

# **FAST FOUNDATIONS**

## **From Genesis to Jesus**



**From Genesis to Jesus is a journey  
that will lead you to appreciate not  
only all God has done for you but  
why He did it.**

**Colleen McLean**

# FAST FOUNDATIONS

## From Genesis to Jesus

When we read about the life and teaching of Jesus,  
we are confronted with the heart of the Father.  
(see John 14:8–11).

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"Then Jesus said, "When I was with you before,  
I told you that everything written about me in the law  
of Moses and the prophets  
and in the Psalms must be fulfilled."  
Luke 24:44 NLT

"For through him, God created everything in the  
heavenly realms and on earth.  
He made the things we can see and the things we can't  
see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities  
in the unseen world.  
Everything was created through him and for him."  
Colossians 1:16–17 NLT

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a  
worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly  
dividing the word of truth."  
2 Timothy 2:15 NKJV

"For you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a  
holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you  
can show others the goodness of God, for he called you  
out of the darkness into his wonderful light."  
(1 Peter 2:9)

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## PROLOGUE

Welcome to the result of my enduring study of God's love and purpose for His people. I put this together, hoping that it would motivate the curious and the lover of God to seek Him in the pages of the Bible for themselves. The great Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, encouraging him to "Be diligent to present himself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (see 2 Timothy 2:15 NKJV). It is not enough for us to know Bible stories and memorize verses. We cannot lift verses out and ignore the overall plan of God. That is why this small publication can open your understanding to the intents and purposes of God that have unfolded throughout the Old and New Testaments.

It is for the mature Christian, the new Christian, the Bible student, and the curious ones looking for answers. But, above all, I aim to expose God's overall plan for you and me in a way that is easy to understand. Therefore, I have inserted a bird picture in the places I write of the New Covenant and our involvement.

From Genesis to Jesus is a journey that will lead you to appreciate not only all God has done for you but why He did it. From animal sacrifices to the sacrifice of Jesus to amazing grace to Jesus Christ in us and a new life free from the guilt and grip of sin to eternal life. Furthermore, we have God's firm promise that He will never leave us nor forsake us (Deuteronomy 31:6; Hebrews 13:5). No matter what happens, God will never stop loving us.

"I can testify that the Word is true and deserves to be received by all, for Jesus Christ came into the world to bring sinners back to life—even me, the worst sinner of all!" (1 Timothy 1:15 TPT).

Much love  
Colleen

## OVERVIEW

I found three themes throughout my study of the Old Testament, and I could not separate them. All three were connected and central to Israel's life. In the same way, then, they are essential to the life of the New Covenant Christian.


1. Sacrifice
2. Worship
3. Presence of God.

## Sacrifice

The first sacrifice recorded in the Bible was when God chose animal skins to cover Adam and Eve's sin, guilt, and shame. Genesis 3:21 says, "The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them." Throughout the Scriptures, garments symbolize God's righteousness. (Isaiah 61:10). A life had to be sacrificed, blood spilled. Thus God laid the foundation for sacrifice to cover sin and for the believer to receive the gift of righteousness (Romans 5:17). It is a pattern, a divine principle for the penalty of sin, which the Lord Jesus Christ fully paid at Calvary.


The Israelites were to leave the bondage of Egypt to worship God and offer sacrifice in the desert (see Exodus 7:16; 9:1; 9:13; 10:3; 10:10:26). God's heart was for His people to become priests and minister to Him in worship. In The book of Exodus, we read how God told Moses to tell the people that they would be "Be His kingdom of priests, and His holy nation" (Exodus 19:6). But because of their complaining and disobedience, what they ended up with was far from God's

original intention. So, God instituted a tribe of priests; only the High Priest was allowed before the Ark once a year on the Day of Atonement.


 But, God never left them. It is good to remember that all that God said of the Israelites is realized in us through His Son Jesus Christ. Today there is no priesthood, but God's heart has not changed; every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ is a priest with access to the Holy of Holies and His incredible Presence. He has set us apart and claims us as His own.

1 Peter 2:9 NKJV says,

"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

 The Sacrifice of Jesus on the cross is the center point of history, the foundation for salvation. Therefore, the Blood sacrifice of Jesus is celebrated throughout eternity. The Resurrection of Jesus brings new life. There is no resurrection without the cross.

## Worship

Second, as a generation of slaves, Israel was called to worship God. God chose a people who would worship Him by choice. Later God instructed His people "not to worship the LORD your God in the way pagans worship their gods" (see  Deuteronomy 12:4). The Israelites had to worship God

at His prescribed place; it was a place of atonement and giving, and it had to be with others; it was a family affair. (Deuteronomy 12:7; 16:2). Jesus said in John 4:24, "For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth." True worship is without hypocrisy, performance, or pretense. It is a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.

King David would later discover how God responds to the praises of His people. He responds with His Presence. David found that God didn't want the blood of bulls and goats but the sacrifice of a contrite heart. So he took the Ark of the Covenant, the Ark that only the High Priest was allowed to see once a year, and brought it into a tabernacle of his design, where priests worshipped day and night. David's Tabernacle was built for worship; God was there in His Glory. David had a heart for the Presence of God which led him to a personal, passionate expression of worship that was technically illegal for a man who was not a priest.



Worship is powerful for many reasons. "The devil is very afraid of a worshiping people. He actually doesn't mind complacent worship, as it seems to work opposite to the real thing—it deadens our sensitivities to the Holy Spirit. It works completely opposite to the effects of sold out, passionate worship."<sup>1</sup>



Worship is a sacrifice of praise. Hebrews 13:15 says, "Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to his

name." Under the Old Covenant, only priests could carry the Presence of God. Every child of God is a priest under the New Covenant, and the sacrifice of praise is the fruit of our lips. We are a priesthood, a worshipping community that offers spiritual sacrifices to God. (1 Peter 2:5). When we behold the Lord in worship, we are changed because God longs for our transformation, which comes in times of extended worship, where His love works to make us free.

### The Presence of God

Thirdly, in the Tabernacle of Moses, the holiest item was the Ark of the Covenant because God's Presence rested upon the mercy seat, and the people followed the Cloud of His Presence. Thus, the Israelites became a people who would be known by the Presence of God. The fulfillment of their assignment in the Promised Land depended entirely on their willingness to follow His Presence as they did in the wilderness.



Jesus modeled the Christian life for us by doing everything as a man. He only did what He saw His Father doing, and He moved in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. So when believers gather in His Name, He is "there in their midst" (Matthew 18:20). The Holy Spirit dwells in the born-again ones. He comes to make us His Tabernacle. Jesus' final words were, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). God's Presence determines who we are—our identity. Our readiness to be aware of His Presence is the key to how we respond.





## BACKGROUND

When God placed Adam and Eve in the Garden, He commissioned them to be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it (see Genesis 1:28). But sin entered, and mankind forfeited that authority to the enemy. But God prepared the world for the deliverance that would come through the Messiah and take that authority back through Covenants with Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the Israelites and ultimately with you and me, the redeemed Body of Christ.

For example, to Noah, God said, "Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you—the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground—so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it." (Genesis 8:17 NIV).

God said to Abraham, "I will make you exceedingly fruitful" (see Genesis 17:2, 6).

To Isaac, God said, "Be fruitful and multiply."

To Jacob, God said, "Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make your family into a great nation" (Gen 46:2–3 NLT).

Finally, to the people of Israel, He said, "I will look favorably upon you, making you fertile and multiplying your people. And I will fulfill my covenant with you. "You will have such a surplus of crops that you will need to clear out the old grain to make room for the new harvest! I will live among you, and

I will not despise you. I will walk among you; I will be your God, and you will be my people. I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt so you would no longer be their slaves. I broke the yoke of slavery from your neck so you can walk with your heads held high" (Leviticus 26:9–13 NLT).

Why Did God Make These Promises To sinful People?



Because He would send His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to make a better Covenant, "Hebrews 8:9 says, "This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and led them out of the land of Egypt. They did not remain faithful to my covenant, so I turned my back on them, says the LORD." Under this New Covenant, God promised to put His law in our minds, write them on our hearts, and forgive us and never again remember our sins.

The Prophets Pointed to the Messiah and the New Covenant He was to Usher In

Ezekiel 36:26–27

"And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations."

Joel also Prophesied, Joel 2:28–32

"Then, after doing all those things, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions. In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on servants—men and women alike. And I will cause wonders in the heavens and on the earth—blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun will become dark, and the moon will turn blood red before that great and terrible day of the LORD arrives. But everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved, for some on Mount Zion in Jerusalem will escape, just as the LORD has said. These will be among the survivors whom the LORD has called."



God is causing His people to be fruitful and multiply through the new birth in His Spirit.

John 1:12–13 says,

"But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God."

Jeremiah 31:31–34 NLT

"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my

covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."



This new covenant would be different from the one given to Moses at Mount Sinai. It would be engraved upon the people's hearts and not upon cold tables of stone, and God would not remember sins but forever forgive.

## THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE TESTAMENTS

In the period between the testaments, there were four hundred years of silence on God's part, and religious leaders began to reinterpret the Old Testament adding their traditions, laws, and opinions to the Torah. They invented Judaism. So by the time Jesus came, the parts of the Mosaic Law that spoke of Sabbath observance had become a legalistic system that people were bound to in fear of punishment. Resulting in the ordinary Jew losing hope and purpose because the Sabbath was to give them rest, not to add to their burdens.



Jesus had to break through all that by teaching the word accurately in the synagogues, removing confusion, deception, and inaccurate interpretations (see Matthew 22:29). Jesus also demonstrated that God was with him through miracles, signs, and wonders (see John 3:2). However, this triggered the wrath of the religious leaders.

Now we are ready to go headlong into the story of God's plan for His people and how He brought it about. From Genesis to Jesus starts in the Creation narrative. So I hope you enjoy it. Here we go!

## CREATION

In the beginning (Genesis), God created the universe and everything in it, including the angels; He created humankind in His image.

### Genesis 1:26–28

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.""

God centered His attention on Adam and Eve; they were His crowning glory. He gave them free will, His eternal love, and the responsibility to have dominion over the Garden. Please note, God did not give them dominance over each other because God united them as one (Genesis 2:24). God placed them in the Garden where they had harmony with all things, but this harmony would only prevail as long as they listened to God and followed His ways. God's plan was for the descendants of Adam and Eve to extend that dominion over the whole earth. However, disobedience came with a consequence.

## THE FALL—Disharmony—Genesis Chapter 3

Adam and Eve made a disastrous choice by believing what the serpent said. But God did not abandon them; He promised a Messiah. The fall consequences were guilt, cover-up, blame, estrangement from God, and expulsion from the Garden (Genesis 3:23). Furthermore, in Genesis Chapter 6, in the narrative of Cain and Abel, we read where God accepted Abel's offering of a lamb and rejected Cain's offering of grain. As a result, Cain murdered his brother Abel. Thus, the concept of doing things God's way and coming to God with the right attitude was ignored by Cain. God had to judge Cain, but He tempered it with mercy (Genesis 4:8–15). We also see God's mercy extended to Noah in the flood narrative in Genesis Chapter 7.

