

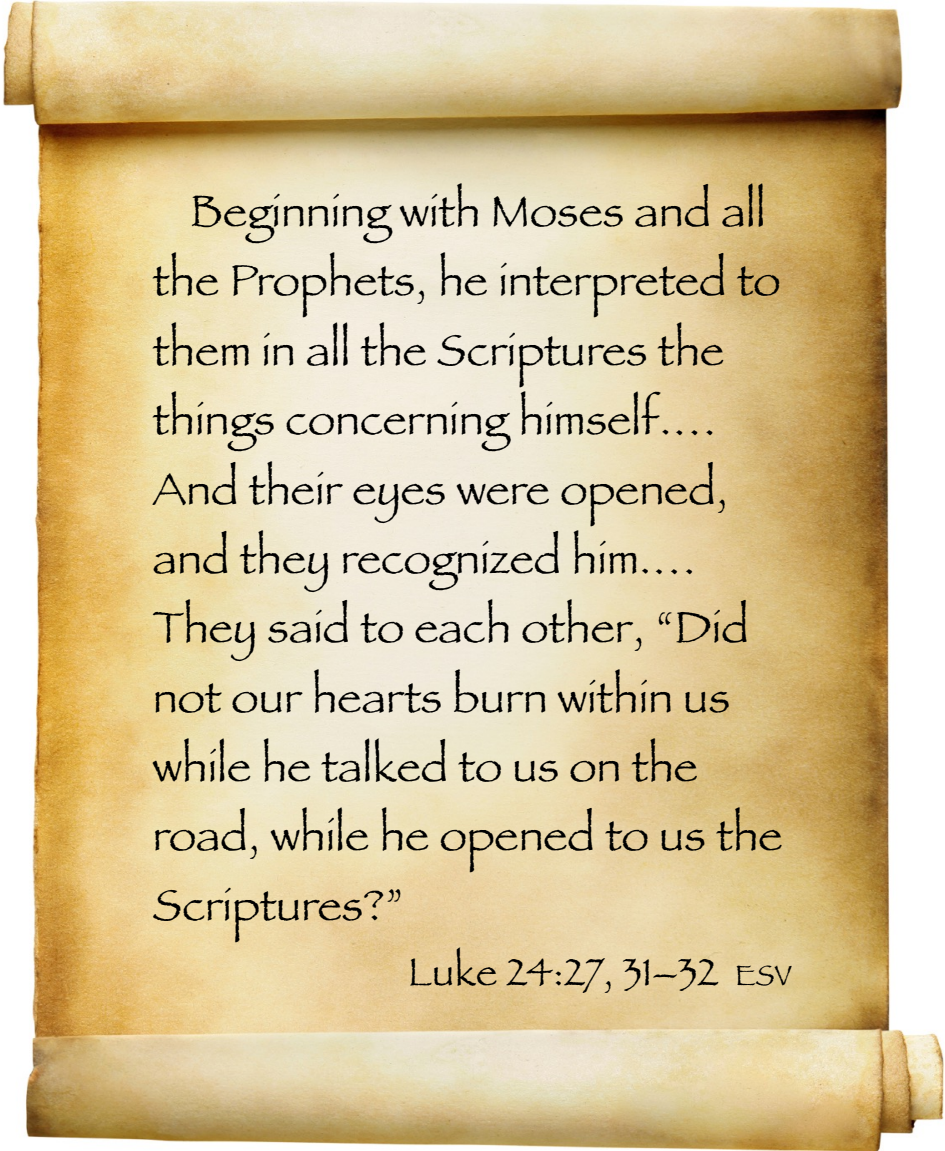
# Powerful texts of the Bible

Part 1 ... 100 powerful Scriptures selected from the Old Testament

Part 2 ... 100 powerful Scriptures selected from the Gospels

Part 3 ... 165 powerful Scriptures selected from Acts & New Testament letters

... a total of 365 life-changing Scriptures for your year



Beginning with Moses and all  
the Prophets, he interpreted to  
them in all the Scriptures the  
things concerning himself....  
And their eyes were opened,  
and they recognized him....  
They said to each other, "Did  
not our hearts burn within us  
while he talked to us on the  
road, while he opened to us the  
Scriptures?"

