

In The Volume
Of The Book



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The Testimony of Holy Scripture

There is one God and Creator of heaven and earth, and he chooses to exist in three persons - as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Canon of Scripture is authored by the Holy Spirit and is therefore accurate, trustworthy and true. He is the 'inspiration' that has enabled chosen writers to pen God's revelation to us as the divine word of truth. The essential themes of the Holy Bible are: creation, fall, redemption and glory, and the eternal Son of God is its primary character.

God created a perfect world and put humanity in charge of his creation. Mankind wilfully disobeyed God and rebelled against him, and in doing so gave the world over to a usurper (that serpent of old who is the devil and Satan). Spiritual death instantly entered into the corrupted creation, followed by physical death. And the proof that all are guilty before God is evident since all die! God is absolutely holy and must always be just. In order to be merciful his justice must also be satisfied. According to his standard 'the wages of sin is death', therefore human sin must be punished by death. So in order to forgive human sin it was necessary to find an atoning substitute. Only one perfect and spotless sacrificial substitute was possible to propitiate the wrath of God against our sin - the only Beloved of the Father, the Son of God himself. He chose to die our death in order to redeem a people zealous to serve the living God.

God chose to enter our world as man, Jesus of Nazareth, who could not have a human father (otherwise he would not have been God and he would have been contaminated by our innate sin nature). Because of God's promise to king David he also had to be in both the blood lineage and kingly line of David. Therefore he was born of the Holy Spirit as the seed of a woman (the virgin Mary) who was descended by blood through David's son Nathan, while his adopted father (Joseph) was a descendent of David through his son king Solomon.

Jesus came into the world as both the 'King of the Jews' and as the sacrificial 'Lamb of God'. By his voluntary sacrificial death on our behalf, he paid the penalty necessary to satisfy God's righteous anger against human sin. His Son's vicarious death enabled the Father to be merciful without violating his justice, since the Son's death provided us with the means - the only acceptable means - to be forgiven and be reconciled to fellowship with God.

Jesus promised to build his church out of the world. His church consists of 'living stones', that is those who believe in him and put their trust in him as Lord and Saviour. As the 'Good Shepherd' his promise is to take all his sheep - and to not lose even one - to be with him in his eternal kingdom. He will dismiss the old and create a new heaven and a new earth for his people and God will again dwell among his people, forever.

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And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgement, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for him he will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshippers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. But in those *sacrifices there is* a reminder of sins every year.

For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. Therefore, when he came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you have prepared for me. In burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin you had no pleasure. **Then I said, 'Behold, I have come - in the volume of the book it is written of me - to do your will, O God.'**"

Hebrews, Chapters 9 & 10



You have sent to John [the Baptist], and he has borne witness to the truth. Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved. He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light. But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of me, that the Father has sent me. **And the Father himself, who sent me, has testified of me.** You have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his form. But you do not have his word abiding in you, because whom he sent, him you do not believe.

You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of me. But you are not willing to come to me that you may have life.

I do not receive honour from men. But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you. I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive. How can you believe, who receive honour from one another, and do not seek the honour that *comes* from the only God?"

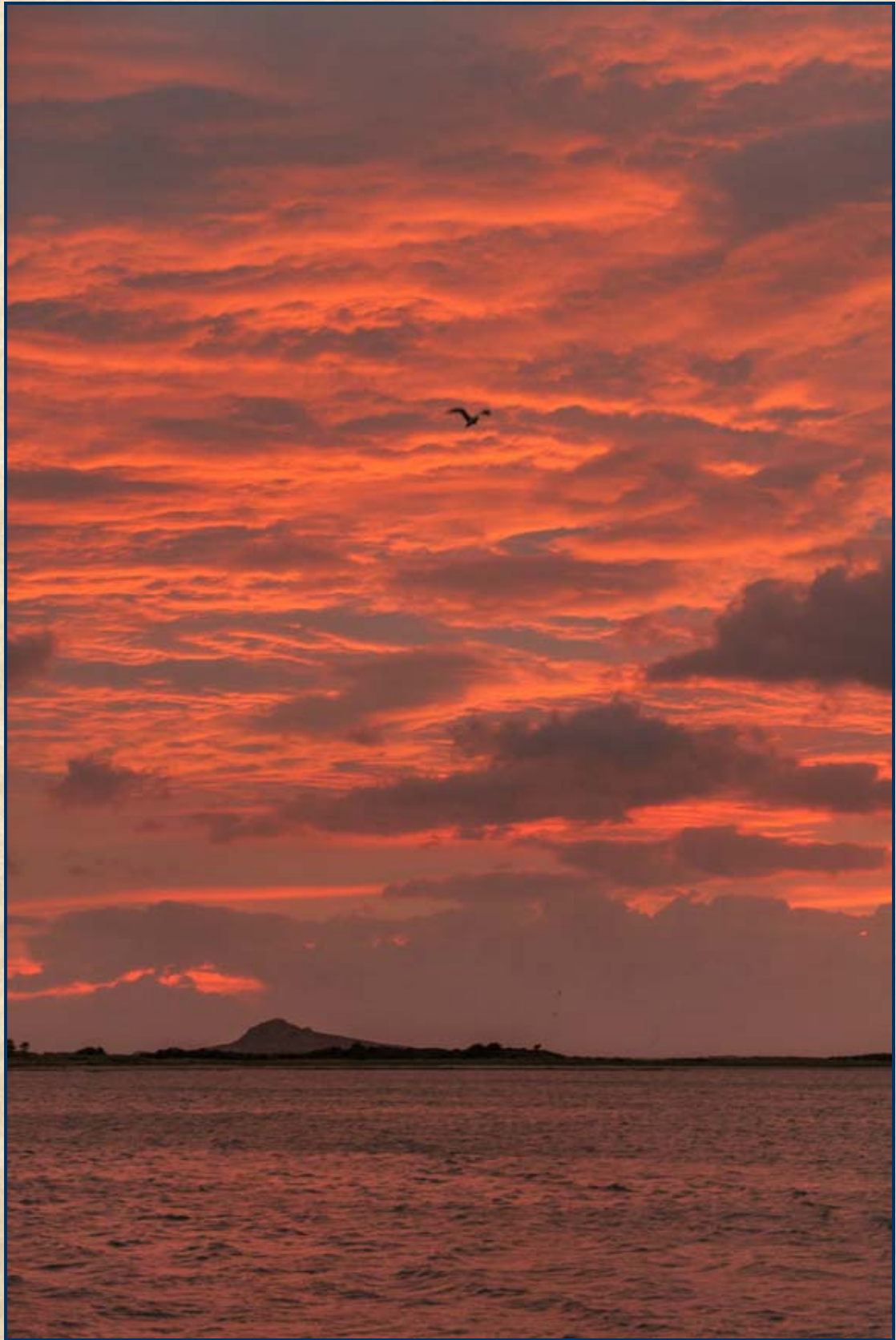
The Gospel of John, Chapter 5

Blessed *is* that man who makes the LORD his trust, and does not respect the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies. Many, O LORD my God, *are* your wonderful works *which* you have done; and your thoughts toward us cannot be recounted to you in order; *if* I would declare and speak *of them*, they are more than can be numbered.