## THE FLOOD Genesis Chapters 6 & 7

By this time, the whole of humanity was corrupted. Genesis (6:5, 11, 12). God was not surprised. We read in Genesis 6:6, "The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled." God grieved for His people. Again we see God's mercy extended to sinful people. The people had an opportunity to repent and turn back to God, but they did not, and God had to convince the world through a Great Flood. So, God chose Noah, a man of faith, a "preacher of righteousness" (2 Peter 2:5). The same water that destroyed life lifted Noah's Ark, in which Noah and his family were carried to safety.



Immediately after the flood, God established His first Covenant with Noah and his sons. So it was for all humanity (Genesis 9: 8–10, 17). God promised to never destroy life again with a flood. The sign of the Covenant is the rainbow.



Today, under the New Covenant of grace, the Cross signifies new life.

## A New Beginning Genesis Chapter 9

God blessed Noah and his family. He said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth (Genesis 9:1). God's purpose for man has not altered. However, because fear motivated man's dominion, the balance between man and animals was disturbed (Genesis 9:2). Sin was indeed leaving a profound mark. Only when man's sin problem is put right will there be harmony. Humanity now becomes an eater of meat. In time, under the Law of Moses, the spilling of blood would serve the ritual purpose of atoning for sin.

### Genesis 9:2–4 NLT

"All the animals of the earth, all the birds of the sky, all the small animals that scurry along the ground, and all the fish in the sea will look on you with fear and terror. I have placed them in your power. I have given them to you for food, just as I have given you grain and vegetables. But you must never eat any meat that still has the lifeblood in it."

The Flood did not eradicate sin. Noah laid naked in a drunken stupor (Genesis 9:21), thereby turning the soil's fruit into a curse. Ham saw the nakedness of his father; the implication is

that Ham was glad to see him in this condition. Therefore, Ham was cursed, but his brothers Shem and Japeth were blessed. The descendants of Ham are listed in Genesis 10:6–21. Ham's descendants were the Gentiles, who were enemies of the Hebrews. The descendants of Shem were the people chosen by God to glorify His name and birth the Messiah (Luke 3:36).



## THE TOWER OF BABEL—Genesis Chapter 11

The tower built to reach God was a pride symbol of man's desire to be like God. The Tower of Babel narrative demonstrates that sin alienates nations and destroys unity, leading to destruction. God alone can rescue and save.



### Gen 11:4–8 NLT

"Then they said, "Come, let's build a great city for ourselves with a tower that reaches into the sky. This will make us famous and keep us from being scattered all over the world." But the LORD came down to look at the city and the tower the people were building. "Look!" he said. "The people are united, and they all speak the same language. After this, nothing they set out to do will be impossible for them! Come, let's go down and confuse the people with different languages. Then they won't be able to understand each other." In that way, the LORD scattered them all over the world, and they stopped building the city."

Adam lived 930 years  
Seth lived 912 years  
Lamech lived 777 years  
Shem lived 600 years  
Eber lived 464 years  
Terah lived 205 years

Observation:-There is a general pattern that ages decrease.  
Thus, indicating that we are devolving, not evolving.

## ABRAHAM—Genesis Chapter 12

God continued with His plan to save humanity from the dilemma imposed by sin. Abraham was born in Ur of the Chaldees, a Gentile, but he became the first Jew. He did not prophesy, write a book or make laws yet; he is known as the "father of faith."

God Said to Abram in Genesis 12:1–3 NLT,

"Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you."

The promises of God in the Abrahamic Covenant were solely by the grace of God. All Abraham had to do was leave his culture and go to the land God provided. God



established a promise between Himself and Abraham, which included you, me, and all the people of the world. We were in His mind.

Abram recognized God; he heard accurately and obeyed. He left his Father's household, which was against the patriarchal culture of the day. Like Noah, he worked toward a future he could not see and an unknown destination. Why? Because God had chosen them, and His people need to be set apart. The Covenant entailed a promise of a land where a nomadic people could establish God's ways. They had to be separate from the surrounding people groups and pagan influences. Unfortunately, the Chaldean environment where Abraham lived had little to offer a people who were called to be God's instruments of blessing. So Abraham went. God was fulfilling his plan; He set Israel apart to fulfill a unique destiny on earth.

In Genesis 15:5–6, we read,

"Then the LORD took Abram outside and said to him, "Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That's how many descendants you will have!" And Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD counted him as righteous because of his faith."

Abraham just believed God. He accepted what God said.



Eventually, God would justify His people by faith.

Galatians 3:8–9 NLT says,

"What's more, the Scriptures looked forward to this time when God would make the Gentiles right in his sight because of their faith. God proclaimed this good news to Abraham long ago when he said, all nations will be blessed through you."

So all who put their faith in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received because of his faith." God preached the Gospel to Abraham with us on His mind. There is no other way to be saved; it has to be by believing in God and accepting the sacrifice of God's Son at Calvary.

In Chapter 22:1–16, we read where God tested Abraham's faith in the narrative of the sacrifice of Isaac. As Abraham picked up the knife to kill his son, an angel of the LORD called him from Heaven and prevented Abraham from hurting his boy. God provided a ram caught by its horns in a thicket and sacrificed it instead. In Verse 17 and 18, we read God reiterating His promise to Abraham—"will certainly bless you. I will multiply your descendants beyond number, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will conquer the cities of their enemies. And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed—all because you have obeyed me."



In Galatians 3:16 NLT, Paul wrote, "God gave the promises to Abraham and his child. And notice that the Scripture doesn't say "to his children," as if it meant many descendants. Rather, it says "to his child"—and that, of course, means Christ."



And Romans 8:32 says, "Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?" God proved His great love for us by the gift of His Son. He spared Isaac but not His own. God had us on His mind, His perfect plan unfolding throughout history.

Abraham was not without failure; he sent Hagar away after she birthed his son Ishmael. In addition, he departed from Canaan during a famine and lied twice (see Genesis 12:19; 20:2). Nevertheless, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness" (see Genesis 15:6).

Abraham had other children but gave everything he owned to Isaac (Genesis 25:3-5). Before he died, he left gifts to the sons of his concubines and sent them to a land in the east, away from Isaac (see Geneses 25:6). Abraham died when he was 175 years old. Sarah died when she was 127 years old (Genesis 23:1).

CIRCUMCISION—The Sign of The Covenant (Genesis 17:9–13 NLT).

Circumcision was the sign of the Covenant between God and Israel.

Genesis 17:9–13, God said to Abraham,

"You must cut off the flesh of your foreskin as a sign of the covenant between me and you. From generation to generation, every male child must be circumcised on

the eighth day after his birth. This applies not only to members of your family but also to the servants born in your household and the foreign-born servants whom you have purchased. All must be circumcised. Your bodies will bear the mark of my everlasting covenant."

It was to be an everlasting covenant. All Israel had to remember the Covenant was that mark on the flesh. They were united by circumcision and hope in the promises of God.



Circumcision under the New Covenant is a change of heart produced by the Holy Spirit. It is not circumcision of the flesh, but our hearts open to God and willing to be molded. God foreknew us in eternity, His plan to conform us into the image of His Son is unfolding.

### ISAAC a Type of Jesus

Abraham was one hundred years old, and Sarah was about ninety years old when Isaac was born (see Genesis 17:19, 21:21:3–12; 22:2–9). In Genesis 17:19, God said, "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."

Isaac married Rebekah when he was forty years old (Genesis 25:20), and she eventually gave birth to twins Jacob and Esau after a period of barrenness (Genesis 25:21).

In Genesis 26:4, God reaffirmed His Covenant to Isaac. "I will cause your descendants to become as numerous as the stars of the sky, and I will give them all these lands. And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed."



This same promise repeated at least six times demonstrates that God had us on His mind. The Covenant with Abraham is still in force. Paul wrote of its fulfillment in

Romans 11:26–27

"And so all Israel will be saved. As the Scriptures say, "The one who rescues will come from Jerusalem, and he will turn Israel away from ungodliness. And this is my covenant with them, that I will take away their sins. Many of the people of Israel are now enemies of the Good News, and this benefits you Gentiles. Yet they are still the people he loves because he chose their ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

So Isaac moved to Gerar, and like his father, deceived the King of Philistia by claiming that Rebekah was a relation (Genesis 26:6–11).

Finally, he returned to Beersheba, where God reassured him of the covenant. Sadly, Isaac favored Esau and Rebekah favored Jacob forcing a rift between the two brothers, eventually reconciled. However, Esau's Hittite wives made life miserable for Rebekah and Isaac (Genesis 26:35). Interestingly, Esau married into Ishmael's family. (Ishmael



was Abraham's son). Isaac was buried at Hebron, where Abraham and Sarah were buried (Genesis 49:31).

## JACOB

Jacob was the second son of Isaac and Rebekah, the twin brother of Esau. Isaac was sixty years old when Jacob was born. Jacob was the victim of his mother's partiality. Genesis 25:28 says, "Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob." Jacob was selfish and deceitful. He would not give his brother food without bargaining for Esau's birthright as the older son, and he made Esau swear to it first (Genesis 25:29–34).

When his father Isaac was blind and old, he called for Esau to make him tasty food from wild game, and then Isaac would bless him (see Genesis 27:1:5). However, Rebekah devised a plan so that Jacob would receive the blessing instead of Esau by disguising Jacob as Esau and cooking the stew herself. (see Genesis 27:5–46). Upon Esau's return, he discovered the deceit and held a grudge against Jacob.

Jacob fled in fear of Esau, and on the way to visit his uncle Laban he dreamt of a stairway that reached from earth to heaven with angels going up and down. The LORD stood at the top of the stairway and restated the same promise to Jacob as he had made with Abraham and Isaac. The LORD added, "What's more, I am with you, and I will protect you wherever you go. One day I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have finished giving you everything I

have promised you.” (see Genesis 28:12–22). Jacob named the place Bethel, which means “house of God,” and made a vow

Genesis 28:20–22—

“If God will indeed be with me and protect me on this journey, and if he will provide me with food and clothing, and if I return safely to my father’s home, then the LORD will certainly be my God. And this memorial pillar I have set up will become a place for worshiping God, and I will present to God a tenth of everything he gives me.”



Jacob’s faith was not strong enough to take God at His word. Instead, he made a deal with God, which was less than God had promised. It is my experience that God does not do deals. We can only love God because He first loved us. We can only serve God because Jesus first served us. We can only give to God because God first gave to us. Hebrews 13:5b–6 says, “For God has said, “I will never fail you. I will never abandon you.” So we can say with confidence, “The LORD is my helper, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?” We must take God at His word.

Jacob continued his journey and encountered Rachel, who was his cousin. He discovered that the well belonged to Laban, his mother’s brother. Jacob loved Rachel and agreed to work for Laban in exchange for marriage to Rachel. However, it turned out that Jacob was deceived into marrying

Leah, Rachel's older sister (see Genesis 29). The two wives competed for Jacob's attention and, along with their maids, gave birth to eleven sons and a daughter (Genesis 30). Unfortunately, Rachel was barren during this time.

After twenty years, Jacob and his family returned to Caanan with great wealth. He encountered God disguised as a man along the way, and they wrestled until dawn. The man blessed Jacob by renaming him "Israel." And Jacob named the place Peniel, which means "face of God," for he said, "I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been spared (Genesis 32:30). However, his hip was injured, and he walked with a limp.


