



The
Kairos Oral
Bible

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Introduction

The following contains the written text for The Kairos Oral Bible. The text for this oral Bible has been taken from the King James Bible, the New International Version, the Living Bible, the New American Standard Bible, the English Standard Version, and as needed the text has been compared with the original Greek, Hebrew, and Latin texts from which we get our modern English translations.

The Kairos Oral Bible is comprised of 70 stories from Genesis to Revelation with the goal of giving oral learners an overview of the word of God. It does not include all of the stories in the Bible, but an attempt has been made to select the stories that are most central to the core of the Biblical narrative and represent the Bible's main themes of redemption and reconciliation. Jesus said, "You are truly my disciples if you continue in my word," Jn. 8:31, so the purpose of an oral Bible is to give oral learners access to the word of God so they too may become disciples of Jesus Christ. By design this set of 70 stories has been produced as a starting point, a beginning. Others will want to enlarge upon this story set and this is welcomed.

Most stories in the Oral Bible have been shortened so they can be reproduced by oral learners. For example in the story of Noah three chapters are squeezed down to less than a page. It is then possible to learn to tell the story of Noah in great detail, but not the whole text which would make the story too long and difficult to master. Though the stories are condensed, nothing has been changed or added. The stories are the word of God. A few of the stories are *compilations* of the accounts given in the four gospels. Such is Jesus' baptism, where only Luke gives the dialogue between John and the people coming to be baptized, while only Matthew sets the overall context of Jesus coming out of Galilee to be baptized by John at the Jordan, yet only John 1:29 says, "Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." So in creating the Kairos Oral Bible we take advantage of all four accounts being available to give listeners the most complete picture possible.

Since this text is made to be reproduced orally, sometimes pronouns have been changed to the antecedent noun to which they correspond. This is done to bring clarity to the listeners. Introductions are provided in many stories to give the stories a bridge from the previous story, or to give needed information and context.

A story set of 60-70 stories is large enough to give an overview of the Scriptures while being short enough to give an oral learner a view of the end from the beginning. Furthermore, the intention of the Kairos Oral Bible is to give a sufficient set of stories in English from which oral Bibles can be made into other languages. Today sixty-five percent of the world's unreached people are oral learners. The only Bible they will ever have is the one they can hear and store in their heart and mind. The Bible tells us the word of God has the power to change people's lives. May oral Bibles be made around the world so people can come to know God and live according to His word.

Table of Contents

OLD TESTAMENT

Creation	5
Adam & Eve.....	5
The Fall of Man	6
Cain & Abel	6
Satan and the Spirit World	7
Noah	7
Abram	8
The Promise of Isaac.....	8
Abraham & Isaac	9
Jacob and the Birthright	9
Jacob and the Stolen Blessing	9
Jacob and Esau Reconciled	10
Joseph the Dreamer	11
The Righteous Prisoner	11
Joseph Becomes Governor of Egypt	11
Jacob Goes to Egypt	12
Moses and the Burning Bush	12
Passover & Exodus	13
Crossing the Red Sea	13
The 10 Commandments.....	13
The Scapegoat and Atonement	13
The Spies	14
God's Answer in the Wilderness	14
Israel Crosses the Jordan	15
Jericho	15
David & Goliath	16
David & Saul	16
Elijah	17
Widow's Oil	18
Axehead	18
Daniel	18
Nehemiah	19

New Testament

The Announcement and Birth of Jesus	21
The Baptism of Jesus	21
The First Disciples.....	22

The Paralytic.....	22
An Eye and A Rock	23
The Sower	23
Wheat and the Tares	23
Jesus Stills the Storm	24
The Gerasene Demoniac	24
Good Samaritan	25
Withered Hand	25
Hypocrisy of the Pharisees.....	25
Nicodemus	26
Woman at the Well	26
You are the Christ	27
Casting out Demons	27
Mary and Martha	27
The Prodigal Son.....	28
Lazarus and the Rich Man	28
Pharisee and the Tax Collector.....	29
Rich Young Ruler.....	29
Raising Lazarus from the Dead	29
Forgiveness	29
The Kingdom Leader	30
Zaccheus	30
Bartimaeus	30
Triumphal Entry.....	30
Two Copper Coins	31
The End of the Age and the Faithful Servants	31
Mary Anointing Jesus	31
Last Supper.....	32
The Arrest and Trial of Jesus	32
The Crucifixion.....	33
The Resurrection	33
Pentecost.....	34
Healing at the Beautiful Gate	35
Peter & John of Trial	35
The Road to Damascus.....	36
The Council at Jerusalem.....	36
The Philippian Jailer	37
Altar to Unknown God	37
The Revelation	38

The Old Testament

Creation- Gen. 1

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was empty and without form, and darkness covered the waters, and the Spirit of God was over the waters.

³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵The light he called day and the darkness he called night.

⁶And God created the sky, ⁹and separated the sky from the waters under the sky. Then God separated the waters from the dry land and ¹¹God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with the seed in it according to its kind." ¹²And God saw that it was good.

¹⁴⁻¹⁶ God created the sun, the moon and the stars to give light, and for signs and seasons. ²⁰He created the fish according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. ²¹And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth."

²⁵And God created the animals, each according to its kind and it was so. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the animals and over all the earth. ²⁷So God created man in his own image, male and female he created them. ²⁸God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and develop it."

²⁹Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air I give every green plant for food." ³¹And it was so. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. All these things were created in six days.

Adam and Eve- Genesis 2

Introduction: God put man in a garden. What does this tell us about God? God also gave man a wife. What is the picture of God's thinking about marriage we see in this story?

¹ And so the heavens and the earth were completed and on the seventh day God rested from all his work.

³And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy.

⁷When God made the heavens and the earth He formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. ⁸⁻¹⁴Then God planted a garden called Eden with sweet smells and plants and trees and gold. And God made four rivers to flow from the garden and in the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁵Then God took the man and put him in the Garden to take care of it. ¹⁶And God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden ¹⁷but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for if you eat of it you will surely die."

¹⁸God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a help mate suitable for him." ¹⁹Then God brought all the animals to the man and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰But for the man, Adam, no companion was found.

²¹So God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, ²²God took one of the man's ribs and made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought the woman to the man.

²³And the man said, "At last, this is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." ²⁴For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. ²⁵The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

The Fall of Man Gen. 3:1-23

¹ Now the serpent was more clever than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

⁴ "You will not die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

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

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of God walking in the garden in the cool of the day and they hid from God among the trees of the garden.

⁹ But God called to the man, "Where are you?" The man answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." ¹¹ And God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

¹² The man said, "The woman you gave to be with me gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." ¹³ Then God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴ So God said to the serpent, "Cursed are you, on your belly you will crawl and you will eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵ And I will put hatred between your seed and the seed of the woman. He will crush your head, and you will bruise his heel."

¹⁶ To the woman God said, "I will greatly increase your pains in child bearing. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

¹⁷ To the man God said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' 'Cursed is the ground because of you. It will bring forth both thorns and thistles and through painful toil and by the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, for you were taken from dust and to dust you will return.'"

²⁰ Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living. God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. ²² And God said, "The man now knows good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." ²³ So God put the man and woman out of the Garden and placed an angel with a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

Cain and Abel- Gen 4.

¹ Now Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. ² Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil.

³⁻⁵ In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to God and Abel brought an offering from his flock. God looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

⁶ Then God said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? ⁷ If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door and it desires to have you, but you must master it."

⁸ Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him. ⁹ Then God said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't know," replied Cain. "Am I my brother's keeper?"

¹⁰ Then God said, "What have you done? Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. ¹¹ Now you are under a curse and must become a restless wanderer on the earth." ¹³ Cain said, "My punishment is too great to

bear! Whoever finds me will kill me. ¹⁵Then the LORD put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him. ¹⁶And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD.

Satan and the Spirit World Is. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:12-19

Introduction: This story tells how Lucifer became Satan, the enemy of God and man.

Is. 14:12 "O Lucifer, son of the morning how you are fallen from heaven! ¹³For you said in your heart: I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; ¹⁴I will be like the Most High.' ¹⁵But in truth you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit."

Ez. 28:12 "You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. ¹³You were in Eden, the garden of God on the day you were created. ¹⁴You were anointed as the guardian cherub. ¹⁵You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. ¹⁷Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom so I threw you to the earth; I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God. Those who see you will gaze at you, and consider you, saying: 'Is this the one who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, who made the world as a wilderness and destroyed its cities?' ¹⁹All tribes who knew you are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more.

Noah- Gen. 6-9

Introduction: This story takes place hundreds of years after the story of Cain and Abel. Here is the story from God's Word.

¹Men began to increase on the earth ⁵and the Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become. ⁷So the LORD said, "I will remove mankind from the face of the earth--men and animals and birds of the air--for I am grieved that I have made them."

⁸But Noah found favor in the eyes of God. Noah was a righteous man and Noah walked with God. ¹³So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. ¹⁴Make yourself a boat 150 meters long. ¹⁶Make a roof for it and put a door in the side of the boat.

¹⁹Two of every kind of creature will come to you to be kept alive. ²¹Take food and store it away for you and for the animals." ²²Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

^{7:1-4}Then the LORD said "Go into the boat, you and your whole family, and all the pairs of animals and also seven pairs of every kind of clean animal and bird to keep them alive." ⁵And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him.

¹¹In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, Noah entered the boat ¹⁶and God closed the door. ¹⁷For forty days it rained and the fountains of the deep burst open ¹⁹and all the highest mountains were covered by the water. ²³Every living thing that moved on the earth perished. Only Noah and those with him in the boat were left. ²⁴The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days.

^{8:1} Then in Noah's six hundred and first year, the water dried up from the earth.

¹⁵ Then God said to Noah, "Come out of the boat, you and all with you." ¹⁸ So Noah and his wife and his sons and their wives, and all the animals came out of the boat. ²⁰ Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it.

^{8:21} Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, increase in number and fill the earth. Never again will I destroy all living creatures with a flood. ²²As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, day and night will never cease.

^{9:12} "This is the sign I am making, ¹⁶Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures on the earth."

Abram- Gen 12, 13, 15

Introduction: Many years after Noah and his sons came out of the boat God appeared to a man named Abram. Here is the story from God's word.

^{12:1} The LORD said to Abram, "Go, leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. ²And I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and so you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and through you all the peoples on earth will be blessed."