Luke 24:27, 31-32 ESV

## Suggestions & notes ...

- ◆ Study day-by-day. Since there are 365 selected Scriptures, read and pray over one Scripture each day for a year. Create your own “New Year”—start now!
- ◆ Or, study by theme. Eight topical themes are provided, colour-coded for recognition. By yourself or with others, select a theme and study each Scripture in that theme.
  - \* Godhead–Holy Spirit ... 28 Scriptures
  - \* Messiah–Christ ... 63 Scriptures
  - \* grace–gospel ... 44 Scriptures
  - \* choice–destiny ... 48 Scriptures
  - \* church–mission ... 32 Scriptures
  - \* faith–challenge ... 42 Scriptures
  - \* prayer–praise ... 35 Scriptures
  - \* relationship–holiness ... 73 Scriptures
- ◆ Companion texts follow some Scripture selections. These provide opportunity for widening the context and capturing additional impact.
- ◆ Can't see your favourite Scripture? If it's not one of the 365, it might be referenced somewhere as a companion text. Feel free to write it in and give it your personal highlight and attention.
- ◆ Versions. This document uses a selection of six formal and dynamic translations. If you have a favourite paraphrase or other version that's not used here, you might want to keep that version on hand as you make your journey. (See the article, “Which Bible version?” at [john524goodnews.org, articles page.](http://john524goodnews.org/articles/page/))
- ◆ Pray it in! Make the Scriptures personal. Apply them to your day and to your life, through prayer.

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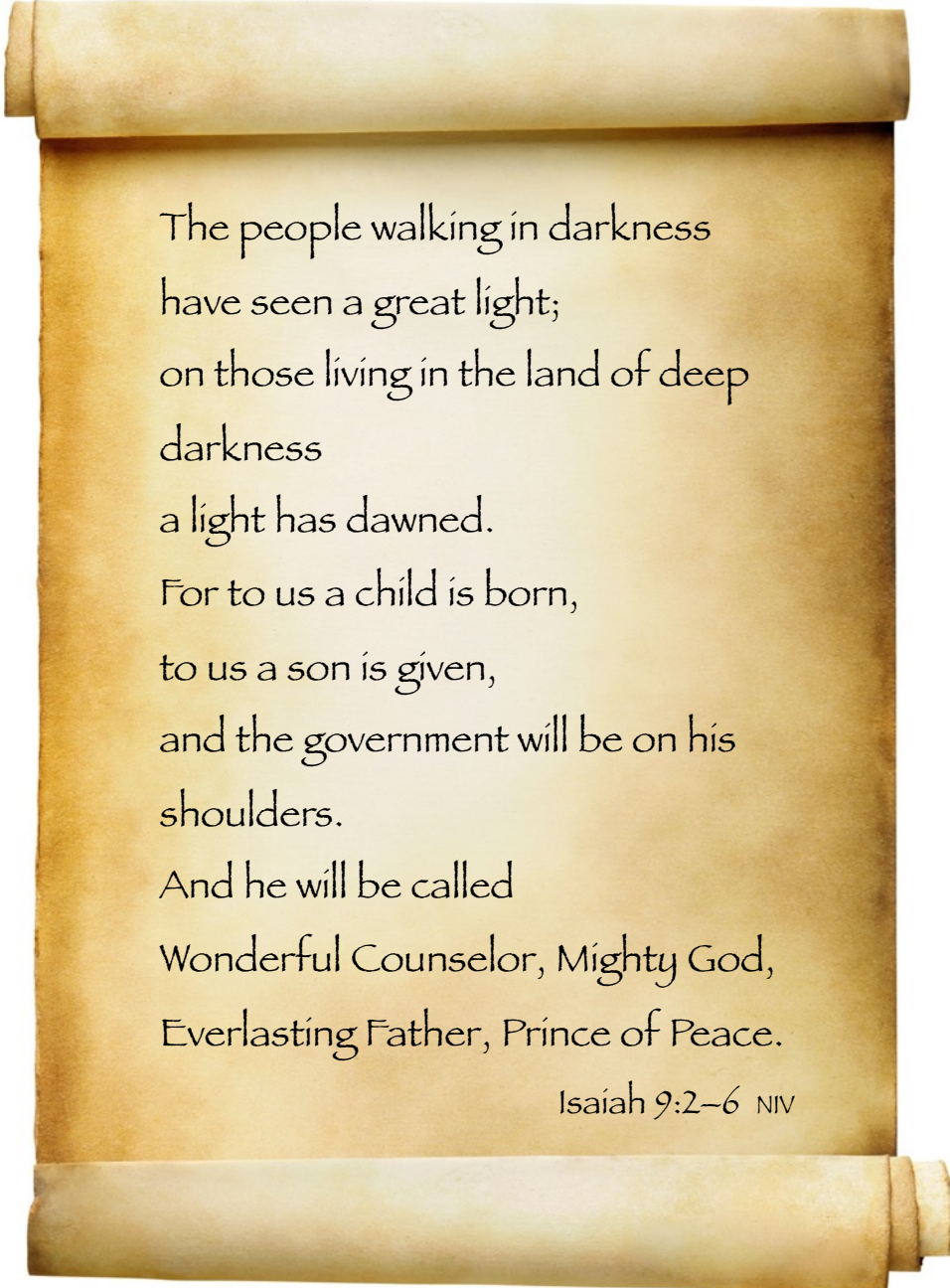
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# 100 powerful texts of the Old Testament