The following day Jacob met Esau and was welcomed. Jacob resettled in Shechem. Esau intermarried with the Canaanites and produced a tribe called Edomites.

Sadly, on the journey from Bethel to Ephrath, Rachel died, giving birth to her second son, Benjamin (Genesis 35:16, 18).

God promised to make Jacob a great nation in the land of Egypt. "During the night God spoke to him in a vision. "Jacob! Jacob!" he called. "Here I am," Jacob replied, "I am God, the God of your father," the voice said. "Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make your family into a great nation." Genesis 46:2–3 NLT. God promised to make Jacob a great nation in the land of Egypt. However, jealousy in Jacob's family (see Genesis 37:1–11), the selling of Joseph to the Ishmaelites (see Genesis 37:25–28), Joseph's rise to power in Egypt (see Genesis 41:37–44), a famine (see Genesis 41:55–

57), hunger in Jacob's household (see Genesis 42:1–4), all played a part in leading a growing covenant community (see Genesis 46:1–27) into Goshen in Egypt (see Genesis 47:1–12).

Land, descendants as many as the stars, and separation were hallmarks of God's children to receive the blessing and be what God called them to be. But, Egypt was not free from paganism and idolatry.

The biblical account clarifies that God deliberately chose  Goshen to be where a small covenant community could live and grow. Thus, God's excellent plan for us is now revealed in the New Testament. I love this scripture, especially since Paul wrote this from his prison cell.

2 Timothy 1:9-10 says,

“For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus. And now he has made all of this plain to us by the appearing of Christ Jesus, our Savior. He broke the power of death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the Good News.”

There is only one way, and it is for anyone who would believe in God through His Son. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life, No one can come to the Father except through me” (John 14:6).

## JOSEPH

Joseph was the eleventh son of Jacob and Rachel's first. He dreamt about his future and boasted to his brothers, who hated him as a result (see Genesis 37:5). Finally, the brothers resolved to kill him, but Reuben persuaded them to sell to the Ismaelites (see Genesis 37:28). Sold into Egypt, Joseph prospered until Potiphar's wife falsely accused him, resulting in Joseph doing time in prison for two years (see Genesis 39:7–13). During this time, Joseph interpreted dreams for the cupbearer and the baker. Pharaoh also had a dream, and he summoned Joseph to interpret it. As a result, Pharaoh appointed Joseph to oversee the production and storage of food in preparation for the predicted famine (see Genesis 41:54–57).

Jacob and his family also suffered the effects of the famine and sent his sons to Egypt to buy food. Genesis 42–45 tells the story of Joseph's meetings with his brothers. The outcome demonstrates God's goodness so beautifully.

Genesis 50:18–21—God Brings Good Out of Evil!

“Then his brothers came and threw themselves down before Joseph. “Look, we are your slaves!” they said. But Joseph replied, “Don’t be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you? You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people. No, don’t be afraid. I will continue to take care of you and your children.” So he reassured them by speaking kindly to them.”



The Apostle Paul reminds in Romans 8:28,

“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.”

God had us on His mind, His perfect plan unfolding throughout history.

Joseph died when he was 110 years old when he died, having spent 90 years in Egypt. He buried his father Jacob in Caanan in the cave of Machpelah, the burying place of his fathers.


## EXODUS



Exodus means “the way out”; it is the story of the redemption of God’s people and the beginnings of Israel as a nation. It reveals how God’s plan to deliverer us. After the Exodus from Egypt, the scene changes to the wilderness, where Moses receives God’s Law. Much of the Book of Exodus concerns the Tabernacle and the priesthood.

## MOSES

In Egypt, the new Pharaoh greatly feared the developing Hebrew nation. So they put slave masters over the Hebrew nation to oppress them with forced labor. But the more they were oppressed, the more the Hebrews multiplied, so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites and worked them ruthlessly. (Exodus 1:10–14).

Pharaoh consequently gave the order to throw every newborn Hebrew boy into the water. (Exodus 1:22). Moses' parents were from the tribe of Levi, and his mother hid him in a basket of papyrus reeds, waterproofed with tar, and laid it among the reeds along the bank of the river to avoid the slaughter. Pharaoh's daughter found him and adopted him. (Exodus 1:1–10). This is not the only time Satan tried to destroy a deliverer after they've been born. For example, he  inspired Herod the Great, the King of Judea, to kill babies in Bethlehem to exterminate the newborn King of the Jews (Matthew 2:16–18). Both times he failed.


Moses lived 120 years—forty years in Pharaoh's house raised as a son; he killed an Egyptian in revenge for mistreating an Israelite (see Exodus 2:11–22) and spent the next forty years leading sheep in the wilderness. Then he experienced God in the burning bush (see Exodus 3:7–10), where God revealed His purpose to deliver the Israelites and bring them into the land of Canaan. He spent the final forty years of his life leading Israel to the Promised Land.


Finally, it was Moses's time to take his place in history alongside Abraham, who called God his friend. The heart of Moses' assignment was to say to Pharaoh, "Yahweh has sent me to say, let my people go, so that they may worship me in the wilderness" (see Exodus 7:16).

Moses stepped into a new dimension of God.

Exodus 6:2–3 says,

"And God said to Moses, "I am Yahweh—'the LORD.' I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob as El-Shaddai—'God Almighty'—but I did not reveal my name, Yahweh, to them."

 God revealed Himself to Moses as Yahweh, and a good lesson for us today is that each generation is responsible for building on the revelations of the previous generation (Deuteronomy 29:29). Moses had access to the Presence of God in a way that the Law forbade. Moses' life modeled what would be possible under the New Covenant. He had face-to-face encounters with God; at one time, his face shone with the Presence of God (Exodus 34:30). His face shone because of seeing God's goodness (Exodus 33:19). We must expect and press in for more today. The New Covenant is far superior (2 Corinthians 3:7–8).

 Moses had several encounters with God. On one occasion, his face shone with the Presence of God (see Exodus 34:30). He asked to see the glory of God, and God let all His goodness pass before his eyes. (see Exodus 33:19). The revelation of God's goodness will change our countenance.

God gave Moses an impossible assignment. He knew he lacked the qualifications required to lead God's people out of slavery.


In Exodus 3:12, God said to Moses,

"I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the



people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

Moses was the prototype for a New Covenant Christian even though he lived under the Law. Not that the Law did not apply to him. Moses' life gives us a picture of what would be possible under the New Covenant that was to come.

 Today, people seek comfort, just as Moses would have been when God commissioned him to speak to Pharaoh. Jesus said in John 14:1, "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me." Believe in God, believe in Jesus, and trust that He brings comfort.

## OPPRESSION AND FREEDOM

The seed of Abraham spent 430 years in Egypt, and God heard their groaning (Exodus 2:24–25). Finally, oppression united Israel and motivated them to move Israel out of Egypt to the Promised Land (Exodus 1:8–22).

So Moses and Aaron spoke to Pharaoh and requested that Israel go to the wilderness and worship. They prepared Pharaoh for what would ultimately come. Pharaoh's reaction is recorded in Exodus 5:2—"And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go."

The Call of God Upon the Nation of Israel Was to Leave Egypt to Worship God.

Moses was to bring Israel out of Egypt's captivity into another place to worship God. God responds to the praises of His people with His Presence—He comes; they were to be known as a people of the Presence of God. God's heart was for His people to become priests; God commanded Moses to speak these words to the Israelites. "Tell the people. "you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." Priests minister to God. Worship would take Israel to new levels. Israel—a generation of slaves, was called to greatness, and their first step was to worship extravagantly. However, what they ended up with was far from God's intention. They ended up with a tribe of priests, and only the High Priest was allowed before the Ark once a year on the Day of Atonement. But, God never left them. He made a way that we might come into His Presence as a chosen people, royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession, that we might declare the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His wonderful light" (see 1 Peter 2:9).

The Other Call Was to Sacrifice  
Exodus 8:25-27

"Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Go, sacrifice to your God here in the land." But Moses said, "That would not be right. The sacrifices we offer the LORD our God would be detestable to the Egyptians. And if we offer sacrifices that are detestable in their eyes, will they not stone us? We must take a


three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God, as he commands us."

## THE EXODUS EVENT

Moses went to Pharaoh after the burning bush episode. When Moses stood before Pharaoh, he changed his rod into a serpent. The wise men of Egypt did the same miracle. After this demonstration came the Ten Plagues.

Three Reasons for the Plagues;

- a) Judgment on gods of Egypt Exodus 12:12
- b) That they/you may know that I am YHWH (Exodus 7:5, 17; 8:22; 10:2)
- c) My firstborn, therefore your firstborn (Exodus 4:23).

There was a purpose for the plagues. God challenged the gods of Egypt to a contest and defeated them. Every plague  demonstrated God sparing no expense to preserve what is important to Him—an intimate people who worship. We were on His mind.

John 4:23–24 says,

"But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth."

## The Plagues on Egypt

1. Water turned to blood (Exodus 7:19–25)
2. The plague of frogs (Exodus 8:1–15)
3. The Plague of lice (Exodus 16–20)
4. The Plague of flies (Exodus 8:20–32)
5. The Plague of gnats (Exodus 9:1–7)
6. The Plague of boils (Exodus 9:8–17)
7. The Plague of hail (Exodus 9:18–35)
8. The Plague of locusts (Exodus 10:1–20)
9. The Plague of darkness (Exo 10:21–29)
10. Death of the First-Born (Exodus 11–12:36)

## EXODUS—Chapter 12 The First Passover

The first Passover feast celebrated laid the foundation of Israel's relationship with God. Each family was to kill a lamb, drain the blood, and put it on the lintel. The lamb was roasted on an open fire, consuming all the meat. Leftovers were to be shared with the nearest neighbor, and the uneaten portion was burned. The lamb had to be a year-old ram without defect and slaughtered at twilight. They were to eat it with bitter herbs and bread made without yeast with haste, dressed and ready to leave.

Exodus 12:13 says,

"The blood on your doorposts will serve as a sign, marking the houses where you are staying. When I see the blood, I will pass over you. This plague of death will not touch you when I strike the land of Egypt."

The Israelites were delivered from the death of the firstborn by the blood of the Lamb on the doorpost. They were to eat bitter herbs and unleavened bread. The unleavened bread symbolized a life of sanctification and separation from slavery. In 1 Corinthians 5:7, Paul reminds us, "Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed." Israel was on its way to its homeland. It was the fullness of time. It is estimated that 2,100,000 left Egypt. They reached the Red Sea and passed through on dry ground by the grace of God.

## The New Covenant Church is Known for God's Presence

There was one thing that set Israel apart from the other nations—The Presence of God

Exodus 33:14b,

"My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

Exodus 33:16, "How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"



When God's people worship Him, His glory falls, and transformation occurs, which goes beyond principles, and teaching of the Law

Psalms 22:3 TPT says,

"Yet I know that you are most holy; it's indisputable. You are God-Enthroned, surrounded with songs, living among the shouts of praise of your princely people."

The heart to seek God is birthed in us by God Himself. It is not something that can be legislated or forced; instead, it grows within us. The Apostle Paul describes a place of beholding as the center of the New Covenant.

2 Corinthians 3:18 says,

"So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image."

We cannot behold God and remain unchanged.

## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS GIVEN

Have you ever wondered why God gave the Israelites Ten Commandments?

The children of Israel came out of Egypt by the Blood of the Lamb, nothing but the blood. God did not rescue them from bondage in Egypt because they kept the Ten

Commandments. After all, the Big Ten had not had been



given yet. You and I were not saved because we kept the Big Ten either. Ephesians 1:7 says, "He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins."

We do well to understand that up to this moment in time, God's grace had seen the Israelites through. Their deliverance was solely by His goodness and grace.

Hebrews 27-29 says,

"It was by faith that Moses left the land of Egypt, not fearing the King's anger. He kept right on going because he kept his eyes on the one who is invisible. It was by faith that Moses commanded the people of Israel to keep the Passover and to sprinkle blood on the doorposts so that the angel of death would not kill their firstborn sons. It was by faith that the people of Israel went right through the Red Sea as though they were on dry ground. But when the Egyptians tried to follow, they were all drowned."



Their freedom from bondage was by God's amazing grace through faith. Ephesians 2:8 says, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God." We were in bondage to our sins, and God saved us by His grace. Now, like the Israelites, we are free to worship Him.

God performed great signs and wonders by His grace and set them free to worship Him.

When the Egyptian army came thundering at them, they cried out, "Have you taken us to die in the wilderness because there are no graves in Egypt?" (Exodus 14:11). They murmured and complained, so He parted the waters of the Red Sea, and they

crossed over on dry land to the other side. But the complaining continued over and over. And whenever they complained, God responded with demonstrations of His grace, favor, and goodness. At Marah, they complained about the bitter waters, and God made bitter waters sweet. (Exodus 15:22). They cried out against Moses when they were hungry, and God rained down bread from Heaven (Exodus 16:35). Then there was no water, and they cried out against Moses again, and God brought water out of a rock (Exodus 17:3–6).

Israel at this time was under the Abrahamic Covenant, which was a Covenant of Grace. During this period, the blessings they received were not dependent on their obedience or works. Instead, they were utterly dependent on God's goodness and His faithfulness to the Abrahamic Covenant. Remember, About 500 years earlier, God said to Abraham Genesis 12 notice, "I will."

Genesis 12:2–3,

"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Tragedy at the Foot of Mount Sinai

"Once the people were free from Egypt, something tragic happened at the foot of Mount Sinai. Exodus 19:8 says, that the people cried out to Moses, saying, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do." In the original Hebrew text, this is actually



a statement of pride. They were saying, "All that God requires and demands of us, we are able to perform." In other words, they were saying, "God, stop blessing us based on your grace and goodness and what you will do for us! Start assessing, judging, and blessing us based on our obedience." So they effectively exchanged Covenants from the Abrahamic Covenant, which is based on grace, to the Sinaitic Covenant based on the law. All this while God was with them and had fought for them. He opened the Red Sea, rained manna from Heaven and brought water out of the rock, even though they kept murmuring and complaining. But the moment they said those prideful words, God had to change His tone. He told Moses to instruct the people not to go near the mountain, for "Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death." (Exodus 19:12).<sup>2</sup>

Sadly, the people wanted to be judged based on their performance. They wanted to demonstrate their strength, how good they thought they were, thereby entering into a covenant based on their obedience. This is what we call self-righteousness.

In the very next Chapter, God gave them the Ten Commandments. From then on, God had to assess them based on His Laws. He would bless them if they kept His commandments, but they would be cursed if they failed to do so. What the people did not understand was that they had to obey all of the Ten Commandments perfectly because if they failed in one, they would be guilty of all. James 2:10 says, "For

whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.”<sup>3</sup>

### The Israelites Placed Themselves Under the Law

After they boasted, they could fulfill all God demanded; they failed immediately. They broke the First Commandment— "You shall have no other gods before me." They made a golden calf and worshipped it as their God. Sad? Yeah! From that point onwards, every time the children of Israel murmured and complained, many of them would die. Before Sinai—NONE died; however, after Sinai—the moment they murmured, they died. Precisely fifty days after the Passover, when the Lord delivered them from slavery, 3000 men died (Exodus 32:28). (God gave the Law on Mount Sinai, it was on the First Pentecost). When the Day of Pentecost had come in the New Testament, God poured out His Spirit upon all flesh, and 3,000 people received Salvation (Acts 2:41).<sup>4</sup>



### The Israelite's Journey From Egypt to Sinai Was a Picture of Grace, Mercy, and God's Goodness.

It was not dependent on their goodness, faithfulness, or love but His goodness, faithfulness, and His great love. Before the Law, they were under grace, and nobody was punished even when they failed. But immediately after the Law was given, nobody was spared when they failed. Before Sinai, every failure brought a fresh demonstration of grace and God's goodness, but now they were under the Covenant of Law; sin had to be punished with death. Three thousand men died

after the golden calf episode. Their blessings and provisions no longer depended on God's goodness, faithfulness, and grace. It now depended on their perfect performance and obedience, and every failure and sin would result in judgment and punishment.



The Ten Commandments or The Law show us that our sins bring us to despair and lead us to realize that we can never save ourselves by our efforts. Our salvation is not dependent on our goodness, faithfulness, or love but God's goodness, faithfulness, and His great love. So too, our blessings and provisions depend on God's goodness, faithfulness, and grace.

You Shall Not!

When you read the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20, count the number of times it says "you shall not."

Exodus 20:1–14

And God spoke all these words, saying: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. "You shall have no other gods before Me. "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in Heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands,

to those who love Me and keep My commandments. "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain. "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it. "Honor your Father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you. "You shall not murder. "You shall not commit adultery. "You shall not steal. "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."

Nine Times it commands, "You shall not! Twice it says, You shall have no other gods, and you shall do no work. That's eleven commands.

Under The New Covenant, God Declares He will!

Compare this with the New Covenant in Heb 8:8–12 NIV. How many 'I wills'?



But God found fault with the people and said: "The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the Covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my Covenant, and I turned away from them, declares the Lord. This is the Covenant I will establish with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbour, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will forgive their wickedness and I will remember their sins no more." By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear.

The Old Covenant is based on "you shall not," "you shall not," "you shall not," eleven times. While the New Covenant of Grace is on the Lord saying "I will" seven times. The emphasis of the Old Covenant of Law is on you performing, while the focus of the New Covenant of Grace is on God Himself performing!

He *will* do everything on our behalf.

- Jesus has already done it.
- He has established His people
- He has put His laws in our minds
- He has written them on our hearts
- He is our God
- We are His people
- We all know Him from the least to the greatest
- He has forgiven our wickedness
- He does not remember our sins
- He has made the Old Covenant old, obsolete and outdated. It is finished!

Christianity Today is "Done, Done, Done," Not "Do, Do, Do!"




Keep in mind. We always have to do things, and we all have responsibilities. Your Salvation is a gift, so you can't work for it. But, Jesus came to establish the new Covenant of Grace, and under this new Covenant, God wrote His Law/the New Covenant on your heart, not on cold hard tablets of stone. Jesus Himself defined this new Covenant for us at the last supper when He said, "This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." (Matt 26:28).

God Never Intended to Mend the Fallen Adamic Race




Instead, he intended to end that race and begin a new humanity in His Son Jesus Christ.

Under the Old Covenant of Moses, if the children of Israel obeyed the "big ten." They would be blessed, and if they failed, they would be cursed and punished. They were condemned because they had been unable to keep the terms of their Covenant. It was a covenant that depended on their ability to keep the Law, and they could not. The good news is that you and I are no longer under the Old Covenant requirements; we are under the New Covenant. In this  Covenant, we are blessed because Jesus is good, and He made us good and accepted us by washing away all our sins with His blood. It is all about Jesus! God now judges us based on His goodness, not ours. Not by the handwriting on a stone the requirements of the Law.

## THE TABERNACLE OF MOSES

God had a *big* problem with His Chosen People, and Atonement was the answer to Israel's sin problem. If freed by the atoning acts of God, Israel would be free to fulfill its mission to be a blessing to the whole world by birthing the Savior. Under the Mosaic Covenant, you had to keep the law to be saved. The people of God have never been immune from sin. Israel was no exception. They were as vulnerable to wickedness as any other people chosen or unchosen. God was concerned with Israel's sin. Unless His people found a way out of sin, there could be no destiny! Until God dealt with their sin, they were not equipped to help others in their journey with God.

## Atonement Was The Answer

God's answer to Israel's most pressing need was reconciliation in the form of forgiveness. Atonement was God's way of getting Israel launched on its destiny to be a blessing and give birth to the Saviour. In Hebrew,  sacrifice means to slaughter, and atonement means to cover up. God never accepted the blood of bulls and goats as the final payment for sin, but He required that blood be shed. Thus, it was an atonement to cover their sin until Christ came. Under the Mosaic Covenant, the Israelites had to keep the law to be saved. For you and me, under the New Covenant, we simply believe because all our sins are forgiven.

Colossians 2:13 NLT says,

“You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins.”

The Day of Atonement is a Portrait of the Cross.

On this day, the high priest passed through the separating veil to the inner compartment, the Holy of Holies, in which were two articles of furniture—

1. The Ark of the Covenant contained the Ten Commandments written on stone tablets, a pot of manna, and Aaron's rod that budded.
2. The Mercy Seat stood on top of the Ark of the Covenant with two Cherubim of beaten gold.



## The Symbols, The Types, and Shadows All Spoke of Something Greater That Was to Come—



They sacrificed lambs. Symbolizing that there was One coming who would forever atone for sin. God would provide Himself a lamb. Each piece of furniture spoke of the Messiah, representing something distinct about the nature and function of Christ. We see Jesus in the types and shadows in the Old Testament. The Tabernacle, every sacrifice, every feast, and the priesthood point to Jesus.

### The Tabernacle

God instructed Moses to build the Tabernacle to specific instructions. In the Tabernacle, there was no place to sit down. The work of the Old Testament priest was never finished. Jesus finished the work of redemption and sat down



at the Right Hand of the Father. Furthermore, He made the New Covenant believer to sit with Him (see Ephesians 2:4-6).

### Each Piece of Furniture Spoke of the Messiah

The Ark of the Covenant—"God with us" (Matthew 1:23)



The Mercy Seat—Propitiation (Appeasement, Atonement) (Romans 3:25)

Rod that budded—Resurrection (John 11:25)

The Golden Pot of Manna—The Bread of Life (John 6:48–51)

Altar of Incense—Intercessor (Jesus) (Hebrews 7:25)

Golden Candlestick—Light of the world (John 8:12)

Table of Shewbread—Lord's Supper (Matthew 26:26–28)

The Veil—His Flesh (Hebrews 10:20)

The Door—The Door (John 10:9)

The Gate—The Way (John 14:6)

Brazen Altar —Blood Atonement (Hebrews 5:9–11)

Brazen Laver—Cleansing (Ephesians 5:26)

Three Items Kept in The Ark of The Covenant

The stone tablets on which God wrote the Ten Commandments.

The second was Aaron's rod that budded. When placed overnight in the Tabernacle, it produced branches and bore fruit and flowers (Numbers 17:1–10). God appointed Aaron to serve as the high priest in reply to the Israelites' complaints. Aaron's rod speaks of man's rebellion against appointed leadership.


