

Who is God?



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How to use this booklet

This booklet will be helpful for anyone interested in learning who God is and the message of the Bible.

If possible, read it along with someone. Take turns reading the picture caption, the write-up, and the Bible verses. Then take a few minutes to discuss the questions at the bottom of the page and watch the short video clip.

Each of you should then invite someone new to repeat the process with you.

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1. In the Beginning



God moved the prophets to write His Word

In the beginning, long before people or spirits existed, God was there. This means that **only God can tell us what happened in the beginning**, and He has done so in a book called the Bible. The Bible is a collection of 66 books, written over 1,600 years, by 40 men from different backgrounds, yet it has one unified message. **God moved these men to write exactly what He wanted people to know about Him so that ALL nations could enjoy a relationship with Him.** This makes God the ONE AUTHOR of the Bible, giving it one consistent message throughout. The Bible is God's actual words, so it must be honoured and never changed.

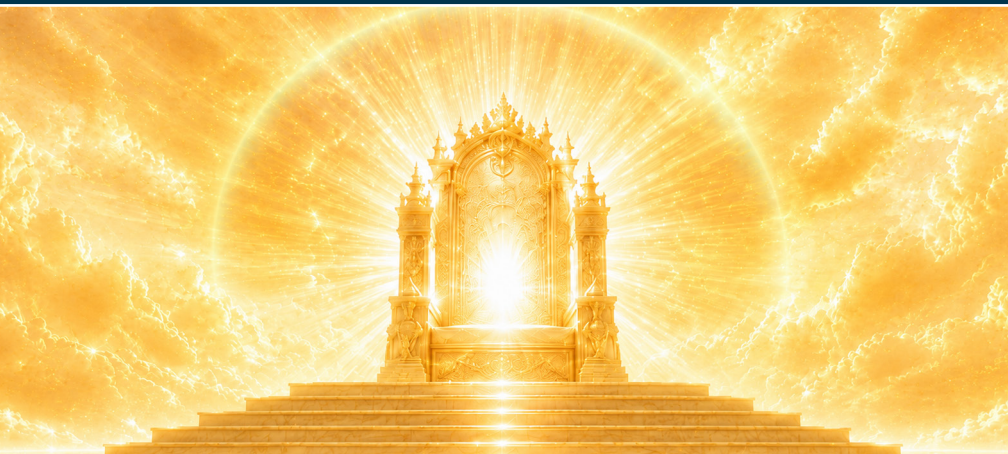
Genesis 1:1; John 14:6; 2 Timothy 3:16; Titus 1:2; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Revelation 22:18-19

Think about it

- Why do we believe the Bible is a special book?
- Why did God want us to have the Bible?



2. What God Is Like



"In the beginning God..." (Genesis 1:1)

The Bible begins with, “In the beginning God...”¹ This reveals that **God existed before all things**. It teaches us that **God is SELF-EXISTENT** (He needs nothing), **ETERNAL** (without beginning or end), and **present EVERYWHERE**. The Bible reveals God as a TRINITY: Father, Son, and Spirit — three equal Persons in one Being. God the Father, Son, and Spirit have always lived in perfect harmony, but with different roles. **As God, He is SUPREME RULER, HOLY, and JUST, and He LOVES us in PERFECT WISDOM**. He is also ABSOLUTE TRUTH, which means He defines truth and always acts perfectly. Truly, no one is like God! Isn't it amazing that He WANTS a relationship with US?

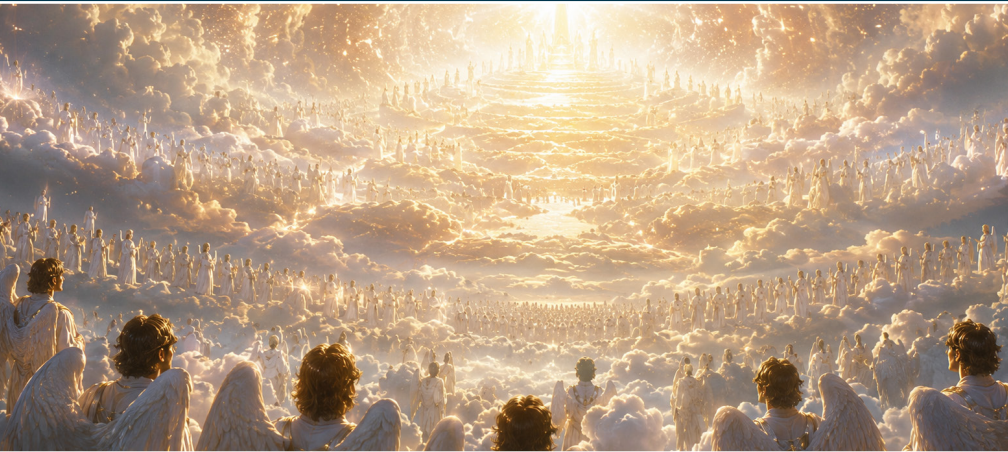
¹Genesis 1:1; Genesis 14:19; Genesis 17:1; Genesis 21:33; Psalm 139; Jeremiah 23:23-24; John 4:24

Think about it

- Who is God?
- God is supreme. What does this mean for us?



3. Perfect Angels



God created all the angels (spirits)

God began by creating a vast number of spirits, which He called angels. Each was created perfectly to worship and serve God. **Since God made the angels, they belong to Him and are subject to Him.** Angels are very powerful, but they are not all-powerful like God. They also know many things, but they are not all-knowing like God. In fact, all the angels worshipped God as He created the world. God knows everything they think and do long before they ever do it. So, who should we honour — angels, or Almighty God? And who should we worship — the spirits, or the One who made them?

