteronomy 22: 5). Moses, at 120 years old, was instructed by God to go to Mount Nebo (the Abirim mountains) in the land of Moab across from Jericho and view Canaan (the Promised Land), after which he should die. The Lord buried him in a valley near Beth Peor in Moab in an unknown place.

## **Joshua:**

Joshua took over after Moses died. At one point, the Jordan River became dry and allowed all the Hebrews to cross (Joshua 3:12-17).

**Jericho** (Joshua 6): God instructed the Hebrew army to walk around the walled city once a day for six days with seven priests walking ahead of the Ark. On the seventh day, they were to walk around the city for seven times with the priests blasting on ram's-horn trumpets, finally giving one long, loud blast with all people shouting. This caused the walls of Jericho to crumble, so that Jericho was defeated.

The taking of the Promised Land by fighting the occupants was described. At one point (Joshua 10: 13-14), the sun and moon were stopped for a day. Joshua, at 110, died. The final burial of the bones of Joseph that had been carried all the time since the Exodus from Egypt was reported (Joshua 24:32).

## **Judges:**

Several "judges" led the people of Israel, turning them from their worship of "Baal" and "Ashtaroth" idols. The people often strayed from God and were punished by God -- then directed back to God, then again straying. One female "judge" was Deborah, said to be a "mother of Israel." Gideon was another judge who led Israel back to God, but, once again, when he died, they worshipped "Baal and Baal-berith." One of Gideon's sons, Abimelech, was acclaimed "king of Israel," for a short time, until he was defeated. Heathen gods again were worshipped and again the Hebrews were punished by being beaten in battle.

### **Samson** (Judges 13-16):

**Samson** was given great strength from God, and became a judge over Israel for 20 years. At one point, (Judges 15: 15), Samson killed a thousand Philistines with a donkey's jawbone. He fell in love with Delilah, who nagged him into revealing his secret of his strength -- his uncut hair. She told the Philistines, who cut Samson's hair and then blinded him. His hair grew back, his strength returned, and he pulled down pillars supporting a temple -- killing many Philistines and himself.

A story (Judges 19-21) of a "horrible deed" of some men of the tribe of Benjamin against the wife of a Levite led to the other eleven tribes of Israel virtually eliminating the tribe of Benjamin -- all but a small number.

**Ruth:**

Ruth was a loving daughter-in-law of Naomi's. Ruth's caring for her mother-in-law was very deep (Ruth1:16), as she said (from King James' Version)

"...for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God..."

Ruth eventually married Boaz, had a son named Obed, who had Jesse, who had the famous King David.

## **First Samuel:**

Eli was the main priest. Samuel was born to Hannah, a barren woman, after she prayed to God and Eli also asked God to help her. Samuel was dedicated, by his mother, to God. At one point, the Ark of God was taken by the Philistines, causing their idol Dagon to fall and be disgraced (1 Samuel 5). Samuel became judge of Israel (1 Samuel 7) when Israel defeated the Philistines at Mizpah, at a place that Samuel named Ebenezer (meaning "the Stone of Help"). The people insisted on having a king. Samuel finally picked Saul, the tallest man (1 Samuel 9:2), who was made king at Gilgal (1 Samuel 11:15). Saul made a mistake of personally making a burnt offering instead of letting Samuel do it, thus requiring his dynasty to end (1 Samuel 13:9; 12-14).

### **David and Goliath** (1 Samuel 16, 17):

A young shepherd, David, was brave, strong, and favored with the Lord. David played the harp for king Saul when Saul had the "Spirit from the Lord" tormenting him. Goliath was a champion of the Philistines, a giant over nine feet tall. Goliath challenged for the battle of the Philistines and Hebrews to be a single combat of one Israelite and him. David accepted the challenge and killed Goliath with a sling and a stone thrown to Goliath's head. (1 Samuel 17:48-51).

David became well known and was honored with a song (1 Samuel 18:7), "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands," which made king Saul very angry. David became a "blood brother" to Jonathan, king Saul's son, and married Michal, king Saul's daughter. Saul decided to kill David and pursued him over the land. Twice (1 Samuel 24; 1 Samuel 26), David spared Saul, when David could have easily killed him. Saul consulted a medium at Endor (1 Samuel 28). On Mt. Gilboa, Saul was wounded by the by the Philistines. Saul killed himself and was cremated. (1 Samuel 31:12).

## **Second Samuel:**

David moved to Hebron and became king of the Judean groups (this lasted for 7.5 years). King Saul's son, Ish-Bosheth, became king of the rest of Israel. There was constant warring between these groups, until Ish-Bosheth's general Abner was killed. Then, two of Ish-Bosheth's captains killed him, hoping to gain favor with king David. Neither of the deaths of Abner or Ish-Bosheth pleased king David. He had Ish-Bosheth's captains killed for their deed. David was then crowned king of all Israel (2 Samuel 5:3) at the age of 37; he reigned for 30 more years. David led troops to Jerusalem, captured the fortress of Zion, and it became known as the "City of David" (2 Samuel 5:7). The prophet Nathan told David that the Lord was pleased with David and would make his name famous and that one of his sons would build the Lord a temple.

### **David and Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11):**

King David admired a beautiful married woman, Bathsheba, and got her pregnant. Then, king David instructed his army general Joab to place her husband, "Uriah the Hittite," in the "front line where the fighting is fiercest" and to pull the men back to let him be killed. After Uriah's death, king David married Bathsheba (he already had 7 wives before her). The Lord, through the prophet Nathan, told king David that the Lord forgave him, but that his wives would be given openly to another man and that his son by Bathsheba would die. Thus, the son of Bathsheba died. She soon had another son -- Solomon (2 Samuel 12:24), named also Jedidiah which means "loved by the Lord" (or "Beloved of Jehovah").

### **Story of Tamar (2 Samuel 13):**

David's daughter, Tamar, was raped by her half-brother, Amnon. Absalom, Amnon's half-brother and Tamar's full-brother, waited two years and then sent his servants to kill Amnon at a feast -- to which he invited all of king David's sons.

David's son, Absalom, became powerful and eventually challenged king David for the kingdom. King David had to leave Jerusalem and went to the Mount of Olives (2 Samuel 15:30) to mourn. Absalom arrived at Jerusalem and fulfilled the prophesy of Nathan by insulting his father by going into a tent to be "with his father's concubines" (2 Samuel 16:22) -- actually ten of his young wives (thus king David had many wives now); king David later placed these wives into "virtual widowhood" until their deaths. Absalom and king David continued to fight this civil war, until the army leader Joab killed Absalom. King David took a census and found 800,000 men in Israel and 500,000 in Judah. The census was not God's wishes, so David selected plague as his punishment, hoping that God would be merciful; and (2 Samuel 24:16), when the death angel was ready to destroy Jerusalem, God stopped it.

## **First Kings:**

After reigning for forty years, king David died. Solomon became king. God gave Solomon a choice of anything he wanted: Solomon chose wisdom (1Kings 3:9).

### **Solomon's Baby Decision** (1 Kings 3:16-27):

King Solomon had to decide between two women as to which was the mother of a baby. Solomon said (1 Kings 3:25) to cut the living child into two halves and to give one half to each mother. When one woman said she would rather give up her claim than have the child killed, Solomon knew that she was the real mother.

Solomon authored 3000 proverbs and 1005 songs. Solomon built the "Temple of the Lord" in Jerusalem (90 feet long, 30 feet wide, 45 feet high) -- decorated with cypress and cedar wood as well as gold, taking 7 years to build. Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines, who brought in their "gods" (1 Kings 11:5-7) such as Ashtoreth (of the Sidonians), Milcom (of the Ammonites), Chemosh (of Moab), and Molech (of the Ammonites). Solomon ruled for 40 years before his death.

The Divided Kingdom: After Solomon's death, around 922 B.C., the Hebrews were divided into two groups:

The Southern Kingdom (which included Jerusalem and involved the two tribes of Judah and Benjamin)

The Northern Kingdom (which included the other ten tribes of the Hebrews and was actually called "Israel").

The Southern Kingdom was under the "family of David."

The kings of both Southern and Northern Kingdoms had the worship of the "gods" other than the "Lord God of Israel," leading to many problems. One king, Ahab of "Israel" (the Northern Kingdom), had a wife, Jezebel, who worshipped the "gods" Baal (1 Kings 16:29-33) or Baalzebub and Asherah. Jezebel tried to kill the Lord's prophets and encouraged Ahab to do evil.

Elijah was a prophet of the "Lord God of Israel" during this time. Elijah returned a child to life after his death (1 Kings 17:17-23). On Mt. Carmel (1 Kings 18), Elijah and prophets of Baal had a showdown to see who would send fire to light their alters: God lit the fire for Elijah, and the prophets of Baal were killed. Elijah told King Ahab that the dogs would devour Queen Jezebel's body. (1 Kings 21:23).

## Second Kings:

Elijah parted the Jordan River with his cloak (2 Kings 2:8) and then was carried by a whirlwind into heaven, following a chariot of fire (2 Kings 2:11), leaving **Elisha** as the main priest of "Israel" (Northern Kingdom) and with twice the prophetic power of Elijah. Elisha was credited with several miracles:

1. Also parting the Jordan River (2 Kings 2:13-14).
2. Causing a poor widow to have her olive oil multiplied many times so that she could pay her debts and live normally (2 Kings 4:1-7).
3. Enabling a barren woman to have a child (2 Kings 4:14-17) and then bringing the child back to life after its dying (2 Kings 4:32-35) -- a story sounding much like modern-day mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.
4. Multiplying loaves and grain to feed 100 men (2 Kings 4:42-44).
5. Healing a leper, by having him wash 7 times in the Jordan River (2 Kings 5:10;14)
6. Causing an ax head to float (2 Kings 6:5-7).

Elisha anointed Jehu as king of "Israel," and Jehu had king Ahab's wife, Jezebel, killed and, as prophesied by Elijah, her body was scattered (2 Kings 9: 30-36). After Elisha died, a man's body was thrown into Elisha's tomb and was revived (2 Kings 13:20-21).

The fall of "Israel" (Northern Kingdom, including Samaria) and the people's exile to Assyria (2 Kings 17:6) around 721 B.C. was attributed to their not following the Lord. At that point, Judah (the Southern Kingdom, which included Jerusalem) still was independent. The "gods" from other areas included Succoth-benoth, Nergal, Ashima, Nibhaz, Tartak, Adrammelech, Anammelech, Molech, Asherah, Nisroch, Topheth, Ashtoreth, Chemosh, Milcom, and Baal; these were being worshipped also by the Hebrews, angering the Lord. In the reign of King Hezekiah of Judah, Isaiah was the prophet. Isaiah caused time to go backwards (2 Kings 20:11).

During the reign of Josiah as king of Judah, Hilkiah (the High Priest) discovered a scroll of laws in the temple. Josiah restored the Lord's Temple and destroyed the shrines to other "gods," but Huldah (the prophetess: 2 Kings 22: 14-20) told Josiah that Judah would be destroyed because of its worshipping these "gods." Finally, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon took over Judah in 586 B.C. Thus, the Southern Kingdom was independent for 135 years longer than the Northern Kingdom.

## **First Chronicles:**

This book reviews the Hebrew history. From Abraham's son Isaac were two sons -- Esau and Jacob, who was renamed "Israel." The sons of Israel were the 12 tribes of Israel:

- Reuben
- Simeon
- Levi
- Issachar
- Zebulun
- Dan
- Joseph
- Naphtali
- Gad
- Asher
- Judah
- Benjamin

The last two eventually became the "Southern Kingdom," and the others the "Northern Kingdom."

One of the reasons for King Saul's problems was his consulting a medium. (1 Chronicles 10:13; see also 1 Samuel 28). Jerusalem was called Jebus (from where the Jebusites, the original inhabitants, lived), and then "Fortress of Zion," and later "City of David," before finally Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 11: 4-6). The Lord told King David (1 Chronicles 17:11-12) that his line would always be the royal line but that his son would build the temple. David's census, showing 1,570,000 men of military age, was not authorized by God (1 Chronicles 21).

David was given credit for getting the materials ready for the temple, although not for its construction.

## **Second Chronicles:**

This book continues with the history of the Hebrews with Solomon and his being given great wisdom from God. The temple construction on the top of Mount Moriah in Jerusalem was described, with the size being 90 ft. long, 30 ft. wide, and 180 ft. high, with much gold throughout. The "Holy of Holies" was 30 ft. square, overlaid with gold. The Ark was transferred to this place. The Queen of Sheba's visit and great impression with Solomon was described (2 Chronicles 9).

The story of King Jehoshaphat of Judah (Southern Kingdom) and his alliance with King Ahab of Israel (Northern Kingdom) and their consulting Micaiah the prophet is described in detail (2 Chronicles 18; see also 1 Kings 22). King Jehoram of Judah, a "wicked" king, died of what-appeared-to-be bowel cancer (2 Chronicles 21:18-19). King Uzziah of Judah got leprosy by entering the forbidden sanctuary. King Hezekiah of Judah restored the Temple of the Lord God and had burnt offerings and sin offerings for the nation: young bulls, rams, lambs, and goats were sacrificed for the sin offering (2 Chronicles 29:20-24). Much celebration occurred with this re-dedication of the Temple at Jerusalem. The finding of the scroll of the laws of God by Hilkiah and King Josiah's destroying the idols and altars to "gods" such as Baal was described (2 Chronicles 34). The end of the independence of the Southern Kingdom of Judah occurred when King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon took over and destroyed Jerusalem -- around 586 B.C.

**Ezra:**

After the takeover by Nebuchadnezzar, eventually King Cyrus of Persia came to power, and he decided to help the Jews to return to Jerusalem (around 520 B.C.) and to rebuild the Temple of Jehovah, the God of Israel and of Jerusalem. The temple was rebuilt with a height of 90 ft. and a width of 90 ft. Ezra, high priest, dedicated the temple but was not happy with the priests marrying heathen wives, or intermarriage --mixed marriages of Jews and non-Jews.

## **Nehemiah:**

Nehemiah, the Jewish cupbearer for King Artaxerxes of Persia, returned to Jerusalem and led the rebuilding of the city wall. He told of Ezra, the Priest, reading the law of God to the people of Jerusalem. Nehemiah also told of the Jews pledging not to marry non-Jewish people, to honor the Sabbath, to refrain from working the land and to cancel debts between Jews every seventh year (Nehemiah 10: 31), to give the oldest son to God (i.e. to the priests), and to bring a tithe of all produced to the Levites (Nehemiah 10: 37) for the use of the Temple and priests.

## **Esther:**

This is the story of a Jewish girl, Hadassah who was also called Esther, who became queen of Persia with King Xerxes (or Ahasuerus), who did not know she was a Jew. Her cousin, Mordecai, guided her and was a gatekeeper for the king. Haman, the prime minister, disliked the Jews and asked the king to kill them all. Queen Esther persuaded the king to kill Haman and grant Mordecai the king's "signet ring" and the right to save the Jews. The Jewish celebration of "Feast of Purim" is for the saving of the Jews by Esther.