The final item in the Ark was the manna (see Psalm 78:24–25). The golden pot of manna speaks of man's rebellion against God's provision. Every item speaks of rebellion and sin. God put them in the Ark and covered them with the mercy seat where the blood of the sacrificial animals was placed. God could not see the rejection of His provision, the people's sins, and their rebellion. He only saw the blood on the mercy seat.



The fact that we are purchased and forgiven by His Blood renders us clean in the eyes of God. Romans 5:9 says, “And since we have been made right in God’s sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God’s condemnation.”

Luke 22:20

“After supper Jesus took another cup of wine and said, “This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you.”


The entire existence of the Israelites was around the Tabernacle, which was in the middle of the camp. The Presence of the Lord was before them day and night. By day there was the pillar of fire, and in the day, there was a cloud,  symbolizing Christ our leader and guide to Heaven.

1 Corinthians 10:1 NLT says,

"I don't want you to forget, dear brothers and sisters, about our ancestors in the wilderness long ago. All of them were guided by a cloud that moved ahead of them, and all of them walked through the sea on dry ground."

God spoke to them face-to-face from the cloud. However, He did not allow them to see any form of His likeness because of their leaning toward idolatry (see Deuteronomy 5:2).

Once a year, the high priest placed blood on the mercy seat. That meant that God accepted the nation for another year, and then they would need to go through it again the following year.


 When Jesus died, the separating veil was rent from top to bottom, signifying that Jesus made way for us to be reconciled with the Father without sin to separate us. He

was the final atoning sacrifice once and for all. As a result, we now have a great High Priest and peace with God (Romans 5:1–2).

Blood was sacred to the Hebrews because God made the means of atonement for sin by requiring that it be presented upon His altar. To the Hebrew, the "life of the flesh is in the blood." Thus, whenever they witnessed the slaying of an animal, they saw the blood run down to the ground, and life left the body.

### The Old Testament Sacrifice Involved the Shedding of Blood

The Old Testament sacrifice for sin required unblemished victims (1 Peter 1:18–19), presented to God (Hebrews 9:24–25). The sacrifice involved the shedding of blood (Heb 9:22), and therefore death was necessary (Hebrews 9:15). Each

 blood sacrifice proclaimed forgiveness of sins. (Hebrews 9:22). The sacrifice of Jesus achieved what the Old Covenant sacrifices only performed figuratively, for the Levitical High Priest entered an earthly man-made shrine. Jesus fulfilled the will of God by taking away sin and guilt.

Psalm 103:12 says,

"As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us." From east to west, there is no end.

## OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST



The Lord Jesus went into the Holy of Holies for you and me, and He is still there until He comes again. When Jesus cried, "It is finished!" It meant that there was no more animal sacrifice to cover sin. The Old Covenant had served its purpose. A New Covenant by grace through faith was made, where sin was dealt with once and for all. The veil tore, never to be mended. The Lord Jesus has taken His blood to the Throne Room. He gave His life and paid the penalty for us. Now that Throne of judgment is the Throne of Grace and never-ending forgiveness.

The Tabernacle On Earth was A Type of The One in Heaven.

The Law of Moses never did settle the sin problem. Hebrews 10:4 says, "It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins." And without the shedding of sin, there is no remission of sins. But in the New Covenant—we are washed from our sins in the Blood of Jesus.



The Ark Of The Covenant Spoke Of The Presence of God And The Lord Jesus Christ.

Then, only priests could carry God's presence; now, we are kings and priests unto God. The Brazen Laver spoke of Jesus' washing us clean. The Table of Shewbread spoke of Jesus the Bread of Life, the Candlestick of Jesus the Light of the world, etc.



## LEVITICUS

The book of Leviticus details the way for mankind to have a divine relationship with God. Leviticus is full of Jesus Christ.



The sacrifices and rituals were the means of atonement. So, likewise, the sacrifice of Jesus at Calvary is the means to our salvation.

### Levitical Offerings



The five Levitical offerings, the Tabernacle of Moses, and even the high priest's garments are shadows of the Lord Jesus Christ.



### THE FEASTS OF THE LORD

Passover speaks of Israel's deliverance from Egypt and the death of the Lamb of God—the Lord Jesus

Unleavened Bread speaks of The Exodus and the Burial of Jesus Christ.

First Fruits speaks of Crossing the Red Sea and the Resurrection of Jesus.

Pentecost speaks of the Giving of the Law at Mount Sinai, the Pouring out of the Holy Spirit, and the Birthday of the Church.

Tabernacles (Blowing of Trumpets) was to prepare the people for Atonement and prepare God's people for the End-time.

Day of Atonement speaks of the Priest opening the Holy of Holies and the Cleansing of the Church in the End-times.

Tabernacles speaks of Entering Into the Promised Land and the Final Ingathering of souls.<sup>5</sup>

Passover

The lamb was slain on the altar in the Outer Court and presented to the Lord on behalf of the whole nation.

The Sheaf of Firstfruits

The sheaf was brought to the door of the Tabernacle and presented to the Lord.

Pentecost

On the Feast of Pentecost, two Wave Loaves were waved before the Lord in the Holy Place and accepted for Israel.

Tabernacles

The Feast of Tabernacles took place in the Sanctuary on the Great Day of Atonement. When the trumpets were blown, all Israel had to gather to the Lord at the door of the Tabernacle

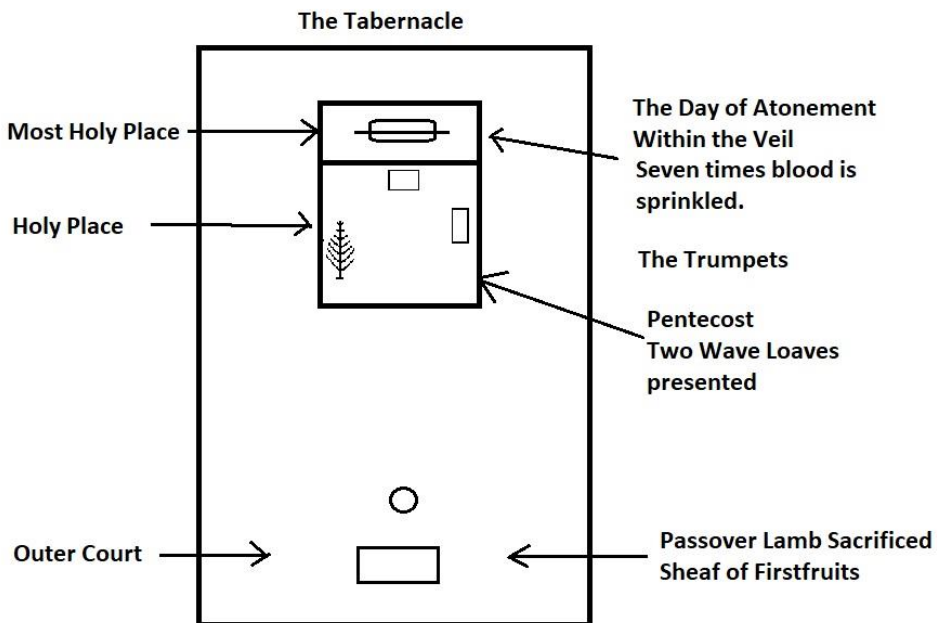
Day of Atonement

Once a year, on the Day of Atonement, the High Priest entered the Most Holy Place with the blood of atonement. The people stood waiting in silent prayer as the High Priest entered the veil, making the atonement for himself, his house, and the nation. The Sanctuary was cleansed. At the

close of the Day of Atonement ceremony, they received the High Priest's blessing. The Feast of Tabernacles was symbolic of God Himself dwelling among His people. It pointed to the final dwelling place of God with His redeemed ones.

The believer was linked with the Outer Court, the Holy Place, and the Most Holy Place, where the Lord dwelt in each feast.

The Feasts of Israel Kevin J Conner © 1980, Bible Temple – Conner Publications Portland, Oregon 97213 <sup>6</sup>



## Types of Sacrifices

The whole sacrificial system was very complex. The Drink Offering and Meal Offering consisted of unleavened bread. It



was sometimes accepted as a sin offering. The Burnt Offering was a public offering made in the evening and morning. The Peace Offering was only for sin committed in ignorance, and the Guilt Offering was usually made for things that people withheld from God.

## NUMBERS

The Book of Numbers opens with a divine command to number. So a census was taken of all the fighting men of Israel. It seemed the time had come for Israel to enter the Promised Land, but continual murmuring, doubting, faltering, and half-hearted belief left God with no option but to send the people back into the desert for another period of training in trust. Again in unbelievable stubbornness, the people rebelled. Korah's Rebellion is recorded in Numbers chapter 16, where God sent a plague and 14,700 people died.

## DEUTERONOMY

Deuteronomy ("repetition of the Law") serves as a reminder to God's people about His Covenant. The book is a "pause" before Joshua's conquest begins and a reminder of what God required.<sup>7</sup>

God told His people that they were to only offer sacrifice in the place where His Name was recorded. (see Deuteronomy 12 and 16).

Deuteronomy 12:4–5

"Do not worship the Lord your God in the way these pagan peoples worship their gods. Rather, you must seek the LORD your God at the place of worship he himself will choose from among all the tribes—the place where his name will be honoured."

Only in the appointed place was worship approved. Thus, the Christian's center of worship is in the Lord Jesus Christ. In Him, we live and move and have our being (see Acts 17:28).



### Blessings and Cursings Deuteronomy 28

The people of God would be blessed as they obeyed God. On the other hand, their disobedience would bring the curses spelled out for them in this Chapter. The opening verses contain the beatitudes of the Old Testament, which relate to almost all circumstances of life. They have their counterparts in the New. Jesus is infinitely more; all the mercies of God are found in Him.





### JOSHUA


It was zero hour. The time had come to occupy the Promised Land. But forty years before, Israel stood at this same juncture but had sadly misused the first opportunity to fulfill a lifelong dream. They faced the moment with a negative attitude. Doubting God's power to lead, hence they wandered in the desert for a period of training in trust and buried all those who left Egypt.

The wilderness had done its work. Then, finally, the new generation was ready to go. A disciplined people stood prepared to put their destiny into the hands of an Almighty God. Of the original 600,000 or 2,100,100 people who left Egypt, only Joshua and Caleb were permitted to enter the Promised Land.

## Crossing the Jordan River Speaks of The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

 When God brought them into the Promised Land, they crossed through another body of water, the Jordan River. This speaks of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Our water Baptism speaks of paying our debt for sin. The second Baptism deals with getting us filled with God to walk with Him more effectively and represent Him as His people of power. The promised land for us is living life in the realm of the Kingdom of God.

Two and a half tribes decided to live on one side of the Jordan, while nine and a half tribes crossed over. God required them to work together to ensure that people on both sides of the river came into an inheritance. "This "river" continues to be a point of division to this day, as many wonderful people  have chosen to live on the other side of the river of God's intentions. They are not inferior, nor are they powerless. But they have settled for less. There is more across the river."<sup>8</sup>

"An entire generation failed to fulfill the destiny God had for them. The reason for these aborted destinies was a lack  of repentance—a failure to allow God to retrain their

thinking from the slavish mentality of those fit to walk in Covenant with Him. In the same way, many Christians repent enough to be forgiven but not enough to see the kingdom, they miss out all that is available in the authentic Christian life, and they are in danger of settling for a life of religious form."<sup>9</sup> God intends to fill us with His fullness. (Ephesians 3:19).