Followed by

100 powerful texts of the Gospels  
and 165 powerful texts of Acts and the New Testament letters  
... a total of 365 significant Scripture selections for your year



The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep  
darkness  
a light has dawned.  
For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his  
shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:2–6 NIV

## The Pentateuch—five books of Moses

### 1. **Genesis 1:1–3** *ESV* **Godhead–Holy Spirit**

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

Hebrews 11:3

### 2. **Genesis 2:2–3** *NCV* **relationship–holiness**

By the seventh day God finished the work he had been doing, so he rested from all his work. God blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day, because on that day he rested from all the work he had done in creating the world.

Hebrews 4:9–11

### 3. **Genesis 2:18, 24** *NIRV* **choice–destiny**

The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him.”

... That’s why a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife. The two of them will become one.

### 4. **Genesis 3:15** *NCV* **Messiah–Christ**

*God’s words to Satan, after Adam and Eve sinned*

“I will make you and the woman enemies to each other.

Your descendants and her descendants will be enemies.

One of her descendants will crush your head,

and you will bite his heel.”

John 12:27–33

### 5. **Genesis 15:5–6** *NIRV* **faith–challenge**

The LORD took Abram outside and said, “Look up at the sky. Count the stars, if you can.” Then he said to him, “That is how many children you will have.”

Abram believed the LORD. The LORD accepted Abram because he believed. So his faith made him right with the LORD.

Genesis 18:14 ... John 5:24 ... Romans 4:1–3, 18–24



**6. Genesis 22:13–14** NRSV *Messiah–Christ*

Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place “The LORD will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

Genesis 22:1–12 ... Isaiah 53

**7. Exodus 15:1–2, 13** NCV *prayer–praise*

*After the Israelites crossed the Red Sea*

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:

“I will sing to the LORD,  
because he is worthy of great honor.  
He has thrown the horse and its rider  
into the sea.

The LORD gives me strength and makes me sing;  
he has saved me.

He is my God,  
and I will praise him.

He is the God of my ancestors,  
and I will honor him.

... “You keep your loving promise  
and lead the people you have saved.  
With your strength you will guide them  
to your holy place.”