## **Job:**

This story is about Job (from the land of Uz), a good man who feared God and stayed away from evil and who was quite wealthy. Satan (the Accuser) requested that God test this man Job by having him suffer. Job lost his children and his wealth. Job replied (Job 1:21), "...The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the Name of the Lord be praised." Job then lost his health and wished he had never been born. Three of Job's friends tried to convince him that he must have sinned terribly to be in his condition. Job denied that he had done anything to deserve his pain but he questioned God, saying that his "Advocate" (i.e., possibly guardian angel) should witness his innocence (Job 16:19). Job said of wisdom (Job 28:17), "Neither God nor crystal can compare with it, nor can it be had for jewels of gold." And (Job 28:28), he said that to fear the Lord is true wisdom and to forsake evil is true understanding. A new, young friend pointed out that his questioning God itself was wrong and that man could never understand God. God spoke to Job of the creation and of powerful creatures (Job 40 and 41), "behemoth" (possibly the elephant) and "leviathan" (with fire from its mouth and smoke from its nostrils -- like a dragon), thus showing His power and showing that man should not question God. Job repented for questioning God and was given twice the wealth as before and lived to very old age (140 years beyond this testing). The story points out that suffering or wealth should not be directly related to sin/evildoing: or, sometimes good people suffer and sometimes bad people prosper.

## **Psalms:**

The Psalms is a collection of religious points (poems, hymns, prayers) of the Jewish people, some from King David. In Psalm 1, the good people are said to be like trees planted by streams of water whose leaves never die, whereas evil people blow away like chaff before the wind and are not safe on "Judgment Day." Other important points:

1. "For the Lord is righteous, He loves justice; upright men will see His face." (Psalms 11:7).
2. "...He drew me out of deep waters. He rescued me from my powerful enemy, ..." (Psalms 18:16-17).
3. "You, O Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light." (Psalms 18:28).
4. "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?..." (Psalms 22:1).
5. "The Lord confides in those who fear Him; he makes His covenant (i.e., agreement; promises) known to them." (Psalms 25:14).
6. "Into Your hands I commit my spirit..." (Psalms 31:5)
7. "Therefore let everyone who is godly pray to You while You may be found; surely when the mighty waters rise, they will not reach him." (Psalms 32: 6).
8. "From heaven the Lord looks down and sees all mankind; from His dwelling place He watches all who live on earth -- He Who forms the hearts of all, Who considers everything they do." (Psalms 33:13-15).
9. "Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies. Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it." (Psalms 34:13-14).
10. "Better the little that the righteous have than the wealth of many wicked;" (Psalms 37:16).
11. "You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Each man's life is but a breath. Man is a mere phantom as he goes to and fro: he bustles about, but only in vain; he heaps up wealth, not knowing who will get it. But now, my Lord, what do I look for? My hope is in You." (Psalms 39:5-7).
12. "He alone is my Rock and my salvation; He is my Fortress, I will never be shaken." (Psalms 62:2).
13. "For a thousand years in Your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night." (Psalms 90:4).
14. "They will sing before the Lord, for He comes, He comes to judge the earth." (Psalms 96:13).
15. "Praise the Lord. Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who finds great delight in His commands." (Psalms 112:1).
16. "It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes." (Psalms 118:8-9).
17. "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it ."(Psalms 118:24).
18. Expression of predestination: "Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in Your Book before one of them came to be." (Psalms 139: 16).

**The most remembered Psalm is the 23rd Psalm (King James' Version, verses 1-6):**

1. The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.
2. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.
3. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His Name's sake.
4. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff. They comfort me.
5. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
6. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

## Proverbs:

This book is short sayings of wisdom, some from King Solomon. These words to the wise are essentially ethics. Some main points are:

1. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools (i.e., morally deficient) despise wisdom and discipline." (Proverbs 1:7).
2. "In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:6).
3. "Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost you all you have, get understanding." (Proverbs 4:7).
4. "Say to wisdom, 'You are my sister (i.e., part of your family),' and call understanding your kinsman;" (Proverbs 7:4).
5. "Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth." (Proverbs 10: 4).
6. "Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous (i.e., morally right and just) will thrive like a green leaf." (Proverbs 11:28).
7. "A fool shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent (i.e., wise) man overlooks an insult." (Proverbs 12:22).
8. "In the way of righteousness there is life; along that path is immortality (i.e., endless life)." (Proverbs 12:28).
9. "Gray hair is a crown of splendor; it is attained by a righteous life." (Proverbs 16:31).
10. "Acquitting the guilty and condemning the innocent -- the Lord detests them both." (Proverbs 17:15).
11. "The heart of the discerning (i.e., persons who detect things) acquires knowledge; the ears of the wise seek it (i.e., knowledge) out." (Proverbs 18:15).
12. "Gold there is, and rubies in abundance, but lips that speak knowledge are a rare jewel." (Proverbs 20:15).
13. "Better to live in the desert than with a quarrelsome and ill-tempered wife." (Proverbs 21:19).
14. "A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver and gold." (Proverbs 22:1).
15. "A wise man has great power, and a man of knowledge increases strength." (Proverbs 24:5).

Proverbs councils against visiting prostitutes, countersigning notes, and being conceited. Proverbs advises to accept criticism, save for the future, work hard, be patient, and trust in the Lord. In one section (Proverbs 8 and 9), "Wisdom" is treated as a person who was with God when He made the world. Seeking wisdom is the main concept of Proverbs.

## **Ecclesiastes:**

This, in general, is a pessimistic book -- with statements that history merely repeats itself and nothing is new, and there is no reason to think of what might have been.

The most famous section is Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (from **King James' Version**):

1. To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:
2. A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;
3. A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;
4. A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
5. A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing.
6. A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
7. A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
8. A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

Ecclesiastes states that people should enjoy themselves and the fruits of their labors. The pessimism is most pronounced when considering man and animals returning to dust, and not knowing where their spirits go (Ecclesiastes 3:18-21). A few other points:

1. "Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless." (Ecclesiastes 5:10).
2. "... to accept his lot and be happy in his work -- this is a gift of God..." (Ecclesiastes 5:19-20)
3. "Better what the eye sees than the roving of the appetite (i.e., dreaming). This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind." (Ecclesiastes 6:9).
4. On predestination: "Whatever exists has already been named, and what man is has been known; no man can contend with One who is stronger than he (i.e., can fight with God)." (Ecclesiastes 6:10)
5. "...the day of death better than the day of birth." (Ecclesiastes 7:1)
6. "...all that God has done. No one can comprehend what goes on under the sun...man cannot discover its meaning. Even if a wise man claims he knows, he cannot really comprehend it." (Ecclesiastes 8:17)
7. "Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good." (Ecclesiastes 9:18).
8. "Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap (i.e., if you want perfection, you won't do anything.)." (Ecclesiastes 11:4).
9. "As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things." (Ecclesiastes 11:5)
10. "...the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil." (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

### **The Song of Solomon:**

This is a love poem between a bride and groom; it also has been interpreted where God is the Groom, and Israel is the bride. The woman in this poem is sometimes referred to as the Shulamite Woman.

## Isaiah:

A prophet of Judah around 740 B.C., **Isaiah**, for around fifty years revealed many of his thoughts and visions. Some of these can be interpreted as having implications for the future of the time of Isaiah or even possibly yet to come now. In the **"last days,"** Jerusalem would be the main attraction:

1. "And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." (Isaiah 2:4, from **King James' Version**).
2. "The Lord Almighty has a day in store for all the proud and lofty, for all that is exalted (and they will be humbled)," (Isaiah 2:12).
3. "The people walking in darkness have seen a great Light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a Light has dawned." (Isaiah 9:2).
4. "See, the day of the Lord is coming -- a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger -- to make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it. The stars of heaven and their constellations will not show their light. The rising sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light." (Isaiah 13:9-10).
5. "Therefore I will make the heavens tremble; and the earth will shake from its place at the wrath of the Lord Almighty, in the day of His burning anger." (Isaiah 13:13).
6. "So will it be on the earth and among all the nations...gleanings are left (i.e., a few people will remain)...They raise their voices, they shout for joy...singing: 'Glory to the Righteous One!'" (Isaiah 24:13-16).
7. "In that day the Lord will punish the powers in the heavens above and the kings on the earth below...the Lord Almighty will reign on Mount Zion in Jerusalem..." (Isaiah 24:21-23).
8. "He will swallow up death forever..." (Isaiah 25:8).
9. "...the deaf will hear...the eyes of the blind will see...the humble (i.e., meek) will rejoice...ruthless will vanish..." (Isaiah 29:18-20).
10. "...with your own eyes you will see them (i.e., your Teachers)." (Isaiah 30:20).
11. "The moon will shine like the sun, and the sunlight will be seven times brighter ..." (Isaiah 30:26).
12. "All the stars of heaven will be dissolved and the sky rolled up like a scroll; all the starry host will fall like withered leaves from the vine, like shriveled figs from the fig tree." (Isaiah 34:4).
13. "Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue (i.e., person that can't speak) shout for joy..." (Isaiah 35:6).
14. "...the ransomed of the Lord...will enter Zion with singing...Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away." (Isaiah 35:10).
15. "You who bring good tidings to Zion...say...'Here is your God!'...with power, and His Arm rules for Him..." (Isaiah 40:9-10).
16. "...the Lord will be your everlasting Light, and your days of sorrow will end." (Isaiah 60:20).
17. "Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind." (Isaiah 65:17).

18. "The wolf and lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, but dust will be the serpent's food. They will neither harm nor destroy..." (Isaiah 65:25).
19. "For with fire and with His sword the Lord will execute judgment upon all men..." (Isaiah 66:16).

Isaiah refers to **the Messiah**:

1. "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a Son, and will call Him Immanuel [meaning 'God with us']." (Isaiah 7:14).
2. "For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given...will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6).
3. "A Shoot (i.e., offspring)... from the stump of Jesse...a Branch...will judge the needy...will give decisions for the poor of the earth...The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat...In that day (possibly Judgment Day) the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for all peoples; the nations will rally to Him..." (Isaiah 11:1-10).
4. "...My Chosen One...will bring justice to the nations...will not falter or be discouraged until He establishes justice on earth..." (Isaiah 42:1-4).
5. "...My Servant will act wisely...His appearance was so disfigured...His form marred...so will He sprinkle many nations (or, 'so will many nations marvel at Him')...But He was pierced for our transgressions...the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed...and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity (i.e., sins) of us all...was led like a Lamb to the slaughter...After the suffering of His soul, He will see the Light of Life..." (Isaiah 52:13-15; Isaiah 53).

Praising the Lord on Judgment Day appears to be the intent of Isaiah 12. **Everlasting life** is the thought of Isaiah 26:19:

- "But your dead will live; their bodies will rise. You who dwell in the dust, wake up and shout for joy...the earth will give birth to her dead."

Isaiah caused time to go backwards, reported in Isaiah 38:8 as well as in 2 Kings 20:11. Isaiah told the Hebrews that they were God's chosen people, and that God was always with them (Isaiah 9-20; 48:12-13; 66:22). However, Isaiah, speaking for the Lord, said that the Hebrews had rebelled and that His "servants" will be called by another name (Isaiah 65). Isaiah often uses the description of the Potter (God) with the people of earth being the clay turned into pots or jars (Isaiah 29:16; 45:9; 64:8).

Isaiah stated these words from God about God:

- "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:9).

Isaiah also told of God's interest in the **Gentiles (non-Jews)**:

- "Let no foreigner who has bound himself to the Lord say, 'The Lord will surely exclude me from His people'...foreigners who bind themselves to the Lord to serve Him...these will I bring to My Holy Mountain (i.e., Jerusalem)...for My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations." (Isaiah 56:3-8).
- "...They will proclaim My Glory among the nations." (Isaiah 66:19).

Other important points from Isaiah:

1. "The righteous (i.e., good people) perish and no one ponders it in his heart...Those who walk uprightly enter into peace; they find rest as they lie in death." (Isaiah 57:1-2).
2. "...if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday." (Isaiah 58:10).
3. "If you keep ...the Sabbath (the holy day, i.e., Saturday for Jews; now Sunday for most people, generally) ...holy...then you will find your joy in the Lord...ride on the heights...feast on the inheritance..." (Isaiah 58:13-14).
4. "They have chosen their own ways, and their souls delight in their abominations (i.e., bad things)." (Isaiah 66:3)

## Jeremiah:

Around 625 B.C., **Jeremiah** was the prophet of Judah. On predestination, related to Jeremiah himself:

- "The Word of the Lord came to me, saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew (or chose) you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.'" (Jeremiah 1:4-5).

Jeremiah speaks and prays directly to God. God reveals his dislike of the worship of Baal, the "Queen of Heaven" (Ishtar), and idols by the Hebrews. Jeremiah warned the people not to use idols such as totem-pole-like "gods" (Jeremiah 10:2-5). Jeremiah described the "Portion of Jacob" (i.e., the one God of Jacob) as the **Maker** (or **Creator**), whose name is "The Lord Almighty" (Jeremiah 10:16). Jeremiah is concerned about why wicked men seem prosperous (Jeremiah 12:1-4). The Lord, through Jeremiah, states that He will scatter the Hebrews "like chaff driven by the desert wind" (Jeremiah 13:24; and similarly in 18:17; 19:11). God states that one should not trust mortal man (or be like a "bush in the wastelands") but should trust the Lord (and be like a "tree planted by the water") -- Jeremiah 17:5-8. Like Isaiah, Jeremiah used the comparison of Potter (God) with clay (the people God created) -- Jeremiah 18:6. Importantly, it is revealed that God can change His mind (Jeremiah 18:7-10; 26:3), or that the direction of things (destiny) can be altered. Jeremiah warned against "false prophets" that do not speak for God (Jeremiah 23:16-17). As Isaiah did, Jeremiah warned of the future around his time (or even possibly yet to come now) of the **"last days:"**

1. "...I am calling down a sword upon all who live on the earth, declares the Lord Almighty." (Jeremiah 25:29).
2. "'The tumult will resound to the ends of the earth, for the Lord will bring charges against the nations; He will bring judgment on all mankind and put the wicked to the sword'..." (Jeremiah 25:31).
3. "At that time those slain by the Lord will be everywhere -- from one end of the earth to the other..." (Jeremiah 25:33).
4. "How awful that day will be! (i.e., initial horror at what happens)...they will serve the Lord their God and David their King, whom I will raise up for them...'So do not fear...'...the city (i.e., Jerusalem) will be rebuilt on her ruins, and the palace will stand in its proper place...'So you will be My people and I will be your God." (Jeremiah 30).
5. "...He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over His flock like a shepherd.'...'This is the covenant (i.e., New Covenant, or New Agreement) I will make with the house of Israel after that time...I will put My law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be My people." (Jeremiah 31:10:33).