## Baptism In The Holy Spirit Under the New Covenant



Israel left Egypt when the Blood of the Lamb was shed and applied to the doorposts. In the same way, we were set free when the Blood of Jesus was applied in our lives at Salvation. The Red Sea symbolizes our water baptism. When the Israelites finally entered the Promised Land, they entered another river and experienced another baptism. Here is the narrative—

### Joshua 3:13–17

"The priests will carry the Ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth. As soon as their feet touch the water, the flow of water will be cut off upstream, and the river will stand up like a wall." So the people left their camp to cross the Jordan, and the priests who were carrying the Ark of the Covenant went ahead of them. It was the harvest season, and the Jordan was overflowing its banks. But as soon as the feet of the priests who were carrying the Ark touched the water at the river's edge, the water above that point began backing up a great distance away at a town called Adam, which is near Zarethan. And the water below that point flowed on to the Dead Sea until the riverbed was dry. Then all the

people crossed over near the town of Jericho. Meanwhile, the priests who were carrying the Ark of the LORD's Covenant stood on dry ground in the middle of the riverbed as the people passed by. They waited there until the whole nation of Israel had crossed the Jordan on dry ground."

This Baptism would take them into a different way of life. In the wilderness, they fought battles and won. But once they miraculously crossed the Jordan river, wars would be fought differently. Now they would march around a city in silence for days, finally raising a shout and watching the walls come down. Later they set a choir into battle first. And there was a time God sent 30,000 soldiers home and sent 300 torch-wielding trumpet blowers to war.



The Baptism in the Holy Spirit fulfills the Old Testament picture of Israel entering their Promised Land. There were nations to destroy and cities to possess. However, being filled with God's fullness comes with the ability to represent God as His agents on the earth. It also comes with the responsibility to deal with pride.

## JESUS BAPTISM IN THE JORDAN



Jesus arrived at the Jordan for the same Baptism. Again the Spirit of God descended, but this time as a dove. This shows us the impact of the Presence of God upon a person for a specific task. But the Holy Spirit remained on Jesus. Jesus went into the desert "full of the Holy Spirit" (Luke

4:1), but He came out in the power of the Holy Spirit (see Luke 4:14). Jesus announced that "The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free."

In his book *Hosting the Presence*, Bill Johnson writes—"The Holy Spirit Baptism is in me for my sake, but upon me for yours. When the Holy Spirit rests upon a person without withdrawing, it is because He has been made welcome in a most honorable way."<sup>10</sup>

John the Baptist confessed his desire for the Baptism of Fire "I need to be baptized by you." (Matt 3:14). This desire was expressed after John prophesied, "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Matt 3:11), John needed the Baptism of fire—The Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

John's role was to prepare the people with a baptism of repentance so that they could receive the revelation of the Father. He needed the Baptism that Jesus offered, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire.

## THE PROMISED LAND

The first major confrontation was against two kings east of the Jordan Sihon, king of the Amorites, and Og, king of Bashan. Moses prepared his people militarily, mentally, and spiritually for the conquest that lay before them. Then he walked to the summit of Mount Nebo, viewed the land which

the Lord first promised to Abraham, and there died. Joshua was appointed as Moses' successor.

## Jericho

Joshua led the campaign. As soon as Israel crossed the Jordan (Joshua 3:1-17), a memorial was erected (Joshua 4:19-24). Males born during the wilderness experience were circumcised (Joshua 5:2-9). The Passover was celebrated (Joshua 5:10-12), and Jericho was defeated. Thus, Joshua and the fighting men marched around the town once a day for six days. Seven priests walked ahead of the Ark, each carrying a ram's horn. They marched around seven times on the seventh day, with priests blowing their horns. When they heard the priests give one long blast on the ram's horns, they all shouted as loud as they could. Then the town walls collapsed, and the people charged straight into the city. (see Joshua 6:3-5).

From Jericho, they advanced against Ai, but Achan yielded to the influences of the pagan Caananites. The folly of Achan could not be ignored; the consequences were severe. However, the second campaign against Ai was successful. Meanwhile, fear of Israel spread through all of Caanan. Israel now dominated Palestine, and part of the Covenant God made with Abraham fulfilled (Genesis 12:1-2).

## JUDGES

The book of Judges depicts the life of Israel in the Promised Land—from the death of Joshua to the rise of the monarchy. It tells of urgent appeals to God in times of crisis and apostasy,

moving the Lord to raise up leaders (judges) through whom He throws off foreign oppressors and restores the land to peace.<sup>11</sup> There were thirteen Judges: Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, Abimelech, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, and Samson.

Each Judge Dealt With a Different Foe.

Othniel dealt with the Mesopotamians (Judges 3:9–11)

Ehud dealt with the Moabites (Judges 3:12–30)

Deborah brought an end to the Canaanite subjection (Judges 4:1–24)

Gideon defeated the Midianites (Judges 6:7–8:28)

Jephthah met the Ammonite assault (Judges 11:1–33).

Samson stopped the Philistines (Judges 15:1–20).

## The Twelve Tribes

Caanan was divided among the Twelve Tribes. Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher.

Joshua died at 110 years old and Israel during this time was a loosely organized confederacy without a king or central government. In succession, the surrounding nations—the Mesopotamians, Moabites, Canaanites, Midianites, Ammonites, and Philistines attacked the Israelites and subjected them to bondage for brief periods. However, these attacks were quelled by the rallies led by judges. While these victories gave the Judge prestige, the idea of monarchy was rejected by Gideon when he declared in Judges 8:23 after the people implored him to be their ruler, “I will not rule over you,



nor will my son. The LORD will rule over you!" Things went smoothly with the minor powers defeated for a time, but the Philistines threatened within two generations.

### Ark of The Covenant Captured

The Philistines struck with force, and the Israelites brought the Ark of the Covenant from the Tabernacle to accompany them in battle. Total disaster followed—the Philistines captured the Ark of the Covenant, Israel's most prized possession (1 Samuel 4:11). The Ark became a continual torment to the Philistines (see 1 Samuel 5:1–6). Finally, the Philistines feared that the God of the Israelites would destroy them, so they moved the Ark to Gath. (1 Sam 5:8). But when the Ark arrived at Gath, God struck them with a plague of tumors, which caused great panic. (1 Samuel 5:9). When the Philistines next attacked, the people led by Samuel were confessing their sins and offering sacrifice at Mizpah. Thus the Philistines were defeated.

### Push For a King

As Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons judges over Israel. But, the humiliation suffered by the Israelites caused many to think of appointing a King to rule over them. The idea of a king persisted. The prophet Samuel rejected the concept of a monarch and went to the Lord for guidance. God said,

1 Samuel 8:7.

"Do everything they say to you," the LORD replied, "for they are rejecting me, not you. They don't want me to be their king any longer. Ever since I brought them from

Egypt, they have continually abandoned me and followed other gods. And now they are giving you the same treatment. Do as they ask, but solemnly warn them about the way a king will reign over them."

The people refused Samuel's warnings because they wanted to be like the nations around them. (1 Samuel 8:19). So a king was appointed.

## KING SAUL


The reign of Saul met violent opposition and was marked by unstable character. Saul started as a good king. But he is remembered for his wickedness, jealousy of David, and his attempted murder of David. Nevertheless, God knew Saul's heart and gave him every opportunity to do well. 1 Samuel 10:5–6 recounts the narrative of when the Spirit of God came upon Saul and changed him into another man. Now it was Saul's responsibility to be the kind of king Israel needed. But he failed. 1 Samuel 16:14 says, "Now the Spirit of the LORD had left Saul, and the LORD sent a tormenting spirit that filled him with depression and fear." Saul became an untrustworthy king of Israel. So God looked for another one after His heart. He found a young man tending his father's sheep. He was a worshipper. His name was David. Later we read where David cried, "Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me" (Psalm 51:11 NLT).


## DAVID

David did not come to the throne immediately; he went through a period of testing, struggle, and adversity. Nevertheless, he had a rugged private army which added to his prestige.

David was made King of Judah in the South upon the death of Saul. (2 Samuel 2:4). Israel now had two kings. Ishbosheth was made King of Israel in the North. King David embarked upon a plan that was to transform Israel utterly. His manliness, godliness, and courage enabled him to become king of a united Israel upon the death of Ishbosheth. Thus, David was king and prophet (Acts 2:29–31). David learned that God didn't want the sacrifices of bull and goats; instead, God longed for the sacrifice of a heart broken and yielded to Him. David found that God inhabited the praises of His people (Psalm 22:3).

## The Tabernacle of David

David's Tabernacle existed for forty years or so, and it was built for worship. The Ark of the Covenant was there, so too the Presence of God. It was a new approach to God where priests worshiped God 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There was no animal sacrifice. The prophet Amos prophesied of a time when David's Tabernacle would be rebuilt—Amos  9:11 says, "In that day "I will restore David's fallen shelter—I will repair its broken walls and restore its ruins—and will rebuild it as it used to be."

In contrast to the Tabernacle of Moses, David's Tabernacle had no separating veil. David could go directly before the Ark of the Covenant; into the Presence of God. John 19:30  tells us that when Jesus cried out on the Cross, "It is finished"—the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom." The way to the Holy of Holies is open. The way to the Presence of God is available. Now we come boldly to His Throne of Grace. David's Tabernacle was a glimpse of the New Covenant Church. We are the people the prophet Amos prophesied about. The Presence of God inhabits the praise of His people. Worship in God's Presence is a privilege. The Bible tells us, "For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins." (see Hebrews 10:2). New Covenant worshippers are cleansed from all sin and engulfed by God's love worship freely.

#### Four Significant Events Characterized David's Reign.

1. He established Jerusalem as the capital political headquarters of Israel by defeating the Jebusites (1 Chronicles 11)
2. With two crushing blows, he defeated the Philistines.
3. He brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6)
4. He established a united kingdom. However, he committed adultery and tried to cover it up by murder (2 Samuel 11).

## SOLOMON

The reign of Solomon began as a result of David's death, and it was the last of the united kingdom. The Bible does not tire of telling of his great wealth (1 Kings 4) and many wives (1 Kings 11). He was renowned for his wisdom and forced labor policy or slave labor (1 Kings 5), which eventually caused unrest and rebellion.

1 Kings 11:9 says,

"The LORD was very angry with Solomon, for his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice."

However, Solomon began his reign with a deep concern for the things of God.

Solomon built the Temple (see 1 Kings 6–7). The Temple was twice as large but three times higher than the Tabernacle, which was a tent. It was completed in seven years and six months with forced labor. At the Dedication, God showed up, and His Shekinah Glory filled the Temple. Unfortunately, Nebuchadnezzar destroyed this Temple. The Temple constructed by Zerubbabel was also destroyed then replaced by Herod's Temple in Christ's day. Solomon also built a palace for himself, taking thirteen years to construct (1 Kings 7:1).

Rebellion followed Solomon's death, and a new breach opened between the North and the South. After Solomon's death, Rehoboam (Solomon's son) became king. He was headstrong and foolish. He refused a request by Jeroboam on

behalf of the people to lighten the burden and lessen the taxes. Rehoboam's refusal became the signal for widespread revolt resulting in ten tribes choosing Jeroboam as king of the North and Rehoboam as king of the South. War seemed inevitable.