⁴So Abram left just as the LORD had told him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran and his nephew Lot went with him. ⁵He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the servants they had acquired and they set out for the land of Canaan. ⁷And God appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

^{13:2} Then Abram became very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold. ⁵Lot also had flocks and herds and tents so that the land could not support them while they stayed together. ⁸So Abraham said, "Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left." ¹⁰Lot looked and saw that the valley of the Jordan River was well watered, so Lot chose to go to the Jordan River.

¹⁴ After Lot had parted, the LORD said to Abram, "Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. ¹⁵All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. ^{15:5}God took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars--if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ⁶And Abram believed God, and the Lord counted it to him as righteousness.

Sarai & Hagar Gen. 16

^{16:1} Now Abram and Sarai had no children, and Sarai had an Egyptian maid whose name was Hagar.

²So Sarai said to Abram, "Now behold, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. You may sleep with my maid and perhaps I will obtain children through her." So Abram slept with Hagar, and she conceived; and when Hagar realized that she had conceived, she looked down on her mistress, and Sarai was despised in her sight. So Sarai treated Hagar harshly, and Hagar ran away.

⁷Now the angel of the LORD found Hagar by a spring of water in the desert. ⁸And the angel said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from and where are you going?" And she said, "I am running away from my mistress Sarai." ⁹Then the angel of the LORD said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit yourself to her authority." Behold, you are with child, and you will bear a son; And you shall call his name Ishmael, for the LORD has heard your cries. ¹⁶Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to him.

The Promise and Birth of Isaac Gen 17, 18, 21

^{17:1} When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. ⁴"My covenant is with you: You will be the father of many nations. ⁵No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham. ⁶I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. ⁸The land of Canaan I give to your descendants, and I will be their God. ¹⁰Every male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹It will be the sign of the covenant between me and you."

¹⁹ Then God said, "Your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him. ^{18:18}"Abraham will become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. ¹⁹For I have chosen him, so that he will teach his children and his people to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, and the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he promised him."

^{21:1} Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and ²Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age. ³Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him. ⁴When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded. ⁵Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. ⁷Sarah said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

Abraham & Isaac Gen. 22:1-18

Introduction: After some time, Abraham sent Ishmael away to establish his own lineage, leaving Abraham with an only son named Isaac, the son of promise. Here is the story from God's Word.

¹ There came a time that God tested Abraham and said, "Abraham!" and he replied, "Here I am." ² Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will show you."

³ Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. Abraham took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. ⁴ On the third day Abraham saw the mountain and said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go up on the mountain. We will worship and then come back."

⁶ As Abraham and Isaac went on together, ⁷ Isaac said, "Father?"

"Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" ⁸ Abraham answered, "God will provide himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

⁹ When they reached the place God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. Abraham bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar. ¹⁰ Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" ¹² "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." ¹³ Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide.

¹⁵ Then the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time and said, ¹⁶ "By myself I have sworn declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸ and through your descendants all the nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

Jacob and the Birthright Gen 25:20-34

Introduction: Isaac had two sons, one named Jacob which mean 'cheater,' and one named Esau .

²⁰ Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah to be his wife. ²¹ Because Rebekah was barren Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife and the LORD answered him and Rebekah conceived. ²³ Then the LORD said to Rebekah, "Two nations are in your womb. One people shall be stronger than the other; And the older shall serve the younger." ²⁴ When her days to be delivered were fulfilled, ²⁵ the first child came out red and hairy; and they named him Esau. ²⁶ Then his brother came out holding on to Esau's heel, so they named him Jacob; Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth. ²⁷ Esau became a skillful hunter, and Jacob was a peaceful man and stayed at home. ²⁸ Esau was Isaac's favorite because he liked to eat the meat that Esau hunted, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

²⁹ One day when Esau came in from the field, Jacob was boiling some soup, and Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red soup, for I am hungry!" ³¹ Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." ³² Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" So Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for one bowl of soup.

³⁴ Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Jacob and the Stolen Blessing Gen 27:1-42; 28:5

¹ When Isaac was old and his eyes were too dim to see, he called his older son Esau and said to him, ² "My son. I am old and I do not know the day of my death. ³ Now then, please go out to hunt ⁴ and prepare a meal for me such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat it and bless you before I die." ⁵ Rebekah was listening while Isaac spoke to Esau and when Esau had gone, Rebekah said to Jacob, ⁹ "Go now to the flock and bring me two young goats that I may prepare them for your father. "Then you shall bring it to your father, ¹⁰ so that he may bless you before his death."

¹⁵ Then Rebekah took the best garments of Esau her elder son, and put them on Jacob. ¹⁶ And she put the skins of young goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. ¹⁷ She also gave the savory food and the bread, which she had made, to her son Jacob. ¹⁸ Then Jacob came to his father and said, "My father." And he said,

"Here I am. Who are you, my son?" ¹⁹Jacob said, "I am Esau your firstborn. Please, sit and eat that you may bless me." ²²Isaac said, "The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau. ²⁴Are you really my son Esau?" And Jacob said, "I am." ²⁶So Isaac said, "Please come close and kiss me, my son." ²⁷ And when Isaac smelled Jacob's clothes, he blessed Jacob and said, "The smell of my son is like the smell of a field which the LORD has blessed; ²⁸Now may God give you of the dew of heaven, and of the fatness of the earth, And an abundance of grain and new wine; ²⁹May peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you; be master of your brothers, and may your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be those who curse you, and blessed be those who bless you.

³⁰Now as soon as Isaac had finished the blessing and Jacob had gone out, Esau came in from hunting and brought the food to Isaac; saying, ³¹"My father arise and eat that you may bless me." ³²Isaac said, "Who are you?" And Esau said, "I am your son, your firstborn, Esau." ³³ Then Isaac trembled violently, and said, "Who then brought me food, and I ate of all of it before you came, and blessed him? Yes, and he shall be blessed."

³⁴Then Esau cried out with a great and bitter cry, and said, "Bless me also, O my father!" ³⁵And Isaac said, "Your brother came deceitfully and has taken away your blessing." ⁴¹So Esau bore a grudge against Jacob because his father had blessed him; and Esau said, "The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob."

^{27:42}Now the words of Esau were reported to Rebekah. ^{28:5}So Isaac sent Jacob away to live with Rebekah's brother Laban.

Jacob's Dream Gen 28:10-16

¹⁰ Then Jacob departed from Beersheba and went toward Haran.

¹¹ Jacob came to a certain place and as the sun had set, he took one of the stones of the place and put it under his head and lay down to sleep. ¹² He had a dream, and there was a ladder set on the earth with its top reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were going up and down on it.

¹³ And the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants. ¹⁴"Your descendants will spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

¹⁵ "I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

¹⁶ Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it."

Jacob & Esau Reconciled Gen 32

Introduction: Jacob lived with his uncle Laban for 20 years. When Jacob returned he had 11 sons and one daughter. Here is the story from God's word.

³ Now Jacob returned from living with his Uncle Laban, and sent messengers to his brother Esau to say; ⁴"Your servant Jacob sends a message to tell my lord that I am returning that I find favor in your sight. ⁶And the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, "We came to your brother Esau, and he is coming to meet you with four hundred men."

⁷Then Jacob was greatly afraid and he prayed, "O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and truth which You have shown unto me; for with only my staff I left home, passed over this Jordan; and now I have become two companies. Deliver me, I pray from the hand of my brother Esau for I fear that he will come and attack me, and the mothers with their children. You said You will surely do me good, and make my descendants as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered.

¹³Then Jacob sent a present to Esau his brother; two hundred goats, and two hundred sheep, twenty male goats and twenty male sheep, thirty camels with their colts, and forty cows and ten bulls, and twenty donkeys. And Jacob commanded the servants to say to Esau "These are a gift sent unto my lord Esau: and, behold, Jacob is coming behind us. ²¹So the present was sent before him. ²³That night, Jacob took his wives, and children and sent them over the Jabbok River. ²⁴And Jacob was left alone.

²⁵And there came a man who wrestled with Jacob until the break of the day. When the man saw that he did not overpower Jacob, he touched Jacob's hip and knocked the hip out of joint. ²⁶And the man said, 'Let me go, for the day breaks.' And Jacob said, "I will not let you go, except you bless me." ²⁷And the man said, "What is

your name?" And he said, Jacob. ²⁸And the man said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but you will be called Israel: for you have strength like a prince with God and with men. And the man blessed Jacob there. ³⁰And Jacob said, "I have seen God face to face, and yet I am alive. ³¹And as Jacob passed over the river the sun rose upon him, and he was limping because of his hip.

^{33:1}Then Jacob lifted up his eyes and saw Esau coming with four hundred men. ³And Jacob bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother. ⁴And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept. ⁵And Esau lifted up his eyes, and saw the women and the children; and said, "Who are these with you?" And Jacob said, "The children which God has graciously given your servant."

⁸And Esau said, "What is the meaning of all these animals you sent?" And Jacob said, "These are to find favor in your sight my lord. ⁹And Esau said "Brother I have plenty, keep what you have." ¹⁰But Jacob said, "No, if I have found favor in your sight, please receive this gift from my hand for when I saw your face, it was as though I had seen the face of God because you were pleased with me." ¹¹And so Jacob urged him and Esau took the gift. ¹⁶And so Esau returned to his home.

Joseph the Dreamer Genesis 37

Introduction: At the time of this story Jacob now has 12 sons, but he favors one over the others.

²When Jacob's son Joseph was seventeen years of age he was pasturing the flock with his brothers and Joseph brought back a bad report about his brothers to their father. ³Now Jacob loved Joseph more than all his sons and had gave him a many colored robe. ⁴When Joseph's brothers saw that their father loved Joseph more than them, they hated Joseph and could not speak a kind word to him.

⁵Then Joseph had a dream and said to his brothers, "Listen to this dream I had: ⁷We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it." ⁸His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us?" ⁹Then Joseph had another dream and he said, "This time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me." ¹⁰His father said, "Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?" ¹¹So Joseph's brothers were jealous of Joseph but his father remembered the matter.

¹⁸One day Joseph's brothers saw him coming in the distance and said, ¹⁹"Here comes that dreamer! ²⁰Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these water holes and say a ferocious animal ate him. ²⁴So they took Joseph and threw him into a water hole that was dry.

²⁵As the brothers sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of traders coming and their camels were loaded for they were on their way to Egypt. ²⁷One of the brothers said, "Come, let's sell Joseph to the traders and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed. ²⁸So when the traders came, his brothers pulled Joseph out of the pit and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the traders, and the traders took him to Egypt.