Job 38:6-7; Psalm 11:4; Psalm 103:20-21; Colossians 1:16; Revelation 5:11-12

Think about it

- Why did God create the angels (spirits)?
- Why should we only worship God and not the angels (spirits)?



4. A Perfect World



God created the heavens and the earth

God desired a close relationship with mankind, so He lovingly prepared a perfect home for them. **“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”**¹ Because God is ALL-POWERFUL, He simply spoke all creation into existence out of nothing. In perfect ORDER and WISDOM, He created light, skies, land, plants, sun, moon, stars, birds, fish, and animals. As God looked at every part of creation, He said that “it was good”.² Everything was just as He had planned it and exactly what He meant it to be! God is PERFECT, ALL-KNOWING, and GOOD, so everything He does is good and perfect too.

¹Genesis 1:1; ²Genesis 1:10-25; Genesis 1:1-25; Psalm 18:30

Think about it

- Why did God go to such great lengths to create the perfect world?
- What does God reveal about Himself through His creation?



5. A Special Relationship



God created Adam and Eve

After God finished preparing a home for mankind, **“God said, ‘Let us make mankind in our image.’”**¹ So God created people with an eternal spirit and soul so they could enjoy a relationship with Him. **God first made Adam, then Eve**, as perfect companions for each other. Adam and Eve were perfectly equal, but they had different roles. And, because God created them, He was their Source of life, and they belonged to Him. God put them in the perfect Garden of Eden; there was no sickness, evil, pain, or death. God told them to rule over the earth and to have children to fill it. **This makes ALL people descendants of Adam and Eve.**

¹Genesis 1:26–2:23; Genesis 3:20

Think about it

- What does it mean that God created man AND woman in His image?
- What does it mean that all people descended from Adam and Eve?



3:00

6. The First Sin



Lucifer sinned against God

One angel by the name of Lucifer allowed his beauty, wisdom, and power to fill his heart with pride. This led him to want God's throne so he would be worshipped like God. Lucifer then convinced many more angels to join his sin of rebellion against God. **Sin is any thought, word, or action against God or what He has declared.** But, because God is SUPREME and JUST, **He will not give His glory to anyone else,** and He must punish all sin. So God cast these rebels to Earth! We now know them as Satan, or "the devil", and demons. One day, God will throw them into the eternal Lake of Fire. **God alone must be worshipped!**

Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:12-17; Matthew 25:41

Think about it

- Why did God respond to Lucifer the way He did?
- Why does God want us to know who Lucifer is?



7. Freedom to Choose



Adam and Eve sinned against God

God is LOVE at the core of His being. And love is only true love when it is given freely. So **God gave Adam and Eve an opportunity to love Him.** He told them they could eat freely from the *Tree of Life* so they could live forever with Him. But if they chose to eat from the *Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil*, they would be choosing **independence from God**. God warned them that this **would separate them from Him, their Source of life, and would result in death.** Satan hates those whom God loves. So Satan deceived Eve, leading her and Adam to disobey God and choose death by eating from the forbidden tree.

Genesis 2:8-17; Genesis 3:1-6; 1 John 4:8

Think about it

- What made these two trees so important?
- If you were Adam or Eve, what would you have chosen?



5:00

8. Afraid and Ashamed



Adam and Eve were judged

The moment Adam and Eve sinned, they were cut off from God, so they died spiritually. They tried to cover their shame and hide from God. But God still loved them. He called out to them, giving them an opportunity to repent by admitting their sin against God. Because God is MERCIFUL and GRACIOUS, He did not send them immediately to the Lake of Fire. Instead, **God promised to send a Deliverer to rescue them from their sin and Satan.** Oh, how God LOVES us and PURSUES us! But God is also RIGHTEOUS and JUST, so He held them accountable and cursed the earth with sickness and death.

Genesis 3:7-19; Romans 1:18; Romans 3:23; Romans 5:12

Think about it

- Why is it not God's fault that this world is broken?
- What does God want us to know about Him by how He responded to sin?



9. Our Ancestors



God banished Adam and Eve from Eden

Adam and Eve died spiritually, and one day they would die physically. Now, ALL their thoughts and actions were polluted by sin. What would they do? **Only God could provide a rescue!** God killed an animal which died in their place, and He used the skins to cover the shame of their nakedness which sin had caused. This also put off God's judgment temporarily. Without this DEATH-PAYMENT, they would die eternally — they would be separated from God forever in the Lake of Fire! God banished them from Eden to face the consequences of their sin. But **one day the Deliverer would come to provide their eternal rescue. Adam and Eve now had a sinful nature, and this sinful nature was passed down to all their offspring.**

Genesis 3:21-24; Romans 5:12; Romans 6:23

Think about it

- What does it mean that Adam and Eve died spiritually?
- What does it mean that we inherited Adam and Eve's sin nature?



4:20

10. Offerings for the LORD



Cain and Abel approached God

Adam and Eve's first children were Cain and Abel. **They were born outside of Eden into a cursed world.** They had a sinful nature and were cut off from God. But, **because God loved them, He made a way for them to have a relationship with Him.** They deserved to die for their sin, but God told them to kill a firstborn animal as their temporary DEATH-SUBSTITUTE. Through this sacrifice, they would show that they were trusting in the coming Deliverer to be their full rescue. Abel was obedient and was accepted by God. But Cain came his own way, so God rejected Cain. **We can only come to God in the way He has provided.**

Genesis 4:1-5; Hebrews 11:4; 1 John 3:12

Think about it

- What does it mean that Cain and Abel were born outside of Eden?
- If God accepted Abel, can God also accept us?