During this period, Amos, Hosea, and Micah spoke to the people, warning them against putting their trust in the institution and not in God.

## THE MAJOR AND MINOR PROPHETS

The Covenant with Abraham, the giving of the Law at Sinai, the wilderness wandering, the conquest of the Promised Land, and the days of unity were now only memories in the minds of God's chosen people.

Now, as Israel slipped into decline morally and spiritually, the prophets stepped to centre stage. But Israel would not listen; they refused to take the prophet seriously. Furthermore, they coveted the promises and blessings of God but gave little evidence of being a blessing. There was no challenge to change until the Prophets appeared.

The Prophets were not blind; they knew that Israel's institutions and traditions had become distorted by taking the glory from God. Lawlessness prevailed (Micah 3:1–4, 9–11; 6:11–12; Isaiah 5:7; Jeremiah 8:8–10) The priesthood was corrupt (Hosea 4:4–10), complacency plagued the people (Amos 6:1–6; Jeremiah 8:12), and false prophets lulled the

people to sleep (Isaiah 9:15–16; 28:7; 30:9–14; Jeremiah 5:12, 30–31; 8:11; Micah 3:5–7). Circumcision and outward rituals had become a fixation (Jeremiah 9:25–26). At the same time, their hearts were far from God. This is evident in the New Testament (Philippians 3:2–6; Romans 2:28–29; Galatians 6:15).

Jeremiah wrote in Jeremiah 7:9–10 NLT,

"Do you really think you can steal, murder, commit adultery, lie, and burn incense to Baal and all those other new gods of yours, and then come here and stand before me in my Temple and chant, "We are safe!"—only to go right back to all those evils again?"

The Prophets' earnest plea was for Israel to turn back to God. When the Spirit of the Lord came upon them, they spoke, and things happened. God spoke through them, backing His word with signs and wonders (1 Kings 18:20–39).



The Prophets looked ahead and saw this time. They saw the Gentile and Jew who would make up the Body of Christ (Ephesians 3:5–6; Romans 11:17:24). They prophesied that the promised Messiah would come, that the earth would be filled with His glory, and Israel would be restored. Some prophets saw Heaven, the throne of God, and the angelic realm. For example, God instructed Isaiah to pray and declare, "Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you!" (Isaiah 64:11 NIV). When John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River, the Scripture tells us that Jesus saw the heavens opening (Mark

1:10–11). What had been declared by Isaiah ages ago had come to pass.



Many prophets foretold the coming of the Messiah and the circumstances surrounding His life on earth.

- Zechariah 9:9 speaks of Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey's colt (Matthew 21:4–10)
- Psalm 41:9 David wrote of betrayal by a friend ( John 13:18) and Zechariah 11:12–13 it would be for thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 26:14–16), and that the money would be used to purchase a potter's field.
- Isaiah 53:8–9 and Daniel 9:26 speaks of the Messiah and His sacrificial death (Matthew 27:50–60; Luke 23:33; 2 Corinthians 5:21), and that He would die with criminals.
- Isaiah 53:10 and Psalm 16:8–11 speak of the resurrection of Jesus (Matthew 28:6).
- Psalm 22:1, 8:18 speaks of mockery and how people would gamble for the Messiah's clothes.

Many other prophecies were perfectly fulfilled in the life of Jesus. For example, Isaiah prophesied—

Isaiah 11:1–3

"A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by



what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears."

Isaiah 9:7

"Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this."

## KINGS

### The Northern Kingdom

The Northern Kingdom journeyed through three eras.

1. The prophets delayed civil strife, but eventually, civil war out and brother was fighting brother. Baalism took a foothold during this time, and prophets Elijah and Elisha spoke against it with messages of doom and hope.
2. Material wealth had its effect upon their spiritual life. Prophets Amos and Hosea spoke to the dangers of spiritual decline.
3. The day of doom finally came. Destruction came to the North during Hoshea's reign in 722 BC. The people of Israel were scattered to the far corners of the Assyrian Empire.

### The Southern Kingdom

The Southern Kingdom journeyed through six eras—civil strife, Baalism, wealth, decline, reform, and destruction.

Under Josiah, they were gained strength by the finding of the Law in the Temple. Meanwhile, prophets Isaiah, Micah, and Jeremiah prophesied, bringing hope for the future. Isaiah announced the coming exile and that the remnant would return and Zion rebuilt. Isaiah foretold the coming of the Messiah as the suffering servant.

In 597 BC, Babylon attacked and deported King Jehoiachin and put Zedekiah on the throne (a puppet king). However, eleven years later, the day of doom came to Judah during Zedekiah's reign and in 586 BC captivity, which they endured for seventy years.

Three historical books are called “post captivity”: Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther. Also, there are three prophetic “post captivity” books: Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.<sup>12</sup>

## THE EXILE

The Babylonian conquest left Jerusalem pillaged and destroyed. Moreover, it left the people of Judah thinking that Babylon was mightier than Yahweh. Nevertheless, the hope of eventual restoration was never forgotten.

The dark night was over. Cyrus, the King of Persia, defeated the Babylonian forces and proclaimed restoration. He commanded that the temple vessels be restored and the Temple rebuilt. The Jews were now a nation of hope and

expectation. Finally, they were free to return to their homeland and begin again.

Prophets Zechariah and Haggai led the people in the restoration and rebuilding of the Temple. First, Ezra read the Book of the Law to the people for seven days. After that, Nehemiah led the people in the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. The wall was finished in 52 days.

The story of humankind is one of triumph and failure, choosing to accept or turn away from God's ways. Yet, God never faltered. He took a group of slaves and turned them into a nation of hope, a people set apart, to birth the Messiah.



## WHEN THE TIME HAD FULLY COME—JESUS

### Galatians 4:4

"But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship."

### PROPHECIES CONCERNING THE COMING MESSIAH

Genesis 3:15; 12:3; 49:10; Deuteronomy 32:18; 1 Samuel 2:10; Job 19:25; Psalm 21:5–7; 40:6–10; 68:18; 118:22–24; 118:26; Isaiah 11:1–16; Romans 15:12; Isaiah 28:16; 40:3; Luke 3:4; Isaiah 40:11; 42:1–4; 49:1–26; 12; 55:3–5; 56:1; 59:16–18; 59:20; 62:10–11; Jeremiah 23:5–6; 33:15–18; Daniel 7:13–14; 9:24–27; Haggai 2:7; Zechariah 3:8; 9:9; 13:1; Malachi 3:1–3; 4:2; Matthew 1:20–23; Luke 1:26–37; 1:41–45; 2:26; 2:31–32; 2:34–35; 2:38; 8:56; Acts 3:22–24; Romans 1:2–3; Hebrews 7:16; 10:9.

Isaiah 7:14 reveals the Messiah's birth. Micah 5:2 tells of Bethlehem as the birthplace of Jesus. Both Genesis and Jeremiah speak of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as ancestors from the tribe of Judah, the house of David (Genesis 12:12, 49:8–12, Jeremiah 23:5–6). The Psalms foretell the

resurrection and crucifixion as the means of His death (Psalm 16:10; Psalm 22).

### General References

Deuteronomy 18:15; 18:18; 7:37; Matthew 21:11; 21:46; Luke 7:16; 7:39; 13:33; 24:19; John 3:2; 4:19; 6:14; 7:40; 9:17; Acts 3:22–23<sup>13</sup>

### THE WORLD WAS READY

God's hand had been everywhere, shaping the course of history for the coming of His Christ. He looked down upon His world and wept. The forces of darkness had wreaked pain and suffering for too long. Finally, the lights had gone out, and when the brave of God struggled to light a candle of hope, the devil snuffed it out.

The expectation of a Messiah had been carried around in Hebrew hearts for centuries. The old prophecies had been written on scrolls and were read or heard by people throughout time. They were waiting for the Kingdom of God to come. The same goes for many people today. They have expectations, but they do not know that God Himself planted expectations in their hearts.

Augustus Caesar was emperor of Rome, and Herod the Great was King of Judea but a subject of Rome. Augustus Caesar commanded 10,000 men to build a network of military roads from one end to the other end of his domain. These roads

built to carry troops to battle were the pathways used to spread the Gospel. The conquest of Alexander spread the Greek language, but other languages were also in use. He began His public life at about thirty years of age. The Jews were scattered but united. However, the Roman Empire was cluttered with gods and goddesses. Moral corruption, despair, and injustice were everywhere. Amidst all this, Jesus came to a religious, patriarchal world where Judaism governed the behavior of the Jews.

The world was ready for the Messiah to come. Rabbinic stipulations burdened the people, and ultimately, the load was too heavy to bear; the chosen ones were crushed and destroyed under the weight of a distorted law that had lost its meaning. Legalism prevailed. Rabbinic stipulations burdened the people. "There are 252 commands and laws in the Old Testament. However, Judaism had 613 commandments and laws. There were four hundred years of silence between the last Old Testament book, Malachi, and the first New Testament Book, Matthew. In those years of silence, religious leaders called scribes and Pharisees began to reinterpret the Old Testament, adding their traditions, laws, and opinions to the Bible (Torah). What they wound up with ultimately became known as Judaism." <sup>14</sup>

In Jesus of Nazareth, The Devil's Reign Was Over. Finally, the prophecies were fulfilled—the Light had come and shed divine Light on the darkness of human suffering! The Redeemer came, exposed the proud pretenders and the self-

righteous culture, and angered the stubborn who refused to see (John 9:24–34).

Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary at Bethlehem; his foster father was Joseph. The year was probably in 5BC. The 25<sup>th</sup> of December is not His birth date but an appropriate day to celebrate it.

## JUDAISM

Judaism was stricter than the Old Testament Law. As a result, the poor, the blind, the leper, and the widows were demoralized, and women were oppressed. Even the ordinary Jew was downtrodden in the house of God. Jesus did not come to make this world better but to change it completely. So likewise, he did not come into my life to make my misery better; He came to change it completely.

## How Did Jesus Handle Judaism?

Wherever Jesus went, He saw distortion and spoke it to without fear. Everything Jesus did demonstrated that there was no need to fear being contaminated by sinners, lepers, or outcasts. He opened the eyes of a blind man who was wrongly thought to be cursed by God. Many of Jesus' friends were women, sinners, outcasts, and unclean. He healed blind eyes but called the religious leaders of His day "blind guides!" He was not afraid of those who opposed Him. He announced the acceptable year of the Lord and was not afraid to demonstrate it, even at the scorn and contempt of the

religious leaders. He lashed out at the destruction of God's original purposes of the Law.

#### Mark 2:26–28 NLT

"He went into the house of God (during the days when Abiathar was high priest) and broke the law by eating the sacred loaves of bread that only the priests are allowed to eat. He also gave some to his companions." Then Jesus said to them, "The Sabbath was made to meet the needs of people, and not people to meet the requirements of the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord, even over the Sabbath!"