Much of Jeremiah's concern is of the taking of Judah and Jerusalem and destruction of the Temple by Babylon, specifically by King Nebuchadnezzar (Jeremiah 27:6; 52:12,13). Jeremiah tells the Hebrews that they will be taken captives by Babylon and held for a long time, yet "You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:13). Jeremiah believed that

everyone is rewarded according to his life and deeds (Jeremiah 32:19), not his father's life and deeds. Jeremiah warned of God's tremendous displeasure with people worshipping other "gods" (Jeremiah 44:2,3). Jeremiah gave a review (Jeremiah 46-50) of what, in the future, would happen to the foreign peoples of his time -- the Egyptians (with their "god" Amon and others), Philistines, Moabites (with their "god" Chemosh), Ammonites (with their "god" Milcom), Edomites, Damascus, Kedar, Hazor, Elam, and Babylon (with their "gods" Marduk and Bel). The prophet stated that idols are nothing; "He who is the Portion of Jacob (i.e. the one God) is not like these, for He is the Maker of all things, including the tribe of His inheritance (Israel, His nation) -- the Lord Almighty is His name." (Jeremiah 51:19).

Jeremiah refers to **the Messiah:**

- "'The days are coming,' says the Lord, 'when I will raise up to David (or, up from David's line) a Righteous Branch...' ...'This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Our Righteousness .'" (Jeremiah 23:5-6)
- "'In those days and at that time I will make a Righteous Branch sprout from David's line...The Lord Our Righteousness'...'David will never fail to have a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel...'" (Jeremiah 33:15;17)
- and states that, when He comes, the Jews will be back in Israel (Jeremiah 23:7-8).

## **Lamentations:**

This is an outpouring of sadness over the destruction of Jerusalem by Babylon. "...The Lord has ...summoned an army...to crush My young men. In His winepress the Lord has trampled the Virgin Daughter of Judah (i.e., His beloved city)." (Lamentations 1:15).

## **Ezekiel:**

**Ezekiel** was a priest living with the Jewish exiles in Babylon after the taking of Judah and Jerusalem by Babylon, around 580-600 B.C. Ezekiel has visions of God appearing like a Man, yet glowing and dazzling with fire; and, of angelic beings with four faces, wings, hands, and WHEELS within WHEELS that contained all-seeing eyes (Ezekiel 1 and 10; also 8). Like other prophets, Ezekiel says that God is very dismayed by worship of idols and "gods" and at "false prophets" and hypocrites (for example, Ezekiel 7:3; 14:10). Like Jeremiah, Ezekiel believed that the old doctrine of children being punished for their father's sins was wrong (the old doctrine, stated in **King James' Version**, Ezekiel 18:2 -- "...The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge."). So, Ezekiel was saying that "...a righteous man who does what is just and right...he will surely live." (Ezekiel 18:5-9). And, Ezekiel, speaking for God, said "I will judge you, each one according to his ways (i.e., his own actions)." (Ezekiel 18:30; and, similarly in 33:20). As seen by Ezekiel, "If a righteous (i.e., good) man...does evil, he will die...And if a wicked man turns away from his wickedness..., he will live..." (Ezekiel 33:18-19). Ezekiel was told to warn the people, so that if the people then did not repent, Ezekiel would not be responsible. (Ezekiel 33:9). The view of God as the Shepherd seeking lost sheep and bringing them home again is presented (Ezekiel 34:11-16). Ezekiel taught the feeling of a "new heart" and "new spirit" that will be given to the people who will be cleansed of their sins (Ezekiel 36:26) and of the return of God's people to Israel (Ezekiel 36:28; 35), where God said "you will be My people, and I will be your God." Ezekiel's most remembered story:

### **Valley of the Dry Bones** (Ezekiel 37):

In a vision, Ezekiel was carried to a valley of old, dry bones, and Ezekiel spoke the Words of the Lord, whereby the bones came together, became covered with skin, and became alive again. This was a symbol of the Hebrews, with all hope seeming to be gone, returning once again to their own land and thriving.

As Isaiah and Jeremiah, Ezekiel warned of the **"last days"** -- the future around his time (or even possibly yet to come now):

1. " I will bring you from the nations...I will execute judgment upon you." (Ezekiel 20:34-35).
2. "...'Wail...' For... the day of the Lord is near -- a day of clouds, a time of doom for the nations." (Ezekiel 30:2-3).
3. "...every creature that moves...all the people on the face of the earth will tremble...The mountains will be overturned, the cliffs will crumble and every wall will fall to the ground...I will pour down torrents of rain, hailstones and burning sulfur..." (Ezekiel 38:20-22)

Ezekiel implies that Gog (representing all forces of evil) from the land of Magog will be finished "in the latter years of history."

Ezekiel refers to **the Messiah:**

1. "And I will set up One Shepherd over them (i.e., all God's people), and He shall feed them, even My servant David; He shall feed them, and He shall be their Shepherd." (Ezekiel 34:23 from **King James' Version**).
2. "And I will raise up for them a Plant of Renown..." (Ezekiel 34:29 from **King James' Version**).

Ezekiel compared the Southern Kingdom (including Jerusalem and the two tribes of Judah and Benjamin) and the Northern Kingdom (including the other ten tribes, and called "Israel") to prostitutes because of their idol worship that led to their destruction (Ezekiel 23). However, when the Hebrews were brought back to Jerusalem, Ezekiel felt that all the twelve tribes of Israel would be united with a new Temple in Jerusalem (this vision given in Ezekiel 40-48), with priests from the sons of Zadok of the tribe of Levi and with no foreigner able to enter the sanctuary of the Temple, a strict Hebrew belief, probably from Ezekiel being a priest.

## **Daniel:**

After King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had taken over Jerusalem, some of the young Hebrews were educated as counselors to the king -- particularly four:

- Daniel (Babylonian name was Belteshazzar [after King Nebuchadnezzar's "god" -- thus this Book uses Daniel for his name])
- Hananiah (Babylonian was Shadrach )
- Misha-el (Babylonian was Meshach )
- Azariah (Babylonian was Abednego )

Daniel was the best in understanding visions. Of God, Daniel said (Daniel 2:22), "He reveals deep and hidden things, He knows what lies in darkness, and Light dwells within Him."

Two well-known stories from Daniel:

### **The Fiery Furnace** (Daniel 3):

When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to worship a golden idol of King Nebuchadnezzar, they were thrown into a flaming furnace, yet were untouched due to God's deliverance.

### **The Lion's Den** (Daniel 6):

When Daniel prayed to God against King Darius' orders, he was thrown into a den of lions but was untouched. Those who plotted against him were then thrown into the lion's den and were killed.

Daniel, analyzing a dream, foretold that King Nebuchadnezzar would go insane for seven years and eat "grass like the cows," after which his kingdom would be restored (Daniel 4). For another king (Belshazzar), Daniel read the writing on a plaster wall by a mysterious "hand," indicating that the king would be killed (Daniel 5).

Daniel described God's throne in a manner like Ezekiel, as fiery and on flaming wheels, with God having clothing white as snow and white hair with millions of angels (Daniel 7:9-10) -- coming to judge as "The Books" were opened.

As Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel, Daniel spoke of the "**last days**" -- the future around his time (or even possibly yet to come now)

1. Gabriel (an angel from heaven) told Daniel, "...the vision concerns the time of the end." (Daniel 8:16-17)
2. "...Then Michael , one of the chief princes (i.e., of the heavenly army), came to help me...to explain...the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come." (Daniel 10:13-14)
3. "At that time Michael...will arise...everyone whose name is found written in the Book -- will be delivered. Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt." (Daniel 12:1-2)

4. "...until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge." (Daniel 12:4)

Daniel refers to **the Messiah**:

1. "...one like a Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven...He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all people, nations and men of every language worshiped Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and His kingdom is one that will never be destroyed." (Daniel 7:13-14).
2. "After the sixty-two 'sevens' (i.e., a time of 434 years), the Anointed One will be cut off (i.e., killed) and will have nothing (i.e., will not have His kingdom)..." (Daniel 9:26).

Many of the dreams and visions of Daniel are of strange creatures (lion with eagle's wings; leopard with four heads; a multi-horned animal with one horn that had eyes and a mouth), whose meaning is uncertain.

## **Hosea:**

Hosea, a prophet of the Northern Kingdom (Israel), tells about his wife Gomer, who was a prostitute. Hosea sees that Israel has also acted like a prostitute, serving their "gods," yet God still loves the Jews, who will return to the Lord in the "last days" (Hosea 3:5). When the people believed in Baal or Baal-peor, Hosea said, "They sow the wind and reap the whirlwind." (Hosea 8:7).

## **Joel:**

Joel warns, "...The day of the Lord is great (i.e., awesome); it is dreadful..." (Joel 2:11). At that time, the "sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood...everyone who calls on the Name of the Lord will be saved..." (Joel 2:31-32). However, Joel stated that, since the Day of the Lord (or Judgment Day) was near, people should "Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears..." (Joel 3:10; reversal of Isaiah 2:4: perhaps Joel thought of before the day and Isaiah after or on the day.).

**Amos:**

Amos, a herdsman, had a vision of God roaring like a lion from Mount Zion in His Temple (in Jerusalem), saying that He would test the Hebrews with a "plumb line" and will scatter Israel across the world. Amos did see that Israel and the Hebrews would eventually have their fortunes restored.

**Obadiah:**

This book tells of the land of Edom and its fall, along with other nations: "...As you have done (implied -- done to Israel), it will be done to you..." (Obadiah 1:15).

## **Jonah:**

This story is well known:

**Jonah and the Whale** (Jonah 1-2): Jonah was appointed by God to tell the people of Ninevah of their destruction because of their wickedness. Jonah was afraid and hid from God on a ship. When a storm occurred, the seamen threw Jonah overboard to please God, and the seas calmed. Jonah was then swallowed by a "great fish" (whale) for three days and then was "vomited" up onto dry land.

Jonah then delivered the message to the people of Ninevah, they prayed to be saved, and they were saved from destruction (i.e., God changed His mind about destroying them). Jonah was angry about these people being saved, and God illustrated to Jonah that Gentiles (non-Jews, like the people of Ninevah) can be important to God.

## **Micah:**

Micah said that God is coming to earth, speaking of the "**last days**" -- the future around his time (or even possibly yet to come now):

1. "...The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem (i.e., Jerusalem will rule in the end)..." (Micah 4:2)
2. "...They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nations will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore." (Micah 4:3; note similarity to Isaiah 2:4)
3. "In that day...I will gather the lame...the exiles...those I have brought to grief...The Lord will rule over them in Mount Zion from that day and forever." (Micah 4:6-7).

Micah refers to **the Messiah:**

1. "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for Me One who will be Ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times (or -- from days of eternity)." (Micah 5:2).
2. "...His greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And He will be their peace." (Micah 5:4-5).

Micah says that all God wants of man is: "To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)

**Nahum:**

Regarding Ninevah/Assyria, Nahum tells them God said, "...I will prepare your grave..." (Nahum 1:14). Nahum says that God is good and knows all who trust Him, and He knows His enemies, who will be destroyed.

## **Habakkuk:**

The prophet, Habakkuk, pointed out:

1. "For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay." (Habakkuk 2:3)
2. "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." (Habakkuk 2:14).

## **Zephaniah:**

Zephaniah spoke of the "**last days**" -- the future around his time (or even possibly yet to come now):

1. "On the day of the Lord's sacrifice I will punish the princes and the king's sons and all those clad in foreign clothes." (Zephaniah 1:8)
2. "...Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the Lord's anger." (Zephaniah 2:3)
3. "On that day they will say to Jerusalem...The Lord your God is with you, He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you...will quiet you with His love...will rejoice over you with singing." (Zephaniah 3:16-18)

**Haggai:**

The prophet, Haggai, delivered his message to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah (Southern Kingdom, including Jerusalem) encouraging the rebuilding of the Temple. Haggai said that future "splendor" of the Temple would be greater than in the past.

## **Zechariah:**

Zechariah told of his visions, some with Angels on horses, golden lampstands, and chariots. Zechariah said that the Lord is coming to earth from heaven (Zechariah 2:13), speaking of the **"last days"** -- the future around his time (or even possibly yet to come now):

1. "Many nations will be joined with the Lord in that day and will become My people. I will live among you and you will know that the Lord Almighty has sent Me to you." (Zechariah 2:11)
2. "On that day I will destroy all the nations that attack Jerusalem...They will look on Me, the One they have pierced, and they will mourn for Him as one mourns for an only child..." (Zechariah 12:9,10)
3. "A day of the Lord is coming...On that day there will be no light, no cold or frost...plague with which the Lord will strike all the nations that fought against Jerusalem..." (Zechariah 14:1,6,12)

Zechariah refers to **the Messiah:**

1. "Listen, O high priest Joshua...I am going to bring My Servant, the Branch...seven eyes on that one Stone...I will remove the sin of this land in a single day." (Zechariah 3:8,9)
2. " ...Joshua ...Tell him this is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Here is the Man whose name is The Branch, and He will branch out from His place and build the Temple of the Lord.'" (Zechariah 6:11-12)
3. "Rejoice greatly...your King comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a colt, the foal of a donkey." (Zechariah 9:9)
4. "...for His flock, the house of Judah...will come the Cornerstone, from Him the tent peg, ...the battle bow, ...every ruler." (Zechariah 10:3,4)

## **Malachi:**

The prophet Malachi said that God will be honored "among the nations" (i.e., by the Gentiles). (Malachi 1:11, 14) Malachi speaks against divorce, saying that God makes the two into one with marriage. (Malachi 2:15) Malachi also spoke of the "**last days**" -- the future around his time (or even possibly yet to come now):

1. "...A Scroll of Remembrance was written in His presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored His name. 'They will be Mine...in the day when I make up My treasured possession. I will spare them...'" (Malachi 3:16-17)
2. "'Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble (i.e., waste)...'" (Malachi 4:1)

Malachi refers to **the Messiah**:

- "'But for you who revere My name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in His wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall...'" (Malachi 4:2)

## **New Testament Notes – Book-by-Book:**

The New Testament of the Bible was written around 70 to 110 A.D. The first four books of the New Testament (called the “Gospels”) tell the story of **Jesus Christ** – each different in its presentation and style of the writer.

## **Matthew:**

The male lineage of **Jesus Christ** is given, from Abraham to King David to **Joseph**. **Jesus** means "savior," and **Christ** means "Messiah." The name, Immanuel, means "God with us," is also given to Jesus Christ. Jesus' birth to **Mary** was after her conception from the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:20) -- VIRGIN BIRTH. The story is told (Matthew 1) of Jesus being born in Bethlehem and being visited by wise men (Magi) from the east that brought presents of gold, incense, and myrrh. Mary, Joseph, and the Baby Jesus went to Egypt to escape from King Herod's plot to kill the baby. After Herod's death, the family moved to Galilee and lived in Nazareth.