11. First Murder



Cain killed Abel

Even though Cain was rejected because of his pride, **God gave him another opportunity to come to Him the right way.** Sadly, Cain listened instead to his sinful nature and killed his brother Abel! Because God is the OWNER and SOURCE OF LIFE, He held Cain responsible for his actions. But, once again, Cain refused to humble himself and chose to walk away from a relationship with God. Just as God gave Cain every opportunity to change his mind, He gives us the same. Will we choose our own way, or God's way? **To go our own way is to go Satan's way, and one day we too, like Cain, will give an account before God.** Are we ready for that?

Genesis 4:6-16

Think about it

- How did God show His love to Cain?
- God didn't force Cain to come His way. What does this teach us about God?

12. Worldwide Flood



God sent a flood

Ten generations after Adam, God was grieved that everyone only thought and did evil all the time! Because God is HOLY and JUST, He chose to punish mankind's sin by sending a worldwide flood to judge all people. But Noah found favour with God, so God told him to build a large boat so that anyone who entered it would be saved. Noah preached of **God's ONE WAY to be saved: Get on the boat, you'll live; if you don't, you'll die!** Sadly, everyone else refused to get on board. **Only Noah, his family, and two of each kind of animal entered God's 'MERCY SHIP'.** Then God Himself shut the ONE DOOR, and judgment began!

Genesis 6:5–7:24; 2 Peter 2:5

Think about it

- What do we learn about God from the flood?
- If we were alive in Noah's day, would we have gotten on the boat?



13. Languages



God confused language at Babel

After the flood, God told Noah to fill the earth. Instead, his descendants rebelled. **They began to build a city and a very high tower. They wanted to stay together, make a name for themselves, and create a false religion.** As their PERFECT JUDGE, God knew their pride and disobedience, so He went down to see what they were doing. Then He judged them by bringing into existence different languages so they could not understand each other. Now, with so many languages being spoken, the building came to a sudden halt, and the people scattered, just as God had told them to do! **No one can fight against God and win!**

Genesis 11:1-9

Think about it

- How did Noah's descendants defy God?
- In what ways might we defy God?

14. Blessing for All Families



God called Abram

Many years later, God called a man named Abram. He told him to leave his country and follow God to go to the land that He would show him — Canaan. His wife Sarai and his nephew Lot went with him. God promised to make Abram into a great nation and that **“all peoples on earth will be blessed through you”**¹. This meant that the promised Deliverer would come through Abram. Though he had no children at that time, **Abram believed God, and God called him righteous! Abram was now accepted by God and in an eternal relationship with Him.** His sins were covered, and he was free from shame, fear, and Satan. And he would dwell with God FOREVER!

¹Genesis 12:3; Genesis 12:1-5; Joshua 24:2-3; Romans 4:3; Galatians 3:6; James 2:23

Think about it

- What does it mean to be ‘righteous’?
- In what ways do we need God’s Deliverer to bless us today?



15. Burned to Ashes



God judged Sodom and Gomorrah

Once in Canaan, Abram and Lot had to separate because they had so many animals to feed. Sadly, Lot chose to live near the evil cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, even though he had trusted in the Deliverer and God had declared him righteous. Because God is **RIGHTEOUS** and the **OWNER** of all people, all sin is against Him. So He rained down fire on the wicked Sodom and Gomorrah and sent them all to eternal judgment. **God “made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly.”**¹ But God is also **LOVING** and **GRACIOUS**, so He rescued righteous Lot. **God always rescues the righteous from His wrath!**

Genesis 13:13; Genesis 17:1-21; Genesis 18:20-21; Genesis 19:1-25; ¹² Peter 2:6-8

Think about it

- What do we learn about God from the example of Lot?
- Why should it matter to us that God rescued Lot?

16. Sacrifice My Son?



God provided a substitute for Isaac

When Abram and Sarai were old, God changed their names to Abraham and Sarah to confirm His covenant promise to them. Then, **when Abraham was 100 and Sarah 90, Sarah gave birth to Isaac, just as God had promised!** Years later, God tested Abraham's love for Him by telling him to sacrifice Isaac. Abraham did not understand what God was doing, but he obeyed! He laid his son on the altar and raised the knife. Just then, God said, "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God."¹ Then **God provided a perfect ram to die in Isaac's place. The substitute ram is a picture of the Deliverer who would one day die in our place as our Substitute.**

¹Genesis 22:12; Genesis 21:1-3; Genesis 22:1-18; Hebrews 11:17-19

Think about it

- Why did God tell Abraham to sacrifice Isaac?
- How are we like Isaac, bound on the altar and needing a substitute?



17. Twin Brothers



Esau despised his birthright

Many years later, Isaac's wife Rebekah gave birth to twins. Esau became a skilled hunter, and Jacob was a quiet man who stayed at home. One day when Esau came in from a hunt, he asked Jacob for some stew. Jacob saw an opportunity to make a clever deal, so he said, "Sell me your birthright!"¹ Esau agreed because **Esau despised his birthright as the firstborn son.** What was this birthright? It meant being the head of the family and receiving all the covenant promises God had made to their grandfather Abraham. This included a great name and the Deliverer being born into his family line! **God also offers each of US a 'birthright' — an eternal relationship with Him. Will we accept it?**

¹Genesis 25:31; Genesis 25:25-34; Hebrews 12:16-17

Think about it

- Why did Esau give up his birthright so easily?
- What things are more important to us than our spiritual 'birthright'?