The Righteous Prisoner Gen. 39

Introduction: Even though Joseph's own brothers sold him into slavery, God was with Joseph.

^{39:1}In Egypt the traders sold Joseph to Potiphar, the captain of the guard of the King of Egypt. ²But God was with Joseph and prospered Joseph. ³When Potiphar saw that God was with Joseph and gave him success in everything he did, Joseph found favor in Potiphar's eyes. ⁵Then Potiphar put Joseph in charge of his household, and entrusted everything he owned into his care. And then God blessed the household of Potiphar, the Egyptian, because of Joseph. ⁶Now Joseph was handsome, and Potiphar's wife said, "Come to bed with me!" ⁸But Joseph refused and said, "How could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" ¹⁰But day after day Potiphar's wife spoke to Joseph.

¹¹One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and Potiphar's wife caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me." But Joseph ran out of the house leaving his cloak in her hand. ¹⁶She kept his cloak beside her until Potiphar came home. ¹⁷Then she told Potiphar this story: "That Hebrew slave tried to have sex with me. ¹⁸But I screamed for help, so he left his cloak and ran out of the house." ¹⁹When Potiphar heard the story his wife told him he burned with anger.

²⁰So Potiphar took Joseph and put him in prison. ²¹But while Joseph was in the prison, God was with him; and showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. ²²So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison. ²³Joseph was in charge of all that was done in the prison because God was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

Joseph Becomes Governor Gen 41

Introduction: While Joseph was in prison the cupbearer for Pharaoh was also put into prison but then released. But Joseph had interpreted a dream for the cup bearer before the cup bearer was released. Then two years passed. And now this is the story from God's word.

¹ Sometime later the King of Egypt, the Pharaoh, had a dream: He dreamed he was standing by the Nile River when suddenly out of the river came seven fat cows. ³After the fat cows came seven ugly, skinny cows which also came out of the river. ⁴And the thin ugly cows ate the seven fat cows and yet they still were ugly and thin. This startled Pharaoh and he woke up. ⁵Then Pharaoh had a second dream: This time seven healthy heads of grain were growing on a single stalk. Then seven thin heads of grain sprouted and the thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven healthy heads. Then Pharaoh woke up; and lo it had been a dream.

⁸In the morning Pharaoh sent for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt and told them his dreams, but no one could interpret them for him. ⁹⁻¹³Then Pharaoh was told by the chief cupbearer that a young Hebrew slave was in prison who could interpret dreams. ¹⁴⁻²⁴So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and told him his dreams and Joseph said, "The dreams of Pharaoh are one and the same. God has revealed to Pharaoh what God is about to do. ²⁶The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good heads of grain are seven years; it is one and the same dream. ²⁷The seven lean, ugly cows that came up afterward are also seven years, and so are the seven worthless heads of grain. ²⁸God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do. ²⁹Seven years of great abundance are coming to the land of Egypt, but they will be followed by seven years of famine.

³³⁻³⁷And now let Pharaoh look for a wise man to put in charge of the land of Egypt to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance. This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt. ³⁹Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so knowing and wise as you. ⁴¹So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt." ⁴²Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck and had him ride in a chariot and men shouted before him, "Make way!" Thus the Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of the whole land of Egypt. ⁴⁶Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh, king of Egypt.

Jacob Comes to Egypt Gen. 42, 45, 46

^{42:1}When the famine began, Joseph's father Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt, and he said to his sons, ²"Go down to Egypt and buy some grain for us." ⁶Now Joseph was the governor of the land, the one who sold grain to all the people. So when Joseph's brothers arrived in Egypt, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground. ^{45:1}Then Joseph said, "Have everyone leave my presence. ³Then he said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were terrified and not able to answer him. ⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me, I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! ⁵Do not be afraid and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was God's plan to save lives that He sent me ahead of you. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God.

⁹"Now hurry back to my father because five years of famine are still to come so you must come here quickly." ²⁵So the brothers left Egypt and came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan. ²⁶They told him, "Joseph is alive! In fact, he is ruler of all Egypt." Jacob was stunned; he did not believe them. ²⁷But when Jacob saw the carts Joseph had sent to carry him back, his spirit revived. ^{46:2}And God spoke to Jacob in a vision at night and said, "Jacob, do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there. I will go down to Egypt with you, and I will surely bring you back again. And Joseph's own hand will close your eyes."

Moses and the Burning Bush Ex. 3, 7, 8, 9

Introduction: So Joseph brought his father and brothers to Egypt, and their descendants stayed in Egypt for 430 years. Then a new Pharaoh who did not know about Joseph came to power in Egypt and began to oppress the children of Israel. One Israelite named Moses fled from the Pharaoh of Egypt into the wilderness.

^{3:1} Now Moses was taking care of a flock of sheep and he came to a mountain. ²The angel of God suddenly appeared to him from a burning bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight--why the bush does not burn up." ⁴Then God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." ⁵And God said, "Do not come any closer, take off your shoes, for the place where you are standing is holy ground. I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. I have seen the misery of my people and I

have come down to rescue them and bring them into a good land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people out of Egypt."

^{7:6}So Moses returned to Egypt and took his brother Aaron and went to Pharaoh and Aaron threw his staff down before Pharaoh and it became a serpent. ¹¹Then the magicians of Egypt threw down their staffs and they turned into serpents. But Aaron's staff swallowed up the staffs of Pharaoh's magicians. ¹³Yet Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not listen to Moses and Aaron.

¹⁶ Moses said to Pharaoh, "The LORD says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me. ¹⁹Then Aaron raised his staff and struck the water of the Nile, and all the water was changed into blood. ²¹The fish in the Nile died, and the river smelled so bad, the Egyptians could not drink it. Blood was everywhere in Egypt.

^{9:13}Then the LORD said to Moses, "Get up early in the morning and say to Pharaoh, "Let my people go or this time I will send the full force of my plagues against you. ⁶But indeed I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth."

The Passover and Exodus Ex. 11, 12, 13

Introduction-The Lord brought 10 plagues on the Egyptians. The next story begins with the tenth plague.

^{11:1} The LORD said to Moses, "I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt." ^{12:21}Moses said to the elders of Israel, "Go and select an animal for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. ²²Put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. No one shall go out the door of his house until morning. ²³When the LORD strikes down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on your door and pass over your houses and not strike you down. ²⁴ And you shall observe this Passover forever.

²⁹At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in Egypt ³⁰and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead. ³¹During the night Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said, "Up! Leave my people. Go, worship the LORD as you have requested.

³⁷Now there were about 600,000 men of Israel on foot, besides women and children. ⁴⁰The Israelite people had lived in Egypt for 430 years. ^{13:21}And the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night to give them light, that they might travel by day and night.

Crossing the Red Sea Ex. 14

^{14:1} Then the LORD said to Moses, ²"Tell the Israelites to turn back and camp between Migdol and the sea. ³Pharaoh will think the Israelites are wandering around in confusion."

^{14:5}Then the king of Egypt and his officials changed their minds and said, "What have we done? We have let the Israelites go and have lost their services!" ⁶So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him. ⁷Pharaoh took six hundred chariots and pursued the Israelites, and overtook them as they camped by the Red Sea. ¹⁰The Israelites were terrified and cried out to the LORD. ¹³Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you'll see the salvation the LORD. The Egyptians you see today you'll never see again."

¹⁵Then the LORD said to Moses, ¹⁶"Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. ²¹So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind so the waters were divided, ²² and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

²³Then the Egyptians pursued them, and Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. ²⁶And the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen." ²⁷And the water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen--the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

The 10 Commandments -Ex 19:1- Ex. 20:23

^{19:1} In the third month after the Israelites left Egypt they came to the Desert of Sinai. Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain of Sinai. ³Then Moses went up the mountain to God, and the LORD said, "This is what you are to say to the people of Israel: ⁴You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I carried you as if on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession and you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites."

⁷So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and told them all the LORD had commanded him to say. ⁸The people all responded together, "We will do everything the LORD has said. "So Moses brought their answer to the LORD.

⁹Then God said to Moses, "In three days I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, so that the people will hear me speaking with you and will always put their trust in you. ¹⁰Go to the people and have them prepare themselves today and tomorrow. Have them wash their clothes and be ready by the third day, because on that day I will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. ¹²Put a boundary around the mountain. ¹³Only when the ram's horn sounds a long blast may they go up to the mountain."

¹⁴So Moses went down the mountain and spoke to the people, and they washed their clothes. ¹⁵Then Moses said to the people, "Prepare your mind and heart for the third day. Abstain from sexual relations."

¹⁶On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled. ¹⁷Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. ¹⁸Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the LORD descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, the whole mountain trembled violently, ¹⁹and the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder. Then Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him.

So Moses went up and God said to him, "Go down and warn the people not to cross the boundary, not to force their way through to see the LORD and many of them perish." So Moses went down and told the people.

^{20:1}And God spoke all these words:

²"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴"You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God

⁷"You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

⁸"Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work but on the 7th day you shall rest.

¹²"Honor your father and your mother.

¹³"You shall not murder.

¹⁴"You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵"You shall not steal.

¹⁶"You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

¹⁷"You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

²²Then the LORD said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites this: `You have seen for yourselves that I have spoken to you from heaven: ²³Do not make any gods to be alongside me; do not make for yourselves gods of silver or gods of gold and I will bless you.

A Sacrifice for Forgiveness Leviticus 16

Introduction: God is very holy and loving. God wrote the 10 Commandments on stone tablets for the people of Israel, and told Moses to build a Holy place to keep the 10 Commandments. God also gave the people a way to have their sins forgiven and taken away. This is the story from God's word.

² Now God said to Moses: "Tell your brother Aaron he should bathe his body in water and put on the holy clothes. ⁵"He should take from the the sons of Israel two male goats for a sin offering.

⁶ "Then Aaron will offer a bull for a sin offering for himself and for his household.

⁷"He will then take the two goats and present them before the LORD at the doorway of the tent of meeting. ⁸ "Aaron should cast lots for the two goats, one lot for the LORD and the other lot for the scapegoat.

¹⁵ "He will slaughter the goat of the sin offering which is for the people, and bring its blood inside the Holy place. ¹⁶ "This will make atonement for the holy place which abides with the people of Israel in the midst of the impurities of Israel.

²⁰ "When Aaron finishes atoning for the holy place, he will offer the live goat. ²¹ "Aaron will lay both of his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the sins of the people of Israel. And the goat will be led away into the wilderness and carry on itself all the tribe's sin.

