

**Who is God?**



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**Establish**  
FOUNDATIONAL DISCIPLE-MAKING

# How to use this booklet

This booklet will be helpful for anyone interested in learning who God is and the message of the Bible. Please study each page and click on the applicable links to watch short videos on these truths.

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We encourage you to please take advantage of the free digital format of this booklet and to pass the link along to others:

[go.ethnos.ca/who-is-god](http://go.ethnos.ca/who-is-god)



# 1. In the Beginning



**God moved the prophets to write His Word**

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

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

Think about it

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



## 2. What God Is Like



**“In the beginning God...” (Genesis 1:1)**

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

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

Think about it

- Who is God?
- What does it mean for us that God is supreme?



### 3. Perfect Angels



God created all the angels (spirits)



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

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

Think about it

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



## 4. A Perfect World



**God created the heavens and the earth**

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

<sup>1</sup>Genesis 1:1; <sup>2</sup>Genesis 1:10-25; Genesis 1:1-25; Psalm 18:30

Think about it

- Why did God go to such great lengths to create the perfect world?
- What does God reveal about Himself in this account?



## 5. A Special Relationship



**God created Adam and Eve**

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

<sup>1</sup>Genesis 1:26–2:23; Genesis 3:20

Think about it

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



3:00

## 6. The First Sin



Lucifer sinned against God

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

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

Think about it

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



## 7. Freedom to Choose



Adam and Eve sinned against God



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

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

Think about it

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



5:00

## 8. Afraid and Ashamed



Adam and Eve were judged

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

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

Think about it

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



## 9. Our Ancestors



God banished Adam and Eve from Eden

Adam and Eve died spiritually and would eventually die physically. Their every thought and action were now polluted by sin. What would they do now? **Only God could provide a rescue!** God killed an animal which died in their place to clothe their nakedness (sin) and temporarily cover them from His judgment. Without this DEATH-PAYMENT, they would die eternally — separation from God in the Lake of Fire forever! God banished them from Eden to face the consequences of their sin. **One day the Deliverer would come to provide their eternal rescue. Adam and Eve now had a sinful nature, and this sinful nature was passed down to their offspring.**

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

Think about it

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



4:20

## 10. Offerings for the LORD



Cain and Abel approached God

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

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

Think about it

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



# 11. First Murder



Cain killed Abel



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

Genesis 4:6-16

Think about it

- How did God show love to Cain?
- What do we learn about God when He didn't force Cain to come His way?

## 12. Worldwide Flood



God sent a flood

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

Genesis 6:5–7:24; 2 Peter 2:5

Think about it

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



# 13. Languages



God confused their language at Babel

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

Genesis 11:1-9

Think about it

- How did Noah's descendants defy God?
- How might we try to defy God?

## 14. Blessing for All Families



God called Abram and Sarai

Not long after, God called a man named Abram to leave his country to go to the promised land of Canaan. His wife Sarai and nephew Lot went with him. God also promised to make Abram into a great nation and that **“all peoples on earth will be blessed through you”**<sup>1</sup>. This meant that the promised Deliverer would come through Abram. And, though he had no children at that time, **Abram believed God, and God called him righteous! Abram was now accepted and in an eternal relationship with God.** His sins were covered, and he was free from shame, fear, and Satan. And he would dwell with God FOREVER!

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

Think about it

- What does being ‘righteous’ mean?
- Why do we need the Deliverer to bless us today?



## 15. Burned to Ashes



God judged Sodom and Gomorrah



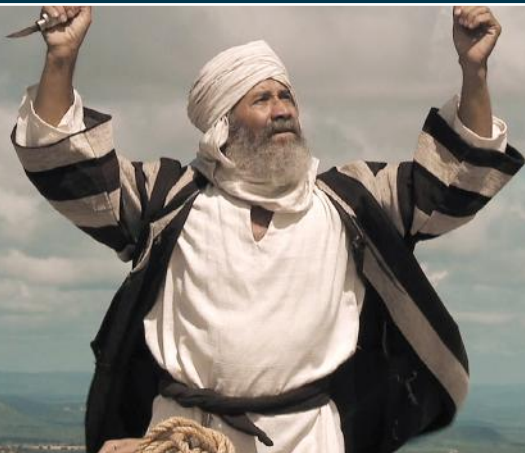
Once in Canaan, Abram and Lot had to separate because they had so many animals to pasture. Sadly, Lot chose to live among the evil cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, even though God declared him righteous for trusting in the Deliverer. Because God is **RIGHTEOUS** and the **OWNER** of all people, all sin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

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

Think about it

- What do we learn about God in the example of Lot?
- Why is it important to us that God rescued Lot?