18. Stairway to Heaven



God met with Jacob

Esau lost his birthright, but he still longed for his father's blessing. But Jacob stole that too! Jacob tricked his father, Isaac, into blessing him instead of his brother. Esau became angry and wanted to kill Jacob, so Jacob fled! One night while he was on the road, God gave Jacob a dream of a stairway from Earth to Heaven. Angels were going up and down the stairway, and God stood at the top. **This stairway is a picture of the Deliverer who is God's ONE WAY to Heaven.** Several years later, God changed Jacob's name to 'Israel' and promised him all the covenant blessings of his grandfather, Abraham. **Jacob was a liar and a thief, yet God still LOVED him and PURSUED him.**

Genesis 27:1–28:22

Think about it

- What was the meaning of the stairway in Jacob's dream?
- If God reached out to a deceiver like Jacob, what does that mean for us?

19. Helpless Slaves



Egypt enslaved Israel

Jacob's family ended up in Egypt because of a great famine. While they were there, God blessed them with many descendants. But this caused Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt, to fear Israel. So Pharaoh made them his slaves, just as God had announced to Abraham many years before.¹ But God had also promised to rescue Israel, to give them great wealth, and to return them to the promised land. **God's word was being fulfilled EXACTLY as He had promised!** In the same way, God's promise to send a Deliverer to save us from sin, Satan, and eternal judgment will also come true. **We are slaves to sin, with no power to free ourselves. We truly need God's Deliverer!**

¹Genesis 15:13-16; Genesis 46:1-34; Exodus 1:8-22

Think about it

- What do we learn about God in this account?
- How is Israel's bondage in Egypt a picture of us?



20. The Princess and the Baby



God rescued Moses

Even as slaves, Israel's population still continued to grow. So Pharaoh ordered that all the Israelite baby boys be thrown into the Nile River! **Satan was using Pharaoh to try to destroy Israel. Why? He did not want the Deliverer to come!** But one woman put her baby boy in a basket on the river, and an Egyptian princess found him. She named him Moses and raised him as her own son. By protecting Moses, God was also protecting Israel — one day God would use Moses to set Israel free from slavery. **Satan can never win against God!** “The LORD foils the plans of the nations ... but the plans of the LORD stand firm forever.”¹ God always wins!

Exodus 2:1-10; ¹Psalm 33:10-11; Hebrews 11:23

Think about it

- Why was Pharaoh so cruel to Israel?
- Satan can never win against God. Why should that give us hope?



21. Bush on Fire



God called to Moses from a burning bush

Moses knew about his true heritage. When he became an adult, he saw an Egyptian beating an Israelite slave, so he killed the Egyptian. But Pharaoh found out, so Moses fled for his life to another country. Forty years later, God called to Moses out of a burning bush — but the bush didn't burn up! **Imagine Moses' surprise as God told him to go rescue Israel from Egypt.** To convince the Israelites that God had truly sent Moses, God revealed His special name: "I AM!" This name means that God is ETERNAL and PERFECT IN ALL THAT HE IS. But Moses was afraid to face Pharaoh, so God sent his brother, Aaron, to help him. **God also sees how we suffer under sin and Satan, and He wants to set us free.**

Exodus 2:11–3:22; Acts 7:17–36

Think about it

- What does the name 'I AM' reveal about God?
- God sees that we suffer under sin and Satan. Why does He care?



22. The Death Angel



The Passover lamb brought deliverance

Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and gave him God's message: "Let My people go."¹ But Pharaoh refused! So **God sent terrible plagues on Egypt to reveal His POWER over all the Egyptian gods.** The final plague would be of the death of all the firstborn males. But God told Israel to kill a substitute animal without any flaws to die in place of their sons. They must paint its blood on the three posts of their doorframes, then stay in the house, behind the blood. At midnight, when the death angel came, he 'passed over' every house that had the blood — their firstborn males were spared. **Just as a lamb died as a substitute for the firstborn, the Deliverer would die as our Substitute — He is our Passover Lamb.**

¹Exodus 5:1; Exodus 5:1–12:30

Think about it

- What did the plagues reveal about God?
- Why is the Deliverer called our Passover Lamb?



23. God's Deliverance



God parted the Red Sea

The death of Egypt's firstborn broke Pharaoh, so he ordered Israel to leave! **Once again, God had kept His promise by delivering His people.** God led Israel into the desert toward Canaan, guiding them by a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night. But Pharaoh, realizing that he had released all his slaves, chased after Israel, trapping them at the Red Sea. But God had a plan! He rescued His people by opening a dry path right through the sea. When the Egyptians followed, God collapsed the sea on them, drowning Pharaoh and all his army. **The ALL-POWERFUL God is always able to save His people from every attack of the enemy.**

Exodus 12:31-42; Exodus 13:17-14:31

Think about it

- How did God convince Egypt to let His people go?
- In what ways do we need God to fight for us?



24. God's Provision



God fed Israel with bread from Heaven

Each day, God led about two million people through the desert toward Canaan. **God used the desert to prove His great LOVE and perfect PROVISION for His people.** He wanted them to trust Him completely for all their needs. When their food from Egypt ran out, they failed to trust God and complained against Him. Even then, God GRACIOUSLY provided. Six mornings a week for 40 years, God gave Israel bread from Heaven, a fresh supply for each day, plus a double supply on the sixth day. **God FAITHFULLY and LOVINGLY provides for all who follow Him.** He told Israel what they needed to do, and He cared for all their needs. In every situation, God is TRUSTWORTHY!