³⁰ On this day atonement will be made for Israel and they will be clean from all their sins before the LORD. ³⁴ This atonement is to be made once a year for all the sins of Israel."

And it was done, as the LORD commanded Moses.

The Spies Numbers 13, 14

Introduction: The Israelites stayed at the mountain for one year receiving instruction concerning the Tabernacle and living holy lives. Then God guided them until they came near the promised land.

^{13:1} The LORD said to Moses, "Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. So Moses sent one man from each tribe. ²⁵At the end of forty days the men returned from exploring the land and came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community in the desert. ²⁷They gave this account: "The land to which you sent us does flow with milk and honey! ²⁸But the people who live there are powerful and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of the giant Anak there.

³⁰Then one of the men named Caleb said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it." But the other men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." So they gave a bad report about the land they had explored saying, "All the people we saw there are of great size. We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."

^{14:1}That night all the people of the community raised their voices and wept aloud, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this desert! ³Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as captives. ⁴And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt." ⁶But Joshua and Caleb said "If the LORD is pleased with us, he will give the land to us. ⁹Only do not rebel against the LORD." ¹⁰But the whole assembly talked about stoning Joshua and Caleb.

God's Answer in the Wilderness Numbers 14

Then the glory of the LORD appeared at the Tent of Meeting to all the Israelites. ¹¹The LORD said to Moses, "How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the miraculous signs I have performed among them? ¹²I will strike them down and I will make you into a nation greater and stronger than they." But Moses said to the LORD, "¹⁷Now may the Lord's strength be displayed, for the LORD is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished. ¹⁹According to your great love, forgive the sin of these people, just as you have pardoned them from the time they left Egypt until now."

²⁰The LORD replied, "I have forgiven them as you asked. ²²Nevertheless, none of the men who saw my glory and the miracles I performed in Egypt and in the desert ²³will enter the land I promised to their forefathers.

³¹But their children whom they said would be taken captive, I will bring their children to enjoy the land they have rejected. ³⁴But first for forty years--one year for each of the forty days they explored the land, their children will suffer in the desert because of their parent's sins. ³⁸Only Caleb and Joshua will enter the land.

Israel Crosses the Jordan Joshua 1, 3, 4

Introduction: The children of Israel remained in the desert for 40 years, and then Moses commissioned Joshua to lead the people into the Promised Land. Here is the story from God's word.

^{1:1}After the death of Moses, the LORD said to Joshua, "²Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River. ^{3:5}So Joshua told the people, "Prepare yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you."

¹⁴The next day the priests carried the ark of the covenant ahead of the people to the Jordan River and as soon as the priest's feet touched the water's edge, ¹⁶ the water from upstream stopped flowing and the water flowing down to the Salt Sea was completely cut off. ¹⁷So the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, while all Israel passed by on dry ground.

^{4:1}Then the LORD said to Joshua, "²Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, ³and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan and to carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight."

¹⁵ Then the LORD said to Joshua, "¹⁶Command the priests carrying the ark of the covenant to come up out of the Jordan." ¹⁸No sooner had the priests carrying the ark set their feet on the dry ground than the waters of the Jordan returned to their place as before.

²⁰And Joshua set up the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan at Gilgal. ²¹ He said to the Israelites, "In the future when your children ask their fathers, 'What do these stones mean?' ²² tell them, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.' ²³The LORD your God did to the Jordan just what he had done to the Red Sea

when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. ²⁴ He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that you might always fear the LORD your God."

Jericho Joshua 2, 6

^{2:1} Then Joshua sent two spies to Jericho." They entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab. ³So the king of Jericho said: "Bring out the men who came to spy out the land." ⁴ But Rahab had taken the two men and hidden them. "I know the LORD has given this land to you and a great fear of you has fallen on us. ¹⁰ We have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea when you came out of Egypt. ¹⁴ "Our lives for your lives!" the men assured her. "If you don't tell what we are doing, we will treat you kindly when the LORD gives us the land." The two men returned and came to Joshua ²⁴ and said, "The LORD has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are melting in fear because of us."

^{6:1} Now the city of Jericho was tightly shut up because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in. ²Then the LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. ³March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. ⁴Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. ⁵When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have all the people give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the people will go up, every man straight ahead."

⁶So Joshua said to the priests, "Take up the ark of the covenant of the LORD and have seven priests carry trumpets in front of it. ⁷Advance! March around the city, with the armed guard going ahead of the ark of the LORD. And Joshua commanded the people, ¹⁰Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout." ¹¹So Joshua had the ark of the LORD carried around the city, circling it once. Then the people returned to camp and spent the night there.

¹²Joshua got up early the next morning and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. ¹³Seven priests carried seven trumpets, marching before the ark of the LORD and blowing the trumpets. They did this for six days. ¹⁵On the seventh day, the Israelites got up and marched around the city seven times. ¹⁶The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the people, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the city! ¹⁷ The city shall be under a ban, all that is in it belongs to the LORD. ¹⁹All the silver and gold and articles of bronze and iron are holy to the LORD; they shall go into the treasury of the LORD."

²⁰When the trumpets sounded, the people shouted, and the wall of Jericho collapsed so every man charged straight in, and they took the city. ²¹Then they burned the whole city and everything in it, but they put the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron into the treasury of the LORD's house.

²² Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, "Go into the prostitute's house and bring her out and all who belong to her, in accordance with your oath to her." ²³ So the men brought out Rahab and her family.

²⁷So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout the land.

David & Goliath 1 Samuel 17

Introduction- Many years after Joshua, a man named Saul became Israel's king. The Philistine army was fighting against Israel at this time and Saul was afraid. Here is the story from God's Word.

^{17:1} Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war. ²Saul and the Israelites drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines. ⁴A champion named Goliath came out of the Philistine camp. Goliath was a giant over nine feet tall and ⁸ he stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Choose a man and have him come down to me and let us fight each other. I defy the ranks of Israel!" ¹¹Hearing these words Saul and all of his men were terrified. ¹²Now David was the youngest son of a man named Jesse. ¹⁷ And Jesse said to his son David, "Take these ten loaves of bread for your brothers who are with Saul and all the men fighting against the Philistines." ²³ As David met his brothers, Goliath, the Philistine champion stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it. ²⁶ So David said, "Who is this Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?" ³²David said to Saul, "Your servant will go fight this Philistine." ³³Saul replied, "You are only a boy. ³⁶But David said to Saul, "Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear and this Philistine will be

like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God.”⁴⁰ Then David chose five smooth stones from the stream and with his sling he came toward the Philistine.⁴² When Goliath saw that David was only a young boy, he cursed David by his gods. "Come here," he said, "and I'll give your flesh to the birds of the air!"⁴⁵ David answered and said to the Philistine, "You come against me with a sword and a spear, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.⁴⁶ This day the LORD will hand you over to me, and I'll strike off your head. Today the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel for this battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of your army into our hands.

⁴⁸As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David⁴⁹ reached into his bag and took out a stone and slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead and Goliath fell face down on the ground.⁵¹ Then David stood over the Philistine and took hold of Goliath's sword and cut off the giant's head. When the Philistines saw their hero was dead, they turned and ran.⁵² Then the men of Israel shouted and pursued the Philistines and when the Israelites returned from chasing the Philistines,⁵³ they plundered their camp.

David Spares Saul's Life 1 Sam. 24

Introduction: As David's fame among the people grew King Saul became jealous and wanted to kill David.

^{24:2} Saul took three thousand chosen soldiers and set out to look for David and his men in the wilderness.

³ Saul came to a cave and went in to relieve himself not knowing that David and his men were in the cave.

⁴ David's men said to him, "This day the LORD has given your enemy into your hands." Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe.⁶ But David said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should lift my hand against Saul for he is the Lord's anointed." ⁷With these words David rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way.

⁸ Then David went out of the cave and called out to Saul, "My lord the king!" When Saul looked behind him, David bowed down to the ground.⁹ He said to Saul, "Why do you listen to men who say, 'David is trying to harm you'?" ¹⁰ This day the LORD delivered you into my hands in the cave and some of my men urged me to kill you. But I said, 'I will not lift my hand against my master, because he is the LORD's anointed.'¹¹ See, my father, look at this piece of your robe I cut off but I did not kill you. Now understand and recognize that I am not guilty of any wrong doing or rebellion.

¹⁶ When David finished saying this, Saul asked, "Is that your voice, David my son?" And Saul wept aloud.

¹⁷ He said, "You are more righteous than I. You have treated me well, but I have treated you badly.¹⁸ You have just now told me of the good you did to me; the LORD delivered me into your hands, but you did not kill me.

¹⁹ May the LORD reward you well for the way you treated me today.²⁰ I know that you will surely be king and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hands.²¹ Now swear to me by the LORD that you will not cut off my descendants or wipe out my name from my father's family."²² So David gave his oath to Saul and Saul returned home, but David and his men went up to their stronghold.

Elijah and the Fire of God- 1 Kings 18

Introduction: After the time when David was the king, there was a bad king named Ahab. So the Lord sent the prophet Elijah to confront the Ahab. Here is the story from God's word.

¹⁷ When Ahab saw Elijah, he said to him, "Is that you, you troubler of Israel?"

¹⁸ "I have not made trouble for Israel," Elijah replied. "But you and your father's family have. You have abandoned the LORD's commands and have followed the idol Baal.¹⁹ Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal who eat at Jezebel's table."²⁰ So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel.

²¹ When the people were gathered together Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him." But the people said nothing.

²² Then Elijah said to them,²³ Bring us two bulls and let them choose one bull for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. Then I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it.²⁴ Then let them call on the name of their god, and I will call on the name of the LORD and the God who answers by fire, he is God." Then all the people said, "What you say is good."

²⁶ So the prophets of the idol Baal prepared the sacrifice and called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. "O Baal, answer us!" they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made.²⁷ At noon Elijah began to taunt them. "Shout louder!" he said. "Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened."²⁸ So

they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention.

³⁰Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come here to me" and they came to him and he repaired the altar of the LORD, which was in ruins. ³¹Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes descended from Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, "Your name shall be Israel." ³²With the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD, and he dug a trench around it. ³³He arranged the wood, cut the bull into pieces and laid it on the wood. Then he said to the people, "Fill four large water pots and pour the water on the offering and on the wood." ³⁴"Do it again," he said, and they did it again. "Do it a third time," he ordered, and they did it the third time. ³⁵The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench.

