

Lord and Saviour

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Scripture Gift Mission

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Lord and
Saviour

Note to the Reader

The quotations in this book are taken from the Bible, which is the Word of God. You are strongly urged to obtain a complete Bible, New Testament or Gospel, and read it for yourself, because through it God makes himself known to man.

Scripture Gift Mission
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His birth and childhood

1. The birth of Jesus foretold

God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee named Nazareth. He had a message for a girl promised in marriage to a man named Joseph, who was a descendant of King David. The girl's name was Mary. The angel came to her and said, "Peace be with you! The Lord is with you, and has greatly blessed you!"

Mary was deeply troubled by the angel's message, and she wondered what his words meant. The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary, because God has been gracious to you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king, as his ancestor David was, and he will be the king of the descendants of Jacob for ever; his kingdom will never end!" Mary said to the angel, "I am a virgin. How, then, can this be?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and God's power will rest upon you. For this reason the holy child will be called the Son of God." ... "I am the Lord's servant," said Mary; "may it happen to me as you have said." And the angel left her. *Luke 1: 26-35, 38*

2. The birth of Jesus

At that time Emperor Augustus sent out an order for all the citizens of the Empire to register themselves for the census. ... Everyone, then, went to register himself, each to his own town.

Joseph went from the town of Nazareth, in Galilee, to Judea, to the town named Bethlehem, where King David was born. Joseph went there

because he was a descendant of David. He went to register himself with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him. She was pregnant, and while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger—there was no room for them to stay in the inn.

Luke 2 : 1, 3-7

3. Shepherds came to see Jesus

There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, but the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David's town your Saviour was born—Christ the Lord! What will prove it to you is this: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them back into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, that the Lord has told us."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and saw the baby lying in the manger. When the shepherds saw him they told them what the angel had said about this child. All who heard it were filled with wonder at what the shepherds told them. Mary remembered all these things and thought deeply about them. The shepherds went back,

singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen; it had been just as the angel had told them.

Luke 2 : 8-20

4. The boy Jesus in the temple

The child grew and became strong; he was full of wisdom, and God's blessings were with him. Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover. When Jesus was twelve years old, they went to the feast as usual. When the days of the feast were over, they started back home, but the boy Jesus stayed in Jerusalem. His parents did not know this; they thought that he was with the group, so they travelled a whole day, and then started looking for him among their relatives and friends. They did not find him, so they went back to Jerusalem looking for him. On the third day they found him in the Temple, sitting with the Jewish teachers, listening to them and asking questions. All who heard him were amazed at his intelligent answers. His parents were amazed when they saw him, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been terribly worried trying to find you."

He answered them, "Why did you have to look for me? Didn't you know that I had to be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them.

So Jesus went back with them to Nazareth, where he was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew, both in body and in wisdom, gaining favour with God and men.

Luke 2 : 40-52

His introduction

5. The baptism of Jesus

Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan, and came to John to be baptized by him. But John tried to make him change his mind. "I ought to be baptized by you," John said, "yet you come to me!"

But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so for now. For in this way we shall do all that God requires."

So John agreed. As soon as he was baptized, Jesus came up out of the water. Then heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and lighting on him. And then a voice said from heaven, "This is my own dear Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Matthew 3: 13-17

6. Jesus was called "The Lamb of God"

John told about Jesus. He cried out, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'He comes after me, but he is greater than I am, because he existed before I was born.'"

Out of the fulness of his grace he has blessed us all, giving us one blessing after another. God gave the Law through Moses; but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No-one has ever seen God. The only One, who is the same as God and is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

The Jewish authorities in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to John, to ask him, "Who are you?"

John did not refuse to answer, but spoke out openly and clearly. This is what he said, "I am not the Messiah."

"Who are you, then?" they asked. "Are you Elijah?"

"No, I am not," John answered.

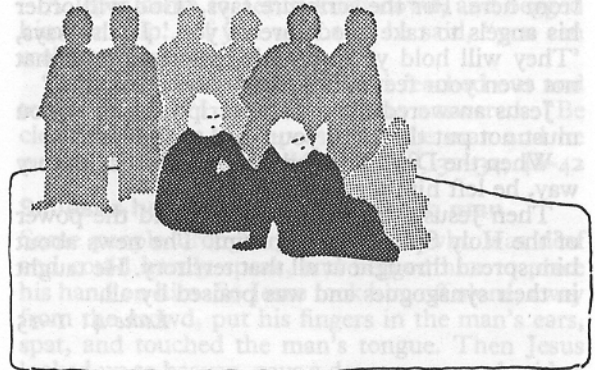
"Are you the Prophet?" they asked.

"No," he replied.

"Tell us who you are," they said. "We have to take an answer back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" John answered, "This is what I am:

"The voice of one who shouts in the desert: Make a straight path for the Lord to travel!" (This is what the prophet Isaiah had said.)

The next day John saw Jesus coming to him, and said, "Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" *John 1: 15-23, 29*



7. Jesus was tempted by the Devil

Jesus returned from the Jordan full of the Holy Spirit, and was led by the Spirit into the desert, where he was tempted by the Devil for forty days. In all that time he ate nothing, so that he was hungry when it was over.

The Devil said to him, "If you are God's Son, order this stone to turn into bread."

Jesus answered, "The scripture says, 'Man cannot live on bread alone.'"

Then the Devil took him up and showed him in a second all the kingdoms of the world. "I will give you all this power, and all this wealth," the Devil told him. "It was all handed over to me and I can give it to anyone I choose. All this will be yours, then, if you kneel down before me."

Jesus answered, "The scripture says, 'Worship the Lord your God and serve only him!'"

Then the Devil took him to Jerusalem and set him on the highest point of the temple, and said to him, "If you are God's Son, throw yourself down from here. For the scripture says, 'God will order his angels to take good care of you.' It also says, 'They will hold you up with their hands so that not even your feet will be hurt on the stones.'"