Exodus 13:20-22; Exodus 16:1-31; Exodus 40:36-38

Think about it

- Why would God lead His people through a desert?
- What do we learn about God in how He cared for Israel?



25. No Water



God gave Israel water from a rock

As Israel traveled through the desert, they often ran out of water. Once again, they failed to trust God even though He had rescued them, was leading them, and was giving them their daily bread! **“Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us ... die of thirst?”¹ they accused Moses!** So God told Moses to stand in plain view of all the people at Mount Horeb. Then he was to strike the rock with his rod. Moses obeyed, and a river of water gushed out of the rock to quench the thirst of all the people and their livestock. God is LOVING and KIND and provides in abundance! **God is FAITHFUL to take care of His people!**

Exodus 12:37-38; ¹Exodus 17:3; Exodus 17:1-7

Think about it

- What would it have been like for Moses to lead the Israelites?
- What do we learn about God in His provision of water for Israel?

26. God's Holiness



God met with Israel at Mount Sinai

Three months after leaving Egypt, Israel reached Mount Sinai. There, **God promised to bless them if they obeyed Him perfectly.** The people did not acknowledge their sin and helplessness. Instead, they entered a covenant: “We will do everything the LORD has said.”¹ God, who was on top of the mountain, told them to build a barrier at the mountain’s base to separate them from Him. Then He came down “in fire”² and gave them His law. **These ten commandments revealed His holy character and showed them that they could NOT be made right with God by their own works.** They needed to see their sin, humble themselves, and trust in His Deliverer. Do we see our need of the Deliverer, or are we trying to earn God’s favour?

¹Exodus 19:8; ²Exodus 19:18; Exodus 19:1–20:21; Exodus 24:7; Exodus 31:18; Romans 3:18-22

Think about it

- Why did God give the law (the ten commandments) to Israel?
- If we were at Sinai, would we have accepted the covenant with God?



27. God's Anger



Israel worshipped a golden calf

While Moses was on the mountain for forty days receiving instructions from God, the people grew tired of waiting. They said to Aaron, “Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses ... we don’t know what has happened to him.”¹ So Aaron made a golden calf and led the people to worship it. **God had told them to worship only Him, not idols.** But God SEES EVERYTHING. He saw their rebellious hearts and became very angry! **God is the SOVEREIGN RULER, and He will not share His glory with anyone or anything!** He sent a plague to punish Israel — but He did not kill them all, for He still loved them dearly.

Exodus 20:3-4; Exodus 24:18; ¹Exodus 32:1; Exodus 32:1-35

Think about it

- How did Israel break their promise to God?
- What do we learn about God from this account?

28. God Lived among His People



God lived with Israel in the tabernacle

God desired to live with His people, so He told Moses to build a tabernacle, or tent, so He could dwell among them. **God also knew that Israel would need a way to deal with their sin.** So He set aside Aaron and his sons to serve as priests to offer sacrifices for the people. These sacrifices would temporarily cover the people's sin. God is PURE and HOLY, so Israel had to build the tabernacle exactly as God designed it, and the priests had to follow God's exact instructions. God dwelt in THE MOST HOLY PLACE. Aaron could enter into God's presence only once a year, and he needed to come with the blood of a spotless animal who had died for the sins of Israel. God truly LOVED His people!

Exodus 25:1-9; Exodus 25:16-22; Exodus 29:42-46; Hebrews 9:7, 25

Think about it

- Why did God want Israel to build the tabernacle?
- What does the tabernacle reveal to us about God?



29. Sin Transferred to Sheep



A substitute lamb died for the sinner

The Israelites were sinners deserving of God's judgment of death for their sin. But **God, in His MERCY and GRACE, accepted the death of a substitute lamb in their place.** The sinner would put their hand on the head of their substitute to 'transfer' their sin to it. Then they would kill the substitute for the death they deserved. In this whole process, they were to be trusting in the Deliverer who would one day come as their final Substitute. The Deliverer would die in the place of sinners — NOT just to COVER their sin, BUT to TAKE it AWAY — FOREVER! **ALL who confess their sin against God and trust in God's Deliverer are forever accepted by Him!**

Leviticus 1:1-13; Leviticus 17:11

Think about it

- Why did God require Israel to sacrifice a lamb?
- What does God reveal to us about the Deliverer through Israel's sacrifices?



30. Poisonous Snakes



They looked at the bronze snake to live

When Israel reached Canaan, they did not believe that God could give them the land He had promised them. This **ANGERED** God, so He punished the older generation by making them wander in the desert for 40 years until they all died! Forty years later, when the next generation approached Canaan, they also complained against God. So He sent poisonous snakes, and many died! **But, when they confessed their sin, God GRACIOUSLY PROVIDED. He told Moses to make a bronze snake and raise it up on a pole — all those who were bitten could look at the snake and live.** This is a picture of the Deliverer who would take our sin on Himself. Everyone who looks to Him in faith will be saved.

Numbers 13; Numbers 14; Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:14-16

Think about it

- How would you describe Israel's relationship with God?
- What does God want us to learn from the bronze snake?