³⁶At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. ³⁷Answer me O LORD, so these people will know that you are the one true God. ³⁸Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. ³⁹When the people saw this, they fell to the ground and cried, "The LORD! He is God! The LORD! He is God!"

The Widow's Oil 2 Kings 4:1-7

Introduction: When Elijah was taken to heaven he passed his mantle of authority on to a prophet named Elisha. Here is a story from God's word.

¹The wife of one of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that my husband feared the LORD and now the creditor has come to take my two children to be his slaves." ²Elisha said to her, "What do you have in the house?" And she said, "I have nothing in the house except a jar of oil."

³ Then he said, "Go, borrow large vessels from all your neighbors, empty vessels; do not borrow just a few. ⁴And you shall go in and shut the door behind you and your sons, and pour into all these vessels the oil you have, and you shall set aside what is full."

⁵So her sons brought the vessels to her and she shut the door and poured the oil. ⁶When the vessels were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." And her sons said to her, "There is not one vessel more." And the oil stopped. ⁷ Then the woman came and told the man of God, and Elisha said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debt, and you and your sons can live on the rest."

The Ax Head 2 Kings 6:1-7

¹ The company of the prophets said to Elisha, "Look, the place where we meet with you is too small for us.

² Let us go to the Jordan, where each of us can get a pole; and let us build a place there for us to live."

And he said, "Go." ³ Then one of them said, "Won't you please come with your servants?"

"I will," Elisha replied.

⁴ And he went with them. They went to the Jordan and began to cut down trees. ⁵As one of them was cutting down a tree, the iron ax head fell into the water. "Oh, my lord," he cried out, "it was borrowed!"

⁶ Elisha asked, "Where did it fall?" When he showed him the place, Elisha cut a stick and threw it there, and made the iron ax head float. ⁷"Lift it out," Elisha said and the man reached out his hand and took it.

Daniel in the Lion's Den Dan. 6:3-27

Intro- Because Israel continued to worship idols God raised up Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon to take Israel captive. A young man named Daniel was taken captive and lived the rest of his life in exile. However Daniel came to be selected to serve in the court of the King.

^{6:3}Now Daniel so distinguished himself by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. ⁴The administrators and other leaders tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel but they could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and not negligent. ⁵Finally these men said, "We will never find any basis for charges against Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God." ⁶So they went as a group to the king and said: "O King Darius, live forever! ⁷The King's commissioners agree the king should issue an edict that anyone who prays to any god for thirty days, except to you shall be thrown into the lions' den. ⁸Now, O king, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered-in accordance with the laws of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.

⁹"So King Darius put the decree in writing. ¹⁰Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home and prayed three times a day just as he had always done. ¹¹Then these administrators went and found Daniel praying. ¹²So they said to the king, "Did you not say for thirty days anyone who prays to any god except to you would be thrown into the lions' den?" ¹³Then they said to the king, "Daniel pays no attention to you, O king, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day." ¹⁴When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him. ¹⁵Then the

administrators said to Darius, "Remember, O king, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed."

⁶So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!" ¹⁷A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring so that Daniel's situation might not be changed.

¹⁸Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment. And he could not sleep. ¹⁹At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. ²⁰When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel has your God whom you serve been able to rescue you from the lions?" ²¹Daniel answered, "O king, live forever! ²²My God sent his angel to shut the mouths of the lions and they have not hurt me.

²³The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the lion's den. No wound was found on Daniel, because he had trusted in his God. ²⁴At the king's command, the men who had accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions' den and the lions overpowered them. ²⁵Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples of every language throughout the land: ²⁶"I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must reverence the God of Daniel for he is the living God and endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. ²⁷He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth.

He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."

Nehemiah 1,2,4,6

Introduction: After 70 years in captivity, the story of Nehemiah takes place shortly after the time of Daniel. The Jews have now been permitted to return to their land. Nehemiah tells us the story himself.

^{2:1} In the reign of King Artaxerxes of Persia, I, Nehemiah, was the king's cup bearer. One day the king asked me, "Why does your face look so sad? I replied, My face is sad because the city where my fathers are buried lies in ruins. ⁴The king said to me, What is it you want?" So I prayed, and said to the king, "If it pleases the king, send me to the city in Judah where my fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it." ⁶And it pleased the king to send me.

^{9:1} After arriving in Jerusalem ¹³I began at night to examine the walls of Jerusalem which had been broken down, and its gates. ¹⁶No one knew where I had gone or what I was doing, because as yet I had said nothing to the Jews or officials or any others who would be doing the work.

¹⁷Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace." ¹⁸They replied, "Let us rebuild" and they began this good work.

¹⁹But when certain men of the surrounding nations named Sanballat, and Tobiah heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us saying, ^{4:2}"What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? ³What they are building? Why if even a fox climbed up on it, he would break down their wall of stones!"

⁴ Then I prayed, "Hear us, O God, for we are despised, ⁵and they have thrown insults in the face of the builders. ⁶Then the people worked with all their heart and we rebuilt the wall till it reached half its height.

^{6:2} Then Sanballat sent me a message: "Come, let us meet together in one of the villages." But they were scheming to harm me; so I sent messengers to them with this reply: "I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down." ⁴Four times they sent me the same message, and each time I gave them the same answer. ⁹And I prayed, "O Lord now strengthen my hands."

¹⁰One day a man said to me, "Let us go into the house of God and close the temple doors, because men are coming to kill you." ¹¹But I said, "Should a man like me run away? I will not go!" ¹²For I realized that God had not sent this man, but that Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him to intimidate me. Then they would give me a bad name to discredit me.

¹⁵So the wall was completed in fifty-two days. ¹⁶When our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.

Review

As we look back at the stories of the word of God so far we see God created a beautiful world of abundance and that He created man in His own image so that they could have a relationship together. But then we saw how the devil came in the form of a serpent and deceived the man and the woman and they disobeyed God. This disobedience brought sin and death into the world. The sin began to spread being passed from one generation to the next generation and bringing ever increasing violence until God decided to destroy the world with a flood and start

over again with a man named Noah. Then God called a man named Abraham and made a covenant with Abraham where God said He would bless Abraham and make him into a great nation and that through Abraham's descendants, all the nations of the world would be blessed.

Abraham's great grandson was named Israel, and God brought the children of Israel down to the land of Egypt where they became a great nation just as God had promised. But when the king of Egypt would not let the children of Israel worship the true God, then God raised up a man named Moses to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. There in the wilderness God gave the children of Israel 10 Commandments of how they were to live. And finally God brought the children of Israel into the land He had promised to Abraham long ago. This one little piece of land which God gave to Israel connects the continents of Africa, Asia, and Europe. In this way if anyone went by land from Asia to Africa or from Africa to Europe they would pass through the land of Israel and hear the story about the true God.

After the children of Israel entered the promised land, God raised up a man named David to be the King over the people of Israel. And God told David that the seed of the woman which God promised in the Garden of Eden would be one of his descendants. Following the time of David God raised up prophets such as Elijah who warned the people not to worship idols. Finally the Lord brought Nebuchadnezzar from Babylon to take Israel captive in the year 609 BC. Then after 70 years of captivity the people of Israel were returned to their land and they never worshipped idols again.

Also God raised up other prophets who began to foretell the coming of the seed of the woman who would be called the Messiah. At this time the Israelites became known as the Jewish people. Now we will begin the stories that tell about the birth and life of Jesus the Messiah.

The New Testament

The Announcement – Luke 1:26

Introduction: For hundreds of years prophets had been foretelling the birth of the seed of the woman, who came to be called the Messiah. It was predicted that he would be born of a virgin in the town of Bethlehem and be a descendant of King David. Now this is the story from God's Word.

^{Luke 1:26} God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. ³¹You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the Kingship of his father David, ³³and of the increase of His kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. ³⁷For nothing is impossible with God."

The Birth of Jesus Luke 2

^{2:1} In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world³and everyone went to the town of his ancestors to register. ⁴So Joseph went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the city of David, because he belonged to the line of David. ⁵He went there with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

⁸And there were shepherds out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

¹¹Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

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

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

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

¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

The Baptism of Jesus Luke 3:1-15; Mt. 3:4-13; Jn. 1:29

Introduction: Some of the religious leaders of the Jews were called Pharisees and Sadducees.

¹When Pontius Pilate became governor of Judea, ²the word of God came to a man named John. ³John began preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins; ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, ⁵PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD. EVERY VALLEY WILL BE FILLED, AND EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL WILL BE BROUGHT LOW; THE CROOKED WILL BECOME STRAIGHT, AND THE ROUGH ROADS WILL BECOME SMOOTH; ⁶AND ALL PEOPLES WILL SEE THE SALVATION OF GOD."

^{Mt.3:4}John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan, and ⁶confessing their sins, they were baptized by John in the Jordan River. ⁷ But when John saw Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: " You serpents, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Do not say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father,' for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Indeed the axe is already laid at the root of the trees; so every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰And the crowds were asking John, "What shall we do?" ¹¹And he would answer, "The man who has two sets of clothes is to share with him who has none; and he who has food is to do the same."

¹²And some tax collectors also came to be baptized, and they said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" ¹³And John said to them, "Collect no more than what you have been ordered to."

¹⁴Some soldiers were questioning him, saying, "And what about us, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not take money from anyone by force, or accuse anyone falsely, and be content with your wages."

¹⁵ The people were waiting expectantly and wondering in their hearts if John the Baptist might possibly be the Christ. ¹⁶John answered them, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

^{Mt. 3:13-17}Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to prevent him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so for now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented and Jesus was baptized and the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus in the form of a dove and a voice came from heaven, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased."

^{Jn.1:29}The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and John cried out, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

The First Disciples Mark 1:16-28

Introduction: Jesus was about thirty years old when he began his ministry. He begins by calling men whom He would disciple.

¹⁶ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." ¹⁸At once they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹When he'd gone a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. ²⁰He called them, and without delay they left their father Zebedee in the boat and followed him.

²¹They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. ²²The people were amazed at Jesus teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority and not as the teachers of the law.

²³Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, ²⁴"What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" ²⁵"Be quiet!" Jesus said sternly. "Come out of him!" ²⁶The evil spirit shook the man violently and with a shriek it came out of him. ²⁷The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him."