Sacrifice and offering you did not desire; my ears you have opened. Burnt offering and sin offering you did not require. **Then I said, "Behold, I come; in the scroll of the book *it is* written of me. I delight to do your will, O my God, and your law *is* within my heart."**

I have proclaimed the good news of righteousness in the great assembly; indeed, I do not restrain my lips, O LORD, you yourself know.

I have not hidden your righteousness within my heart; I have declared your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your loving-kindness and your truth from the great assembly.



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him nothing was made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

He was in the world, and the world was made through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own did not receive him. But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in his name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John bore witness of him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for he was before me.'" And of his fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

The Gospel of John, Chapter 1

There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" **Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."**

Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Nicodemus answered and said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? Most assuredly, I say to you, we speak what we know and testify what we have seen, and you do not receive our witness."

If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended to heaven but he who came down from heaven, *that is*, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up [on a cross], that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life [because Christ's sacrificial death will pay the price of human sin for all who believe].

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.

He who believes in him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

For everyone practising evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

Blessed *is he whose* transgression *is* forgiven, *whose* sin *is* covered. Blessed *is* the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit *there is* no deceit.

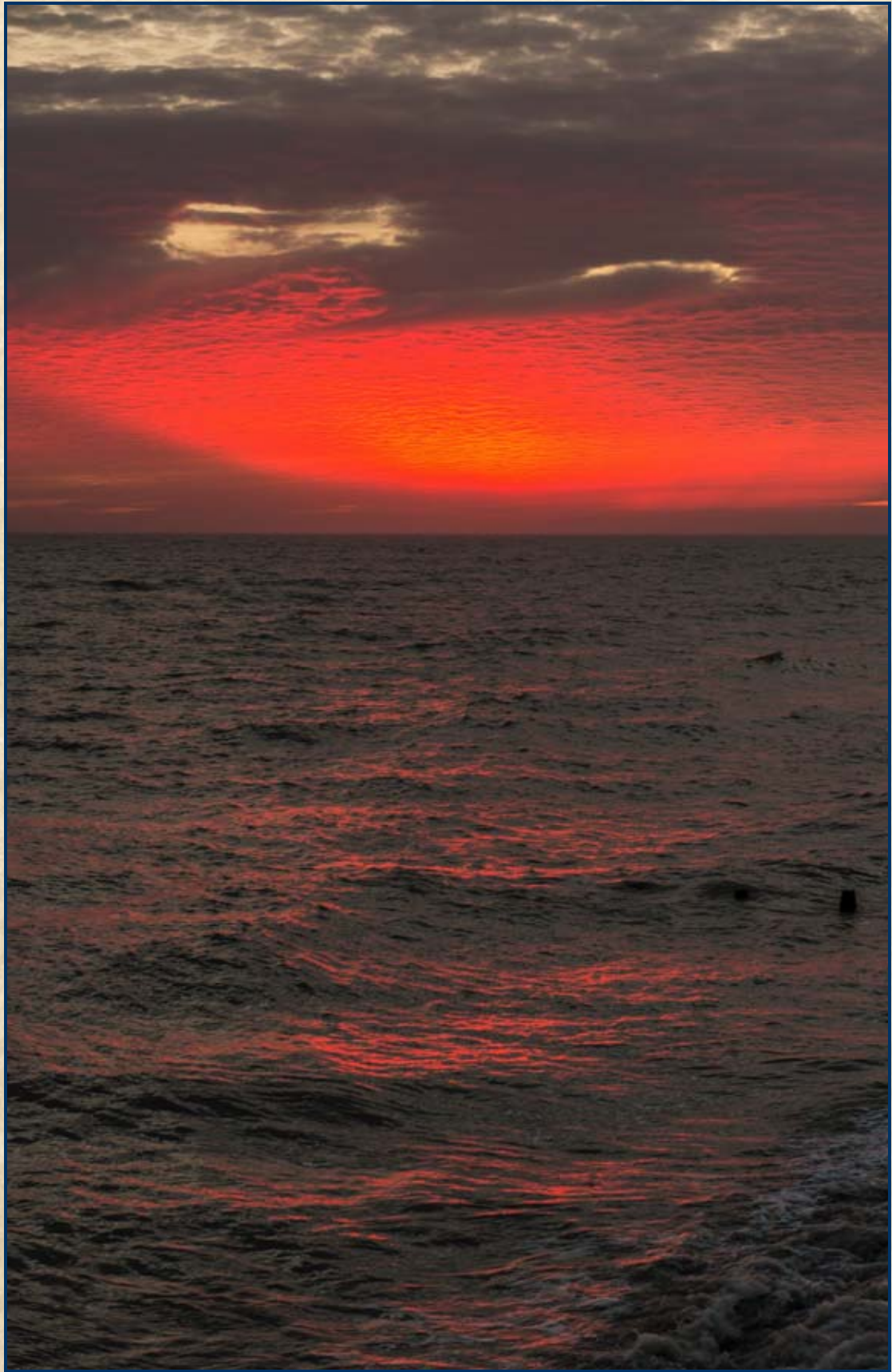
When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was turned into the drought of summer.

I acknowledged my sin to you, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to you in a time when you may be found; surely in a flood of great waters they shall not come near him. You *are* my hiding place; you shall preserve me from trouble; you shall surround me with songs of deliverance.

Many sorrows *shall be* to the wicked; but he who trusts in the LORD, mercy shall surround him. Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous; and shout for joy, all *you* upright in heart!

Psalms 32



In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw the light, that *it was* good; and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.

Genesis, Chapter 1

When Moses said to God, "Indeed, *when* I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What *is* his name?' what shall I say to them?" **And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM."** And he said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

Exodus, Chapter 3

When Jesus spoke to them again, saying, **"I am the light of the world.** He who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day, and he saw *it* and was glad." Then the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" **Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."**

The Gospel of John, Chapter 8

When Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." Then they said to him, "Lord, give us this bread always." **And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life.** He who comes to me shall never hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe.

All that the Father gives me will come to me, and the one who comes to me I will by no means cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. This is the will of the Father who sent me, that of all he has given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of him who sent me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. **I am the living bread which came down from heaven.** If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."

The Gospel of John, Chapter 6

The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; he leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for you *are* with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock; you who dwell *between* the cherubim, shine forth! Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength, and come *and* save us! Restore us, O God; cause your face to shine, and we shall be saved!