Jesus answered him, "The scripture says, 'You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

When the Devil finished tempting Jesus in every way, he left him for a while.

Then Jesus returned to Galilee, and the power of the Holy Spirit was with him. The news about him spread throughout all that territory. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by all.

Luke 4: 1-15

His mighty acts

8. Jesus healed many people

The news about Jesus spread quickly everywhere in the region of Galilee.

When evening came, after the sun had set, people brought to Jesus all the sick and those who had demons. All the people of the town gathered in front of the house. Jesus healed many who were sick with all kinds of diseases and drove out many demons. He would not let the demons say anything, because they knew who he was.

A leper came to Jesus, knelt down, and begged him for help. "If you want to," he said, "you can make me clean."

Jesus was filled with pity, and reached out and touched him. "I do want to," he answered. "Be clean!" At once the leprosy left the man and he was clean.

Mark 1: 28, 32-34, 40-42

9. Jesus healed a deaf and dumb man

Some people brought Jesus a man who was deaf and could hardly speak, and begged him to place his hand on him. So Jesus took him off alone, away from the crowd, put his fingers in the man's ears, spat, and touched the man's tongue. Then Jesus looked up to heaven, gave a deep groan, and said to the man, *Ephphatha*, which means, "Open up!"

At once the man's ears were opened, his tongue was set loose, and he began to talk without any trouble. Then Jesus ordered them all not to speak of it to anyone; but the more he ordered them, the more they told it. And all who heard were completely amazed. "How well he does everything!" they exclaimed. "He even makes the deaf to hear and the dumb to speak!"

Mark 7: 32-37

10. Jesus healed a man born blind

As Jesus walked along he saw a man who had been born blind. His disciples asked him, "Teacher, whose sin was it that caused him to be born blind? His own or his parents' sin?"

Jesus answered, "His blindness has nothing to do with his sins or his parents' sins. He is blind so that God's power might be seen at work in him. We must keep on doing the works of him who sent me, as long as it is day; the night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world I am the light for the world."

After he said this, Jesus spat on the ground and made some mud with the spittle; he rubbed the mud on the man's eyes, and told him, "Go and wash your face in the Pool of Siloam." (This name means "Sent".) So the man went, washed his face, and came back seeing.

Jesus found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

The man answered, "Tell me who he is, sir, so I can believe in him!"

Jesus said to him, "You have already seen him, and he is the one who is talking with you now."

"I believe, Lord!" the man said, and knelt down before Jesus.

John 9: 1-7, 35-38

11. Jesus healed a paralysed man

One day when Jesus was teaching, some Pharisees and teachers of the Law were sitting there who had come from every town in Galilee and Judea, and from Jerusalem. The power of the Lord was present for Jesus to heal the sick. Some men came carrying a paralysed man on a bed, and they tried to take him into the house and lay him before Jesus. Because of the crowd, however, they could find no

way to take him in. So they carried him up on the roof, made an opening in the tiles, and let him down on his bed into the middle of the group in



front of Jesus. When Jesus saw how much faith they had, he said to the man, "Your sins are forgiven you, my friend."

The teachers of the Law and the Pharisees began to say to themselves, "Who is this man who speaks against God in this way? No man can forgive sins; God alone can!"

Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Why do you think such things? Is it easier to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? I will prove to you, then, that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralysed man, "I tell you, get up, pick up your bed, and go home!"

At once the man got up before them all, took the bed he had been lying on, and went home, praising God. They were all completely amazed! Full of fear, they praised God, saying, "What marvellous things we have seen today!"

Luke 5: 17-26

12. Jesus fed five thousand

A large crowd followed Jesus, because they had seen his mighty works in healing the sick. Jesus went up a hill and sat down with his disciples. The Passover Feast of the Jews was near. Jesus looked around and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, so he said to Philip, "Where can we buy enough food to feed all these people?" (He said this to test Philip; actually he already knew what he would do.)

Philip answered, "For everyone to have even a little, it would take more than twenty pounds' worth of bread."

Another one of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, "There is a boy here who has five loaves of barley bread and two fish. But what good are they for all these people?"

"Make the people sit down," Jesus told them. (There was a lot of grass there.) So all the people sat down; there were about five thousand men. Jesus took the bread, gave thanks to God, and distributed it to the people who were sitting there. He did the same with the fish, and they all had as

much as they wanted. When they were all full, he said to his disciples, "Pick up the pieces left over; let us not waste a bit." So they took them all up, and filled twelve baskets with the pieces left over from the five barley loaves which the people had eaten.

The people there, seeing this mighty work that Jesus had done, said, "Surely this is the Prophet who was to come to the world!" *John 6: 2-14*

13. Jesus calmed a storm

Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." So they left the crowd; the disciples got into the boat that Jesus was already in, and took him with them. Other boats were there too. A very strong wind blew up and the waves began to spill over into the boat, so that it was about to fill with water. Jesus was in the back of the boat, sleeping with his head on a pillow. The disciples woke him up and said, "Teacher, don't you care that we are about to die?"

Jesus got up and commanded the wind, "Be quiet!" and said to the waves, "Be still!" The wind died down, and there was a great calm. Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Why are you frightened? Are you still without faith?"