³²That evening at sundown, they brought to Jesus those who were sick or oppressed by demons. ³⁴He healed many who were sick and cast out many demons. ³⁹Jesus went all over Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, casting out demons, healing the sick, and proclaiming the kingdom of God. ^{Mt. 4:23}

Healing the Paralytic Mark 2:1-12

^{2:1} When Jesus again entered the town of Capernaum so many people gathered that there was no room remaining in the house. ³Some men came, bringing to Jesus a paralytic, carried by four of them. ⁴Since they could not get the paralyzed man to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an

opening in the roof above Jesus, and after digging through it, lowered the mat with the paralyzed man lying on it. ⁵When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

⁶Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, ⁷"Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ⁸Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? ⁹Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'?"

¹⁰But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins," Jesus turned to the paralytic and said, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." ¹²Then the man who had been paralyzed got up, took up his mat and walked. The people were amazed and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

An Eye and a Rock Mt 5:38-48; Mt 7:24-29

Intro: Before the birth of Jesus, the Law of Moses taught if a man broke the tooth of another man then his tooth may be broken in return \neq HT a form of balanced justice. Now Jesus begins to teach that men should not take vengeance when they have been wronged. Here is the story from God's word.

³⁸ "You have heard that it was said, "AN EYE FOR AN EYE, AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH." ³⁹ "But I say to you, whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. ⁴⁰ "If anyone wants to take your shirt, let him have your coat also. ⁴² "Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.'

⁴⁴ "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

^{7:1}Do not judge others so that you will not be judged. For in the way you judge, you will be judged. ³ "Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye.⁵ "You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

¹² In everything therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you.

Mt 7:24 " Everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ "And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.

²⁶ "But everyone who does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷"The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell -- and great was its fall." ²⁸ When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching; ²⁹ for He was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

The Sower Matt 13:1-9

^{13:1} One day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ² Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³ Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹ He who has ears, let him hear."

The Wheat and the Tares Matt 13:24-30

²⁴ Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ "But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶ "But when the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the tares became evident also. ²⁷ "The slaves of the landowner came and said to him, "Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?" ²⁸ "And he said to them, "An enemy

has done this!' The slaves said to him, "Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?"²⁹ "But he said, "No; for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them."³⁰ "Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn."'''

Jesus Stills the Storm Mark 4:35-40

Introduction: The story begins after Jesus had been teaching all day.

³⁵ That evening Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake."³⁶ Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along in the boat.³⁷ A furious storm came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it nearly turned over.³⁸ Jesus was in the boat, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and cried out to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"³⁹ Jesus got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.⁴⁰ He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?"⁴¹ The disciples were greatly afraid and asked each other, "Who is this that even the wind and the sea obey him!"

The Gerasene Demoniac Mark 5:1-21

Introduction: After people are healed they can serve.

^{5:1} Jesus and his disciples went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes.² When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an evil spirit came from the tombs to meet him.³ This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him any more, not even with a chain.⁴ For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to control him.⁵ Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

⁶ When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him.⁷ He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me!"⁸ For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you evil spirit!"

⁹ Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many."

¹¹ A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside and the demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them."¹³ He gave them permission, and the evil spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd of about two thousand in number rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

¹⁴ Then those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened.¹⁵ When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid.¹⁶ Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man-and told about the pigs as well.¹⁷ Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.

¹⁸ As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. But Jesus said, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you."²⁰ So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him. And the people were amazed.

Five Thousand Fed Mark 6:30-46

³⁰ The apostles came to Jesus and³² together they went in a boat to a secluded place by themselves.

³³ But people saw them going and many ran ahead of them on foot.

³⁴ When Jesus went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and He felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things.

³⁵ When it was late, the disciples said,³⁶ "send the people away so they may go buy something to eat."³⁷ But Jesus answered, "You give them something to eat!" And they said to Him, "Shall we go and spend two hundred denarii on bread and give them something to eat?"³⁸ He said to them, "How many loaves do you have? And they said, "Five loaves, and two fish."

³⁹ And He ordered them all to sit down on the green grass.⁴⁰ They sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties.⁴¹ And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed

the food and broke the loaves and He kept giving them to the disciples to divide among them all.
⁴²Everybody ate and were satisfied ⁴³ and twelve baskets full of the broken pieces were picked up.
⁴⁴ There were five thousand men who ate the loaves.
⁴⁶ After bidding the crowd farewell, He left for the mountain to pray.

The Good Samaritan Luke 10:25-37

²⁵ One day an expert in the Jewish law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ Jesus replied, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?"
²⁷ The expert answered: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" ²⁸ "You have answered correctly," Jesus said. "Do this and you will live." ²⁹ But wanting to justify himself, the religious expert asked, "And who is my neighbor?"
³⁰ In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A Jewish priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.
³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan traveling by came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after this man,' he said, 'and when I return, I will pay you back for any extra expense you may have.'
³⁶ "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"
³⁷ The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do the same."

The Man with the Withered Hand Mt. 12:1-14; Mark 2:27, 3:3-5

¹ On a Sabbath day Jesus was going through the grain fields and his disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them. ² When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, "Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath." ⁷ Jesus answered, "If you had known what these words mean, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the innocent. ^{Mk.2:27} The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath."

^{Mt. 12:9} Then Jesus went into their synagogue and saw a man with a withered hand. Looking for an excuse to accuse Jesus they asked him, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" ^{Mk 3:3} So Jesus said to the man with the withered hand, "Stand up in front of everyone." ⁴ Then Jesus asked them, "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they remained silent.

^{Mt. 12:11} Jesus said to them, "If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? ¹² How much more valuable is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." But they would not answer him a word and ⁵ Jesus looked around at them with anger, deeply grieved at their stubborn hearts. ¹³ Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." So he stretched out his and it was completely restored, just like his other hand. ¹⁴ But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus.

Hypocrisy of the Pharisees Matt. 15:1-20

¹ Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked, ² "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don't wash their hands before they eat!" ³ Jesus replied, "And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? ⁴ For God said, 'Honor your father and mother.' ⁵ But you say, 'Even if your parents are in need, you may give their support money to the church instead.' And so, by your man-made rule, you nullify the command of God to honor and care for your parents. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition. ^{TLB} ⁷ You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: ⁸ "'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. ⁹ They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.'"

¹⁰ Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand. ¹¹ What goes into a man's mouth does not make him 'unclean,' but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him 'unclean.'" ¹⁷ "For whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body?" (Mk 7:19) So Jesus declared all foods clean).

¹⁸ But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.'¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. ²⁰ These are what make a man 'unclean'; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him 'unclean.'"

Nicodemus John 3

Introduction: Jesus begins to change a Pharisee's way of thinking.

^{3:1} Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him."

³ "Truly, truly," Jesus declared in reply, "no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

⁴ "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"

⁵ Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

⁹ "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰ "Are you Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and you do not understand these things? ¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?"

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

The Woman at the Well John 4:3-42

Intro: The Samaritan people and the Jews had no relations between them.

³ Jesus left the region of Judea and went back once more to Galilee. ⁴ Now he had to go through Samaria and ⁶ Jacob's well was there. Jesus was tired from the journey and sat down by the well while his disciples went into the village to buy bread. ⁷ It was about noon when a Samaritan woman came to draw water and Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." ¹¹ "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?"

¹³ Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will become thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶ Jesus told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." ¹⁷ "I have no husband," she replied. "You are right when you say you have no husband," Jesus said, ¹⁸ "The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

¹⁹ "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹ Jesus declared, "Believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²³ But the hour has come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

²⁵ The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (He who is called Christ) is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." ²⁶ Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he." ²⁷ Just then Jesus' disciples returned from the town where they had bought food and were surprised to find him talking with a woman.

²⁸ Then leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, ²⁹ "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" ³⁰ They came out of the town and made their way

toward him. ³⁹ Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in Jesus because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did."

⁴⁰ When the Samaritans came to him they urged him to stay with them, and He stayed two days. And because of Jesus' words many more became believers. ⁴² They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know this man really is the Savior of the world."

You are the Christ Matt 16:13-28

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do people say I am?"

¹⁴ The disciples replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

¹⁷ Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

²¹ From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. ²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" ²³ Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. ²⁶ What good would it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet loses his soul?"

Casting Out Demons Luke 9:37-43

³⁷ And it came to pass one day that a large crowd met Jesus ³⁸ and a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg You to look at my son, ³⁹ for a spirit seizes him, making him scream, and throws him into a convulsion so that he foams at the mouth; and only with difficulty does it leave him, mauling him as it leaves. ⁴¹ And Jesus said, "Bring your son here." ⁴² But while the boy was approaching, the demon slammed the boy to the ground and threw him into a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the evil spirit and healed the boy and gave him back to his father. ⁴³ And the people were all amazed at the greatness of God.

Mary and Martha Luke 10:38-42

³⁸ Now as Jesus and his disciples were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. ³⁹ Martha had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Jesus and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Tell her to help me." ⁴¹ But Jesus answered and said, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; ⁴² but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

The Lost Sheep Luke 15:1-7

^{15:1} Now tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ I tell you

that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

The Prodigal Son Luke 15:11-32

Introduction: Jesus told this parable to some Pharisees and teachers of the law who were complaining because Jesus associated with sinners.

¹¹ "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ "When the boy came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹ The son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son." ²² But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. "

²⁵ Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ "Your brother has come," he replied, "and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound."

²⁸ The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, "All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!"

³¹ "My son," the father said, "you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."

Lazarus and the Rich Man Luke 16:13-31

Introduction: Jesus told this parable when he was speaking to those who were lovers of money.

¹³ Jesus said, "No servant can serve two masters. You cannot serve both God and money." ¹⁴ The Pharisees, who loved money heard this and were sneering at Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to them, "You justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but what is highly valued among men is detestable in God's sight.

¹⁹ So Jesus told them a story. "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰ At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

²² "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

²⁵ "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

²⁷ "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, ²⁸ for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' ²⁹ Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the writings of the Prophets; let them listen to them.' ³⁰ "No, father Abraham," he said, "but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent." ³¹ "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

The Pharisee & The Tax Collector Luke 18:9-14

⁹ To some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised other people, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and one a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men--cheaters, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.'

¹³ But the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' ¹⁴Then Jesus said, “I tell you, this tax collector went down to his house justified before God and not the Pharisee; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

The Rich Young Ruler Mark 10:17-27

¹⁷ As Jesus started on his way, a young man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

¹⁸ "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good-except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.'" ²⁰ "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy."

²¹ "One thing you lack," Jesus said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

²² At this the young man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

²³ Jesus said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"

²⁴ Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶ The disciples were amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?"