Psalms 23 & 80



When Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who *ever* came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep. But a hireling, *he who is* not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. **I am the good shepherd; and I know my sheep, and am known by my own.** As the Father knows me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear my voice; and there will be one flock *and* one shepherd.

Wherefore my Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from my Father."

The Gospel of John, Chapter 10

O LORD, *you are* the portion of my inheritance and my cup; you maintain my lot. The lines have fallen to me in pleasant *places*; yes, I have a good inheritance. I will bless the LORD who has given me counsel; my heart also instructs me in the night seasons. I have set the LORD always before me; because *he is* at my right hand I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; my flesh also will rest in hope. **For you will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will you allow your Holy One to see corruption.** You will show me the path of life; in your presence *is* fullness of joy; at your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.

Psalms 16

He was taken from prison and from judgement, and who will declare his generation? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgressions of my people he was stricken. And they made his grave with the wicked—but with the rich at his death, because he had done no violence, nor *was any* deceit in his mouth.

Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he has put *him* to grief. When you make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see the labour of his soul, *and* be satisfied. **By his knowledge my righteous Servant shall justify many, for he shall bear their iniquities.**

Therefore I will divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul unto death, and he was numbered with the transgressors, and he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Isaiah, Chapter 53

When Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." **Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"** She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

The Gospel of John, Chapter 10

And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. **I am he who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.**"

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, Chapter 1



Good and upright *is* the LORD; therefore he teaches sinners in the way. The humble he guides in justice, and the humble he teaches his way. All the paths of the LORD *are* mercy and truth, to such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Psalms 25

So that he who blesses himself in the earth shall bless himself in the God of truth; and he who swears in the earth shall swear by the God of truth; because the former troubles are forgotten, and because they are hidden from my eyes. For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.”

Isaiah, Chapter 65

Sing praise to the LORD, you saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holy name. For his anger *is but for* a moment, his favour *is for* life; weeping may endure for a night, but joy *comes* in the morning. Now in my prosperity I said, "I shall never be moved." LORD, by your favour you have made my mountain stand strong; you hid your face, *and* I was troubled. I cried out to you, O LORD; and to the LORD I made supplication: "What profit *is there* in my blood, when I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it declare your truth? Hear, O LORD, and have mercy on me; LORD, be my helper!"

For with you *is* the fountain of life; in your light we see light. Oh, continue your loving-kindness to those who know you, and your righteousness to the upright in heart. Let not the foot of pride come against me, and let not the hand of the wicked drive me away.

Psalms 30 & 36

Ƨhomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going, and how can we know the way?" **Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also; and from now on you know him and have seen him."**

The Gospel of John, Chapter 14

Now let me sing to my Well-beloved a song of my Beloved regarding his vineyard: my Well-beloved has a vineyard on a very fruitful hill. He dug it up and cleared out its stones, and planted it with the choicest vine. He built a tower in its midst, and also made a winepress in it; so he expected *it* to bring forth *good* grapes, but it brought forth wild grapes.

11 **A**nd now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge, please, between me and my vineyard. What more could have been done to my vineyard that I have not done in it? Why then, when I expected *it* to bring forth *good* grapes, did it bring forth wild grapes?

And now, please let me tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it shall be burned; *and* break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will lay it waste; it shall not be pruned or dug, but there shall come up briars and thorns. I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain on it.”

For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts *is* the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant plant. He looked for justice, but behold, oppression; for righteousness, but behold, a cry *for help*.

Isaiah, Chapter 5

I srael empties *his* vine; he brings forth fruit for himself. According to the multitude of his fruit he has increased the altars [to false gods]; according to the bounty of his land they have embellished *his sacred* pillars. Their heart is divided; now they are held guilty. He will break down their altars; he will ruin their *sacred* pillars. For now they say, "We have no king, because we did not fear the LORD. And as for a king, what would he do for us?" They have spoken words, swearing falsely in making a covenant. Thus judgement springs up like hemlock in the furrows of the field.

Hosea, Chapter 10

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned."