The story is told of John the Baptist describing of how he baptized people in the Jordon River while Another will "...baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." (Matthew 3:11) Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist and was tempted in the wilderness by Satan -- asked to turn stones into loaves, jump off the Temple roof, or to accept the world rule from Satan, all of which Jesus did not do. The gruesome death of John the Baptist, where his head was delivered on a tray for Herodias' daughter, was described. (Matthew 14:1-12)

### **Jesus selected his twelve disciples, who were:**

- **Simon** (also called **Peter**) -- commercial fishermen
- **Andrew** (Peter's brother) -- commercial fisherman
- **James** (son of Zebedee) -- commercial fisherman
- **John** (son of Zebedee) -- commercial fisherman
- **Philip**
- **Bartholomew**
- **Thomas**
- **Matthew** -- tax collector
- **James** (son of Alphaeus)
- **Thaddaeus**
- **Simon** -- of the Zealot political party, wanting to overthrow the Romans
- **Judus Iscariot** -- who betrayed Jesus

### **Jesus preached at Capernaum. He often spoke of the Kingdom of Heaven, with stories about it:**

1. **From the Sermon on th Mount**, given by Jesus to His disciples -- **The Beatitudes** (list of rewards of the Kingdom of Heaven)-- main Christian ethic
  - "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
  - Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.
  - Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.
  - Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

- Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
  - Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.
  - Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.
  - Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
  - Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake.
  - Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." (Matthew 5:3-12, from **King James' Version-- Sermon on the Mount**)
2. "Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:19 -- **Sermon on the Mount**)
  3. "I say to you that many will come from the east and the west (i.e. Gentiles), and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the subjects of the kingdom (i.e. Hebrews) will be thrown outside, into the darkness ..." (Matthew 8:11-12)
  4. "Whoever acknowledges Me before men, I will also acknowledge him before My Father in heaven. But whoever disowns Me before men, I will disown him before My father in heaven." (Matthew 10:32-33)
  5. "But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken." (Matthew 12:36).
  6. "...The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches." (Matthew 13:31,32)
  7. "...the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where their will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Matthew 13:47-51).
  8. "...unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3-4)
  9. "Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14)
  10. "...it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven...it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God...but with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:23-26)

**Jesus had many statements regarding how to live; some important ones were:**

1. "But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart." (Matthew 5:28 -- **Sermon on the Mount**)

2. "But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery." (Matthew 5:32 -- **Sermon on the Mount**; also in Matthew 19:9)
3. "But I tell you: Do not swear at all..." (Matthew 5:34 -- **Sermon on the Mount**)
4. "But I tell you: Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also." (Matthew 5:39 -- **Sermon on the Mount**)
5. "But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you ..." (Matthew 5:44 -- **Sermon on the Mount**)
6. "Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven." (Matthew 6:1)
7. "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 men...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." (Matthew 6:5-6)
8. **The Lord's Prayer**(from **King James' Version**)
  - o "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen." (Matthew 6:9-13)
9. "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink..." (Matthew 6:24-25)
10. "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." (Matthew 6:34).
11. "Do not judge, or you too will be judged...Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?" (Matthew 7:1,3)
12. "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." (Matthew 7:7-8, from **King James' Version**)
13. "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 7:12)
14. To Peter, who asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive ...seven times?" Jesus said, "...not seven times, but seventy times seven." (Matthew 18:21-22).
15. "And do not call anyone on earth 'father,' for you have one Father, and He is in heaven." (Matthew 23:9)
16. "For whoever exalts himself (i.e., thinks of himself as great) will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted (i.e., made great)." (Matthew 23:12)
17. "...the more important matters of the law -- justice, mercy, and faithfulness..." (Matthew 23:23)

**Jesus had many story-illustrations for people of his time. Summaries include:**

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock...it did not fall...But everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand...it fell..." (Matthew 7:24-26)

**Farmer Sowing Grains:** The farmer sows grains, some eaten by birds, some on rocky soil with little roots, some choked out by thorns, some falling on good soil to produce a great crop. This was explained (Matthew 13:18-23), whereby the good ground represents a man who understands His message and brings others into the Kingdom.

**King with Debtor:** King forgave a man a large debt. Then, the man refused to forgive a small debt owed to him. So the king was angry and punished the man. Likewise God would do the same to such a man. (Matthew 18:23-34)

**Last First, First Last:** A man paid a flat rate for all employees, some working a full day, some for only the last hours. Thus, all got the same reward because of the man's kindness. Likewise God would allow the last to be first and the first to be last -- or, everyone gets the same reward if accepted into the Kingdom of Heaven. (Matthew 20:1-16)

**King's Wedding Dinner:** The King's invited guests did not come, so the King then invited everyone into the dinner. Many came but one did not wear the robe given to him, so that one was thrown out. Here (Matthew 22:1-14), Jesus says that all are invited to the Kingdom of Heaven, but "For many are invited, but few are chosen."

**Cup Cleaning:** To the Pharisees, Jesus said, "...First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean." Here (Matthew 23:25-26) Jesus is speaking against hypocrisy.

**Ten Bridesmaids:** Five bridesmaids were prepared and had oil-filled lamps; five bridesmaids were not prepared -- with empty lamps. Those that were not prepared were not allowed to enter with the bridegroom. This (Matthew 25:1-12), regarding the Kingdom of Heaven, says, "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour." (Matthew 25:13)

**Investment:** Three servants were given different amounts of money to invest for their master; two doubled the money and one only buried the money for safekeeping. The story says, "For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance..." (Matthew 25:14-30) The one who buried the money gained nothing and was thrown out.

### **Jesus performed many healings and miracles. Summaries include:**

1. Leper -- healed (Matthew 8:2-4)
2. Servant boy of Roman army captain, paralyzed -- Gentile healed (Matthew 8:5-13)
3. Peter's mother-in-law, high fever -- healed (Matthew 8:14-15)
4. Demon-possessed people -- demons fled; sick healed (Matthew 8:16)
5. Demon-possessed men -- demons sent into pigs that were drowned (Matthew 8:28-32)
6. Paralyzed boy -- jumped up, cured (Matthew 9:2-7)
7. Rabbi's dead daughter -- became all right (Matthew 9:18-26)
8. Two blind men -- sight returned (Matthew 9:27-31)
9. Demon-possessed man couldn't speak -- speech returned, demon left (Matthew 9:32-33)
10. **Feeding the 5000:** A large crowd had gathered in the wilderness with no food, so Jesus multiplied five loaves of bread and two fish, so that all ate well and had 12 basketfuls left over. (Matthew 14:14-21)

11. **Walking on Water:** Disciples were in trouble on the lake with rough seas, so Jesus walked on the water out to them. Peter walked on the water but began to sink, so Jesus rescued him. The wind/seas calmed. (Matthew 14:23-33)
12. Canaanite woman (Gentile) -- requested daughter be helped from demons; Jesus granted her request because of her humility. (Matthew 15:22-28)
13. **Feeding the 4000:** At the Sea of Galilee, many people had gathered with no food, so Jesus multiplied seven loaves of bread and a few small fish, such that all ate well with 7 basketfuls left over. (Matthew 15:32-38)
14. Two blind men -- sight returned (Matthew 20:30-34)

**Jesus had many other main points, some including:**

1. "All things have been committed to Me by My Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him" (Matthew 11:27)
2. "For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother." (Matthew 12:50).
3. To Simon PETER, whose name Peter meant "rock," Jesus said, "...you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church; and the gates of hell will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven..." (Matthew 16:18)
4. To His disciples, Jesus said, "If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for Me will find it." (Matthew 16:24-25)
5. "... if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." (Matthew 17:20-21)
6. "...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:28)
7. "For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited Me in, I needed clothes and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me...whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for Me..." (Matthew 25:35-45)
8. A woman poured very expensive perfume onto Jesus' head and was criticized by Jesus' disciples. Jesus said she would always be remembered for her deed, for Jesus had only a short time left -- so the woman recognized Jesus' great value. (Matthew 26:6-13)

When asked why He dealt with sinners and tax collectors (people that were generally considered to be shunned), Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick." (Matthew 9:12). Jesus said that all sins can be forgiven except one -- blasphemy (dishonoring; cursing) against the Holy Spirit (Matthew 12:31,32). Jesus had disagreements with the Pharisees (religious party with strict Jewish beliefs based on Moses' laws -- exclusive and self-righteous people) and Sadducees (a party who followed the Roman rule, had political power and the priesthood, and did not believe in resurrection of the dead):

- Pharisees question to Jesus: Is it legal to work by healing on the Sabbath day? Jesus answer: It is right to do good on the Sabbath day. (Matthew 12:12)

- Pharisees -- He casts out demons because he is Satan. (accusing Jesus of being Satan) Jesus -- A divided kingdom will fall...If Satan is casting out himself, he is destroying his own kingdom. (Matthew 12:25,26)
- Pharisees -- question Jesus for not using the ritual handwashing custom. Jesus -- From the heart (or mind) come evil thoughts: what is unclean is not what goes into your mouth but what comes out of it -- what you think or say. (Matthew 15:1-20)
- Pharisees -- question to Jesus: Is it right to pay Roman taxes? Jesus -- "...Render therefore under Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's." (Matthew 22:21, from **King James' Version**)
- Sadducees -- question about a woman who successively married seven brothers and then died -- in the resurrection, whose wife would she be? Jesus -- There is no marriage, only angels in heaven. (Matthew 22:23-30)
- Sadducees -- question about resurrection. Jesus -- God said, "I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob," and this says that these are living people -- thus showing that they are resurrected. (Matthew 22:31-32)
- Pharisees -- question Jesus as what is the most important commandment. Jesus -- "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Matthew 22:37-39)

### **Jesus in Jerusalem:**

Jesus went to Jerusalem "gentle and riding on a donkey" (Matthew 21:5) Jesus went into the Temple and drove out the merchants and money-changers, angering Jewish leaders. Judas Iscariot agreed to direct the chief priests to Jesus for payment of 30 silver coins. Jesus ate a **Last Supper** with the twelve disciples, where Jesus pointed out Judas (Matthew 26:25) as the person who would betray Him. Jesus took bread, and said, "Take and eat; this is My body." And, a cup of wine, saying, "...This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins." (Matthew 26:26-28). Jesus prayed, "...My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from Me. Yet not as I will, but as You will." (Matthew 26:39) Jesus told Simon Peter that Peter would deny Jesus three times "before the rooster crows," and, when Jesus was pointed out by Judas and taken away, Peter denied that he knew Jesus three times before the morning rooster crowing. To the high priest, Jesus said that He was the Messiah (Matthew 26:64). Judas regretted turning Jesus over to the chief priests, and he hanged himself.

**The Crucifixion of Jesus** (Matthew 27): Jesus was given to Pilate, the Roman governor, for sentencing. Pilate offered to release either Jesus or a criminal named Barabbas. The crowd, persuaded by the priests, said to release Barabbas and to crucify Jesus. Pilate washed his hands, claiming to be innocent of Jesus' blood, and then ordered Jesus to be crucified. The Roman soldiers put a crown of thorns on His head, mocked Him, took Him to Golgotha (meaning "The Place of the Skull") to be put on a cross with a sign over His head, reading "THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS." For three hours, darkness occurred: then Jesus said the words "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?," meaning "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Jesus gave up His Spirit and died. Jesus was wrapped in a clean linen cloth and placed in a new tomb that had been cut out of the rock (given by a rich man named Joseph). A big stone was rolled in front of the entrance. The tomb was sealed and guarded.

**The Resurrection of Jesus** (Matthew 28): On Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene and another Mary went to the tomb and saw an angel of the Lord, who told them that Jesus was not there, that He had risen from the dead, and would meet His disciples in Galilee. Jesus told His disciples to "...go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and ... I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20).

With implications for the future yet to come, Jesus answered his disciples concerning the events that would signal the "end of the age" (or the world):

1. "And the gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world, as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." (Matthew 24:14)
2. "For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now -- and never to be equaled again." (Matthew 24:21)
3. "Immediately after the distress of those days 'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.'" (Matthew 24:29)
4. "And He will send His angels...and they will gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other." (Matthew 24:31)
5. "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away." (Matthew 24:35)
6. "Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come." (Matthew 24:42)

## **Mark:**

The story of **Jesus Christ** begins with the birth of the "messenger," **John the Baptist**, who lived in the wilderness, teaching that everyone should be baptised to publicly show their decision to change their lives. John the Baptist said that "I baptize you with water, but He (referring to Jesus) will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." (Mark 1:8) Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River, when the Spirit descended on Jesus "like a dove" and heaven responded, "...You are My Son who I love; with you I am well pleased." (Mark 1:11) After Jesus' baptism, he was tempted by Satan in the desert, then going to Galilee to preach the "good news." Jesus' healing the sick and destroying demons from the demon-possessed are presented as He went throughout Galilee, with the news spreading far and wide, and with large numbers of people coming to see Him. After King Herod had killed John the Baptist (with his head brought to Herodias' daughter on a tray), he thought that Jesus was John the Baptist raised from the dead. (Mark 6:14-29)

### **Capernaum Healing** (Mark 2:1-12):

This story is of a paralyzed man being lowered through the roof on a stretcher, with Jesus' healing him, saying "...Son, your sins are forgiven!" (Mark 2:5) This upset many Jewish religious leaders, who thought of this as "blaspheming" (dishonoring God).

Asked why He would eat with and associate with people that were not well thought of (tax collectors and sinners), Jesus said, "...It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." (Mark 2:17)

### **Jesus spoke of the Kingdom of God:**

- "It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade." (Mark 4:31-32)

### **Jesus had many statements regarding how to live; some important ones were:**

- Answering the question of what is the most important commandment, Jesus said, "The most important one ...is this: 'Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'" (Mark
- The second most important commandment: "...Love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Mark 12:31)

**Jesus had many story-illustrations (parables -- simple stories illustrating a moral or religious lesson) for people of his time.**

An example:

**Leased Vineyard** (Mark 12:1-12): A man's vineyard was leased to tenant farmers. When the owner sent men to collect his share of the crop, they were all killed, including the owner's son. Jesus said that the owner would come and kill these farmers and lease the vineyard to others. The Jewish leaders knew He was pointing to them as the wicked farmers in this story.