²⁷ Jesus said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."

Raising Lazarus Jn 11:1-46

^{11:1} Now the brother of Mary and Martha named Lazarus was sick. ³ The sisters sent to Jesus, saying, "Lord, he whom You love is sick."

¹⁷ When Jesus came, He found Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁹ Now many people had come to Martha and Mary, to console them concerning their brother. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. ²³ Jesus said, "Your brother shall rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies. Do you believe this?" Martha said, "Yes, Lord; I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God."

Then when Mary saw Jesus, she fell at His feet, and said to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw Mary weeping, and the people who came with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ And so the Jews were saying, "Behold how He loved him!"

³⁸ Now the tomb was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Remove the stone." Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, by this time there will be a smell, for he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you, if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ And so they removed the stone. And Jesus raised His eyes and prayed to his Father and then said "Lazarus, come forth." ⁴⁴ Then Lazarus who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings; and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Forgiveness Mt.18:15-35

Intro: The 10,000 talents in this story is equivalent to a million Ethiopian birr.

¹⁵ Jesus said, "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. ¹⁶ "But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED. ¹⁷ "If he refuses to listen to them,

tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

²¹ Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

²³ "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king whose ²⁴ servant owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ But the servant could not repay the debt and his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. ²⁶ So the servant fell to the ground saying, "Have patience with me and I will repay you everything."²⁷ And the lord of that slave felt compassion and forgave him the debt.

²⁸ "But that same servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized his fellow servant and began to choke him, saying, "Pay back what you owe."²⁹ So his fellow slave fell to the ground and began to plead with him, saying, "Have patience with me and I will repay you."³⁰ But he was unwilling and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed. ³¹ When the other slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and reported to their lord all that had happened.

³² Then calling in the steward, his lord said, 'You wicked servant, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. ³⁵ My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

The Kingdom Leader Matt 20:20-28

Introduction: Who is to be a leader in Christ's Church?

²⁰ Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

²¹ "What is it you want?" he asked.

She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

²² "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" "We can," they answered.

²³ Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

²⁴ When the other ten disciples heard this, they were indignant with the two brothers.

²⁵ Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶ It is not to be this way among you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be servant of all, ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Zaccheus- Luke 19:1-11

Introduction: A man comes to know God and is restored to his community.

^{1:1} Jesus was passing through Jericho and there was a man named Zaccheus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. ³ Zaccheus wanted to see Jesus but he couldn't because of the crowd, for Zaccheus was a very short man. ⁴ So Zaccheus ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus.

⁵ When Jesus came to the tree, He looked up and saw Zaccheus, and said to him, "Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house."⁶ So Zaccheus quickly came down, and received Jesus with joy.

⁷ But when the people saw this, they all murmured and complained, saying, "He's gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner."

⁸ Then Zaccheus stood and said, "Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by cheating, I give it back fourfold."⁹ And Jesus said, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; ¹⁰ for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Bartimaeus- Mark 10:46

Introduction: This story takes place near the end of Jesus life when he is on his way to Jerusalem.

⁴⁶ As Jesus was leaving Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus was sitting by the road. ⁴⁷ When Bartimaeus heard it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to cry out, "Jesus, Son

of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁸Many of the people were telling him to be quiet, but Bartimaeus shouted louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

⁴⁹ And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him here." And the people called the blind man, saying to him, "Take courage and get up! He is calling for you." ⁵⁰And casting his cloak aside, he jumped up, and came to Jesus.

⁵¹And answering him, Jesus said, "What do you want Me to do for you?" And the blind man said to Him, "Rabbi, I want to regain my sight!" ⁵²And Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately Bartimaeus regained his sight and with great rejoicing began following Jesus on the road.

The Triumphal Entry Luke 19:29-40; 45-48 / John 12:15

Intro: Jesus is not happy with the money changers who are cheating the foreigners and says. "My Father's house is to be a house of prayer for all nations but you have made it a den of thieves."

²⁹ As Jesus approached Jerusalem, near the village of Bethany, he sent two of his disciples saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a young donkey tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it.'" ³²And the two disciples went and found it just as Jesus had told them. ³³As they were untying the donkey, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴They replied, "The Lord needs it," ^{Mk 11:6} and the owners permitted them to take the donkey.

³⁵ And they brought the donkey to Jesus and put their garments on it; and He sat upon it. ³⁶And many spread their garments in the road, and others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields.

³⁷When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen and they were crying out,

³⁸ Hosanna. Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the LORD!

^{Jn.12:15}For it is written: "Behold, your King is coming, meek and sitting on a donkey's colt."

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"

⁴⁰ Jesus replied, "I tell you, if they keep quiet, even the stones will cry out."

⁴⁵ Then Jesus entered the temple area and began driving out those who were buying and selling and overturned the tables of the money changer's. He said to them, ⁴⁶"My Father's house is to be a house of prayer for all nations but you have made it a den of thieves."

⁴⁷ And every day Jesus was teaching at the temple. But the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the Jewish leaders among the people were trying to kill him. ⁴⁸ Yet they could not find any way because the people were all listening to Jesus words.

Two Copper Coins Luke 20:45 - 21:4

⁴⁵ While all the people were listening, Jesus said to his disciples, ⁴⁶ "Beware of the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and love to be greeted in the marketplaces and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. ⁴⁷ They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. Such men will be punished most severely."

^{21:1} As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. ² He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. ³ "I tell you the truth," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. ⁴ All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

Woman Caught in Adultery John 8:3-11

³ The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They ⁴ said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ In the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" ⁶ They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger.

⁷ When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." ⁹ Those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones

first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. ¹⁰ Jesus asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" ¹¹ "No one, sir," she said.

"Then neither do I condemn you. Go now and leave your life of sin."

The End of the Age and the Faithful Servants Matt 24:1, 14, 45-46

¹As Jesus was leaving the temple, the disciples asked Jesus, ³"What will be the sign of your coming and the end of the age?" ⁴⁻¹²Jesus answered, "There will be wars and rumors of wars, false prophets, tribulation, famines and earthquakes, nation will rise against nation and lawlessness will increase. ¹⁴Nevertheless this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

³⁶ "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

³⁷ "For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. ³⁸ "For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.

⁴⁰ "Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹ "Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴⁴ "For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.

⁴⁵Who then is the faithful servant whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time? ⁴⁶ "Blessed is that servant whom his master finds so doing when he comes.

Mary Anointing Jesus John 12/Mt. 26:13

Introduction: Jesus was friends with the family of Mary and Martha and Jesus had raised their brother Lazarus from the dead.

¹ Then six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. So they made Him a supper there, and Martha was serving; but Lazarus was one of those reclining at the table with Him. ³ Mary therefore took a pound of very costly perfume, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was intending to betray Him, said, ⁵"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii, and given to poor people?" ⁶Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to steal what was put into it. ⁷Jesus said to them, "Leave this woman alone, she has kept this perfume for my burial. ⁸The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. ^{Mt.26:13} I tell you the truth, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

The Last Supper Mt. 26:14-28 John 14:1-6; 15:12

^{14:1} Then one of the twelve disciples called Judas Iscariot went to the chief priests and asked, "What are you willing to give me if I hand Jesus over to you?" So they counted out for him thirty silver coins.

¹⁷ In the evening of the Passover feast Jesus was at the table with the Twelve. ²¹And while they were eating, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me." ²²One after the other they said to him, "Surely not I, Lord?" Jesus replied, ²³"The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁵"Then Judas said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" Jesus answered, "Yes, it is you." When Judas took the bread, he went out.

²⁶ While the disciples were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Do this in remembrance of me. ²⁷Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸This is my blood of the covenant which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

^{Jn. 14:1} "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And where I go you know, and the way you know." ⁵The disciple named Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. ^{15:12}This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ³⁰ And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

The Arrest and Trial of Jesus

Mt. 26 30:44; Luke22:45-71

³¹ When Jesus and his disciples arrived at the Mount of Olives, he told them, "This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: "I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered."

³³ Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will." ³⁴ Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times. ³⁵ But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the other disciples said the same.

⁴⁰ Jesus said to them, "Pray that you not fall into temptation." ⁴¹ Then Jesus withdrew from them a little and knelt down and prayed, ⁴² "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." ⁴⁴ And his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

Lu 22:45 ⁴⁵ When Jesus rose from prayer a crowd came up, and Judas was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus asked, "Judas, do you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?" ⁵⁴ And seizing Jesus, the temple guard and the elders led him away and took him into the house of the high priest.

Peter followed at a distance but when the servants started a fire in the middle of the courtyard Peter sat down with them. ⁵⁶ A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, "This man was with him." ⁵⁷ But he denied it. "Woman, I don't know him," he said. ⁵⁸ A little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." "Man, I am not!" Peter replied. ⁵⁹ An hour later another asserted, "Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean." ⁶⁰ Peter replied, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹ The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter and Peter went out and wept bitterly.

⁶⁶ At daybreak the council of the elders met together, and said to Jesus, ⁶⁷ "If you are the Christ, tell us." Jesus answered, "If I tell you, you will not believe me, ⁶⁸ and if I ask you a question, you will not answer.

⁷⁰ They all asked, "Are you the Son of God?" He replied, "You are right in saying I am."

⁷¹ Then they said, "Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips."

The Crucifixion Luke 23/Jn. 18/Jn. 19

Introduction: That night Jesus was arrested by the Jewish leaders who needed to get permission from the Roman government to put him to death. This is the story in God's Word.

¹ Then the religious leaders rose from the trial and led Jesus off to Pilate the Roman governor. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ, a king." ^{18:33} So Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "You are right in saying I am a king. For this reason I was born, and came into the world to testify to the truth. ³⁸ Pilate said, "What is truth?" And he went out to the Jews, and said, "I find no fault in this man."

Luke 23:21 ²¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd and they shouted, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" And the voices of the chief priests and the crowd prevailed. ²⁴ So Pilate granted that Jesus be crucified. ²⁶ The soldiers seized a man named Simon from Cyrene and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.

³² Two criminals were also led out with him to be executed. ³³ When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified Jesus along with the criminals- one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And the soldiers cast lots for his clothing. ³⁵ The people stood watching, and the rulers laughed at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One."

³⁹ Then one of the criminals hurled insults at Jesus: "If you are the Christ save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God? We are punished for what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³ Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

⁴⁴ It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour ⁴⁶ then Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit," and Jesus breathed his last.