But they were terribly afraid, and began to say to each other, "Who is this man? Even the wind and the waves obey him!" *Mark 4: 35-41*

14. Jesus drove out demons

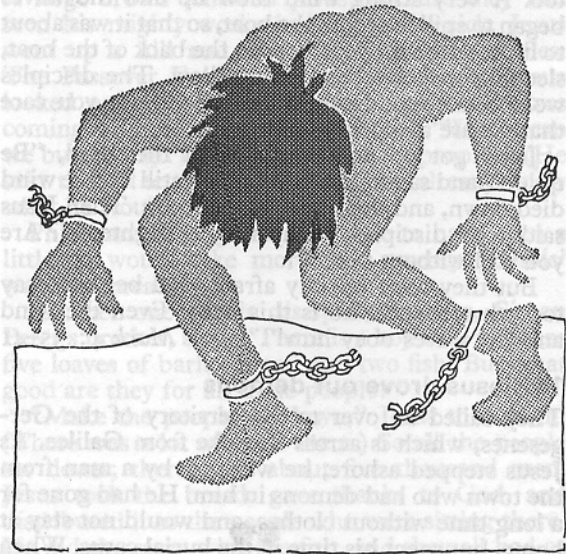
They sailed on over to the territory of the Gergesenes, which is across the lake from Galilee. As Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a man from the town who had demons in him. He had gone for a long time without clothes, and would not stay at home, but spent his time in the burial caves. When

he saw Jesus he gave a loud cry, fell down before him, and said in a loud voice, "Jesus, Son of the Most High God! What do you want with me? I beg you, don't punish me!" He said this because Jesus had ordered the evil spirit to go out of him. Many times it had seized him, and even though he was kept a prisoner, his hands and feet tied with chains, he would break the chains and be driven by the demon out into the desert.

Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

"My name is 'Mob,'" he answered—because many demons had gone into him. The demons begged Jesus not to send them into the abyss.

A large herd of pigs was near by, feeding on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go



into the pigs, and he let them. So the demons went out of the man and into the pigs; the whole herd rushed down the side of the cliff into the lake and were drowned.

The men who were taking care of the pigs saw what happened, so they ran off and spread the news in the town and among the farms. People went out to see what had happened. They came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone out sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind; and they were all afraid. Those who had seen it told the people how the man had been cured. Then all the people from the territory of the Gergesenes asked Jesus to go away, because they were terribly afraid. So Jesus got into the boat and left. The man from whom the demons had gone out begged Jesus, "Let me go with you."

But Jesus sent him away, saying, "Go back home and tell what God has done for you."

The man went through the whole town telling what Jesus had done for him. *Luke 8: 26-39*

15. Jesus raised dead people to life

(a) *A young man*

Jesus went to a town named Nain; his disciples and a large crowd went with him. Just as he arrived at the gate of the town, a funeral procession was coming out. The dead man was the only son of a woman who was a widow, and a large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her his heart was filled with pity for her and he said to her, "Don't cry." Then he walked over and touched the coffin, and the men carrying it stopped. Jesus said, "Young man! Get up, I tell you!" The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

Everyone was filled with fear, and they praised God, "A great prophet has appeared among us!" and, "God has come to save his people!"

This news about Jesus went out through all the country and the surrounding territory.

Luke 7: 11-17

(b) A little girl

A Jewish official came to Jesus, knelt down before him, and said, "My daughter has just died; but come and place your hand on her and she will live."

So Jesus got up and followed him, and his disciples went with him.

Jesus went into the official's house. When he saw the musicians for the funeral, and the people all stirred up, he said, "Get out, everybody! The little girl is not dead—she is only sleeping!"

They all started making fun of him. As soon as the people had been put out, Jesus went into the girl's room and took hold of her hand, and she got up. The news about this spread all over that part of the country.

Matthew 9: 18-19, 23-26

His wonderful teaching

16. Jesus taught about God his Father

Jesus said, "God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth."

John 4: 24

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no-one goes to the Father except by me. Now that you have known me," he said to them, "you will know my Father also; and from now on you do know him, and you have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father; that is all we need."

Jesus answered, "For a long time I have been with you all; yet you do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. Why, then, do you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe, Philip, that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I have spoken to you," Jesus said to his disciples, "do not come from me. The Father, who remains in me, does his own works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. If not, believe because of these works. I tell you the truth: whoever believes in me will do the works I do—yes, he will do even greater ones, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask for in my name, so that the Father's glory will be shown through the Son. If you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it."

John 14: 6-14

17. About himself as the Son of God

Jesus said, "The Father and I are one." Then the Jews once more picked up stones to throw at him. Jesus said to them, "I have done many good works

before you which the Father gave me to do; for which one of these do you want to stone me?"

The Jews answered back, "We do not want to stone you because of any good works, but because of the way in which you insult God! You are only a man, but you are trying to make yourself God!"

Jesus answered, "It is written in your own Law that God said, 'You are gods.' We know that what the scripture says is true for ever; and God called them gods, those people to whom his message was given. As for me, the Father chose me and sent me into the world. How, then, can you say that I insult God because I said that I am the Son of God? Do not believe me, then, if I am not doing my Father's works. But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, you should at least believe my works, in order that you may know once and for all that the Father is in me, and I am in the Father."

John 10: 30-38

18. About himself as the Bread of Life

"I am the bread of life," Jesus told them. "He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never be thirsty. ... Everyone whom my Father gives me will come to me. I will never turn away anyone who comes to me, because I have come down from heaven to do the will of him who sent me, not my own will. He who sent me wants me to do this: that I should not lose any of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them all to life on the last day. For what my Father wants is this: that all who see the Son and believe in him should have eternal life; and I will raise them to life on the last day."

The Jews started grumbling about him, because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." So they said, "This man is Jesus the son

of Joseph, isn't he? We know his father and mother. How, then, does he now say he came down from heaven?"

Jesus answered, "Stop grumbling among yourselves. No-one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him to me; and I will raise him to life on the last day.

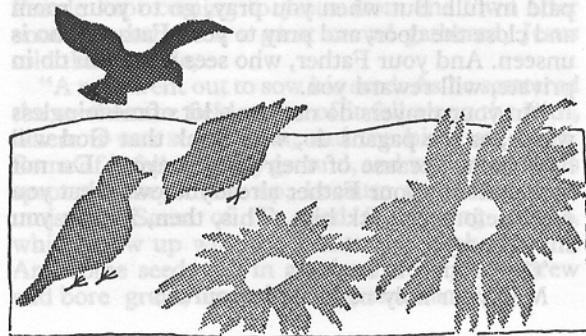
"I tell you the truth: he who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died. But the bread that comes down from heaven is such that whoever eats it will not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread he will live for ever."