**Jesus performed many healings and miracles. Summaries include:**

1. Disciples in terrible storm with high waves -- winds quieted, calmed (Mark 4:35-41)
2. Woman with 12-year hemorrhage -- healed by touching His clothes (Mark 5:24-34)
3. Feeding 5000 men with five loaves and two fish, with 12 basketfuls left over (Mark 6:35-44)
4. Walking on the water, calming the wind and waves (Mark 6:46-52)
5. Demon-removal from the daughter of a Gentile (Mark 7:25-30)
6. Feeding 4000 people with seven loaves of bread and a few small fish, with 7 basketfuls left over (Mark 8:1-9)
7. Bartimaeus, blind beggar -- sight restored (Mark 10:46-52)

**Jesus had many other main points, some including:**

1. "...all the sins and blasphemies of men will be forgiven them. But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of an eternal sin." (Mark 3:28-29)
2. "Whoever does God's will is My brother and sister and mother." (Mark 3:35)
3. On His home town (Nazareth): "Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor." (Mark 6:4)
4. On a rich person getting into heaven (Mark 10:17-27), Jesus said "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." (Mark 10:25) And yet, He also said, "...all things are possible with God." (Mark 10: 27)
5. "Watch out for the teachers of the law (i.e., of religion). They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted in the marketplaces, and have the most important seats in the synagogues...for a show make lengthy prayers..." (Mark 12:38-40)

**Jesus' disagreements with the Pharisees and Sadducees were further told:**

- Pharisees question on not following the ritual washing ceremony before eating. Jesus answer: "Nothing outside a man can make him 'unclean' by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him 'unclean.'" (Mark 7:15-16) "All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.'" (Mark 7:23)
- Pharisees question on divorce (Mark 10:2-12). Jesus answer: "...Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery." (Mark 10:11-12)

### **Jesus' interactions with his disciples were described:**

1. Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do people say I am?" They responded that some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah back to life. Jesus said, "Who do you say I am?" Peter (Simon PETER) responded, "You are the Christ (i.e., the Messiah; the Anointed One)." (Mark 8:27-30)
2. To His disciples and the crowds, He said, "If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his life (or soul) will lose it, but whoever loses his life for Me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?" (Mark 8:34-36)
3. To Peter, James, and John on a mountain top, Jesus transfigured to white, dazzling; and Elijah and Moses appeared along with a Voice saying "This is My Son, Whom I love. Listen to Him." (Mark 9:2-10)
4. In response to questions from them on Elijah needing to return before the Messiah, Jesus said that he had already come and had been abused (implied), possibly indicating that John the Baptist could have been Elijah. (Mark 9:11-13)
5. He said to them, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all." And, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in My name welcomes Me; and whoever welcomes Me does not welcome Me but the One who sent Me." (Mark 9:35-37)
6. When the disciples told children to go away from Jesus, He said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these...anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." (Mark 10:13-15)
7. James and John wanted to "sit at Your right and ...at Your left in Your glory." Jesus told them "These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared," and also said that whoever wants "to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all." (Mark 10:35-45)
8. On Temple offerings, Jesus watched a poor widow put in two small copper coins. Jesus said to the disciples, "...this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything -- all she had to live on." (Mark 12:41-44)
9. Concerning signs of the "End of the Age," Jesus told the disciples, "And the gospel must first be preached to all nations." (Mark 13:10) And, "...following that distress (i.e., at the end times), 'the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.'" (Mark 13:24-25) Then, the angels will be sent out "to gather His elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens." (Mark 13:27) "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away." (Mark 13:31)

### **Jesus in Jerusalem (Mark 11):**

Jesus rode a colt that had never been ridden and was praised by crowds of people as He rode into Jerusalem to shouts of "Hosanna! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in

the highest!" In Jerusalem, Jesus drove out the buyers, sellers, and moneychangers, saying "My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations..."

### **Jesus' Passover Supper (The Lord's Supper)** in Jerusalem (Mark 14):

With the twelve disciples, in a large upper room, Jesus said that one of His disciples would betray Him. Then, Jesus took bread, and said, "Take it -- this is My body." And, a cup of wine was passed to all of them, with Jesus saying, "This is My blood of the covenant (i.e., the new agreement of God and man), which is poured out for many..." (Mark 14:22-24). After the supper, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus told them that, after He was raised to life again, He would go to Galilee and meet them. Also, after the supper, Jesus said that Peter would deny Jesus three times before the rooster crowed the second time in the morning; Peter said that would not happen.

### **Jesus' "Trial"** (Mark 14:15):

In Gethsemane, at night, Jesus asked God, if possible, to "Take this cup from Me." In the morning, Judas greeted Jesus, and an armed crowd took Jesus to meet the Sanhedrin (Jewish Supreme Court). The high priest asked Him, "Are you the Christ (or Messiah)...?" and Jesus answered "I am..." They voted for the death sentence. Peter denied knowing Jesus three times before the rooster crowed the second time that morning. Jesus was carried to Pilate, the Roman governor, who asked Jesus, "Are You the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "Yes, it is as you say." Pilate offered to release Jesus or Barabbas (a murderer), with the crowd to decide. The crowd, urged by the Jewish priests, asked to free Barabbas and to crucify Jesus. Roman soldiers mocked Jesus, dressed Him in a purple robe, gave Him a crown of thorns, beat Him, and then led Him to be crucified.

### **The Crucifixion of Jesus** (Mark 15):

Jesus' cross was carried by Simon, a man from Cyrene, to Golgotha (meaning "The Place of the Skull"). Jesus was offered wine drugged with myrrh, which He refused. The crucifixion took place at "the third hour," with a written notice of His charge, reading "THE KING OF THE JEWS." Two robbers were crucified, with crosses on either side of His cross. After three hours on the cross, darkness occurred for three hours, at which point Jesus said "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" (Aramaic, meaning "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"); then Jesus "breathed His last." The curtain in the Temple tore in two (this signifying access to God now by man).

Joseph, a man from Arimathea, asked Pilate for Jesus' body, took Jesus' body down from the cross, put it in a long linen cloth and laid it in a tomb cut out of rock, and rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.

### **The Resurrection of Jesus** (Mark 16):

The next evening, Mary Magdalene, another Mary, and Salome bought spices to "anoint" the body of Jesus. The following morning, at sunrise, they went to the tomb and saw a young man in a white robe (i.e., angel of the Lord), who told them that Jesus was not there, that He had "risen" (come back to life) and was going to Galilee. Mary Magdalene saw Him that Sunday morning, and she told His disciples, who did not believe her. Later, as Jesus appeared to the eleven remaining disciples, He said, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." (Mark 16:15-16) And, Jesus said that believers could drive out demons, speak in new tongues (i.e., new languages), handle snakes, drink poison, and heal sick people. Then, Jesus was "...taken up into heaven and He sat at the right hand of God." (Mark 16:19)

## **Luke:**

This is stated to be an "orderly account" (i.e., summary) of "the things that have been fulfilled" (i.e., **Jesus Christ's story**). It begins telling of the angel Gabriel (Luke 1) first appearing with "good news" to Zechariah telling him of his wife Elizabeth to have a son (to be called John -- **John the Baptist**) that will precede the coming of the Messiah. Then, the angel Gabriel goes, a month later, to Nazareth (a village in Galilee) to speak to the "virgin Mary" (who was engaged to be married to Joseph -- a descendent of King David) -- telling her that she will give birth to a son to be called **Jesus**, who "will reign over the house of Jacob (i.e., Israel) forever; His kingdom will never end." (Luke 1:33) Mary was told that the "Holy Spirit" will let the baby be born "the Son of God" (Luke 1:35). Mary's relative (aunt) was Elizabeth, who was to be the mother of John the Baptist. The rest of the story of Jesus' birth is told, with Joseph going to Bethlehem to register for the census (decreed by Caesar Augustus, the Roman Emperor) when the Baby Jesus was born, wrapped in cloths, and placed in a manger, since there was no room in the inn. (Luke 2:7) Shepherds in a field saw an angel, telling them that "Today in the town of David (i.e., Bethlehem) a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ (or Messiah) the Lord." The shepherds went to the manger in Bethlehem and saw the Child. In Nazareth, Jesus "grew and became strong..."

**Jesus at Twelve** (Luke 2:41-52): Going to Jerusalem for Passover, Jesus stayed for three days after His parents left. They found Him in the Temple courts -- sitting among the teachers and amazing them. Jesus said to His parents, "Didn't you know I had to be in My Father's House?" (Luke 2:49)

The lineage of Joseph (Jesus' earthly "father") was traced all the way back to Adam (Luke 3:23-38). Jesus was stated to be "about thirty years old when He began His ministry." Jesus' baptism and temptation by the devil in the desert for forty days was followed by His preaching at Nazareth --where He was rejected. So He preached at Capernaum every Sabbath (Saturday) and at other synagogues throughout Judea.

## **Well-known stories of and by Jesus include:**

- **Fish Netting**: Jesus told Simon (Peter) to cast his net in a special place leading to an overflowing catch (Luke 5:1-9), after which Jesus said that from now on "you will catch men." (Luke 5:10)
- **Caring Woman**: A prostitute poured perfume on Jesus' feet and wiped them off with her hair, whereas His Pharisee host did not offer courtesies. Jesus told her, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." (Luke 7:36-50)

- **Good Samaritan** A Jewish man attacked by bandits was not helped by a priest or a temple assistant, but a Samaritan (despised by Jews) aided and cared for the man (Luke 10:30-37) -- showing that one should "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10:27)
- **Lost Sheep**: Even with 100 sheep, the shepherd will look for the one that is lost until it is found -- so "there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent." (Luke 15:3-7)
- **Prodigal Son**: A man's son takes his inheritance, goes far away and loses it; then the son returns to a happy greeting from his father and resentment from his brother. The father's response: "...he was lost and is found!" (Luke 15:11-32)
- **Ten Lepers**: Jesus healed ten lepers, and only one came back to thank Him -- a Samaritan. Jesus said, "...your faith has made you well." This showed that many do not appreciate great gifts. (Luke 17:11-19)
- **Rich Man**: A rich man had obeyed the laws, yet Jesus said he should give everything to the poor and follow Him. When the man left, Jesus said "...it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Then Jesus said that for anyone to be saved is only possible because "What is impossible with men is possible with God." (Luke 18:18-27)
- **Zacchaeus**: A despised tax collector, Zacchaeus (a very short man) climbed into a sycamore-fig tree to watch Jesus, who later went to Zacchaeus' house. Zacchaeus became changed. (Luke 19:1-10)

#### **Jesus spoke of the Kingdom of Heaven, or the Kingdom of God:**

1. "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger...are you who weep...because great is your reward in heaven..." (Luke 6:20-23)
2. "Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves...in heaven...where no thief comes near..." (Luke 12:33)
3. "It is like a mustard seed...grew and became a tree...like yeast...mixed into a large amount of flour..." (Luke 13:19-21)
4. Responding to the Pharisees questioning when the kingdom of God will begin, Jesus said, "...because the kingdom of God is within you." (Luke 17:20-21)

#### **Jesus had many story-illustrations for people of his time. Examples:**

1. FARMER SOWING GRAIN (Luke 8:5-15): Farmer sowed seed onto poor and fertile soil. The seed (God's message) in poor soil (hard hearts) did not grow; in fertile soil (good people) the seed did grow (they believed and spread the Word).
2. PERSISTENCE PAYS #1 (Luke 11:5-10): To borrow bread late at night, if you keep knocking, you will get it. Likewise, with prayer, "...Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."
3. RICH ON EARTH, NOT HEAVEN (Luke 12:16-21): Storing away crops for the earthly life fills barns...but then you die. So, one should not be concerned with riches on earth and not be "rich toward God."

4. MANY INVITATIONS (Luke 14:16-24): A man had invited many to a great feast, and nobody showed up. Then, he invited anyone, and his house became full -- implying that Jews were invited first by Jesus, then everyone in the world.
5. TEN COINS (Luke 15:8-10): Happiness occurs when one lost coin (out of ten) is found; angels rejoice similarly when a sinner repents.
6. DISHONEST ACCOUNTANT (Luke 16:1-13): The accountant cleverly regains the admiration of his employer, yet his honesty was still in question. "You cannot serve both God and money."
7. RICH MAN - BEGGAR MAN (Luke 16:19-31): A rich man would not aid a beggar. Both died, with the rich going to hell (or Hades) and then asking for help from the beggar, who was in heaven. There was no way for one to cross from heaven to hell.
8. PERSISTENCE PAYS #2 (Luke 18:1-8): An evil judge was bothered by a woman who asked for justice until finally the judge helped her. God will also answer the persistent.
9. PHARISEE - TAX COLLECTOR (Luke 18:9-14): A Pharisee and a (despised) tax collector both prayed, with only the tax collector being truly sincere, so the tax collector was forgiven. "For everyone who exalts (i.e. elevates; praises) himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."
10. NOBLEMAN'S INVESTMENTS (Luke 19:12-27): Ten men were given equal money to invest by the nobleman: those who earned the most were rewarded.
11. LEASED VINEYARD (Luke 20:9-18): A man's vineyard was rented to farmers who refused to pay him his share of the crop and killed his messengers and his son. The owner, Jesus said, would kill them and rent the vineyard to others. Jesus then added, "The Stone the builders rejected has become the Capstone..." -- with all this implying that Jesus and His ministry were to be rejected by the Jews/Pharisees and thus would be passed on to others.

**Jesus performed many healings and miracles, summarized here:**

1. Man with advanced leprosy cured (Luke 5:12-14)
2. Paralyzed man on sleeping mat, lowered from roof -- healed (Luke 5:18-25)
3. Cured deformed hand on Sabbath, enraging the Pharisees (Luke 6:6-11)
4. Cast out many demons; healed everyone who touched Him (Luke 6:18-19)
5. Slave of Roman captain (Gentile) -- healed (Luke 7:2-10)
6. Only son of widow -- brought back to life from funeral procession (Luke 7:11-15)
7. Storm threatening disciples and Jesus -- calmed (Luke 8:22-25)
8. Demon-possessed man in cemetery -- demons sent to pigs that drowned (Luke 8:27-39)
9. Dead twelve-year-old daughter of Jewish synagogue leader -- life returned (Luke 8:41-56)
10. Woman with long-term bleeding -- healed by touching Jesus' clothes (Luke 8: 43-48)
11. Feeding 5000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish, with 12 basketfuls left over (Luke 8:12-17)
12. Only son with demon -- healed (Luke 9:37-42)
13. Woman bent double for 18 years -- healed on Sabbath (Luke 13:10-17)
14. Blind man near Jericho -- healed (Luke 18:35-43)

**Jesus had many other main points, some including:**

1. "But I will show you whom you should fear: fear Him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell." (Luke 12:5)
2. "And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man (i.e., Jesus) will be forgiven, but anyone who blasphemes (speaks profanely/irreverently) against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven." (Luke 12:10)
3. "You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him." (Luke 12:40)
4. Referring to heaven: "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many...will try to enter and will not be able to...Indeed there are those who are last (probably referring to the poor people on earth) who will be first (in heaven), and first (probably referring to the rich/important people) who will be last." (Luke 13:24-30)
5. "And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow Me cannot be My disciple." (Luke 14:27)
6. "...any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be My disciple." (Luke 14:33)
7. "Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery, and the man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery." (Luke 16:18)
8. "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you." (Luke 17:6)
9. "Beware of the teachers of the law (i.e., religious leaders)...in flowing robes...love... places of honor...and for a show make lengthy prayers..." (Luke 20:46-47)

**Jesus' disagreements with the Pharisees and Sadducees were further told:**

- Pharisees question on why Jesus ate with sinners and tax collectors. Jesus answer: "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick." (Luke 5:31)
- Pharisees question on Jesus' breaking the heads off wheat and eating grains (working) on the Sabbath (Jewish holy day, our Saturday). Jesus answer: "...David...entered the house of God (i.e., the Temple), and taking the consecrated (i.e., sacred) bread...ate." (Luke 6:2-4)
- Pharisees question on why Jesus did not perform ceremonial washing before eating. Jesus answer: "...you Pharisees clean the outside... but inside you are full of greed and wickedness." (Luke 11:39)
- Pharisees questioned: should Jews pay tax to Rome? Jesus answer: "...give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." (Luke 20:25)
- Sadducees (nonbelievers in resurrection) questioned about a woman married seven times on earth: whose wife is she in heaven? Jesus answer: "The people of this age (i.e., people on earth) marry...But...in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage, and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels..." (Luke 20:34-36). Since Jesus considered their real question about resurrection itself, Jesus continued that when Moses called the Lord "the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob" it meant that those persons were alive, since God was their God: or, "to Him (i.e., God) all are alive." (Luke 20:37-38)

**Jesus' interactions with his disciples were described:**

1. "...Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." (Luke 6:27-28)
2. "If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also...Do to others as you would have them do to you." (Luke 6:29;31)
3. "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn (i.e., criticize), and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you..." (Luke 6:37-38)
4. To His disciples, He asked, "Who do you say I am?" Peter replied, "The Christ (i.e., Messiah) of God!" He strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone, saying, "The Son of Man must...be killed and on the third day be raised to life." (Luke 9:20-22)
5. "For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for Me will save it." (Luke 9:24)
6. To Peter, James, and John on a mountain top, Jesus became changed in appearance, becoming "as bright as a flash of lightning." A Voice said, "This is My Son, Whom I have chosen; listen to Him." (Luke 9:28-35)
7. "Whoever welcomes this little child in My name welcomes Me; and whoever welcomes Me welcomes the One who sent Me. For he who is least among you all -- he is the greatest." (Luke 9:48)
8. "...but he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me." (Luke 10:16)
9. "All things have been committed to Me by My Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him." (Luke 10:22)
10. "Let the little children come to Me...anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." (Luke 18:17)

**With implications for the future yet to come, Jesus talked about the events that would signal the "End of the Age" (or the world) and His return:**

1. "For the Son of Man (i.e., Jesus) in His day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky ...But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation." (Luke 17:24-25)
2. "It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed." (Luke 17:30)
3. "...the time will come when not one stone will be left on another..." (Luke 21:6)
4. "When you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away...When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near." (Luke 21:9-20)
5. "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars...the heavenly bodies will be shaken...the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory...When these things begin to take place...your redemption (i.e., rescue) is drawing near...Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away...Be always on the watch..." (Luke 21:25-36)

**Jesus in Jerusalem** (Luke 19:28-48):

Jesus rode a colt, not yet broken for riding, into Jerusalem to shouts: "Blessed is the King who comes in the Name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" (Luke 19:38) In Jerusalem, in the Temple, Jesus drove out those who were selling things.