## 16. Sacrifice My Son?



God provided a substitute for Isaac

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

<sup>1</sup>Genesis 22:12; Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-18; Hebrews 11:17-19

Think about it

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



8:38

## 17. Twin Brothers



**Esau despised his birthright**

Many years later, Isaac's wife Rebekah gave birth to twins. Esau became a hunter, and Jacob worked at home. One day when Esau came in from a hunt, he asked Jacob for some stew. Jacob saw an opportunity to make a clever deal, so he said, "Sell me your birthright!"<sup>1</sup> Esau agreed because **Esau despised his birthright as the firstborn son.** His birthright meant being the head of his family and receiving all the covenant promises God had made to Abraham. This included a great name and the Deliverer being born into his family line! **God offers each of us a 'birthright' — a relationship with Him.**

<sup>1</sup>Genesis 25:31; Genesis 25:25-34; Hebrews 12:16-17

Think about it

- Why did Esau give up his birthright so easily?
- What things are we currently giving up our 'birthright' for?

# 18. Stairway to Heaven



God met with Jacob

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

Genesis 27:1–28:22

Think about it

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

# 19. Helpless Slaves



**Egypt enslaved Israel**



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

<sup>1</sup>Genesis 15:13-16; Genesis 46:1-34; Exodus 1:8-22

Think about it

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



## 20. The Princess and the Baby



God rescued Moses

At one point, Pharaoh ordered that all the Israelite baby boys be thrown into the Nile River to control Israel's growing population. **Satan was using Pharaoh to destroy Israel to prevent the Deliverer from coming.** But one woman put her baby boy in a basket on the river, and an Egyptian princess found him. She named him Moses and raised him as her own. As God protected Moses, God was also protecting Israel — and one day, God would set Israel free through Moses. **Satan can never win against God!** “The LORD foils the plans of the nations ... but the plans of the LORD stand firm forever.”<sup>1</sup> God always wins!

Exodus 2:1-10; <sup>1</sup>Psalm 33:10-11; Hebrews 11:23

Think about it

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



## 21. Bush on Fire



**God called to Moses from a burning bush**

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

Exodus 2:11-3:22; Acts 7:17-36

Think about it

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



## 22. The Death Angel



**The Passover lamb brought deliverance**

Moses and Aaron then told Pharaoh God's message: "Let My people go."<sup>1</sup> Pharaoh refused! So, **God sent terrible plagues on Egypt to reveal His POWER over all the Egyptian gods.** Before the final plague of the death of the firstborn, God told Israel to kill a substitute animal without flaws in place of their sons. They were to paint its blood on the three posts of their doorframes, and then stay in the house, behind the blood. At midnight, when the death angel came, he 'passed over' the houses with the blood, saving the firstborn. **Just as a lamb died in place of the firstborn, the Deliverer would be our Substitute — our Passover Lamb.**

<sup>1</sup>Exodus 5:1; Exodus 5:1–12:30

Think about it

- What did the plagues reveal about God?
- How would the Deliverer be our Passover Lamb?



## 23. God's Deliverance



God parted the Red Sea



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

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

Think about it

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



## 24. God's Provision



God fed Israel with bread from Heaven

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

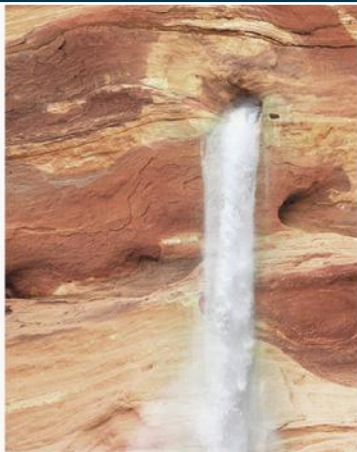
Exodus 13:20-22; 16:1-31; 40:36-38

Think about it

- Why would God lead His people through a desert?
- What do we learn about God from His care of Israel?