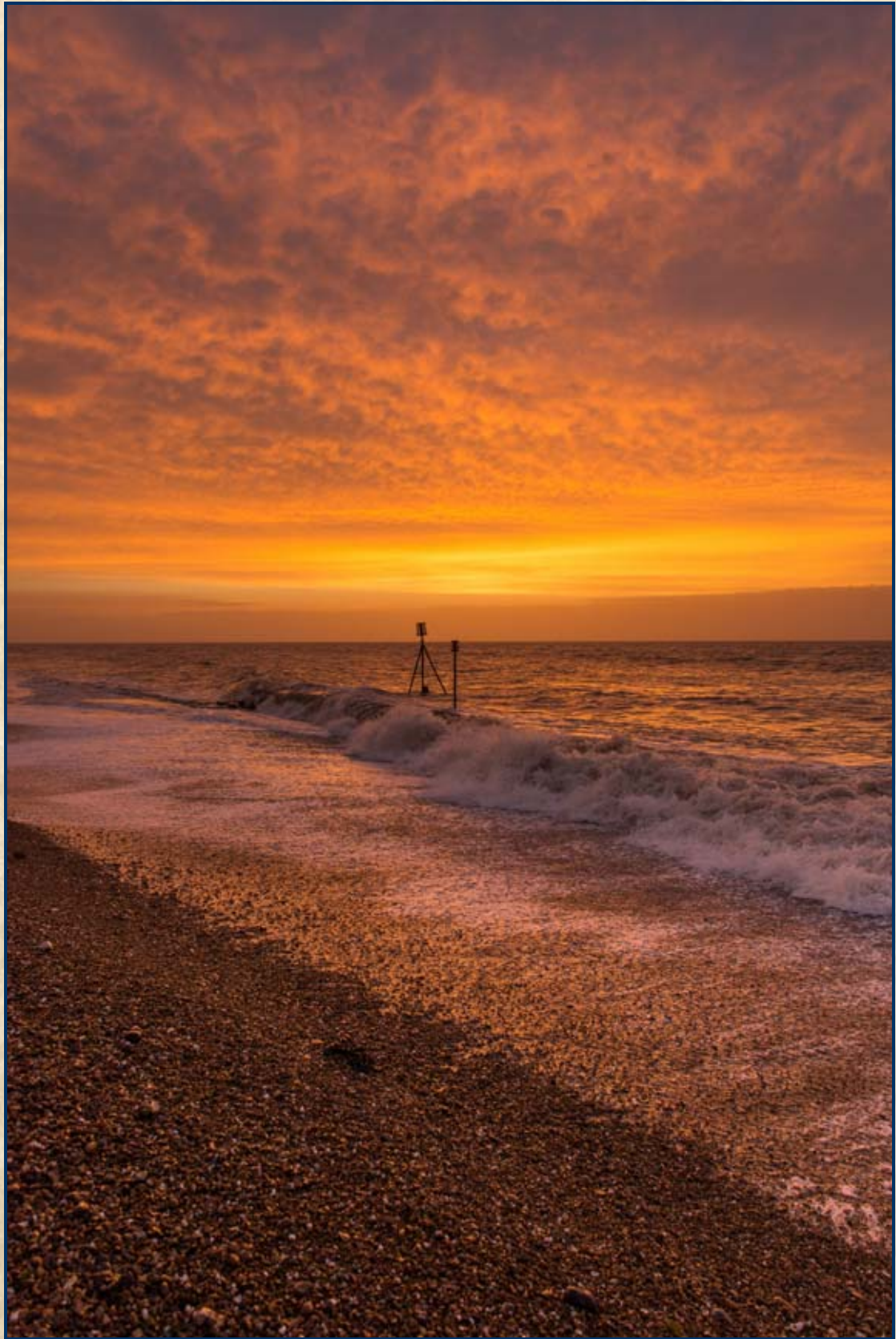
The Gospel of John, Chapter 15

If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which he has testified of his Son.

He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of his Son.

And this is the testimony: **that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.**

I John, Chapter 5

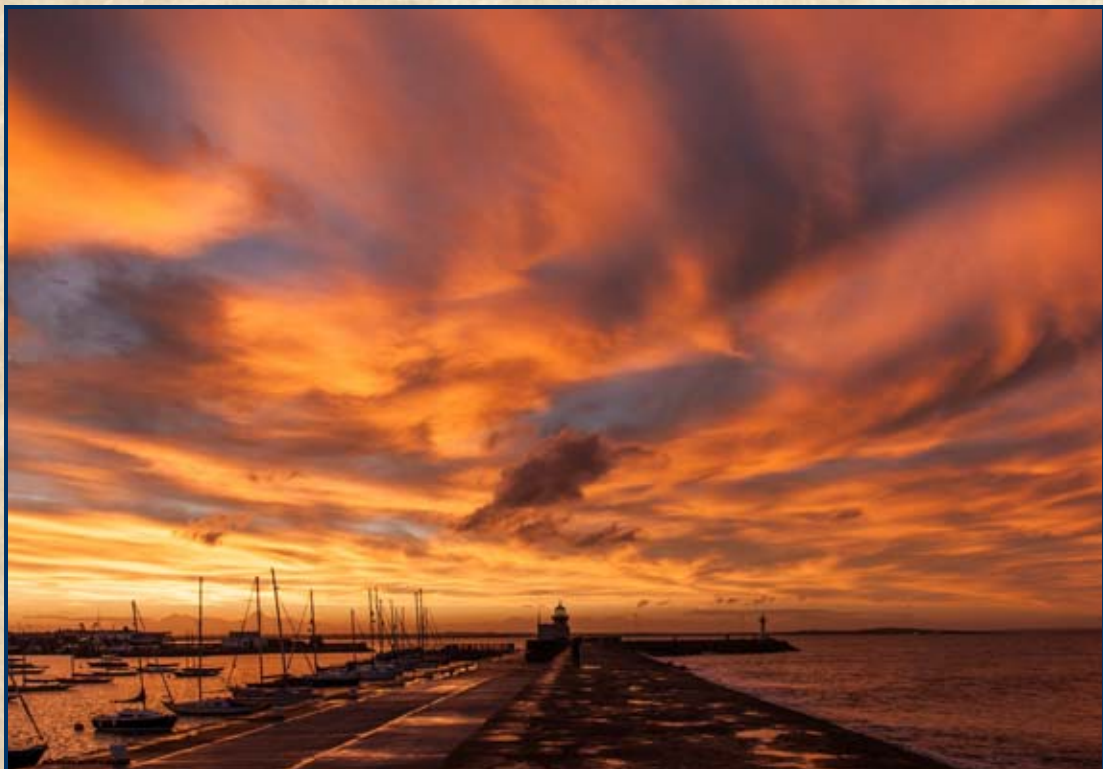


"Keeep silence before me, O coastlands, and let the people renew *their* strength! Let them come near, then let them speak; let us come near together for judgement.

Who raised up one from the east? Who in righteousness called him to his feet? Who gave the nations before him, and made *him* rule over kings? Who gave *them* as the dust *to* his sword, as driven stubble to his bow? Who pursued them, *and* passed safely by the way *that* he had not gone with his feet?

Who has performed and done *it*, calling the generations from the beginning? 'I, the LORD, am the first; and with the last I *am* he.'"

Isaiah, Chapter 41



Behold, he is coming with clouds, and every eye will see him, even they who pierced him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of him. Even so, Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the Beginning and the End*," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send *it* to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea." Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. **And having turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands, and in the midst of the seven lamp-stands one like the Son of Man**, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. His head and hair *were* white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes like a flame of fire; his feet *were* like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and his voice as the sound of many waters; he had in his right hand seven stars, out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and his countenance *was* like the sun shining in its strength. And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last."

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, Chapter 1

"**A**nd now the LORD says, who formed me from the womb *to be* his Servant, to bring Jacob back to him, so that Israel is gathered to him (for I shall be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength), indeed he says, **'It is too small a thing that you should be my Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be my salvation to the ends of the earth.'**" Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel, their Holy One, to him whom man despises, to him whom the nation abhors, to the Servant of rulers: "Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship, because of the LORD who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel; and he has chosen you."

Thus says the LORD: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you; I will preserve you and give you as a covenant to the people, to restore the earth, to cause them to inherit the desolate heritages; that you may say to the prisoners, 'Go forth,' to those who *are* in darkness, 'Show yourselves.' They shall feed along the roads, and their pastures *shall be* on all desolate heights. They shall neither hunger nor thirst, neither heat nor sun shall strike them; for he who has mercy on them will lead them, even by the springs of water he will guide them."

Isaiah, Chapter 49



The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to *him who is weary*. **He awakens me morning by morning, he awakens my ear to hear as the learned. The Lord GOD has opened my ear; and I was not rebellious, nor did I turn away.** I gave my back to those who struck *me*, and my cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide my face from shame and spitting. For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore I will not be disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I will not be ashamed. Surely the Lord GOD will help me; *who is he who will condemn me?* Indeed they will all grow old like a garment; the moth will eat them up.”

Isaiah, Chapter 50

Then he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into his glory?" **And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, he expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.**

Now it came to pass, as he sat at the table with them, that he took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they knew him; and he vanished from their sight. And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while he talked with us on the road, and while he opened the Scriptures to us?"

So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those *who were* with them gathered together, saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" And they told about the things *that had happened* on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of bread.

Now as they said these things, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you." But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. And he said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts?"

Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Handle me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

But while they still did not believe for joy, and marvelled, he said to them, "Have you any food here?" So they gave him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. And he took *it* and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "**These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning me.**"

And he opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then he said to them, "**Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.** And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of my Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

The Gospel of Luke, Chapter 24

Why God, My God, why have you forsaken me? *Why are you so far from helping me, and from the words of my groaning?* O My God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not hear; and in the night season, and am not silent. But you *are* holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel.

All those who see me ridicule me; they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, *saying*, "He trusted in the LORD, let him rescue him; let him deliver him, since he delights in him!" But you *are* he who took me out of the womb; you made me trust *while* on my mother's breasts. I was cast upon you from birth. From my mother's womb you *have been* my God. Be not far from me, for trouble *is* near; for *there is* none to help.

Many bulls have surrounded me; strong *bulls* of Bashan have encircled me. They gape at me *with* their mouths, *like* a raging and roaring lion. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it has melted within me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue clings to my jaws; you have brought me to the dust of death.

For dogs have surrounded me; the congregation of the wicked has enclosed me. **They pierced my hands and my feet; I can count all my bones.** They look *and* stare at me. They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

But you, O LORD, do not be far from me; O my Strength, hasten to help me! Deliver me from the sword, my precious *life* from the power of the dog. Save me from the lion's mouth and from the horns of the wild oxen!

You have answered me. I will declare your name to my brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will praise you. You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify him, and fear him, all you offspring of Israel! For he has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; nor has he hidden his face from him; but when he cried to him, he heard.

My praise *shall be* of you in the great assembly; I will pay my vows before those who fear him. The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him will praise the LORD. Let your heart live forever! All the ends of the world shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you. For the kingdom *is* the LORD'S, and he rules over the nations. All the prosperous of the earth shall eat and worship; all those who go down to the dust shall bow before him, even he who cannot keep himself alive. A posterity shall serve him. It will be recounted of the Lord to the *next* generation, they will come and declare his righteousness to a people who will be born, that he has done *this*.

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? *It is* he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants *are* like grasshoppers, who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. He brings the princes to nothing; he makes the judges of the earth useless. Scarcely shall they be planted, scarcely shall they be sown, scarcely shall their stock take root in the earth, when he will also blow on them, and they will wither, and the whirlwind will take them away like stubble. **"To whom then will you liken me, or to whom shall I be equal?" says the Holy One.**

Lift up your eyes on high, and see who has created these *things*, who brings out their host by number; he calls them all by name, by the greatness of his might and the strength of *his* power; not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel: "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my just claim is passed over by my God"? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.

Isaiah, Chapter 40

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. **All things were made through him, and without him nothing was made that was made.** In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. **For by him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things consist.** And he is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he may have the pre-eminence.

But to the Son *he says*: **"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of your Kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness more than your companions." And: "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak you will fold them up, and they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will not fail."**

The Gospel of John, Colossians & Hebrews, Chapter 1

"And now the LORD says, who formed me from the womb *to be* his Servant, to bring Jacob back to him, so that Israel is gathered to him (for I shall be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength), indeed he says, **'It is too small a thing that you should be my Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be my salvation to the ends of the earth.'**"

¶hus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel, their Holy One, to him whom man despises, to him whom the nation abhors, to the Servant of rulers: "Kings shall see and arise, Princes also shall worship, because of the LORD who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel; and he has chosen you."

¶hus says the LORD: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you; I will preserve you and give you as a covenant to the people, to restore the earth, to cause them to inherit the desolate heritages; that you may say to the prisoners, 'Go forth,' to those who *are* in darkness, 'Show yourselves.'"

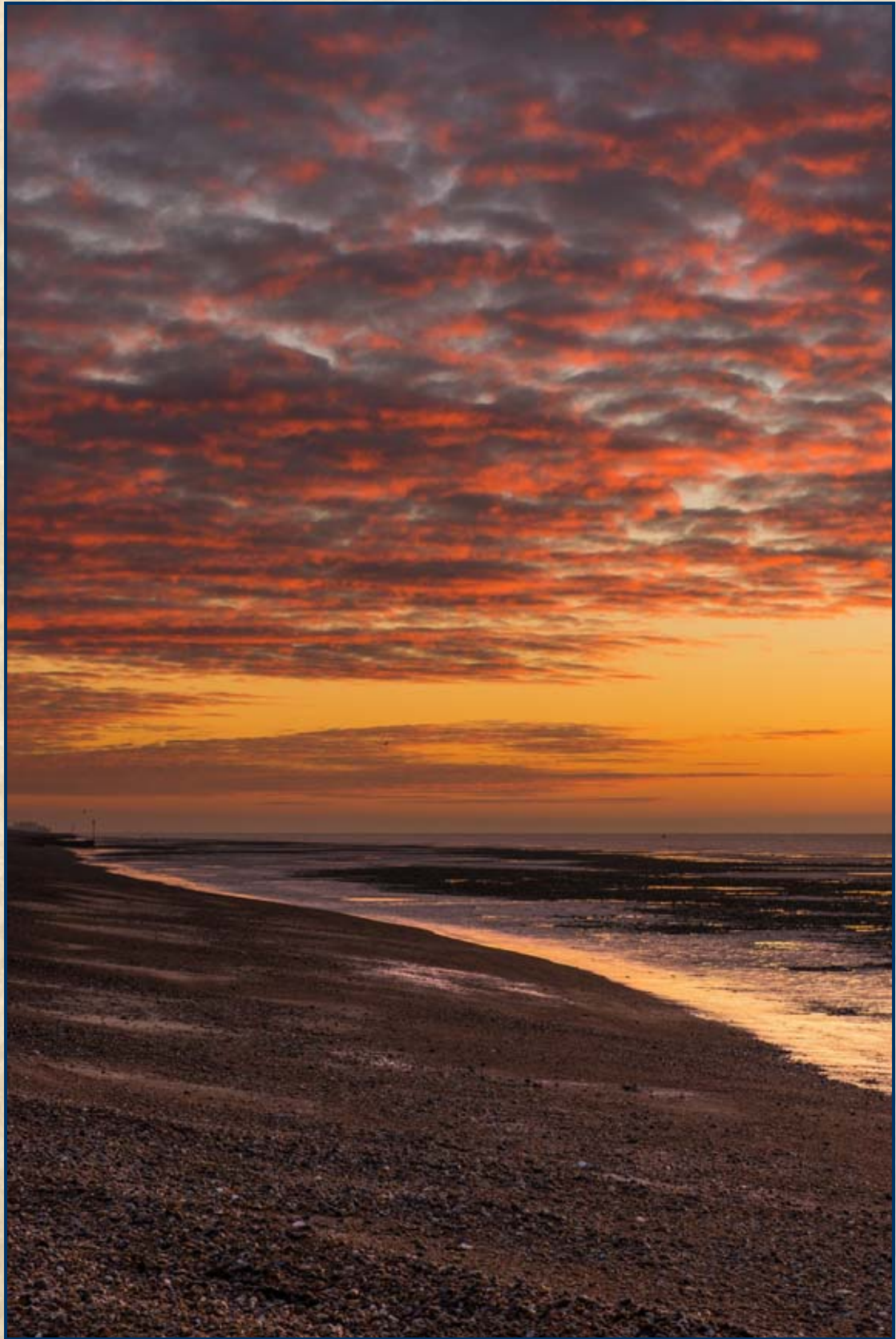
Isaiah, Chapter 49

for unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder. And his name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father [or Father of Eternity], Prince of Peace. Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there will be* no end, upon the throne of David and over his kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgement and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Isaiah, Chapter 9

When the angel said to them [the shepherds], "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. **For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.**" And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

The Gospel of Luke, Chapter 2



"I was watching in the night visions, and behold, *one* like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought him near before him. **Then to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.**"

"R now therefore and understand, *That* from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, *there shall be* seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times. And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it *shall be* with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined."