John 6: 35, 37-44, 47-51

19. About our daily bread

Jesus said to the disciples, "This is why I tell you: do not be worried about the food you need to stay alive, or about the clothes you need for your body. Life is much more important than food, and body much more important than clothes.

Look at the crows: they don't plant seeds or gather a harvest; they don't have storage rooms or barns; God feeds them! You are worth so much more than birds!



Which one of you can live a few more years by worrying about it? If you can't manage even such a small thing, why worry about the other things?

Look how the wild flowers grow: they don't work or make clothes for themselves. But I tell you that not even Solomon, as rich as he was, had clothes as beautiful as one of these flowers. It is God who clothes the wild grass—grass that is here today, gone tomorrow, burned up in the oven. Won't he be all the more sure to clothe you? How little faith you have!

So don't be all upset, always concerned about what you will eat and drink. (For the heathen of this world are always concerned about all these things.) Your Father knows that you need these things. Instead, be concerned with his Kingdom, and he will provide you with these things."

Luke 12: 22-31

20. About prayer

"When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites! They love to stand up and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that everyone will see them. Remember this! They have already been paid in full. But when you pray, go to your room and close the door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen. And your Father, who sees what you do in private, will reward you.

"In your prayers do not use a lot of meaningless words, as the pagans do, who think that God will hear them because of their long prayers. Do not be like them; your Father already knows what you need before you ask him. This, then, is how you should pray:

'Our Father in heaven:

May your holy name be honoured;

May your Kingdom come;

May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today the food we need.

Forgive us the wrongs that we have done,

As we forgive the wrongs that others have done us.

Do not bring us to hard testing, but keep us safe from the Evil One.' "

Matthew 6: 5-13

21. About the Word of God

Jesus said, "Do not think that I have come to do away with the Law of Moses and the teachings of the prophets. I have not come to do away with them, but to make their teachings come true. Remember this! As long as heaven and earth last, the least point or the smallest detail of the Law will not be done away with—not until the end of all things. So then, whoever disobeys even the smallest of the commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be least in the Kingdom of heaven. On the other hand, whoever obeys the Law, and teaches others to do the same, will be great in the Kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 5: 17-19

People kept coming to Jesus from one town after another; and when a great crowd gathered, Jesus told this parable,

"A man went out to sow his seed. As he scattered the seed in the field, some of it fell along the path, where it was stepped on, and the birds ate it up. Some of it fell on rocky ground, and when the plants sprouted they dried up, because the soil had no moisture. Some of the seed fell among thorns, which grew up with the plants and choked them. And some seeds fell in good soil; the plants grew and bore grain, one hundred grains each."

And Jesus concluded, "Listen, then, if you have ears to hear with!"

His disciples asked Jesus what this parable meant. Jesus answered, "The knowledge of the secrets of the Kingdom of God has been given to you; but to the rest it comes by means of parables, so that they may look but not see, and listen but not understand.

"This is what the parable means: the seed is the word of God. The seed that fell along the path stands for those who hear; but the Devil comes and takes the message away from their hearts to keep them from believing and being saved. The seed that fell on rocky ground stands for those who hear the message and receive it gladly. But it does not sink deep into them; they believe only for a while, and fall away when the time of testing comes. The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear; but the worries and riches and pleasures of this life crowd in and choke them, and their fruit never ripens. The seed that fell in good soil stands for those who hear the message and retain it in a good and obedient heart, and persist until they bear fruit."

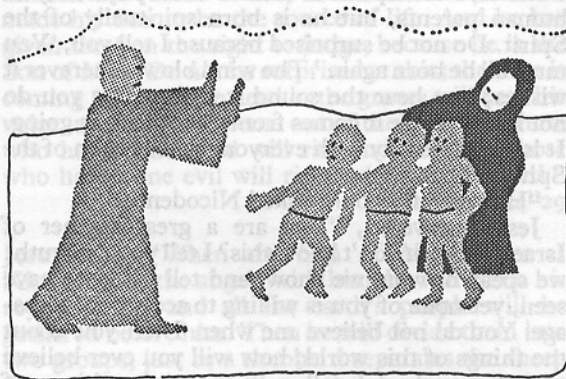
Luke 8: 4-15

22. About the Kingdom of God

Jesus said, "The Kingdom of God is like a man who scatters seed in his field. He sleeps at night, is up and about during the day, and all the while the seeds are sprouting and growing. Yet he does not know how it happens. The soil itself makes the plants grow and bear fruit: first the tender stalk appears, then the head, and finally the head full of grain. When the grain is ripe the man starts working with his sickle, because harvest time has come."

Mark 4: 26-29

Some people brought their babies to Jesus to have him place his hands on them. But the disciples saw them and scolded them for doing so.



But Jesus called the children to him, and said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Remember this! Whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it."

Luke 18: 15-17

23. About spiritual birth

There was a man named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews, who belonged to the party of the Pharisees. One night he went to Jesus and said to him, "We know, Rabbi, that you are a teacher sent by God. No-one could do the mighty works you are doing unless God were with him."

Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth: no-one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again."

"How can a grown man be born again?" Nicodemus asked. "He certainly cannot enter his mother's womb and be born a second time!"

"I tell you the truth," replied Jesus, "that no-one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. A man is born physically of human parents, but he is born spiritually of the Spirit. Do not be surprised because I tell you, 'You must all be born again.' The wind blows wherever it wishes; you hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going. It is the same way with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

"How can this be?" asked Nicodemus.

Jesus answered, "You are a great teacher of Israel, and you don't know this? I tell you the truth: we speak of what we know, and tell what we have seen, yet none of you is willing to accept our message. You do not believe me when I tell you about the things of this world; how will you ever believe me, then, when I tell you about the things of heaven? And no-one has ever gone up to heaven except the Son of Man, who came down from heaven.