**Jesus' Passover (The Last Supper)** in Jerusalem (Luke 22):

With the twelve disciples, in a large upper room, Jesus observed the Passover supper. Jesus broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying "This is My body given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." And, the cup of wine was given to them, with Jesus saying, "This cup is the new covenant (i.e., new agreement) in My blood, which is poured out for you." Jesus said that one at the table would betray Him. Then, He told the disciples that "the greatest among you should be like... the one who serves..." and that they would "sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." Jesus told Peter that he would deny Jesus three times before the rooster crowed that day (the next morning). Going to the Mount of Olives He prayed, "Father, if You are willing, take this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done." Later, Judas came to kiss Him on the cheek and betrayed Him to a crowd who had come to take Him. Shortly thereafter, Simon Peter denied that he knew Jesus three times: then the rooster crowed that morning.

**Jesus' "Trial"** (Luke 22:23):

Meeting the council of the chief priests and teachers, when they said, "Are You then the Son of God?," Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am." They carried Jesus to Pilate, the Roman governor, and Jesus responded to the question, "Are You the king of the Jews?" with "Yes, it is as you say." Pilate referred Jesus to King Herod, who controlled Galilee. Later, Jesus was taken back to Pilate, who wanted to release Him, but eventually sentenced Him to die and released Barabbas, a prisoner/murderer.

**The Crucifixion of Jesus** (Luke 23):

Simon from Cyrene carried Jesus' cross to a place called the "Skull," where He was crucified with two criminals -- one on either side. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Soldiers gambled for His clothing, mocked Him, and offered Him wine vinegar. One criminal said "We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this Man has done nothing wrong." Then, that criminal said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into Your Kingdom," and Jesus replied, "...today you will be with Me in Paradise." Darkness occurred for three hours; the curtain of the Temple was torn in two (showing that God was then accessible to all), and then Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into Your Hands I commit My Spirit" and "breathed His last." Joseph, a Jewish Council (Supreme Court) member from Arimathea, asked Pilate for Jesus' body, took Jesus' body down from the cross, wrapped it in linen cloth, and (on Friday) placed it in a new tomb cut into rock. The Sabbath (Saturday, Jewish holy day), everyone rested.

**The Resurrection of Jesus** (Luke 24):

Early on Sunday, Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary (mother of James) and other women took spices to the tomb, found the stone (entrance covering) rolled away, and saw two gleaming men (i.e., angels), who said "He is not here; He has risen!" The women told the disciples and others of this, and Peter ran to the tomb, seeing the strips of linen (wrappings). Jesus appeared to two followers that Sunday but they did not recognize Him at first; when they did recognize Him, He disappeared. Jesus then appeared to Peter, then to the eleven disciples -- showing them His hands and feet and body, saying that He was not a ghost. Jesus instructed them:

- "...repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations."

Then, in the vicinity of Bethany, Jesus rose up into the sky to heaven. (Luke 24:50)

## John:

This book begins with: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1; from **King James' Version**) God sent **John the Baptist** to witness **Jesus Christ** being the true "Light," yet among the Jews, He was not accepted. "Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His Name, He gave the right to become children of God -- children born not of natural descent (i.e., not a physical birth) ...but born of God." (John 1:12-13) And, Christ became a human, living on earth. John the Baptist said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29) John the Baptist also said, "He Who will baptize with the Holy Spirit...is the Son of God" (John 1:33-34) and further said, "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him." (John 3:36)

### Well-known stories of and by Jesus include:

- **Miracle at Cana in Galilee** (John 2): This was the first public demonstration of Jesus' heaven-sent power. The water in six 20-30 gallon pots was turned into wine -- at a wedding celebration, at the request of His mother Mary.
- **Nicodemus' Discussion** (John 3): A Pharisee, Nicodemus, discussed religion with Jesus and was told "...no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." In the further discussion is a most-quoted portion: **John 3:16** -- (from **King James' Version**) :
  - "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
- **Woman at the Well** (John 4): A (despised) Samaritan woman at Jacob's well was approached by Jesus, who explained "living water" to her: "...the water I give...will become... a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (John 4:14) The woman led many to Jesus.
- **Bread of Life** (John 6:25-59): In Capernaum, Jesus explained, "...I am the Bread of Life." (John 6:35;6:48) And, He explained that the Bread from heaven gives eternal life to everyone who eats it. (John 6:48-51).
- **Born Blind** (John 9): Asked if a man blind from birth was that way because of his or his parents' sins, Jesus said that it was neither. Jesus healed the man on the Sabbath. The man said, "...I was blind but now I see!" (John 9:25) Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind (i.e., the spiritually ignorant) will see and those who see (i.e., those who think they have spiritual knowledge) will become blind (i.e., will not recognize Jesus)." (John 9:39)
- **Lazarus Raised from Dead** (John 11): Lazarus, dead for four days, was buried in a cave with a heavy stone rolled across its door. Jesus told his sister Martha, "I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die..." (John 11:25) At the tomb, the heavy

stone was rolled aside and Jesus shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" And, Lazarus came. (John 11:43-44)

### **Jesus had many story-illustrations for people of his time. An example:**

- **Gate for the Sheep** (John 10:1-16): Shepherd, gatekeeper, and sheep were used as an illustration, after which Jesus explained: "...I am the Gate for the sheep...whoever enters through Me will be saved...will go in and out, and find pasture." (John 10:7-9) Then Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd...lays down his life for the sheep." (John 10:11) Further, Jesus said, "My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish..." (John 10:27-28)

### **Jesus performed many healings and miracles, other than those mentioned above -- summarized here:**

1. Jesus' second miracle in Galilee (first was wine from water in Cana): Royal official's son, near death -- healed (John 4:46-54)
2. In Jerusalem, at pool, man sick for 38 years -- healed on Sabbath (John 5:1-15)
3. Feeding of 5000 people with five barley loaves and a couple of fish, with 12 baskets of food left over (John 6:1-13)
4. Disciples on rough seas -- Jesus walked on the water to the boat and made it arrive safely (John 6:16-21)

### **Jesus had many other main points, some including:**

1. "...whoever hears My Word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over **from death to life.**" (John 5:24)
2. "...the very work that the Father has given Me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has sent Me." (John 5:36)
3. "Whoever believes in Me...streams of living water will flow from within him." (John 7:38)
4. "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the Light of life." (John 8:12)
5. "...You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be (i.e., the Messiah), you will indeed die in your sins." (John 8:23-24)
6. "If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32)
7. "...everyone who sins is a slave to sin...if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:34-36)
8. "...if anyone keeps My word, he will never see death." (John 8:51)
9. "...before Abraham was born, I am! (i.e., was existing)" (John 8:58)

10. "...believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father." (John 10:38)
11. "I have come into the world as a Light, so that no one who believes in Me should stay in darkness...There is a judge for the one who rejects Me...that very Word which I spoke will condemn (i.e., doom) him at the last day (i.e., Judgment Day)." (John 12:46;48)

Another disagreement with the Pharisees was told:

- **Cast the First Stone:**
  - Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery, saying Moses' law said to kill her by throwing stones at her: what do You say? Jesus answer: "...If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." (John 8:7) And, the woman was not harmed.

**Jesus' interactions with his disciples at the Last Supper were described:**

1. "...I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father , but by Me." (John 14:6, from **King James' Version**)
2. "...Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father...I am in the Father and... the Father is in Me...words I say are not just My own...it is the Father, living in Me, who is doing His work." (John 14:9-10)
3. "And I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask Me for anything in My name, and I will do it." (John 14:13-14)
4. "Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. I am the Vine; you are the branches..." (John 15:4-5)
5. "This is My commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:12-13, from **King James' Version**)
6. "...the Father will give you whatever you ask in My name." (John 15:16)
7. "When the Counselor (i.e., the Holy Spirit) comes, whom I will send to you from the Father ...Truth... He will testify about Me." (John 15:26)
8. "...in regard to sin, because men do not believe in Me..." (John 16:9)
9. "...in My Name...Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete." (John 16:24)
10. "Now this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, Whom You have sent." (John 17:3)

With implications for the future yet to come, Jesus talked about the events that would signal the "end of the age" (or the world) and His return:

- "...a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear His voice and come out -- those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned." (John 5:28-29)

**Jesus' Passover (Last) Supper and Capture** in Jerusalem (John 13): Jesus individually washed the disciples' feet and said, "...do as I have done for you...no servant is greater than his master..." (John 13: 15-16) Jesus further said, "...whoever accepts Me accepts the One who sent Me." (John 13:20) Jesus told Simon Peter that he would deny Jesus three times before the rooster would crow the next morning.

After the supper, at the olive grove, Judas arrived with officials and soldiers. Simon Peter slashed off the ear of a servant of the high priest. Peter denied that he knew Jesus three times, and then the rooster crowed that morning.

**Jesus' "Trial" and Crucifixion** (John 18,19):

Meeting with Pilate, the Roman governor, Jesus said that He was not an earthly king and that He came to bring "the truth" to the world. Pilate said that he had no basis to charge Jesus and tried to release Jesus but eventually gave Jesus to the Jews to be crucified at Golgotha (meaning the place of the "Skull").

Jesus was crucified with two others, one on each side. A sign was posted over Jesus: "JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS" in Aramaic (Hebrew), Latin, and Greek. When Jesus said, "I'm thirsty," a sponge with wine vinegar was lifted to Him. Later a soldier pierced His side with a spear, with blood/water flowing out. Joseph of Arimathea requested Jesus' body and, with Nicodemus, took Jesus' body down and wrapped it in strips of linen with myrrh and aloes as spices. Jesus' body was placed in a new tomb (at a garden at the place where Jesus was crucified) just before the Sabbath (Saturday, Jewish holy day).

**The Resurrection of Jesus** (John 20):

Early Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene found the stone covering removed from the entrance to the tomb. She ran and told Simon Peter and another disciple. Returning to the tomb, they saw only the strips of linen and the cloth that had been around Jesus' head. Mary returned again to the tomb and saw two angels and also Jesus, who first appeared as a Gardener to her before she recognized Him. Jesus, that evening, appeared to the disciples. The disciple Thomas was not with the others and, when he heard of Jesus' appearance, Thomas said, "...Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe." (John 20:25, from **King James' Version**). A week later, Jesus appeared while Thomas was there and said to Thomas, "...Reach hither thy finger, and behold My hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into My side; and be not faithless, but believing." (John 20:27, from **King James' Version**). Thomas said, "...My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28) Jesus told Thomas: "...Thomas, because thou hast seen Me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." (John 20:29, from **King James' Version**)

Thomas has been labeled ever since as "Doubting Thomas."

Jesus appeared to the disciples on the Sea of Tiberias (or Sea of Galilee) and told them where to

cast the nets, allowing them to get a full catch (153 large fish). Then, Jesus instructed Peter (Simon Peter) to "...Take care of My sheep." (John 21:16).

## **Acts:**

This book, by the same writer as the book of Luke, tells what happened after Jesus' crucifixion -- Jesus appearances to the apostles (disciples) for forty days after the crucifixion. Then, Jesus rose into the sky into a cloud.

Another disciple, Matthias, was chosen to replace Judas Iscariot (who had betrayed Jesus and then killed himself), so that the disciples/apostles were again twelve.

In Acts, there was mention of a soul (i.e., Jesus) being in hell until the resurrection (Acts 2:27-31, from **King James' Version**). The disciple, **Simon Peter** (or, just **Peter**) healed a crippled beggar. The Sadducees (who disbelieved in resurrection of the dead) were upset over the disciples Peter and John telling of Jesus' rising from the dead. The disciples kept speaking of Jesus as the Messiah and as the "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone," saying further that "Salvation is found in no one else..." (Acts 4:11-12) The disciples/apostles were arrested and put in jail often, yet they preached on -- once released from jail by an angel (Acts 5:19). Administrators (i.e., deacons) were picked for handling many of the duties of the church, so that the disciples could spend their time preaching.

### **Stephen Stoned to Death (Acts 7):**

Stephen, a believer in Jesus, was brought to the high priest and spoke to the Jewish leaders, saying that "...I see...the Son of Man (i.e., Jesus the Messiah) standing at the right hand of God." Stephen was stoned to death and martyred (died, arousing sympathy to his beliefs).

As Peter and John preached, a Roman citizen and Jew named **Saul** (or **Paul**) of Tarsus was persecuting all believers in Jesus, until near Damascus, when the voice of Jesus spoke to Paul and blinded him for three days, after which Ananias (a Damascus believer in Jesus instructed to heal Paul) touched Paul to give him his sight back. Paul then became a believer in Jesus, was baptised and preached that Jesus was the Christ (i.e., the Messiah; Son of God). (Acts 9)

Peter healed a man bedridden for 8 years and then brought a dead woman (Dorcas) back to life (Acts 9:32-42). Then Peter had a vision that showed him that people other than Jews are valued by God. (Acts 10:9-15; 34-35) So, the early church then came to the thought, "...God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life." (Acts 11:18)

Barnabus and Paul at Tarsus (at Antioch) preached to the people -- there first called "Christians." (Acts 11:26) The apostle James was killed; Peter was arrested but rescued by an angel, who

unchained him. (Acts 12:6-10)

Paul and Barnabus preached to many that both Jews and Gentiles could accept Jesus. In Jerusalem, Peter said that Gentiles were welcome and that they did not have to obey Jewish laws (circumcision was not required), except that they should abstain from eating meat sacrificed to idols, from eating unbled meat from strangled animals, and from fornication (having sex outside of marriage). (Acts 15) Paul then preached with Silas, Timothy, and others in many places, often in Greece -- at Corinth.