## 25. No Water



God gave Israel water from a rock

As Israel traveled through the desert, they soon ran out of water. Again, they failed to trust God though He had rescued them, led them, and given them their daily bread! **“Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us ... die of thirst?”<sup>1</sup> they accused Moses!** God then told Moses to stand in plain view of the people at Mt. Horeb and to strike the rock with his rod. Moses obeyed, and water gushed out of the rock to quench the thirst of all the people and their livestock. God is LOVING and KIND, providing in abundance! **He is FAITHFUL to take care of His people!**

Exodus 12:37-38; <sup>1</sup>Exodus 17:3; Exodus 17:1-7

Think about it

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

## 26. God's Holiness



God met with Israel at Mt. Sinai

Three months after leaving Egypt, Israel reached Mt. Sinai. **God promised to bless them if they obeyed Him perfectly.** The people didn't acknowledge their sin and helplessness. They responded, "We will do everything the LORD has said."<sup>1</sup> God, who was on top of the mountain, told them to build a barrier at the mountain's base to separate them from Him. He then came down "in fire"<sup>2</sup> and **gave them ten commandments to reveal His holy character and show them that they could NOT be made right with God by their works.** They needed to see their sin, humble themselves, and trust in His Deliverer. Do we see our need of the Deliverer, or are we trying to earn God's favour?

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

Think about it

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



## 27. God's Anger



Israel worshipped a golden calf



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

Exodus 20:3-4; 24:18; <sup>1</sup>Exodus 32:1; Exodus 32:1-35

Think about it

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

## 28. God Living among People



God lived with Israel in the tabernacle

While on Sinai, **God told Moses to build a tabernacle so He could dwell with His people. He knew Israel would need a way to deal with their sin.** He set aside Aaron and his sons to serve as priests to receive sacrifices from the people to cover their sin. God is PURE and HOLY, so Israel had to build the tabernacle exactly as He designed it, and the priests had to follow God's exact instructions. God dwelt in The MOST HOLY PLACE. Aaron could enter into God's presence only once a year, and he needed to come with the blood of a spotless animal who had died for the sins of Israel. Truly, God LOVED His people!

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

Think about it

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



## 29. Sin Transferred to Sheep



**A substitute lamb died for the sinner**

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

Leviticus 1:1-13; 17:11

Think about it

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



## 30. Poisonous Snakes



**They looked at the bronze snake to live**

When Israel reached Canaan, they did not believe that God could give them the land. This **ANGERED** God, so He punished the older generation by making them wander in the desert for 40 years until they all died! Later, as Israel approached Canaan a second time, they again complained against God. So, He sent poisonous snakes, and many died! **When they confessed their sin, God GRACIOUSLY PROVIDED. He told Moses to put a bronze snake on a pole so those who were bitten could look at it and live.** This is a picture of the Deliverer who would take our sin on Himself and save all who look to Him in faith.

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

Think about it

- What was Israel's relationship like with God?
- What does God want us to learn from the bronze snake?



## 31. God's Faithfulness



Israel abandoned God and was punished



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

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

Think about it

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

## 32. God's Promise Fulfilled



God called Mary

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

Luke 1:26-38

Think about it

- Why is it important that the Deliverer be free of sin?
- How did God keep His promise to send us the Deliverer?



11:02

## 33. The Lamb of God



**Jesus was baptized by John**

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

<sup>1</sup>Matthew 3:2; Matthew 3:1-17; Luke 3:22; <sup>2</sup>John 1:29; John 1:29-34

Think about it

- Why is Jesus called ‘the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world’?
- Would we repent if we were there to hear John preaching?



7:00

## 34. Tempted by the Devil



Satan tempted Jesus

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

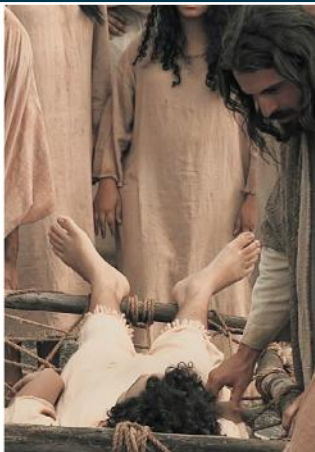
Matthew 4:1-11, 17, 23-25

Think about it

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



## 35. Healing & Forgiveness



Jesus healed the sick



Jesus healed the sick, the leper, and the crippled because God LOVED and cared for them. But, greater still, **Jesus forgave people of their sins** because He cared about their sin, their guilt, their fear, and their shame! When Jesus claimed He was God by forgiving sin, the religious leaders became angry. They should have known that Jesus was the Deliverer through the prophecies and the many miracles they saw. But they were blinded by Satan and refused to trust in Jesus as their Deliverer. **The devil is a liar. He does not want anyone to believe that Jesus is the DELIVERER, the SON of GOD.**

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

Think about it

- Which miracle was of greatest importance to Jesus and why?
- How are the leper and the cripple a picture of us?