"As Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the desert, in the same way the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to be its Judge, but to be its Saviour."

John 3: 1-17

24. About judgment for sin

Jesus said, "I tell you the truth: whoever hears my words, and believes in him who sent me, has eternal life. He will not be judged, but has already passed from death to life. I tell you the truth: the time is coming—the time has already come—when

the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear it will live. Even as the Father is himself the source of life, in the same way he has made his Son to be the source of life. And he has given the Son the right to judge, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be surprised at this; the time is coming when all the dead in the graves will hear his voice, and they will come out of their graves: those who have done good will rise and live, and those who have done evil will rise and be condemned."

John 5: 24-29

Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes as King, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his royal throne, and all the earth's people will be gathered before him. Then he will divide them into two groups, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats: he will put the sheep at his right and the goats at his left. Then the King will say to the people on his right, 'You that are blessed by my Father: Come! Come and receive the kingdom which has been prepared for you ever since the creation of the world ...'

"Then he will say to those on his left: 'Away from me, you that are under God's curse! Away to the eternal fire which has been prepared for the Devil and his angels! ...' These, then, will be sent off to eternal punishment; the righteous will go to eternal life."

Matthew 25: 31-34, 41, 46

25. About repentance for sin

At that time some people were there who told Jesus about the Galileans whom Pilate had killed while they were offering sacrifices to God. Jesus answered them, "Because these Galileans were killed in that way, do you think it proves that they were worse sinners than all the other Galileans? No!

I tell you that if you do not turn from your sins, you will all die as they did. What about those eighteen in Siloam who were killed when the tower fell on them? Do you suppose this proves that they were worse than all the other people living in Jerusalem? No! I tell you that if you do not turn from your sins, you will all die as they did."

Luke 13: 1-5

Jesus said, "Nothing that goes into a person from the outside can really make him unclean, because it does not go into his heart but into his stomach and then goes out of the body." (In saying this Jesus declared that all foods are fit to be eaten.)

And he went on to say, "It is what comes out of a person that makes him unclean. For from the inside, from a man's heart, come the evil ideas which lead him to do immoral things, to rob, kill, commit adultery, be greedy, and do all sorts of evil things; deceit, indecency, jealousy, slander, pride, and folly—all these evil things come from inside a man and make him unclean."

Mark 7: 18-23

Jesus told this parable, "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them—what does he do? He leaves the other ninety-nine sheep in the pasture and goes looking for the one that got lost until he finds it. When he finds it, he is so happy that he puts it on his shoulders, and carries it back home. Then he calls his friends and neighbours together, and says to them, 'I am so happy I have found my lost sheep. Let us celebrate!' In the same way, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine respectable people who do not need to repent."

Luke 15: 3-7

Jesus also told this parable to people who were sure of their own goodness and despised everybody else. "Two men went up to the Temple to pray; one was a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood apart by himself and prayed, 'I thank you, God, that I am not greedy, dishonest, or immoral, like everybody else; I thank you that I am not like that tax collector. I fast two days every week, and I give you one tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector stood at a distance and would not even raise his face to heaven, but beat on his breast and said, 'God, have pity on me, a sinner!' I tell you," said Jesus, "this man, and not the other, was in the right with God when he went home. Because everyone who makes himself great will be humbled, and everyone who humbles himself will be made great."

Luke 18: 9-14



26. About the Holy Spirit

Jesus said, "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, the Spirit of truth, to stay with you for ever. The world cannot receive him, because it cannot see him or know him. But you know him, because he remains with you and lives in you.

The Helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and make you remember all that I have told you."

John 14: 16-17, 26

Jesus said, "Now I am going to him who sent me. ... But I tell you the truth: it is better for you that I go away, because if I do not go, the Helper will not come to you. But if I do go away, then I will send him to you. And when he comes he will prove to the people of the world that they are wrong about sin, and about what is right, and about God's judgment. They are wrong about sin, because they do not believe in me; about what is right, because I am going to the Father and you will not see me any more; about judgment, because the ruler of this world has already been judged.

"I have much more to tell you, but now it would be too much for you to bear. But when the Spirit of truth comes, he will lead you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak of what he hears and tell you of things to come. He will give me glory, because he will take what I have to say and tell it to you." *John 16: 5, 7-14*

27. About his own death

The people were still marvelling at everything Jesus was doing, when he said to his disciples, "Don't forget what I am about to tell you! The Son of Man is going to be handed over to the power of men." But they did not know what this meant.

Luke 9: 43-45

Jesus said, "As the lightning flashes across the sky and lights it up from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day. But first he must suffer much and be rejected by the people of this day." *Luke 17: 24-25*

Jesus took the twelve disciples aside and said to them, "Listen! We are going to Jerusalem where everything the prophets wrote about the Son of

Luke 15: 3-7

Man will come true. He will be handed over to the Gentiles, who will make fun of him, insult him, and spit on him. They will whip him and kill him, but on the third day he will rise to life."

The disciples did not understand any of these things; the meaning of the words was hidden from them, and they did not know what Jesus was talking about. *Luke 18: 31-34*

28. About his coming again

Jesus said, "Do not be worried and upset. Believe in God, and believe also in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house, and I am going to prepare a place for you. I would not tell you this if it were not so. And after I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to myself, so that you will be where I am." *John 14: 1-3*

Jesus said, "The coming of the Son of Man will be like what happened in the time of Noah. Just as in the days before the Flood, people ate and drank, men and women married, up to the very day Noah went into the ark; yet they did not know what was happening until the Flood came and swept them all away. That is how it will be when the Son of Man comes. At that time two men will be working in the field: one will be taken away, the other will be left behind. Two women will be at the mill grinding meal: one will be taken away, the other will be left behind. Watch out, then, because you do not know what day your Lord will come. Remember this: if the man of the house knew the time when the thief would come, he would stay awake and not let the thief break into his house. For this reason, then, you also must be always ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you are not expecting him." *Matthew 24: 37-44*

His suffering, death and burial

29. The plot to kill Jesus

When Jesus had finished teaching all these things, he said to his disciples, "In two days, as you know, it will be the Feast of Passover, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be nailed to the cross."