31. God's Faithfulness



Israel abandoned God and was punished

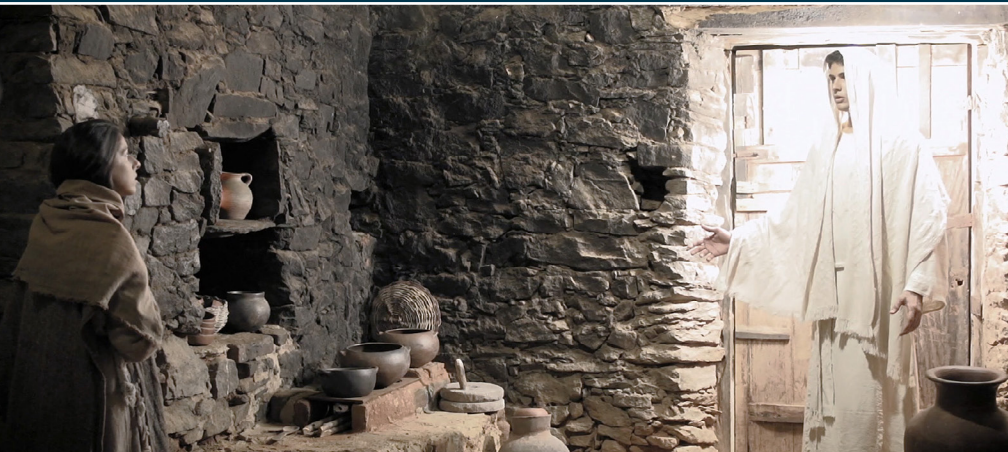
Though God gave Israel the promised land of Canaan, they rejected Him and turned to idols. Then they asked for a human king to replace God as their King. Israel loved their sin, even though it was destroying them! **Yet God remained FAITHFUL in His LOVE — so He sent prophets to warn them of coming judgment.** Finally, God's offer of MERCY came to an END, and He allowed Israel's enemies to take them as prisoners to another country. After their punishment was complete, God brought them back home. Then, for 400 years, the Bible tells us nothing more. Yet God was still working out His plan to provide a Deliverer.

Judges 2:7-19; 1 Samuel 8:4-9; 2 Kings 17:5-23; Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6-7

Think about it

- Why did Israel keep turning their back on God?
- What does it mean for us that God's offer of mercy will come to an end?

32. God's Promise Fulfilled



God called Mary

After 400 years, God finally broke His silence by sending an angel to a virgin named Mary. He announced that she would be the mother of the Deliverer — the SON of GOD MOST HIGH! His name would be JESUS, “Emmanuel”, meaning “God with us”. **The Deliverer would be God Himself in human flesh!** How could a virgin have a child? The Holy Spirit miraculously placed this life in her. So **Jesus was fully God and fully man because God was His Father and a human was His mother.** Because God was His Father, Jesus did not have Adam’s sin nature. **Jesus was the promised DELIVERER who had come to rescue the world from their sin.** God is PERFECTLY FAITHFUL to keep His promises!

Luke 1:26-38

Think about it

- Why must the Deliverer not have any sin at all?
- How did God keep His promise to send His Deliverer?



11:02

33. The Lamb of God



Jesus was baptized by John

When Jesus was ready to begin His public ministry, a prophet by the name of John the Baptist announced that the Deliverer was coming. **“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”**¹ He baptized those who repented to show that they were trusting in God’s Deliverer. When John saw Jesus, he declared, **“Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”**² Then John baptized Him — not because Jesus was a sinner, but because He was the obedient Deliverer. As Jesus came up out of the water, God the Father spoke His approval of His Son, and God the Holy Spirit came on Jesus to empower Him. OUR promised Deliverer HAS come!

¹Matthew 3:2; Matthew 3:1-17; Luke 3:22; ²John 1:29; John 1:29-34

Think about it

- Why is Jesus called ‘the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world’?
- Would we have repented if we heard John’s preaching?



7:00

34. Tempted by the Devil



Satan tempted Jesus

Right after this, the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the devil. But Jesus did not sin, not even once! He overcame every temptation with the eternal truth of God's Word. This proved that **Jesus is HOLY. He is the ALMIGHTY God who can rescue us from our bondage to Satan.** And, like the spotless lambs who had died to cover sin, **Jesus is our PERFECT 'spotless Lamb', our final SUBSTITUTE to forever TAKE AWAY our sin!** Jesus went everywhere telling people to repent and believe in Him. He also healed many people and cast out demons, proving that He was the promised Deliverer.

Matthew 4:1-11, 17, 23-25

Think about it

- Why did God allow Jesus to be tempted, and why directly by the devil?
- How did we become bound by Satan, and why can only Jesus help us?



35. Healing and Forgiveness



Jesus healed the sick

Jesus healed the sick, the lepers, and the crippled because God LOVED and cared for them. But He did something greater — **Jesus forgave people's sins!** Even more than their sickness, He cared about their sin, their guilt, their fear, and their shame. This made the religious leaders angry. Why? By forgiving sins, Jesus was claiming to be God! But shouldn't they have known who Jesus was? All the prophecies He fulfilled and the many miracles He did proved that He was the promised Deliverer. Still, they refused to trust in Jesus as their Deliverer because they were blinded by Satan. **The devil is a liar. He does not want anyone to believe that Jesus is the DELIVERER, the SON of GOD.**

Mark 2:1-12; John 8:44; Romans 3:22-28

Think about it

- Which miracle of Jesus is the greatest of all? Why?
- In what way are we like the leper and the cripple?



36. Born Again



Nicodemus came to Jesus

Jesus chose 12 men to learn from Him and follow Him as His disciples. He was preparing them to tell others God's message — the good news of salvation. One religious leader was intrigued by Jesus and His miracles, so, one night, he went to Jesus in search of the truth. Jesus shocked him by telling him that **he could not be accepted by God unless he was born again!** He had been born once, physically, into sin. Now **he needed to be born again, spiritually, by the Holy Spirit, to have his sins forgiven and receive eternal life.** A person is born of the Spirit at the moment they humble themselves and repent, believing that Jesus is our only Deliverer. Now that is good news!