In a synagogue, He healed a man with a withered hand (Matthew 12:9–14) and a woman who was bent over and unable to stand straight for eighteen years (Luke 13:10–17) and exposed the religiosity of those hearts, making the law more important than life itself. He called out distortion wherever he went—especially those who valued the traditions more highly than the meaning behind the traditions. For example, Matthew 15:1–5 says, "Some Pharisees and teachers of religious law now arrived from Jerusalem to see Jesus. They asked him, "Why do your disciples disobey our age-old tradition? For they ignore our tradition of ceremonial hand washing before they eat." Jesus replied, "And why do you, by your traditions, violate the direct commandments of God?"

He exposed those who worshipped things instead of the Creator (John 2:13–16). He called out and those who sought



the promises of God without the responsibility (John 8:39–40). He saw their practices which forbade fraternization with sinners, as a barrier to the Kingdom of God by telling the parable of the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, and the Prodigal Son (Luke 15). Under the New Covenant, there would be no separation between Jew and Gentile, slave and free, male and female (Galatians 3:28).

At every opportunity, Jesus attacked the distortions of His Father's word. The doctrines taught by tradition were "the commandments of men." (Matthew 15:9; Mark 7:6–7). Jesus smashed the belief of the Pharisees that God only fellowshiped with those who made themselves righteous and replaced it with a New Covenant of Grace.

He healed everyone who came to Him. Luke 8:2 tells us he healed certain women of evil spirits and infirmities—Mary called Magdalene, out of whom He cast seven demons. He calmed storms that were wrongly thought to be sent by God. He was not afraid to give His inexperienced disciples power and authority over demons, to heal the sick (Luke 9:1–2). He was not afraid to allow women to be His disciples along with the men (see Matt 27:55, Mark 15:41) and not afraid to go against the culture of the day and treat women equally. He was not afraid to appoint seventy more disciples and give them authority to heal the sick and declare that the Kingdom of God has come near to you (see Luke 10:9).

Everything Jesus Did Gave People a Taste of the New Covenant of Grace He Was About To Bring In.

Throughout the time Jesus walked the earth, He gave us glimpses of the New Covenant He was to accomplish through His death, burial, and resurrection. He made the way for everyone who would accept it to be free from guilt and punishment.

Jesus came with an extraordinary display of compassion to reveal His Father's nature (see John 5:19). Nevertheless, he lived in contradiction to the Old Testament understanding of God. For example, the Old Covenant rejected the leper, a woman on her period, and a dead body.

Numbers 5:2 says,

"Command the people of Israel to remove from the camp anyone who has a skin disease or a discharge, or who has become ceremonially unclean by touching a dead person."

Jesus, in contradiction, reached out and touched a leper (Matt 8:1–4). He allowed a woman with a discharge to touch the hem of His garment (Mark 5:25–34), and He held the hand of a dead girl and raised her back to life (see Mark 5:35–43). Jesus was giving the people of the New Covenant He was about to bring by His death in the Cross.

Jesus calmed storms, healed people, set them free from demonic torment. Jesus was a friend to the friendless. Each person Jesus met was of immeasurable worth in His eyes, and

no one stood beyond His reach or touch. He deplored sin but loved the sinner. He dirtied His hands and feet in the quest to reach people.

### He Revealed His Father's Nature

When He saw a leper, He was moved with pity (Mark 1:41). When people hungered, He fed them (Mark 6:39–44). When He saw people like sheep without a shepherd, "He had compassion on them" (Mark 6:34). When He saw people burdened by sin, He forgave them (Mark 2:5). He was filled with anger when confronted with bigotry, hypocrisy, and the blatant misuse of God's word. (Matthew 23:13–26; Mark 11:15–17).

### Jesus Was A Man.

He experienced temptations (Matthew 4:1; Hebrews 2:18)

Sorrow ( Matthew 26:38)

Fear (Matt 26:30)

Exhaustion and fatigue ( Mark 4:38)

Distress in heart and spirit (Mark 14:33)

Thirst (John 19:28)

Hunger (Matt 4:2)

Loneliness (John 6:66)

Rejection (John 7:7,

Pain and suffering (Mark 15:37)

He wept (Luke 19:41)

Showed a need for friendship and fellowship with others around Him (John 11:5)

He confessed a limited knowledge (Matt 24:36)

He was not pretending to be a man.

HE WAS A MAN born in our likeness.

Obedience to God Dominated His Life (Philippians 2:8)  
He depended upon His Father (Mark 1:35; 6:46; 7:34; Luke 3:21; 6:12–13; 9:28–29; 22:14; John 8:26). He was thankful (Luke 22:17; 22:19). He had a determination to do the will of God that knew no end (John 5:30; 6:38; 8:29; 10:36–38; 17:14). He verbally assaulted the religious leaders who were responsible for teaching the law, calling them "brood of vipers" (Matthew 23:33) and hypocrites (Matthew 6:5). He belittled the pride-filled righteousness (Matt 5:20) and said they were void of understanding (Matt 12:1–8), accused them of blatant transgression (Matthew 15:1–9), and pronounced woes on them (Matthew 23:1–36).

## THE CROSS

Scriptures Concerning the Sacrifice of Jesus

Psalms 22:6–8; 22:11–13; 22:17–21; 69:7–9; 69:20; 109:25  
Isaiah 50:6; 52:13–14; 53:1–12; Micah 5:1; Zechariah 11:12–13; 13:6–7; Matthew 27:35; 16:21; 17:12; 17:22–23; 20:17–19;  
Mark 8:31; 15:24; 10:32–34; Luke 2:34–35; 9:22; 18:31–33; 22:37; 23:34; John 19:23; 12:38; 1 Peter 1:11 <sup>15</sup>

The Bible tells us that the wage of sin is death (Romans 6:23), and we have all sinned, so if we all paid the penalty for our sins, we would all be dead. Fortunately, Jesus paid the penalty on our behalf. He gave His life as a ransom and set us free from the guilt and punishment of sin. He died to make the unrighteous righteous (Romans 6:18).

## 1 Peter 3:18

"Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit."

## THE RESURRECTION

The empty tomb—death conquered! The Resurrection of Jesus proves the ultimate triumph of good over evil.

## Romans 1:4

"and he was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus Christ our Lord."

The resurrection revealed who Christ was—the Son of God. The mighty miracles he performed also confirmed who He was. When Jesus spoke of God as His Father, the Jews rightly understood Him to be claiming equality with God (John 5:18).

## Names He Was Called

He was called a hoax, an imposter (John 8:28-59; 9:16; 10:20, 22–23; Mark 2:6–7), a drunk possessed by a demon (Mark 3:22). Even his best friends thought he had lost His mind (Mark 3:21). Many thought His claims were outrageous. But I want to tell you today that His Kingdom is built upon truth. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Jesus was a teacher. He taught about issues that concern us. When we

listen to Jesus, we are confronted with the heart of the Father (John 14:8–11). Your hunger for life is satisfied in Him because your life has meaning in the One who created it (Acts 17:28).

In addition to being a revealer of God, Jesus was a revealer of humankind. He came to change our lives entirely from the old to the new. This new life is by divine decree, and His promises ratified in the blood of His Son are eternal.

John 10:10

"The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life."

John 8:12

"Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the Light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the Light that leads to life."

Because of Jesus, God's anger against sin is satisfied, and today, all we can expect from God is forgiveness, love, grace, and truth, not a bill demanding payment. I cannot find any New Testament scripture that says we have to pay the penalty if we sin.

Jesus Is called The Prince of Peace

Isaiah 9:6

"For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be

called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Peace is a person and the atmosphere of Heaven. In Luke 10:5, Jesus told His disciples, "Whenever you enter someone's home, first say, 'May God's peace be on this house.'" In doing so, we release the atmosphere of Heaven to yielded hearts while simultaneously undermining the powers of darkness at work in that home.

When Jesus walked the earth, He was called many things! He was labeled an imposter (see John 8:48–59; 9:16; 10:20, Mark 2:6–7), and others thought He was possessed "Beelzebub, the ruler of demons (see Mark 3:21). Those who hated Him purposefully attacked His integrity (see Matt 11:9), and sarcastically branded Him as "a friend of sinners."

Who Do You Say That He Is?

A teacher, a radical man who verbally attacked religious leaders, a revolutionary, a moralist, a friend to the friendless? Many thought of Him as a hoax, but to every man, woman, and child who encountered Him, He was who He claimed to be—the Son of God, the Messiah.

When Jesus asked His disci[pl]es, "Who do you say I Am? Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God (see Matt 16:15–16). This is who Jesus is; He is the Messiah and God the Son.<sup>16</sup> The New Testament claims Jesus is Lord (see Philippians 2:11).

Paul wrote to the Colossians  
Colossians 1:15–20

"Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything. For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross."

John 1:1–3 declares,

"In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him."

John 1:14 says,

"So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son."



The Word, In The Beginning, Was With God and Became a Human. Why?

Keeping it simple—Jesus said that He did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them (Luke 9:36). Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8), which He accomplished at Calvary (Colossians 2:15). He came to atone for our sins (1 John 2:2; 3:5), to give us eternal life (John 3:16, and He came that we might have abundant life (John 10:10). Most importantly, Jesus came to reveal to us not only the true nature of His Father but our true nature as well.

Our True Nature Is In Him.

Our whole Christian life is lived in Him from start to eternity. (1 Corinthians 1:2). We are the righteousness of God in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21), made new creations in Him (2 Corinthians 5:17), brought near to God in Christ (Ephesians 2:13), and alive to God in Christ (Romans 6:11). We have the gift of no condemnation in Christ (Romans 8:1), set free from the bondage and curse of the law in Christ, and we are filled with the Holy Spirit in Christ. We are complete in Him (Colossians 2:9–10); we want to be found in Him, not having our own righteousness from the law but through faith in Him (Philippians 3:9–10). We are hidden in Him (Colossians 3:3), in Him we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28), in Him we are holy (1 Corinthians 1:2), and so much more.”<sup>17</sup>

Your Eternal Destiny Is In Him

John 5:24

"I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life."

Whatever You Have Gleaned From This Teaching,  
Remember This—

Most importantly, by His sacrifice on the cross, Jesus became the Great High Priest (see Hebrews 3:1; 4:14; 10:21), making the Old Covenant obsolete (Hebrews 8:13). God loves everyone, especially the lost. He is mindful of the needs of His children

Reach out. Invite Jesus into your heart. Make Him welcome.

Pray with me now.

Lord Jesus, I acknowledge you are Lord, sent by the Father.  
I want you in my heart in such a way that I know you are real.  
I did not know that you loved me so much.  
You are the Light in my darkness  
Set me free today to know your fullness.

## References

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## ENDNOTES

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid

<sup>5</sup> "The Feasts of Israel" © 1980 by Kevin J Conner Bible Temple—Conner Publications, Portland, Oregon, 97213

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<sup>13</sup> Nave Topical Bible (Public Domain) Published in 1896

<sup>14</sup> Fashioned to Reign © 2013 Kris Vallotton Published by chosen Books,  
1140 Hampshire Avenue, South Bloomington, Minnesota 55438  
[www.chosenbooks.com](http://www.chosenbooks.com)

<sup>15</sup> Nave Topical Bible (Public Domain) Published in 1896

<sup>16</sup> The Jews thought that the Son of the Living God was a claim to be  
God (Luke 5:21, John 5:18; 10:30–33).

<sup>17</sup> "What Has God Ever Done For Me?" © 2020 Colleen McLean  
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