Then the chief priests and the Jewish elders met together in the palace of Caiaphas, the High Priest, and made plans to arrest Jesus secretly and put him to death. "We must not do it during the feast," they said, "or the people will riot."

One of the twelve disciples—the one named Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I hand Jesus over to you?" They counted out thirty silver coins and gave them to him. From then on Judas was looking for a good chance to betray Jesus.

Matthew 26 : 1-5, 14-16

30. The Passover meal

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus and asked him, "Where do you want us to get the Passover meal ready for you?"

"Go to a certain man in the city," he said to them, "and tell him: 'The Teacher says, My hour has come; my disciples and I will celebrate the Passover at your house.'"

The disciples did as Jesus had told them and prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening Jesus and the twelve disciples sat down to eat. During the meal Jesus said, "I tell you, one of you will betray me."

The disciples were very upset and began to ask

him, one after the other, "Surely you don't mean me, Lord?"

Jesus answered, "One who dips his bread in the dish with me will betray me. The Son of Man will die as the Scriptures say he will, but how terrible for that man who will betray the Son of Man! It would have been better for that man if he had never been born!"

Judas, the traitor, spoke up. "Surely you don't mean me, Teacher?" he asked.

Jesus answered, "So you say."

Matthew 26 : 17-25

31. The Lord's supper

While they were eating, Jesus took the bread, gave a prayer of thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples. "Take and eat it," he said; "this is my body."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks to God, and gave it to them. "Drink it, all of you," he said; "this is my blood, which seals God's covenant, my blood poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink this wine until the day I drink the new wine with you in my Father's Kingdom."

Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives.

Matthew 26 : 26-30

32. A place called Gethsemane

Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter, and Zebedee's two sons. Grief and anguish came over him, and he said to them, "The sorrow in my heart is so great that it almost crushes me. Stay here and watch with me."

He went a little farther on, threw himself face

down to the ground, and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, take this cup away from me! But not what I want, but what you want."

Then he returned to the three disciples and found them asleep; and he said to Peter, "How is it that you three were not able to watch with me for one hour? Keep watch, and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Again a second time Jesus went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink it, your will be done." He returned once more and found the disciples asleep; they could not keep their eyes open.

Again Jesus left them, went away, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. Then he returned to the disciples and said, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look! The hour has come for the Son of Man to be handed over to the power of sinful men. Get up, let us go. Look, here is the man who is betraying me!"

Matthew 26: 36-46

33. The arrest of Jesus

Jesus was still speaking when Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived. With him was a large crowd carrying swords and clubs, sent by the chief priests and the Jewish elders. The traitor had given the crowd a signal: "The man I kiss is the one you want. Arrest him!"

When Judas arrived he went straight to Jesus and said, "Peace be with you, Teacher," and kissed him.

Jesus answered, "Be quick about it, friend!"

Then they came up, arrested Jesus, and held him tight. One of those who were with Jesus drew his

sword and struck at the High Priest's slave, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back in its place, because all who take the sword will die by the sword. Don't you know that I could call on my Father for help and at once he would send me more than twelve armies of angels? But in that case, how could the Scriptures come true that say it must happen in this way?"

Then Jesus spoke to the crowd, "Did you have to come with swords and clubs to capture me, as though I were an outlaw? Every day I sat down and taught in the temple, and you did not arrest me. But all this has happened to make come true what the prophets wrote in the Scriptures."

Then all the disciples left him and ran away.

Matthew 26: 47-56



34. Jesus tried by the Jewish Council

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to the house of Caiaphas, the High Priest, where the teachers of the Law and the elders had gathered together.

The chief priests and the whole Council tried to find some false evidence against Jesus, to put him to death; but they could not find any, even though many came up and told lies about him. Finally two men stepped forward and said, "This man said, 'I am able to tear down God's temple and three days later build it back up.'"

The High Priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Have you no answer to give to this accusation against you?" But Jesus kept quiet. Again the High Priest spoke to him, "In the name of the living God, I now put you on oath: tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God."

Jesus answered him, "So you say. But I tell all of you: from this time on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right side of the Almighty, and coming on the clouds of heaven!"

At this the High Priest tore his clothes and said, "Blasphemy! We don't need any more witnesses! Right here you have heard his wicked words! What do you think?"

They answered, "He is guilty, and must die."

Then they spat in his face and beat him; and those who slapped him said, "Prophecy for us, Messiah! Guess who hit you!"

Matthew 26: 57, 59-68

Early in the morning all the chief priests and the Jewish elders made their plan against Jesus to put him to death. They put him in chains, took him, and handed him over to Pilate, the Roman governor.

Matthew 27: 1-2

35. Jesus tried by the Roman Governor

Jesus stood before the Governor, who questioned him. "Are you the king of the Jews?" he asked.

"So you say," answered Jesus. He said nothing, however, to the accusations of the chief priests and elders.

So Pilate said to him, "Don't you hear all these things they accuse you of?"

But Jesus refused to answer a single word, so that the Governor was greatly surprised.

At every Passover Feast the Governor was in the habit of setting free any prisoner the crowd asked for. At that time there was a well-known prisoner named Jesus Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to set free for you? Jesus Barabbas or Jesus called the Christ?" He knew very well that they had handed Jesus over to him because they were jealous.

While Pilate was sitting in the judgment hall, his wife sent him a message: "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, because in a dream last night I suffered much on account of him."

The chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask Pilate to set Barabbas free and have Jesus put to death. But the Governor asked them, "Which one of these two do you want me to set free for you?"

"Barabbas!" they answered.

"What, then, shall I do with Jesus called the Christ?" Pilate asked them.

"Nail him to the cross!" they all answered.

But Pilate asked, "What crime has he committed?"

Then they started shouting at the top of their voices, "Nail him to the cross!"

When Pilate saw it was no use to go on, but that

a riot might break out, he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd, and said, "I am not responsible for the death of this man! This is your doing!"

The whole crowd answered back, "Let the punishment for his death fall on us and on our children!"

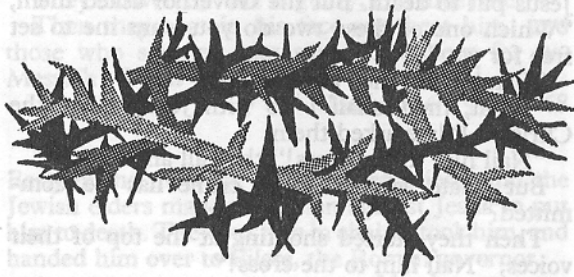
Then Pilate set Barabbas free for them; he had Jesus whipped and handed him over to be nailed to the cross.

Matthew 27: 11-26

36. Soldiers made fun of Jesus

Then Pilate's soldiers took Jesus into the governor's palace, and the whole company gathered around him. They stripped off his clothes and put a scarlet robe on him. Then they made a crown out of thorny branches and placed it on his head and put a stick in his right hand; then they knelt before him and made fun of him. "Long live the King of the Jews!" they said. They spat on him, and took the stick and hit him over the head. When they had finished making fun of him, they took the robe off and put his own clothes back on him. Then they led him out to nail him to the cross.

Matthew 27: 27-31



37. Jesus nailed to a cross

As they were going out they met a man from Cyrene named Simon, and they forced him to carry Jesus' cross. They came to a place called Golgotha, which means "The Place of the Skull." There they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; after tasting it, however, he would not drink it. They nailed him to the cross, and then divided his clothes among them by throwing dice. After that they sat there and watched him. Above his head they put the written notice of the accusation against him: "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Then they nailed two bandits to crosses with Jesus, one on his right and the other on his left.

People passing by shook their heads and hurled insults at Jesus: "You were going to tear down the temple and build it back up in three days! Save yourself, if you are God's Son! Come on down from the cross!"

In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the Law and the elders made fun of him: "He saved others but he cannot save himself! Isn't he the King of Israel? If he will come down off the cross now, we will believe in him! He trusts in God and says he is God's Son. Well, then, let us see if God wants to save him now!"

Even the bandits who had been crucified with him insulted him in the same way.

Matthew 27: 32-44

38. Jesus' dying words

Jesus said, "Forgive them, Father! They don't know what they are doing."

Luke 23: 34

At noon the whole country was covered with darkness, which lasted for three hours. At about three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud shout,

“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why did you abandon me?”

Matthew 27: 45-46

Jesus knew that by now everything had been completed; and in order to make the scripture come true he said, “I am thirsty.”

A bowl was there, full of cheap wine; they soaked a sponge in the wine, put it on a branch of hyssop, and lifted it up to his lips. Jesus took the wine and said, “It is finished!”

John 19: 28-30

Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Father! In your hands I place my spirit!” He said this and died.

Luke 23: 46

39. The burial of Jesus

When it was evening, a rich man from Arimathea arrived; his name was Joseph, and he also was a disciple of Jesus. He went into the presence of Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate gave orders for the body to be given to Joseph. So Joseph took it, wrapped it in a new linen sheet, and placed it in his own grave, which he had just recently dug out of the rock. Then he rolled a large stone across the entrance to the grave and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there, facing the grave.

Matthew 27: 57-61

40. Soldiers guarded the grave

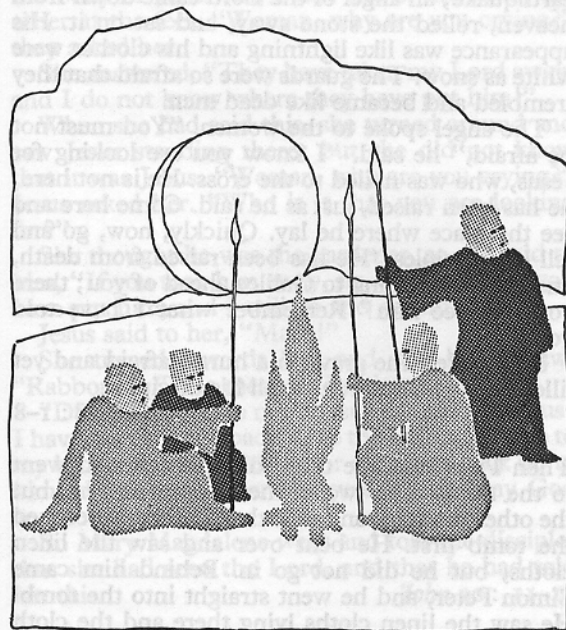
On the next day—that is, the day following Friday—the chief priests and the Pharisees met with Pilate and said, “Sir, we remember that while that liar was still alive he said, ‘I will be raised to life after three days.’ Give orders, then, for the grave to be safely guarded until the third day, so that his disciples will not be able to go and steal

him and then tell the people, ‘He was raised from death.’ This last lie would be even worse than the first one.”

“Take a guard,” Pilate told them; “go and guard the grave as best you can.”

So they left, and made the grave secure by putting a seal on the stone and leaving the guard on watch.

Matthew 27: 62-66



His resurrection and return to heaven

41. Sunday morning at the grave

After the Sabbath, as Sunday morning was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the grave. Suddenly there was a strong earthquake; an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled the stone away, and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid that they trembled and became like dead men.