⁵⁰ A member of the Jewish Council named Joseph of Arimathea, a good man who had not consented to the Council's decision asked Pilate if he could take the body of Jesus down from the cross and bury it.

Jn. 19:39 ³⁹ Nicodemus accompanied Joseph and they wrapped Jesus' body in a linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, in which no one had yet been laid. ⁵⁵ The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee watched where his body was laid. ⁵⁶ Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

The Resurrection Luke 24 / Mt 28 / Jn. 20

¹ On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and came to the tomb. ⁴ Suddenly two men in clothes that shined like lightning stood beside them and said, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" ^{Mt. 28:5} You are looking for Jesus. He is not here; he has risen just as He said.

⁹ So the women ran back from the tomb and told all these things to the apostles. ¹¹ However the apostles did not believe the women. ¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb and there he found the linen cloth Jesus body had been wrapped in, but he did not see the body of Jesus, and Peter went away wondering what had happened.

^{Jn 19:1} That evening Jesus himself came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

^{Luke 24:37} The disciples were startled and frightened, thinking they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸ But Jesus said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your minds?" ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet and see that it is me! Touch me and see, for a ghost does not have flesh and bones such as you see I have. ^{Jn. 20:20} Then the disciples rejoiced to see Jesus.

^{24:44} And Jesus said, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁶ The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day. ⁴⁷ And now repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all the nations. ^{Mt. 28:19} Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them, and teaching them to obey all I have commanded you. ^{Lk. 24:49} And I will send the promise of my Father to you."

Pentecost Acts 2

Introduction: The church is born 50 days after Jesus was crucified and resurrected.

¹ When the day of Pentecost came, the disciples were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ The disciples saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now staying in Jerusalem were God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language.

⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ How is it that each of us hears them in our own native language? ¹² And the people asked one another, "What does this mean?"

¹³ Others thought they were drunk and said, "They have had too much wine."

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the disciples, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵ These men are not drunk, as you suppose. ¹⁶ This is what the prophet Joel foretold. ¹⁷ In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, both men and women; your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams ²¹ and everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

²² "Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man proven to you by God with miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. ²³ This man was handed over to you by the plan and purpose of God; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴ But God raised him from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this fact. ³⁶ Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸ Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." ⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about 3000 were added to their number that day.

The Early Church

⁴² The new believers were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.

⁴⁶ Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,

⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

³² And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them. ³³ With great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all.

Healing at the Beautiful Gate Acts 3

¹ Peter and John were going to the temple at the time of prayer in the afternoon. A man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. When the crippled man saw Peter and John he asked them for money. Peter looked at the man and said, "Look at us!" So the beggar gave them his attention expecting to get something from them. ⁶ Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." ⁷ And taking the beggar by the right hand, Peter helped him up, and instantly the beggar man's feet and ankles became strong. ⁸ He jumped to his feet and began walking and leaping and praising God. ⁹ When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized him as the same man who had sat begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder at what had happened to him. ¹¹ While the beggar clung to Peter and John, the people were all amazed and came running. ¹² When Peter saw this, he said, "Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you look at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. ¹⁴ You handed him over to be killed. You disowned him before Pilate. ¹⁵ You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead and we are witnesses of his resurrection. ¹⁶ By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you now see and know has been made well. ¹⁷ "Now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. ¹⁹ So now repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be forgiven, ²⁰ and times of refreshing may come to you from the Lord. ²⁴ All the prophets have foretold these days. ²⁵ And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with Abraham saying, 'In your seed all the families on earth will be blessed.'"

Peter and John on Trial Acts 4

¹ While Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple guard came, and ² the priests were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. ³ They seized Peter and John, and put them in jail until the next day. ⁴ Many people who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about 5000. ⁵ The next day the high priest, the rulers, elders and teachers of the law had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?" ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹ If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, it is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. ¹¹ Jesus is the stone you builders rejected, and He has become the cornerstone. ¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name given to men by which we must be saved." ¹³ When the rulers and elders saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. ¹⁴ But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. ¹⁸ The rulers commanded Peter and John not to speak in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter replied, "Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than Him? ²⁰ We cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard." ²¹ After further threats the rulers let them go because all the people were praising God for what had happened. ²² For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old. ³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.

An Ethiopian Believes in Jesus Christ Acts 8:26-40;

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, "Get up and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a desert road.) ²⁷ So Philip got up and went; and there was an Ethiopian eunuch who was a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. He was in charge of all the Queen's treasure and he had come to Jerusalem to worship. ²⁹ The Holy Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and join this chariot." ³⁰ So Philip ran up and heard the Ethiopian reading Isaiah the prophet, and Philip said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ And the man said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² Now the passage of Scripture which the man was reading was this:

"HE WAS LED AS A SHEEP TO SLAUGHTER; AND AS A LAMB BEFORE ITS SHEARER IS SILENT, SO HE DOES NOT OPEN HIS MOUTH."³³ "IN HUMILIATION HIS JUDGMENT WAS TAKEN AWAY; FOR HIS LIFE IS REMOVED FROM THE EARTH."

³⁴ The Ethiopian asked Philip, "Please tell me, of whom does the prophet say this? of himself or of someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip, beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him. ³⁶ As they went along the road they came to some water; and the Ethiopian man said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?" ³⁷ And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And the Ethiopian answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."³⁸ And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized the Ethiopian court official.

³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing.⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he kept preaching the gospel to all the cities until he came to Caesarea.

The Road to Damascus Acts 9

¹ Meanwhile a Pharisee named Saul was breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who had begun to follow Jesus whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. ³ As he was nearing Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵ "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. ⁶ "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. ⁷ "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So the men traveling with Saul led him by the hand into Damascus and ⁹ for three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

¹⁰ In Damascus Jesus said to a disciple named Ananias. ¹¹ "Ananias! Go to the street called Straight and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ¹³ Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard many reports this man has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." ¹⁵ But Jesus said, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name to the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel."

¹⁷ Then Ananias went and placed his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

²⁰ At once Saul began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. ²² Then Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ. ²³ So the Jews conspired to kill Saul, ²⁴ but Saul learned of their plan²⁵ and the believers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall.

²⁶ When he came to Jerusalem, Saul tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. ²⁷ But Barnabas took Saul to the apostles and told them how on his journey to Damascus he had met the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus Saul had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. ²⁸ So Saul also known as Paul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.

The Council at Jerusalem Acts 15

Intro: Though Paul experienced great success some believers who had been Pharisees were against him.

¹ Some men came to Antioch from Judea and began teaching the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." Then Paul and Barnabas had great dissension and debate with them, and so the brethren determined that Paul and Barnabas and some others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue.

⁴ When they arrived at Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. But some of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed stood up, saying, "It is necessary to circumcise them and to direct them to observe the Law of Moses." So the apostles and the elders came together to look into this matter.

⁷ After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "Brethren, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and believe. And God, who knows the heart, gave them the Holy Spirit, just as He also did to us; and He made no

distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith. We believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, and in the same way they are also."

¹² Then all the people kept silent, and they listened to Barnabas and Paul as they related what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles. After they had stopped speaking, James answered, saying, "Brethren, listen to me, "Simeon has related how God first concerned Himself about taking from among the Gentiles a people for His name. Therefore it is my judgment that we do not trouble those who are turning to God from among the Gentiles, but that we write to them that they abstain from things contaminated by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood.

²² And so it seemed good to the apostles at the council to send a letter to the brethren in Antioch and chose some of their own men to deliver the letter. When they arrived, they gathered the congregation in Antioch together and read the letter, and the church rejoiced because of its encouragement.

The Philippian Jailer Acts 16

⁴ As Paul and his companions traveled from town to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem. ⁵So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers. Paul's team then put out to sea and traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony in the district of Macedonia.

¹⁶While they were going to a place of prayer, a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and earned money for her owners by fortune-telling followed Paul shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." ¹⁸ Finally Paul turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" And the spirit left her immediately.

¹⁹When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. ²²The magistrates ordered Paul and Silas to be stripped and beaten. ²³After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison.

²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶Suddenly there was a violent earthquake and the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose. ²⁷The jailer woke up and saw the prison doors open, so he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"

²⁹The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved-you and your household." ³²Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. ³³Immediately the jailer and his family were baptized. ³⁴The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God-he and his whole family.

³⁵When it was daylight, the magistrates sent their officers to the jailer with the order: "Release those men."

⁴⁰ After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they met with the believers and preached to them once more and then went on their way.

An Unknown God Acts 17:16-34

¹⁶ While Paul was in Athens, he was distressed to see the city full of idols. ¹⁷ So Paul reasoned with the Jews and the philosophers. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say? He seems to be advocating foreign gods" because Paul was preaching about Jesus and the resurrection.

²² Paul then stood up and said: "Men of Athens! I see you are very religious. ²³ For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship unknown I am going to proclaim to you.

²⁴ "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. ²⁵ He is not served by human hands because he himself gives to men life and breath. ²⁶ From one man he made every nation so men would seek him and find him `for He is not far from each one of us, and in him we live and move and have our being.'

²⁹ "Therefore we should not think of God being like gold or silver or an image made by man. ³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people to repent. ³¹ For he will judge the world by the man he has appointed by raising him from the dead."

32 When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, "We want to hear you again." 34 A few men became followers of Paul and believed.

The Revelation Rev 1/4/5/7/20/21/22

Introduction The apostle John is given a glimpse of heaven.

¹The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. God sent the revelation by signs through an angel to His servant John.

⁸"I am the First and the Last," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty. Do not be afraid. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades."

^{4:1} After this I, John, looked, ² and there before me in heaven was one sitting on a throne. ³ A rainbow encircled the throne ⁴ and there were twenty-four elders seated on thrones. ⁶ And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal. ^{5:6} Then I saw a Lamb looking as if it had been slain, standing by the throne. ⁹ And the elders sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you for you were slain, and purchased for God with your blood men from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation."

^{7:9} And there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice:

"Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

¹¹ And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God. ⁶ Then I heard the multitude shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. ⁹ Then the angel said to me, "Write: `Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'"

^{20:1} And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven ² and he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and he was thrown into the lake of fire where he will be tormented day and night forever and ever. ¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. ¹³ And the dead were judged according to what they had done. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. ¹⁵ If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

^{21:1} Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, ³ and a loud voice saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and ⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or crying or pain." ^{22:1} Then the angel showed me the river of life and on each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

^{22:16} "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches." ¹⁷ The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" Let him who hears come and take the free gift of the water of life.

²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.