"I t shall be in that day *that* I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; **then they will look on me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for him as one grieves for a firstborn.**"

Daniel, Chapters 7 & 9, Zechariah, Chapter 12

Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, *saying*, "Let us break their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us."

He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision. Then he shall speak to them in his wrath, and distress them in his deep displeasure: **"Yet I have set my Ring on my holy hill of Zion."**

"I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to me, 'You *are* my Son, today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will give *you* the nations *for* your inheritance, and the ends of the earth *for* your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; you shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.'"

Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish *in* the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed *are* all those who put their trust in him.

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, **"Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East and have come to worship him."** When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: 'But you, Bethlehem, *in* the land of Judah, are not the least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you shall come a Ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

The Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 2

When Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you to me. What have you done?"

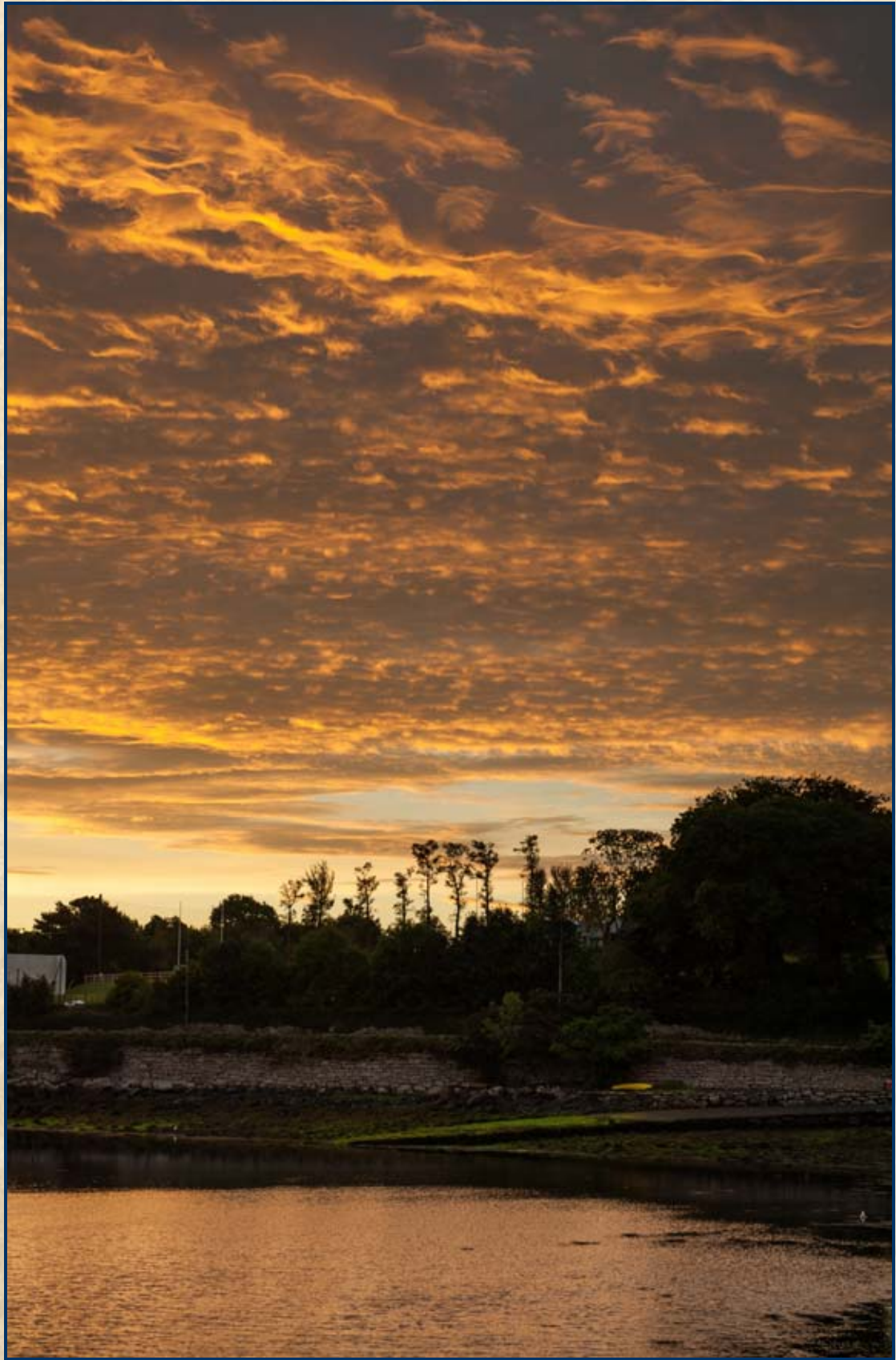
Jesus answered, **"My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now my kingdom is not from here."**

Pilate therefore said to him, "Are you a king then?"
Jesus answered, "You say *rightly* that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice." Pilate said to him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in him at all. But you have a custom that I should release someone to you at the Passover. Do you therefore want me to release to you the King of the Jews?"

The Gospel of John, Chapter 18

Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And he who sat on him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on his head *were* many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except himself. He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed him on white horses. Now out of his mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it he should strike the nations. And he himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. **And he has on *his* robe and on his thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.**

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, Chapter 19



"The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor; he has sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *those who are* bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified."

Isaiah, Chapter 61

And he was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the LORD *is* upon me, because he has anointed me to preach the gospel to *the* poor; he has sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to *the* captives and recovery of sight to *the* blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD." Then he closed the book, and gave *it* back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on him. **And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."**

The Gospel of Luke, Chapter 4

Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' **But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.'** So they took him and cast *him* out of the vineyard and killed *him*."

The Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 21



Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, **for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call his name JESUS, for he will save his people from their sins.**" So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call his name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called his name JESUS.

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East and have come to worship him."

The Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 1

When evening had come, he [Jesus] sat down with the twelve. Now as they were eating, he said, "Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to him, "Lord, is it I?" He answered and said, "He who dipped *his* hand with me in the dish will betray me. **The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of him,** but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born."

¶ Then Judas, who was betraying him, answered and said, "Rabbi, is it I?" He said to him, "You have said it." And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." Then he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them, **"All of you will be made to stumble because of me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee."**

The Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 26



"**B**lessed *is* the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people, and has raised up a horn of salvation [the Messiah or Christ] for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets, who *have been* since the world began, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us, to perform the mercy *promised* to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath which he swore to our father Abraham: To grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our life.

And you, child, [John the Baptist] will be called the prophet of the Highest; **for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the remission of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."**

The Gospel of Luke, Chapter 1

And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name *was* Simeon, and this man *was* just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said: "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to *bring* revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him. Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this *child* is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

The Gospel of Luke, Chapter 2

No one has ascended to heaven but he who came down from heaven, *that is*, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up [crucified], that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. **For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved. He who believes in him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

The Gospel of John, Chapter 3



"**A**nd the Father himself, who sent me, has testified of me. You have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his form. But you do not have his word abiding in you, because whom he sent, him you do not believe. **You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of me.** But you are not willing to come to me that you may have life. I do not receive honour from men. But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you. I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive. How can you believe, who receive honour from one another, and do not seek the honour that *comes* from the only God?

Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is *one* who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. **For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote about me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"**

After these things Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is *the Sea* of Tiberias. Then a great multitude followed him, because they saw his signs which he performed on those who were diseased.

The Gospel of John, Chapters 5 & 6

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are my disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How *can* you say, 'You will be made free'?" Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, *but* a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of myself, but he sent me. **Why do you not understand my speech? Because you are not able to listen to my word.** You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me.

Which of you convicts me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? **He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God.**"

The Gospel of John, Chapter 8

"**M**ost assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, let him follow me; and where I am, there my servant will be also. If anyone serves me, him *my* Father will honour.

Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, *saying*, "I have both glorified *it* and will glorify *it* again."

Therefore the people who stood by and heard *it* said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come because of me, but for your sake.

Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all *peoples* to myself." This he said, signifying by what death he would die.

The Gospel of John, Chapter 12



When Jesus cried out and said, "He who believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And he who sees me sees him who sent me. **I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in me should not abide in darkness. And if anyone hears my words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.** He who rejects me, and does not receive my words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken on my own *authority*; but the Father who sent me gave me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that his command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told me, so I speak."

The Gospel of John, Chapter 12

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son also may glorify you, as you have given him authority over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. **I have glorified you on the earth. I have finished the work which you have given me to do. And now, O Father, glorify me together with yourself, with the glory which I had with you before the world was.** I have manifested your name to the men whom you have given me out of the world. They were yours, you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they have known that all things which you have given me are from you. For I have given to them the words which you have given me; and they have received *them*, and have known surely that I came forth from you; and they have believed that you sent me. **I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. And all mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them.**

Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to you. Holy Father, keep through your name those whom you have given me, that they may be one as we *are*."

The Gospel of John, Chapter 17

I have given them your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. **I do not pray that you should take them out of the world, but that you should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by your truth. Your word is truth.**

As you sent me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. **I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in me through their word; that they all may be one, as you, Father, are in me, and I in you; that they also may be one in us, that the world may believe that you sent me.** And the glory which you gave me I have given them, that they may be one just as we are one: I in them, and you in me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that you have sent me, and have loved them as you have loved me.

Father, I desire that they also whom you gave me may be with me where I am, that they may behold my glory which you have given me; for you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father! The world has not known you, but I have known you; and these have known that you sent me.”

The Gospel of John, Chapter 17

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked him, saying, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And he said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in his own authority. **But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**" Now when he had spoken these things, while they watched, he was taken up, and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, "**Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw him go into heaven.**"

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James *the son* of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas *the son* of James. These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

Acts, Chapter 1

For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand. Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, he is in the desert!' do not go out; *or* 'Look, *he is* in the inner rooms!' do not believe *it*.

For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.

Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

When the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

The Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 24

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, *which is* manifest evidence of the righteous judgement of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; **since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power, when he comes, in that Day, to be glorified in his saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

II Thessalonians, Chapter 1

Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.

Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.

For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains *will do so* until he is taken out of the way. **And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of his mouth and destroy with the brightness of his coming.**

The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

II Thessalonians, Chapter 2

He [Jesus Christ] was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed him on white horses. Now out of his mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it he should strike the nations. And he himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he has on *his* robe and on his thigh a name written:

RING OF RINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him who sat on the horse and against his army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshipped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, Chapter 19



Men *and* brethren, let *me* speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, **he would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that his soul was not left in Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.** Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he poured out this which you now see and hear. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, till I make your enemies your footstool.'" Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?" Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

Acts, Chapter 2

Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. So there they [Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus] laid Jesus, because of the Jews' Preparation *Day*, for the tomb was nearby.

Now on the first *day* of the week [Sunday] Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw *that* the stone had been taken away from the tomb. Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved [John], and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."

Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying *there*, yet he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying *there*, and the handkerchief that had been around his head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. **For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.**

The Gospel of John, Chapters 19 & 20

Then Paul stood up, and motioning with *his* hand said, "Men of Israel, and you who fear God, listen: The God of this people Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm he brought them out of it. Now for a time of about forty years he put up with their ways in the wilderness. And when he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he distributed their land to them by allotment. After that he gave *them* judges for about four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet. And afterward they asked for a king; so God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. And when he had removed him, he raised up for them David as king, to whom also he gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the *son* of Jesse, a man after my *own* heart, who will do all my will.' **From this man's seed, according to the promise, God raised up for Israel a Saviour—Jesus—after John [the Baptist] had first preached,** before his coming, the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. And as John was finishing his course, he said, 'Who do you think I am? I am not *he*. But behold, there comes one after me, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to loose.' Men *and* brethren, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to you the word of this salvation has been sent.

For those who dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they did not know him, nor even the voices of the Prophets which are read every Sabbath, have fulfilled *them* in condemning *him*. And though they found no cause for death *in him*, they asked Pilate that he should be put to death. **Now when they had fulfilled all that was written concerning him, they took *him* down from the tree and laid *him* in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead.** He was seen for many days by those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses to the people. And we declare to you glad tidings—that promise which was made to the fathers. God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that he has raised up Jesus. **As it is also written in the second Psalm: ‘You are my Son, today I have begotten you.’ And that he raised him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, he has spoken thus: ‘I will give you the sure mercies of David.’ Therefore he also says in another Psalm: ‘You will not allow your Holy One to see corruption.’** For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption; but he whom God raised up saw no corruption. Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; and by him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.”

Acts, Chapter 13

"God, who made the world and everything in it, since he is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is he worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed anything, since he gives to all life, breath, and all things. And he has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us; for in him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also his offspring.' Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising.

Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because he has appointed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising him [Jesus Christ] from the dead."

And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, "We will hear you [Paul speaking in Athens] again on this *matter*."

Acts, Chapter 17

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law [the Mosaic Law - the 10 commandments], that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in his sight [because no one can perfectly keep it], for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. **For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by his blood, through faith, to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time his righteousness, that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.** Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. Or *is he* the God of the Jews only? *Is he* not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, since *there is* one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.

Romans, Chapter 3

For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. **But God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** Much more then, having now been justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only *that*, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Therefore, as through one man's offence *judgement came* to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one man's righteous act *the free gift came* to all men, resulting in justification of life. **For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.** Moreover the law entered that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans, Chapter 5

For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." Where *is* the wise? Where *is* the scribe? Where *is* the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, **but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.** Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in his presence.

I Corinthians, Chapter 1



For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the first-fruits, afterward those *who are Christ's* at his coming. Then *comes* the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when he puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign till he has put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy *that* will be destroyed *is* death. For "He has put all things under his feet." But when he says "all things are put under *him*," *it is* evident that he who put all things under him is excepted. Now when all things are made subject to him, then the Son himself will also be subject to him who put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

I Corinthians, Chapter 15

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of his love, in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he may have the pre-eminence.

For it pleased *the Father that* in him all the fullness should dwell, and by him to reconcile all things to himself, by him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of his cross.

And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, **yet now he has reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in his sight—if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.**



Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. **Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to himself through Jesus Christ,** and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, **that God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself,** not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. **For he made him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in him.** We then, *as* workers together *with him* also plead with *you* not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.

Therefore the law was our tutor *to bring us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. **For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

II Corinthians, Chapter 5 & Galatians, Chapter 3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, just as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of the glory of his grace, by which he has made us accepted in the Beloved.

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace which he made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he purposed in himself, **that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in him.**

In him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians, Chapter 1

And he [God the Father] put all *things* under his [Christ's] feet, and gave him *to be* head over all *things* to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. And you *he made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. **For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**

Ephesians, Chapters 1 & 2



Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted him and given him the name which is above every name, **that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

Philippians, Chapter 2

But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, **but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;** that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing / do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Saviour, **the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to his glorious body,** according to the working by which he is able even to subdue all things to himself.

Philippians, Chapter 3



Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains *will do so* until he is taken out of the way. **And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of his mouth and destroy with the brightness of his coming.**

But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which he called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

|| Thessalonians, Chapter 2

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep [died], lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if [since] we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with him those who sleep in Jesus.

For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labour pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and *as* a helmet the hope of salvation. **For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.**

I Thessalonians, Chapters 4 & 5

The first man *was* of the earth, *made* of dust; **the second man is the Lord from heaven.** *As was* the *man* of dust, so also *are* those *who are made* of dust; and *as is* the heavenly *man*, so also *are* those *who are* heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the *man* of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly *man*.

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.

I Corinthians, Chapter 15



And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because he counted me faithful, putting *me* into the ministry, although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, **that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners**, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, *be* honour and glory forever and ever. Amen.

I Timothy, Chapter 1

All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. **I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom: Preach the word!** Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Finally, **there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved his appearing.**

II Timothy, Chapters 3 & 4

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, **looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ**, who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for himself *his* own special people, zealous for good works. Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men. For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.

But when the kindness and the love of **God our Saviour toward man appeared**, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, **whom he poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour**, that having been justified by his grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Titus, Chapters 2 & 3

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, **has in these last days spoken to us by his Son, whom he has appointed heir of all things, through whom also he made the worlds; who being the brightness of his glory and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,** having become so much better than the angels, as he has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

For to which of the angels did he ever say: "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? And again: "I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son"? But when he again brings the firstborn into the world, he says: "Let all the angels of God worship him." **But to the Son he says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of your Kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness more than your companions."** And: **"You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak you will fold them up, and they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will not fail."**



Not with the blood of goats and calves, but [Christ] with his own blood he entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh [the Jewish sacrificial system], how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? **And for this reason he is the Mediator of the new covenant,** by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Hebrews, Chapter 9

For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. **Therefore, when he came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you have prepared for me. In burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin you had no pleasure. Then I said, 'Behold, I have come—in the volume of the book it is written of me—to do your will, O God.'"**

Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and *offerings* for sin you did not desire, nor had pleasure *in them*" (which are offered according to the law), then he said, **"Behold, I have come to do your will, O God."** He takes away the first that he may establish the second. **By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*.**

And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till his enemies are made his footstool. For by one offering he has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

Hebrews, Chapter 10

And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay *here* in fear; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who through him believe in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, because "All flesh *is* as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the LORD endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as new-born babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious. Coming to him *as to* a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God *and* precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on him will by no means be put to shame." Therefore, to you who believe, *he is* precious; but to those who are disobedient, **"The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone,"** and "A stone of stumbling and a rock of offence." They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.

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 marvellous light; who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

I Peter, Chapters 1 & 2

What which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, **concerning the Word of life – the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us** – that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. This is the message which we have heard from him and declare to you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practise the truth. But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Why little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. **And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And he himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.** Now by this we know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He who says, "I know him," and does not keep his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

I John, Chapters 1 & 2

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: **Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God.** And this is the *spirit* of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are of the world. Therefore they speak *as* of the world, and the world hears them. We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. **In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent his only begotten Son into the world,** that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

I John, Chapter 4

If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which he has testified of his Son. He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of his Son. **And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.** These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may *continue to* believe in the name of the Son of God.

I John, Chapter 5



The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants – things which must shortly take place. And he sent and signified *it* by his angel to his servant John, who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near.

John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. **To him who loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and has made us kings and priests [or a kingdom of priests] to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

Behold, he is coming with clouds, and every eye will see him, even they who pierced him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of him. Even so, Amen. **"I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the Beginning and the End,*" says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."**

Revelation, Chapter 1

And I saw in the right *hand* of him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.

But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." And I looked, and behold, **in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.**

Then he came and took the scroll out of the right hand of him who sat on the throne. Now when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; **for you were slain, and have redeemed us to God by your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,** and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honour and glory and blessing!"

And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honour and glory and power *be* to him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshipped him who lives forever and ever.

Revelation, Chapter 5

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation *belongs* to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honour and power and might, *be* to our God forever and ever. Amen."

Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple. And he who sits on the throne will dwell among them. They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Revelation, Chapter 7



And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, *was* the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each *tree* yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations. **And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and his servants shall serve him.** They shall see his face, and his name *shall be* on their foreheads.

There shall be no night there: they need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever. Then he said to me, "These words *are* faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to show his servants the things which must shortly take place. "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed *is* he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

"**I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.**" And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book. **He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!**

Revelation, Chapter 22





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