## 36. Born Again



Nicodemus came to Jesus

Jesus chose 12 men to learn from Him and follow Him as His disciples, preparing them to tell others the good news of the kingdom of God. One religious leader was intrigued by Jesus and His miracles, so one night he came to Jesus to find the truth. Jesus shocked him by telling him that **he could not see the kingdom of God unless he was born again**. He was born physically into sin and **needed to be born again spiritually, by the Holy Spirit, to have his sins forgiven and be given eternal life**. A person is born of the Spirit the moment they humble themselves and repent and believe that Jesus is our only Deliverer. Now that is good news!

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

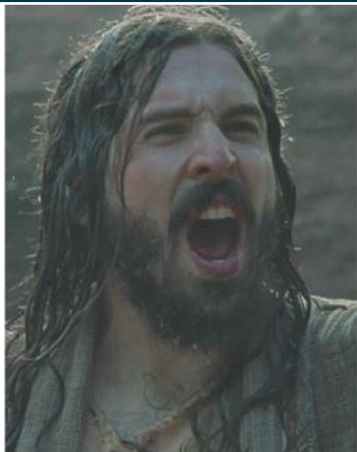
Think about it

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



9:40

## 37. No Need to Fear



**Jesus calmed the storm**

Being a disciple of Jesus meant constant learning! One night, Jesus had His disciples get into a boat to cross the Sea of Galilee. Jesus fell asleep; then a terrible storm came up. As the boat filled with water, the disciples woke Jesus, saying, “Don’t You care if we drown?”<sup>1</sup> To the disciples’ amazement, Jesus got up, rebuked the wind and waves, and they became still! Jesus then rebuked His disciples: **“Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?”**<sup>2</sup> **Jesus is the ALL-POWERFUL CREATOR of the world, controlling even nature.** Truly, He is the OWNER and RULER of everything.

<sup>1</sup>Mark 4:38; <sup>2</sup>Mark 4:40; Mark 4:35-41; Colossians 1:15-17

Think about it

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



## 38. When Demons Tremble



Jesus healed the demon possessed

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

Mark 5:1-20

Think about it

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



3:09

# 39. What Really Matters



Jesus fed the 5,000



One day as Jesus and His disciples sat on a hill, some 5,000 men, plus women and children, came to hear Him preach! When the people became hungry, His disciples found a boy who gave his two fish and five small loaves to Jesus. Jesus then multiplied this small amount of food to feed everyone, leaving 12 baskets of leftovers! When the people saw this miracle, they wanted to make Jesus their king to feed them like that every day. But **Jesus told them they needed to eat eternal 'bread' by believing in Him** as the BREAD of LIFE. **Whoever believes in Jesus will never be without spiritual food.**

John 6:1-15, 22-58

Think about it

- What did Jesus mean when He said that He was the 'Bread of Life'?
- How might we want Jesus for a temporary blessing instead of the eternal one?



3:33

# 40. Only One Way



Jesus is the Gate

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

Matthew 7:13-14; <sup>1</sup>John 10:9; <sup>2</sup>John 10:11; John 10:1-18

Think about it

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

## 41. Life for the Dead



**Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead**

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

<sup>1</sup>John 11:25; John 11:1-53; Ephesians 2:1, 4, 5

Think about it

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



2:56

## 42. After Death



Two men chose different paths

Jesus told the account of a poor man who begged for food from a rich man. The poor man had trusted in the Deliverer, but the rich man lived for this life. When each of them died, the poor man was taken to a place of eternal blessing, but the rich man went to the place of eternal torment. The torment was so bad that the rich man begged for a drop of water from the poor man to cool his tongue. But he could not escape his torment!