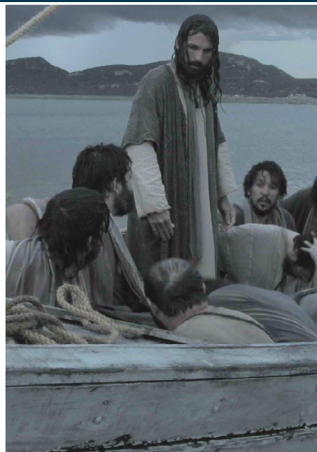
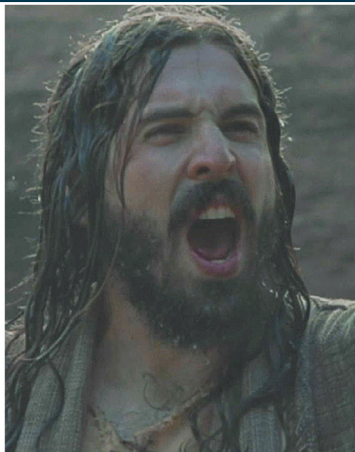
Luke 9:1-6; John 3:1-21

Think about it

- What was the shocking message that Jesus gave to the religious leader?
- What did Jesus mean by saying we must be born again?



37. No Need to Fear



Jesus calmed the storm

Being a disciple of Jesus meant constant learning! One night, Jesus and His disciples got into a boat to cross the Sea of Galilee. A terrible storm came up, but Jesus was asleep in the back of the boat! As the boat filled with water, the disciples woke Jesus, saying, “Don’t You care if we drown?”¹ To the disciples’ amazement, Jesus got up and rebuked the wind and the waves. They became perfectly still! Then Jesus rebuked His disciples: **“Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?”**² **Jesus is the ALL-POWERFUL CREATOR of the world who controls all of nature.** Truly, He is the OWNER and RULER of everything.

¹Mark 4:38; ²Mark 4:40; Mark 4:35-41; Colossians 1:15-17

Think about it

- What would it have been like to be a disciple of Jesus?
- What does God want us to know about Him from this account?



38. When Demons Tremble



Jesus healed the demon possessed

Jesus and His disciples arrived on the other side of the Sea of Galilee. There, they met a demon-possessed man whom the demons had tormented terribly for a long time! But **when the demons came face to face with their CREATOR and OWNER, they ran and bowed to Jesus.** When Jesus commanded the demons to come out of the man, they begged Jesus not to send them immediately to their eternal torment. So Jesus gave them permission to enter some pigs. The pigs rushed into the lake and drowned, but the man was set completely free! **Though many in Israel would not see that Jesus is the SON of the MOST HIGH GOD, the demons knew and were terrified!**

Mark 5:1-20

- Think about it
- Why did the demons respond to Jesus as they did?
 - If demons are terrified to go to the Lake of Fire, what should that mean for us?



3:09

39. What Really Matters



Jesus fed the 5,000

One day as Jesus and His disciples sat on a hill, about 5,000 men, plus women and children, came to hear Him preach. At the end of the day, the people were hungry. Jesus' disciples found a boy with two fish and five small loaves, and he willingly gave these to Jesus. Jesus took that small amount of food and multiplied it to feed all those people! There were even 12 baskets of leftovers. When the people saw this miracle, they wanted to make Jesus their king so He would feed them like that every day. But **Jesus told them they needed to eat eternal 'bread' — they needed to believe in Jesus as the BREAD of LIFE. Whoever believes in Jesus will never be without spiritual food.**

John 6:1-15, 22-58

Think about it

- What did Jesus mean when He said that He was the 'Bread of Life'?
- What temporary blessings might we want from Jesus more than we want His eternal blessing?



40. Only One Way



Jesus is the Gate

In Israel, sheep were as common as people. Each night, shepherds would put their sheep in a sheepfold to protect them from thieves and wild animals. Then the shepherd would sleep in its only doorway, making himself the gate. Everyone is born outside of God's 'sheepfold' and must trust in Jesus to rescue them from the enemy who wants to destroy them. Religion and good works will not get them in. **Jesus said, "I AM the gate."**¹ **He is the ONLY WAY into God's 'sheepfold' of relationship** — and He is the ONLY WAY to be protected from sin and Satan. Jesus also said, "I am the GOOD SHEPHERD. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."²

Matthew 7:13-14; ¹John 10:9; ²John 10:11; John 10:1-18

Think about it

- What did Jesus mean when He said that He was the 'Gate'?
- What other 'gates' do people go through to try to be accepted by God?

41. Life for the Dead



Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead

One day, Jesus got word that His dear friend Lazarus was very sick. But, when He arrived, Lazarus had already been dead for four days. Jesus comforted Lazarus's sister: **"I am the RESURRECTION and the LIFE. Anyone who believes in Me will live, even after dying."**¹ Then, to show them what He meant, He commanded Lazarus to rise. Instantly, Lazarus walked out of the grave, revealing that **Jesus holds the keys to LIFE and DEATH!** Everyone is born spiritually dead with no way to give themselves eternal life. But Jesus can give us this life! He alone has the power to 'raise us to eternal life' the moment we believe in Him.

¹John 11:25; John 11:1-53; Ephesians 2:1, 4, 5

Think about it

- What did Jesus mean when He said that He was the 'resurrection and the life'?
- How is Lazarus a picture of each of us?