There were many riots and attacks on Paul by jealous Jewish leaders wherever he went. At Philippi, Paul and Silas were beaten and jailed, then released from prison by an earthquake that caused their chains to fall off, after which the jailer was baptized. (Acts 16:22-33) Paul healed a young man after a fatal fall during a sermon in Troas (in Turkey) (Acts 20:7-12). Paul went back to Jerusalem and told the people again of his experience on the road nearing Damascus (Acts 22:6-16). Paul was arrested and was charged by Ananias (the Jerusalem High Priest) as worthy of execution. (Acts 21-28) Paul would have been set free (Acts 26:32), but he "appealed to Caesar" (being a Roman citizen) -- requiring that he be sent to Rome for trial. Paul's trip to Rome was detailed, with an account of his being bitten by a poisonous snake without effect. (Acts 28:3-6)

## **Romans:**

In this book, a letter from **Paul** to the early church in Rome, are many of the essential points of the New Testament. Paul tells the Good News about Jesus Christ being the Son of God, with the Holy nature of God Himself, saying that everyone (not Jews alone, but Gentiles [non-Jews] also) with faith and trust in Christ was doing right and was ready for heaven. Paul said that nobody was good enough to keep His laws, yet we are "justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus" (i.e., declared innocent because of Jesus taking away our sins): Paul stated that Christ's blood and our faith will save us:

- "For we maintain that a man is justified (i.e., saved) by faith (implied that this is faith in Jesus Christ) apart from observing the law (i.e., following the Ten Commandments)." (Romans 3:28)
- "He (i.e., Jesus) was delivered over to death (i.e., died) for our sins and was raised to life (i.e., rose) for our justification (i.e., to declare us free from blame or guilt; to pardon us)." (Romans 4:24-25)

Paul contrasted Adam as the first man, bringing death to the world through sin, with Jesus Christ as one Man bringing forgiveness to many through God's mercy, with Christ freely taking away many sins and His righteousness making men right with God. (Romans 5:12-19)

Paul had many other main points that he preached, some including:

1. "...just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 5:21)
2. "We (i.e., Christians) were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." (Romans 6:4)
3. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23, from King James' Version)
4. "You...are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you." (Romans 8:9)
5. "But if Christ is in you, your body is dead (or will die) because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness." (Romans 8:10)

6. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28, from **King James' Version**)
7. "...If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31)
8. "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height or depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us (i.e., Christians) from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39)
9. "Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God..." (Romans 11:22)
10. "I am talking to you Gentiles (non-Jews)...I am the apostle to the Gentiles..." (Romans 11:13)
11. "...How unsearchable His judgments...Who has known the Mind of the Lord?..." (Romans 11:33-34)
12. "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen..." (Romans 11:36)
13. "We have different gifts, according to the grace given us...(i.e., different abilities given to us by God)." Paul instructs each person to do well in what he does best, saying further: "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord (i.e., don't be lazy in your work)." And, further: "Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited." Paul said to be "careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody..." and "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:6-21)
14. "Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities (i.e., do what the government says), for there is no authority except that which God has established..." (Romans 13:1)
15. "The commandments...are summed up in this one rule: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' " (Romans 13:9)
16. "...why do you judge your brother?...For we will all stand before God's judgment seat." (Romans 14:10)
17. "...the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking...but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble...better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall." (Romans 14:17-21)
18. "...Christ has become a servant of the Jews...so that the Gentiles may glorify God for His mercy...." (Romans 15:8-9)

Paul also pointed out his belief in predestination, such as:

- "For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son...And those He predestined, He also called...justified...glorified." (Romans 8:29-30)
- Regarding God's blessing Jacob but not Esau, " ...before the twins were born...in order that God's purpose in election (i.e., predestining them) might stand...Jacob I loved..." (Romans 9:10-13)

Paul told of the future events around his time (or even possibly yet to come now) of the **"last days:"**

- "...Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved..." (Romans 11:25-26)

## **First Corinthians:**

This book is a letter to the church at Corinth (Greece) where Paul instructs the members of this early group of Christians to stop arguing and tells them of his plan to send Timothy to help them further. Paul instructs the church members about a member who was living with his father's wife, saying that it was not his (or their) business to judge those "outside the church": yet it was their business inside the church -- the man should be expelled. (1 Corinthians 5) On marriage, Paul instructs the church that it is all right not to marry, but usually it is best to be married and that a wife must not leave her husband and the husband must not divorce his wife; if a husband dies, the wife could marry, only if she marries a man who "belongs to the Lord" (i.e., a Christian). (1 Corinthians 7) On the Jewish ceremony of circumcision, Paul told the church members that it makes no difference whether a Christian has gone through the ceremony. (1 Corinthians 7:18-19) On eating food that had been sacrificed to idols, Paul said the main problem was that you might influence someone who thinks it is wrong to still eat it (following your lead) -- and that when "...you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ." (1 Corinthians 8) On Communion (or Eucharist), Paul said that all who drink the cup of wine are sharing together the blessing of Christ's blood and that the bread shows sharing of the benefits of His body: "For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes (i.e., returns)." (1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 11:23-26) On speaking in unknown tongues, Paul said that was all right, yet people should have an explanation also in ordinary language so that all the people will understand and be helped. (1 Corinthians 14:13-19) Advising the church, Paul said that women should be silent during the church meetings. (1 Corinthians 14:34-35)

In a detailed explanation of how will the dead arise again:

### **Dead to Life Questions - From the Seed Arises the Plant** (1 Corinthians 15:35-58)

Paul told of our earthly bodies being replaced with a new body (like a green plant being very different from the seed first planted) -- a superhuman, spiritual, heavenly body that will never die. Paul further stated (1 Corinthians 15:50), "...flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God" and that, with the new heavenly bodies, "Death has been swallowed up in victory." (1 Corinthians 15:54)

Paul said that profound words and high sounding ideas were not used in his sermons in order to not dilute the simple message of the cross of Christ -- that Jesus died to save those who are lost.

Several of Paul's other points include

1. "...the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God...Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God." (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)
2. "'Food for the stomach and the stomach for food' -- but God will destroy them both..." (1 Corinthians 6:13)
3. "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31, from **King James' Version**)
4. Paul indicates that a man should not cover his head and a woman should have a head covering in church: "Every man...with his head covered dishonors his head. And every woman...with her head uncovered dishonors her head..." (1 Corinthians 11:4-5)
5. "For we were all baptized by One Spirit into One Body -- whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free -- and we were all given the One Spirit to drink." (1 Corinthians 12:13)
6. "If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing." (1 Corinthians 13:2)
7. "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things." (1 Corinthians 13:11, from **King James' Version**)
8. "And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love." (1 Corinthians 13:13)
9. "Do everything in love." (1 Corinthians 16:14)

Paul further pointed out his belief in predestination, such as:

- "but to those whom God has called (i.e., predestined), both Jews and Greeks (or Gentiles)..." (1 Corinthians 1:24)
- "...God's secret wisdom...destined for our glory before time began." (1 Corinthians 2:7)

Paul told of the future events around his time (or even possibly yet to come now) of the **"last days:"**

1. "Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ (i.e., Judgment Day)." (1 Corinthians 1:7-8)
2. "...the time is short...for this world in its present form is passing away." (1 Corinthians 7:29-31)
3. "...warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages (i.e., the last days) has come." (1 Corinthians 10:11)
4. "For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive...Then the end will come...The last enemy to be destroyed is death." (1 Corinthians 15:22-26)
5. "...We will not all sleep (i.e., die), but we will all be changed (i.e., given heavenly bodies) - in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet...the dead will be raised imperishable (i.e., living forever; not to die), and we will be changed...imperishable..." (1 Corinthians 15:51-53)

## **Second Corinthians:**

This book covers an additional letter from Paul to the church at Corinth (Greece). Paul further pointed out that trying to be saved by keeping the Ten Commandments "ends in death," whereas (in the new way) the Holy Spirit gives life. (2 Corinthians 3:6) Paul said that Satan (the "god of this age") makes people blind to the Gospel. On death, Paul describes the heavenly dwelling where "we will be at home with the Lord" and where "we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body (i.e., here on earth), whether good or bad." (2 Corinthians 5:8-10)

Several of Paul's other points include

1. "For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that ...He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again." (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)
2. "Therefore if anyone is in Christ (i.e., becomes a Christian), he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17)
3. "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation (i.e, sorrow could cause one to change his ways and be saved)..." (2 Corinthians 7:10)

## **Galatians:**

This book is a letter from **Paul** to the churches of Galatia (now Turkey). Paul further pointed out his belief in predestination, with his comment that "...God...set me apart from birth and called me by His grace...to reveal His Son...among the Gentiles..." (Galatians 1:15) Paul explains again that salvation cannot be earned by being circumcised and by obeying Jewish laws, but only by faith in Jesus Christ to take away our sins: acceptance with God comes by believing in Christ. (Galatians 2) The whole law (meaning Jewish law) can be summed up: "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Galatians 5:14) Paul said, "...the Spirit ...the sinful nature desires -- are in conflict with each other..." (Galatians 5:16-17)

Several of Paul's other points include:

1. "Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires." (Galatians 5:24)
2. "...for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." (Galatians 6:7, from **King James' Version**)
3. "...the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life." (Galatians 6:8)

## **Ephesians:**

This book is a letter from **Paul** to Christians at Ephesus. As previously, on predestination, Paul said, "For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world..." and "predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ..." and "having been predestined...in order that we...might be for the praise of His glory." (Ephesians 1:4-5;and 1:11) And, on the future events around his time (or even possibly yet to come now) of the "**last days**" Paul spoke of God's purpose: "...when times have reached their fulfillment -- to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one Head, even Christ." (Ephesians 1:10) Paul stated that salvation is not a reward for doing good and that Christ's death was to cancel the system of Jewish laws and to allow Gentiles to be a part of God's house. Paul referred to Christians as "children of light," and he advised, "always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 5:20) For husbands and wives, Paul said "...each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband." (Ephesians 5:33) For children, Paul instructs them to obey their parents, saying, "'Honor your father and mother' -- which is the first commandment with a promise -- 'that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.'" (Ephesians 6:2-3) For everyone, Paul said to always work hard, with gladness, "as if you were serving the Lord." Paul warned that Christians must always have the Lord's strength to "take your stand against the devil's schemes" and against the "powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms" as Christian soldiers with God's armor. (Ephesians 6:10-17; also 1 Thessalonians 5:8)

Several of Paul's other points include:

- "one Lord, one faith, one baptism;" (Ephesians 4:5)
- "...the Head... is...Christ. From Him the whole body (i.e., the Church)...grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." (Ephesians 4:15-16)

## **Philippians:**

This book is a letter from **Paul** and **Timothy** to Christians in the city of Philippi, where they were advised to be loving to each other, to agree and work together, being humble, unselfish, and interested in others.

Several of Paul's other points include:

- "...I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord..." (Philippians 3:8)
- "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:13)

Paul further told them of his being a pure-blooded Jew, of the Benjamin family, a Pharisee (with strict obedience to every Jewish law and custom) -- pointing out that nobody could count on being saved by being good enough or by obeying God's laws but by trusting Christ, since "not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law (i.e, obeying the Ten Commandments), but that which is through faith in Christ -- the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith."  
(Philippians 3:9)

## **Colossians:**

This book is a letter from **Paul** and **Timothy** to Christians in the city of Colosse -- to the ones that will be "in the kingdom of light." Paul said that in their prayers (i.e., the apostles -- implying for these Christians to use this way also) they begin by thanking "God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." Implying that Christ existed before God made anything at all (was the "firstborn over all creation"), Paul continued, "He is the Head of the Body, the Church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy." (Colossians 1:18) Further, "...through Him to reconcile (i.e., to settle or resolve) to Himself all things...by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross..."(Colossians 1:20)

Several of Paul's other points include:

1. "...the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you (i.e., in your minds and hearts), the hope of glory." (Colossians 1:27)
2. "and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority." (Colossians 2:10)
3. "...buried with Him (i.e., Christ) in baptism and raised with Him through your faith in the Power of God who raised Him from the dead." (Colossians 2:12)
4. "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things...When Christ appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory." (Colossians 3:2-4)
5. "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach...and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude (i.e., thankfulness) in your hearts to God." (Colossians 3:16)

Paul also instructed them to forgive others, let love be your guide; husbands and wives should be loving; children, obeying; parents, minimizing scolding children; slaves, obeying masters; masters, being just and fair to slaves.

## **First Thessalonians:**

This book is a letter from **Paul, Silas, and Timothy** to the Church at Thessalonica (Greece), instructing them on the return of Jesus:

1. "Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands..." (1 Thessalonians 4:11)
2. "We believe that Jesus died and rose again (i.e., came back to life) and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep with Him (i.e., those Christians who have died)." (1 Thessalonians 4:14)
3. "...the dead in Christ (i.e., dead Christians) will rise first...After that, we who are still alive...will be caught up ...in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air...will be with the Lord forever." (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)
4. "Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night." (1 Thessalonians 5:1-2)
5. "...sons of the light and sons of the day...do not belong to the night or to the darkness." (1 Thessalonians 5:5)
6. "...He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep (i.e., alive or dead), we may live together with Him." (1 Thessalonians 5:10)

## **Second Thessalonians:**

This book is a letter from **Paul, Silas, and Timothy** to the Church at Thessalonica (Greece), further describing Jesus' return and encouraging them to withstand the oppression for their beliefs:

- "...you are suffering. God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief...This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with His powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the Gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction (i.e., hell) and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of His power." (2 Thessalonians 1:5-9)
- "...for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction." (2 Thessalonians 2:1-3) "The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan..." (2 Thessalonians 2:9)

Paul advised them not to be lazy and to work hard -- not just waiting around for the return of Jesus.

## **First Timothy:**

This book is a letter from **Paul** to **Timothy**, advising him in his ministry:

- "...command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies..." (1 Timothy 1:4)
- "...God our Savior...wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator (i.e., the One in between that brings things together) between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all men ..." (1 Timothy 2:3-5)

Paul defines the way Christian men and women should present themselves and the requirements for "an overseer" (bishop; pastor) and deacons (1 Timothy 2,3), also indicating the church's need to take care of widows.

Several of Paul's points on money and wealth:

1. "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out." (1 Timothy 6:7, from **King James' Version**)
2. "For the love of money is the root of all evil ..." (1 Timothy 6:10, from **King James' Version**)
3. "Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but ...in God...Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life." (1 Timothy 6:17-19)

Paul instructed that all Christians who are slaves should work hard. (1 Timothy 6:1).