**Our final destination is decided during our life on Earth — either eternal blessing with God in Heaven or eternal torment in the Lake of Fire with Satan! Which will we choose?**

Luke 16:19-31

Think about it

- What is in store for those who go to the Lake of Fire?
- Which riches do we live for — those on Earth or those of Heaven?



6:52

## 43. Sight for the Blind



Jesus healed the blind man



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

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

Think about it

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



## 44. The Willing Substitute



Jesus was arrested and charged

**The devil wanted Jesus dead because Jesus was the Deliverer** who would destroy him. So he deceived Judas, a disciple of Jesus, to betray Jesus to the religious leaders. While on trial, the religious leaders asked Jesus if He was the promised Deliverer. To their horror, Jesus replied, “I AM,”<sup>1</sup> declaring that He was ALMIGHTY GOD. The leaders then sentenced Jesus to die for claiming to be God, so they took Him to Pilate, the Roman governor, to be crucified. But **Jesus gave Himself willingly to be our DEATH-SUBSTITUTE**, paying for our sin and destroying Satan in order to set us free.

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

Think about it

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



12:49

## 45. The True Victor!



Jesus was crucified

The soldiers whipped Jesus then nailed Him to a cross! As He hung there for the sins of the world, the sky turned black, and Jesus cried out, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”<sup>1</sup> **God turned His back on Jesus and poured out His wrath as Jesus took the sin of the world upon Himself, becoming sin.** As Jesus died, He cried out again, “It is finished!”<sup>2</sup> paying for the sins of the world and satisfying the wrath of God. **Jesus, the PERFECT SUBSTITUTE, died the death that we deserve so we would not have to die.** In that moment, Satan celebrated, but his celebration was short-lived!

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

Think about it

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



## 46. Raised from the Dead



God raised Jesus from the dead

Jesus' supporters laid His body in a tomb. But three days later they met an angel at His grave who said, "You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. **He is risen!** He is not here!"<sup>1</sup> **YES! God ACCEPTED Jesus' death as our Substitute and raised Him from the dead!** By this, He defeated Satan and the power of death! **All who repent of their sin against God and believe that Jesus died for them HAVE eternal life.** Jesus took their punishment, and God is SATISFIED! Their debt is paid! Amazing! They will live forever with God in Heaven, no longer destined for the Lake of Fire!

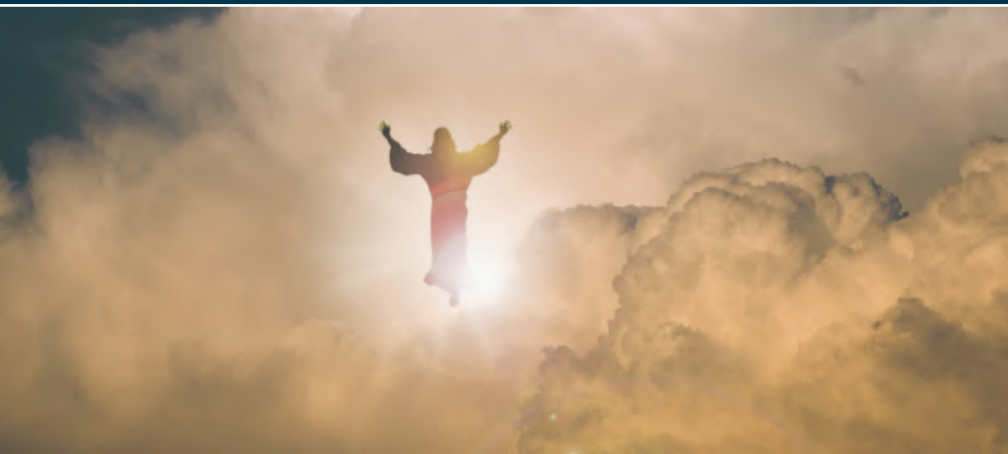
<sup>1</sup>Mark 16:6; Mark 16:1-6; John 19:38-42

Think about it

- Why was it important that Jesus not only die, but also rise again?
- What is this eternal life that Jesus is offering?



# 47. More to Come!



**Jesus ascended to Heaven**



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

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

Think about it

- What did the angels mean: Jesus would return in the same way as He went?
- Why does God desire for each of us to join Him in Heaven?



10:37

# WE NEED JESUS

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

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



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