The angel spoke to the women. "You must not be afraid," he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was nailed to the cross. He is not here; he has been raised, just as he said. Come here and see the place where he lay. Quickly, now, go and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from death, and now he is going to Galilee ahead of you; there you will see him!' Remember what I have told you."

So they left the grave in a hurry, afraid and yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

Matthew 28 : 1-8

Then Peter and the other disciple left and went to the tomb. The two of them were running, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and saw the linen cloths, but he did not go in. Behind him came Simon Peter, and he went straight into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there and the cloth which had been around Jesus' head. It was not lying with the linen cloths but was rolled up by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in; he saw and believed.

(They still did not understand the scripture which said that he must rise from death.) Then the disciples went back home. *John 20 : 3-10*

42. Mary Magdalene saw the Lord

Mary stood crying outside the tomb. Still crying, she bent over and looked in the tomb, and saw two angels there, dressed in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head, the other at the feet. "Woman, why are you crying?" they asked her.

She answered, "They have taken my Lord away, and I do not know where they have put him!"

When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there; but she did not know that it was Jesus. "Woman, why are you crying?" Jesus asked her. "Who is it that you are looking for?"

She thought he was the gardener, so she said to him, "If you took him away, sir, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned towards him and said in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (This means "Teacher.")

"Do not hold on to me," Jesus told her, "because I have not yet gone back up to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them for me, 'I go back up to him who is my Father and your Father, my God and your God.'"

So Mary Magdalene went and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had told her this. *John 20 : 11-18*

43. Jesus' disciples saw him

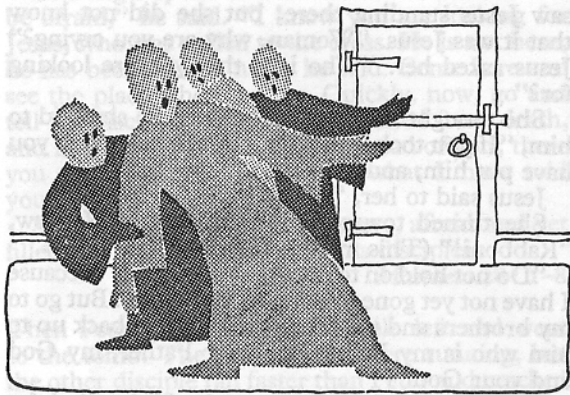
(a) *that Sunday evening*

Suddenly the Lord himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

Full of fear and terror, they thought that they were seeing a ghost. But he said to them, "Why are you troubled? Why are these doubts coming up in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet and see that it is I, myself. Feel me, and you will see, because a ghost doesn't have flesh and bones, as you can see I have."

He said this and showed them his hands and his feet. They still could not believe, they were so full of joy and wonder; so he asked them, "Do you have anything to eat here?" They gave him a piece of cooked fish, which he took and ate before them.

Luke 24: 36-43



(b) a week later

One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (called the Twin), was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We saw the Lord!"

Thomas said to them, "If I do not see the scars of the nails in his hands, and put my finger on those scars, and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later the disciples were together indoors again, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands; then stretch out your hand and put it in my side. Stop your doubting and believe!"

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Do you believe because you see me? How happy are those who believe without seeing me!"

John 20: 24-29

(c) in Galilee

The eleven disciples went to the hill in Galilee where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him they worshipped him, even though some of them doubted. Jesus drew near and said to them, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember! I will be with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28: 16-20

44. Jesus returned to heaven

Jesus said to them, "These are the very things I told you while I was still with you: everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the writings of the prophets, and the Psalms had to come true."

Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "This is what is written: that the Messiah must suffer, and rise from death on the third day, and that in his name the message about repentance and the forgiveness of sins must be preached to all nations, beginning in

Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And I myself will send upon you what my Father has promised. But you must wait in the city until the power from above comes down upon you."

Then he led them out of the city as far as Bethany, where he raised his hands and blessed them. As he was blessing them, he departed from them and was taken up into heaven.

They still had their eyes fixed on the sky as he went away, when two men dressed in white suddenly stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand there looking up at the sky? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come back in the same way that you saw him go to heaven."

Luke 24: 44-51; Acts 1: 10-11

45. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit

When the day of Pentecost arrived, all the believers were gathered together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire spreading out; and each person there was touched by a tongue. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

There were Jews living in Jerusalem, religious men who had come from every country in the world. When they heard this noise, a large crowd gathered. They were all excited, because each one of them heard the believers talking in his own language.

Then Peter stood up with the other eleven apostles, and in a loud voice began to speak to the crowd,

"... Listen to these words, men of Israel! Jesus

of Nazareth was a man whose divine mission was clearly shown to you by the miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through him; you yourselves know this, for it took place here among you. God, in his own will and knowledge, had already decided that Jesus would be handed over to you; and you killed him, by letting sinful men nail him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead; he set him free from the pains of death, because it was impossible that death should hold him prisoner. ... He has been raised to the right side of God and received from him the Holy Spirit, as his Father had promised; and what you now see and hear is his gift that he has poured out on us.

"All the people of Israel, then, are to know for sure that it is this Jesus, whom you nailed to the cross, that God has made Lord and Messiah!"

Acts 2: 1-6, 14, 22-24, 33, 39



Conclusion

46. Jesus and you

Now God's way of putting men right with himself has been revealed. ... God puts men right through their faith in Jesus Christ. God does this to all who believe in Christ, because there is no difference at all: all men have sinned and are far away from God's saving presence. But by the free gift of God's grace they are all put right with him through Christ Jesus, who sets them free. God offered him so that by his death he should become the means by which men's sins are forgiven, through their faith in him. God did this in order to demonstrate his righteousness. In the past, he was patient and overlooked men's sins; but now in the present time he deals with men's sins, to demonstrate his righteousness. In this way God shows that he himself is righteous and that he puts right everyone who believes in Jesus.

Romans 3: 21-26

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To Jesus Christ be the glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

Revelation 1: 6