42. After Death



Two men chose different paths

Jesus told the account of a very poor man who begged for food every day from a rich man. The poor man had trusted in the Deliverer, but the rich man lived only for the things of this life. When each of them died, the poor man was taken to the place of eternal blessing, but the rich man went to the place of eternal torment. The torment was so bad that the rich man begged for a drop of water from the poor man to cool his tongue. But his request could not be granted, and he could not escape his torment! **Our final, eternal destination is decided now, during our life on Earth — either eternal blessing with God in Heaven or eternal torment in the Lake of Fire with Satan!** Which will we choose?

Luke 16:19-31

Think about it

- What will it be like for those who go to the Lake of Fire?
- Which riches do we live for — those on Earth or those of Heaven?



6:52

43. Sight for the Blind



Jesus healed the blind man

As Jesus was leaving the city of Jericho, a blind man heard that Jesus was near and called out to Him. Though the people told him to be quiet, he called out even louder. Jesus heard him and commanded them to bring the man to Him. He asked, “What do you want Me to do for you?” ... “I want to see.”¹ **Jesus said, “Go ... your faith has healed you.”**² Instantly, the man could see! Because Satan blinded Adam and Eve spiritually, all their descendants are born spiritually blind, including us. **But Jesus is able to make blind men see — both physically AND spiritually.** Sadly, many in Israel refused to see that Jesus was the promised Deliverer, so they remained spiritually blind. What about us?

¹Mark 10:51; ²Mark 10:52; Mark 10:46-52; Mark 11:18; John 14:6; 2 Corinthians 4:4

Think about it

- What does this account reveal about Jesus?
- How are we like this blind beggar?



44. The Willing Substitute



Jesus was arrested and charged

The devil wanted Jesus dead because Jesus was the Deliverer who would destroy him. So he deceived Judas, a disciple of Jesus, to betray Jesus to the religious leaders. While Jesus was on trial, the religious leaders asked Him if He was the promised Deliverer. To their horror, Jesus replied, "I AM."¹ By using this name, Jesus was declaring that He is ALMIGHTY GOD. The leaders sentenced Jesus to die for making this claim. They took Him to Pilate, the Roman governor, to be crucified. Jesus could have stopped them, but He didn't. Instead, **Jesus gave Himself willingly to be our DEATH-SUBSTITUTE**, to pay for our sin and to destroy Satan in order to set us free.

Mark 14:10-11; ¹Mark 14:62; Mark 14:55-63; Mark 15:1-19; John 8:44; John 10:18

Think about it

- Why did Satan want Jesus dead?
- How did Jesus demonstrate that He truly loves each of us?



45. The True Victor!



Jesus was crucified

The soldiers whipped Jesus then nailed Him to a cross! As He hung there, the sky turned black, and Jesus cried out, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”¹ **As Jesus took the sin of the world upon Himself, becoming sin for us, God turned His back on Jesus and poured out His wrath on Him.** Then Jesus cried out again: **“It is finished!”**² His death paid for the sins of the whole world and completely satisfied all the wrath of God against us. **Jesus is our PERFECT SUBSTITUTE. He died the death that we deserve so that whoever believes in Him will not have to die eternally.** In that moment, Satan celebrated, but his celebration was short-lived!

¹Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34-39; ²John 19:30; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24

Think about it

- Why did God turn His back on His beloved Son, Jesus?
- What does it mean that Jesus died the death that we deserved?



46. Raised from the Dead



God raised Jesus from the dead

Two men laid Jesus' body in a tomb. But when some women went to His grave three days later, an angel announced to them, "You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. **He is risen!** He is not here!"¹ **YES! God fully ACCEPTED Jesus' death as our Substitute, and He raised Him from the dead!** By His death and resurrection, Jesus defeated Satan and the power of death for us! **All who repent of their sin against God, and believe that Jesus died for them, HAVE eternal life — right now.** Jesus took their punishment and paid their debt — and God is SATISFIED! Amazing! They are no longer destined for the Lake of Fire but will live forever with God in Heaven!

¹Mark 16:6; Mark 16:1-6; John 19:38-42

Think about it

- Why is it important not only that Jesus died, but also that He rose again?
- What is this eternal life that Jesus offers us?



47. More to Come!



Jesus ascended to Heaven

For the next 40 days after His resurrection, Jesus appeared to many people to prove that He was alive. He also told His disciples to make more disciples of people from every nation. Then, one day **as Jesus was blessing His disciples, He ascended back up to Heaven.** At that moment, two angels appeared and told them that Jesus would one day return in the same way that He had left. But **when He returns He will come to reign and to judge the world.** Those who have rejected Him will go to the Lake of Fire, and **those who have trusted Him as their Deliverer will be led into His presence forever!** This will be a place of perfect wonder, beauty, love, joy, and peace!

Luke 24:27-52; Acts 1:1-11; Revelation 21:1-8, 27

Think about it

- What does it mean that Jesus will return in the same way as He went?
- Why does God desire each of us to join Him in Heaven?



WE NEED JESUS

God is HOLY, and we must be holy to be accepted by Him. But we are sinners against God, dead in our sin, separated from God, and destined for the Lake of Fire. Our only hope is to humble ourselves by admitting that our sin is against God and that we can do nothing to make ourselves holy. **When we trust that Jesus' death has paid for our sin and that His resurrection gives us new life, we are instantly set free from sin and Satan. We are born again!** God immediately accepts us, gives us eternal life, and will one day welcome us into Heaven!

Have you seen your need for Jesus Christ the Deliverer and put your trust in Him? If not, you can do so right now. God promises, **"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved"** (Romans 10:9).

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