## **Second Timothy:**

This book is another letter from **Paul to Timothy** , with further advice for his ministry. Paul expressed his predestination thoughts, saying that God "saved us and called us ...because of His own purpose...before the beginning of time..." (2 Timothy 1:9) Paul pointed out that Jesus Christ was a Man, yet also was God (2 Timothy 2:8) Also, Paul told Timothy that Christians would have a difficult time "in the last days," with immorality and sin (2 Timothy 3:1-5). Since Paul felt that his own death was near, he said these words, often quoted at funerals:

- "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." (2 Timothy 4:7, from **King James' Version**)

## **Titus:**

This book is a letter from **Paul** to **Titus**, instructing him on the island of Crete to strengthen the church and on appointing pastors. Paul said that a person who is pure in heart sees goodness and purity in everything (Titus 1:15) and that salvation is now being offered to everyone (Titus 2:11). Other instructions included to obey the government, do honest work, be gentle and courteous.

## **Philemon:**

This book is a letter from **Paul** and **Timothy** to **Philemon** , concerning a servant named Onesimus, who had run away from Philemon. Paul said that Onesimus had become a Christian and was now a "brother in the Lord" to Philemon. Thus, Paul asked that Onesimus be forgiven for his escape.

## Hebrews:

This book was written to strengthen the faith of the early Christians. Some of the main points are:

1. "...He too shared in their humanity (i.e., was born as human) so that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death -- that is, the devil --" (Hebrews 2:14)
2. "But Christ is faithful as a Son over God's house. And we (i.e., Christians) are His house..." (Hebrews 3:6)
3. "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is laid bare before the eyes of Him to Whom we must give account." (Hebrews 4:13)

The book of Hebrews refers to Jesus as our "great High Priest," and illustrated that Christ was like Melchizedek (a priest who had blessed Abraham in early Jewish history) -- was not of the priest-tribe of Levi, yet was a priest of "God Most High." Further, it is stated that "because Jesus lives forever, He has a permanent Priesthood" and can "save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede (act between God and people, as a go-between) for them." (Hebrews 7:24-25)

### Further important points from Hebrews:

1. "...One who is holy, blameless, pure...does not need to offer sacrifices...He sacrificed for their sins once for all when He offered Himself (i.e., on the cross)." (Hebrews 7:26-27)
2. "...He sets aside the first (i.e, the **first agreement** with Moses at Mt. Sinai) to establish the second (i.e., the **second agreement**)...we have been made holy (i.e., forgiven for sins) through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all" (Hebrews 10:9-10)
3. "If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the Truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God." (Hebrews 10:26-27)
4. "But we...are those who believe and are saved." (Hebrews 10:39)
5. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to-day, and for ever." (Hebrews 13:8, from **King James' Version**)
6. "...an altar (i.e, Christ's cross)...Jesus suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through His Own blood." (Hebrews 13:10-12)

**Other advice:** not to quarrel; to live a clean, holy life; to do good; to share with others.

## **James:**

This book was written as a letter to Jewish Christians, with advice to:

1. "Consider it pure joy...whenever you face trials...because...testing of your faith develops perseverance (i.e, persistence)." (James 1:2-3)
2. "...Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry..." (James 1:19)
3. "...those who are poor in the eyes of the world...to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom..." (James 2:5)

Other advice: take care of orphans and widows; help others; prove you have faith by doing good works; don't brag; do not swear. And, some further points:

1. "...the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts." (James 3:5)
2. "There is only One Lawgiver and Judge, the One Who is able to save and destroy...who are you to judge your neighbor?" (James 4:12)
3. "Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his ways shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins. " (James 5:20, from **King James' Version**)

## **First Peter:**

This book was written as a letter to Jewish Christians, telling them that sufferings are only to test your faith. Important points:

1. "...In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead..." (1 Peter 1:3)
2. "...All men are like grass...withers...but the Word of the Lord stands forever..." (1 Peter 1:24)
3. "...you are a chosen people...called out of darkness into His wonderful Light." (1 Peter 2:9)
4. Indicating where Christ was in the interval between His death and His resurrection, "...Christ...put to death in the flesh...went and preached unto the spirits in prison..." (1 Peter 3:18-19) And, further, "...for this cause was the Gospel preached also to them who are dead..." (1 Peter 4:6, from **King James' Version**)
5. "...If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" (1 Peter 4:18)
6. "...God opposes the proud (i.e., arrogant) but gives grace (i.e., favor and mercy) to the humble (i.e., not showy or vain)." (1 Peter 5:5)

Stating that the world end was coming soon, other advice was to pray; show respect and love; fear God; honor government; find inner beauty; control your tongue.

## **Second Peter:**

This book, written as a letter to Christians by Simon Peter, tells them to enjoy other people and grow to love them; to beware of false prophets; to not be a slave to sin. There is a warning to not return to sin after becoming Christian, saying that such a person would be worse off than before (2 Peter 2:20), and warning of the old saying that a "dog returns to its vomit," and a "sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud." (2 Peter 2:22)

The judgment day is described:

1. "...the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. But...With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day." (2 Peter 3:7-8)
2. "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare (i.e., burned up)." (2 Peter 3:10)
3. "...the day of God... will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat." (2 Peter 3:12).

## First John:

This book begins by stating that Christ was "from the beginning" and further states that "God is Light; in Him there is no darkness at all." Important points include:

1. "...the blood of Jesus...purifies us from all sin." (1 John 1:7)
2. "If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His Word has no place in our lives." (1 John 1:10)
3. "...if anybody does sin...One who speaks to the Father in our defense -- Jesus Christ...is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and...for the sins of the whole world." (1 John 2:1-2)
4. "...your sins have been forgiven on account of His name (i.e., Jesus)." (1 John 2:12)
5. "No one who is born of God (i.e, Christian) will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning because he has been born of God." (1 John 3:9)
6. "And this is His command: to believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and to love one another ..." (1 John 3:23)
7. "He that loveth not, knoweth not God; for God is love . In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. (1 John 4:8,9; from **King James' Version**)
8. "Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him and he in God." (1 John 4:15; from **King James' Version**)
9. "We love Him, because He first loved us." (1 John 4:19; from **King James' Version**)
10. "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." (1 John 5:11,12; from **King James' Version**)

Other advice: love your fellow man; beware of false teachers like the "antichrist" that will come near the world end.

**Second John:**

This book is a letter to a "chosen lady and her children." It advises that Christians should love one another and watch out for false teachers (such as those who don't believe that Jesus Christ was a human being with a real body).

### **Third John:**

This book is a letter to Gaius, a friend, advising him to do good, since "...Anyone who does what is good is from God" and "Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God." (3 John 1:11)

## **Jude:**

This book is a letter from Jude to Christians, warning them that, after becoming Christian, one cannot have a "license for immorality" (i.e., do whatever we want and have no fear of any punishment from God). Other advice:

- "Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you eternal life." (Jude 1:21)
- "Be merciful to those who doubt...hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh." (Jude 1:23)

## **The Revelation:**

This book presents the vision of John regarding future events around his time (or even possibly yet to come now) of the **"last days."** The book is presented as a letter from "John" to the seven churches in what-is-today Turkey. John tells of a voice speaking to him while he was on the island of Patmos and worshipping on the "Lord's Day." John was told to write to each of the seven churches, and the letters are presented in this book -- each one evaluating the churches and telling them to become interested and excited about the church. (The Revelation 3:19) An "hour of trial...to test those who live on the earth" was indicated to be coming in the future. (The Revelation 3:10)

John then describes seeing a door to heaven open to allow him to see "what must take place after this (i.e., in the future)." (The Revelation 4:1) The "throne" of God is described (The Revelation 4) as:

1. "A rainbow, resembling an emerald, encircled the throne."
2. "Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four Elders."
3. "From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder."
4. "In the center, around the throne, were four Four Living Creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. The first Living Creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. Each of the Four Living Creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under His wings."

A scroll in God's right hand was sealed with seven seals. The Lamb was apparently Jesus Christ, but with "seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God" (The Revelation 5:6). The seals were broken by the Lamb, with the results (The Revelation 6-8):

1. First seal: a rider of a WHITE horse was carrying a bow, was crowned, and rode out to war.
2. Second seal: a rider of a RED horse was given a long sword to end peace and bring war to earth.
3. Third seal: a rider of a BLACK horse had a pair of scales in his hand.
4. Fourth seal: a rider named DEATH was on a PALE horse and was followed by another horse with a rider named HADES (or hell): these riders were to kill a fourth of the earth.

5. Fifth seal: an altar had (underneath it) the souls of those that had been killed because of the Word of God (i.e., martyrs, killed for preaching the Word of God). These souls were told to wait.
6. Sixth seal: a great earthquake occurred; the sun turned black; the moon, blood red; stars appeared to fall to earth. People were afraid and wished to hide. The "seal on the foreheads" (i.e., the Seal of God) was placed on 144,000 -- on 12,000 from each of the twelve tribes of Israel. Also there was a multitude of people, in white robes, that came out of the "great tribulation" and "washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (i.e., were believers in Jesus Christ).
7. Seventh seal: seven angels were given seven trumpets to blow.

The trumpets blowing had the following results, in sequence (The Revelation 8-10):

1. First angel trumpet blow: hail and fire mixed with blood hurled upon the earth with one third of the earth burned up.
2. Second angel trumpet blow: huge burning mountain thrown into the sea with one third of ships and sea-life destroyed and one-third of the sea turning to blood.
3. Third angel trumpet blow: great blazing star fell from the sky onto a third of the rivers and springs, polluting one-third of the water on earth.
4. Fourth angel trumpet blow: a third of the sun and moon and stars were darkened.
5. Fifth angel trumpet blow: key to the "Abyss" (i.e, hell; bottomless pit) opened it: sun and sky were darkened; locusts with strange looks and scorpion's tails tortured people without the seal of God on their foreheads. The king of the locusts was the "angel of the Abyss" -- named Abaddon (or Apollyon or Destroyer).
6. Sixth angel trumpet blow: four angels (or possibly demons) with a large army and deadly horses (with their tails having heads like snakes) were released, killing one- third of mankind.
7. Seventh angel trumpet blow: the world then belongs to the Lord and Christ forever.

**Before the seventh angel blew his trumpet**, John was asked by a mighty angel (with right foot on the sea and left foot on the land) to eat the scroll telling of the things to happen (first tasting like honey, then souring his stomach) and yet to continue to prophesy further. John was told that the "holy city" (Jerusalem) would be trampled for "42 months," during which two prophets/witnesses would tell about God, then would be killed, and would rise to heaven after 3 1/2 days -- with an earthquake collapsing a tenth of the city. (The Revelation 11)

Jesus birth; threats by the "Red **Dragon** ...with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his **heads** " against Jesus; war in heaven with Michael and the angels fighting the **Dragon** (called the devil or Satan) and the Dragon being hurled onto the earth with his army; God's salvation and the authority of Christ. These things appear to be looking back, seeing that "They (meaning Christians or Christian martyrs) overcame him by the blood of the Lamb (i.e., Jesus Christ's dying on the cross) and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death." (The Revelation 12)

John describes the vision of a "**Beast** coming out of the sea" (or Creature from the sea), with seven heads and ten horns, and ten crowns upon its **horns**: the Beast was given control of the earth for forty-two months, where all mankind (other than those written in the Lamb's Book of Life)

worshipped him. Even another strange animal, with two lamb-like horns, came out of the earth (i.e., **False Prophet**) -- was described as doing unbelievable miracles and requiring all to have a "mark" on the right hand or on the forehead -- the name of the Beast or the number of his name -- 666. (The Revelation 13)

John then saw the Lamb on Mt. Zion in Jerusalem with the 144,000. One angel had the Gospel to proclaim to all those on earth; another said that Babylon (referring probably to Rome) is fallen; another said that worshippers of the Beast "will be tormented with burning sulfur...for ever and ever..." (The Revelation 14:10-11) Then, someone looking like Jesus with a sharp sickle began to "reap." The clusters of grapes that were ripe (apparently the ungodly -- ripe for judgment) were placed in a great winepress yielding a river of blood 180 miles long and high as a horse's bridle.

Then, John saw the "seven last plagues" that were assigned to seven angels to finish God's anger (The Revelation 15-16):

1. First angel: ugly, painful sores were given to all with the mark of the Beast.
2. Second angel: the seas turned to blood and died.
3. Third angel: rivers and springs turned to blood.
4. Fourth angel: the sun scorched people with its fire.
5. Fifth angel: the kingdom of the Beast from the sea was made dark.
6. Sixth angel: River Euphrates was dried up; and three evil spirits looking like frogs (Dragon, Beast, False Prophet) readied for battle on the "Judgment Day" at **Armageddon** (the mountain of Megiddo).
7. Seventh angel: greatest of all earthquakes occurred; islands vanished; mountains flattened; 100-pound hailstones fell.

John was introduced to the "Great Prostitute" with "Babylon the Great" written on her forehead, representing the great city (probably meaning Rome) that rules over the kings of the earth. She was said to be destined for consumption by fire, thrown totally away. (The Revelation 17-18)

Then John saw heaven again, where an angel said, "...Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." (The Revelation 19:10) The armies of heaven prepared to meet the armies of the "Beast." The Beast and False Prophet were captured and thrown into the "fiery lake of burning sulfur." Their entire army was killed. The Dragon ("that ancient Serpent, who is the devil, or Satan") was bound and thrown into the Abyss for 1000 years, during which the "souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus..." came to life again and reigned with Christ -- the First Resurrection. After that 1000 years, Satan was free and gathered again ("with Gog and Magog") for battle, surrounding Jerusalem until fire from heaven devoured them. Once again, the devil (or Dragon) was thrown again into the lake of burning sulfur, where the Beast and False Prophet had been thrown also -- to be tormented forever. At that time (Second Resurrection), all dead people were judged: those whose names were NOT recorded in the Book of Life were thrown into the Lake of Fire, along with "Death and Hades (i.e., hell)."

This gave rise to "a new heaven and a new earth" (with no seas!), then "the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God..." (The Revelation 21:1,2) And, "...Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself

shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." (The Revelation 21:3,4; from **King James' Version**) Further, God said:

- "...It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the Water of Life." (The Revelation 21:6)
- "But ... cowardly...unbelieving...vile...murderers...sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts...idolaters...liars -- their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death." (The Revelation 21:8)

John was shown the holy New Jerusalem, with 12 gates (names of the 12 tribes of Israel written on them) guarded with 12 angels ; with 12 foundations with Jesus Christ's 12 apostles' names on them. The city was a cube, 1400 miles per side and high, with 200 ft. thick walls -- with the city itself described as "pure gold, as pure as glass" and having precious stones everywhere. The great (i.e., main) street was also "pure gold, like transparent glass." There was NO TEMPLE, since the Lord and Lamb are the Temple; no sun or moon since the Light is from God and the Lamb; gates never closing, and no night. Nothing impure can enter: those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life are the only ones present. The River of the Water of Life and Trees of Life (with fruit each month) were described. There everyone worships God, with His name on their foreheads: they see His face. Everyone is repaid according to what he has done.

John is told that, until the new earth comes, "...Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes let him take the free gift of the Water of Life." (The Revelation 22:17)