Exodus 15:1–6

**8. Exodus 20:1–17** NKJV *relationship–holiness*

*The Ten Commandments*

And God spoke all these words, saying:

“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

“You shall have no other gods before Me.

“You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, >

and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

“You shall not murder.

“You shall not commit adultery.

“You shall not steal.

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor’s.”

**9. Exodus 34:5–8** NIV *grace-gospel*

Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”



Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshiped.

Numbers 14:17–24 ... Nehemiah 9:30–33

**10. Deuteronomy 6:4–7** NKJV *relationship-holiness*

*This and the next three texts are part of Moses' final instructions to the Israelites before they crossed the Jordan river*

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

“And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.”

**11. Deuteronomy 29:29** NIV *relationship-holiness*

The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.

**12. Deuteronomy 30:19–20** NRSV *choice-destiny*

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days.

John 3:1–19

**13. Deuteronomy 31:6** NRSV faith–challenge

“Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the LORD your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you.”

Hebrews 13:5–6



Historical books

**14. Ruth 1:16–17** ESV relationship–holiness

*Ruth (from the land of Moab), to her mother-in-law Naomi, during the time Israel was ruled by judges*

“Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.”

**15. 1 Samuel 16:7** NCV relationship–holiness

*God to the prophet Samuel, during the selection of David as future king of Israel*

“Don’t look at how handsome Eliab is or how tall he is, because I have not chosen him. God does not see the same way people see. People look at the outside of a person, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

**16. 1 Samuel 17:45–47** NIRV faith–challenge

*The encounter between the boy David and the giant Goliath*

David said to Goliath, “You are coming to fight against me with a sword, a spear and a javelin. But I’m coming against you in the name of the LORD who rules over all. He is the God of the armies of Israel. He’s the one you have dared to fight against.

“This very day the LORD will hand you over to me.... Then the whole world will know there is a God in Israel.

“The LORD doesn’t save by using a sword or a spear. And everyone who is here will know it. The battle belongs to the LORD. He will hand all of you over to us.”

**17. 1 Kings 8:27, 30** ESV prayer–praise

*King Solomon, in his prayer of dedication for the temple*

“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built! ... And listen to the plea of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen in heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.”

**18. 2 Chronicles 33:12–13** NCV grace–gospel

*About Manasseh, one of the most despicable kings of history*

As Manasseh suffered, he begged the LORD his God for help and humbled himself before the God of his ancestors. When Manasseh prayed, the LORD heard him >

and had pity on him. So the LORD let him return to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD is the true God.

Ephesians 2:4–10

**19. Nehemiah 8:6, 10** NIV prayer-praise

*During the difficult circumstances surrounding the rebuilding of Jerusalem under Governor Nehemiah*

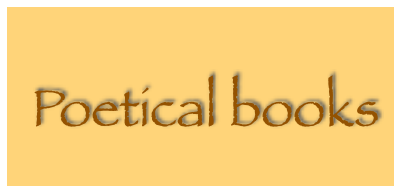
Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, “Amen! Amen!” Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.... Nehemiah said ... “Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

Nehemiah 12:43

**20. Esther 4:14–16** ESV faith-challenge

*The challenge from Mordecai to his cousin Esther, to use her role as queen to rescue their people from destruction*

“For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, “Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish.”



**21. Job 19:25–27** NKJV faith-challenge

*The righteous man Job, in the middle of extreme loss and agony*

“For I know that my Redeemer lives,  
And He shall stand at last on the earth;  
And after my skin is destroyed, this I know,  
That in my flesh I shall see God,  
Whom I shall see for myself,  
And my eyes shall behold, and not another.  
How my heart yearns within me!”

Job 1:21–22 ... Job 2:9–10 ... Job 13:15 ... Job 16:19–21 ... Job 23:10–12 ... Job 42:10–12  
... Zechariah 9:12 ... James 5:11

**22. Psalm 19:14** NKJV relationship-holiness

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
Be acceptable in Your sight,  
O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.

2 Corinthians 10:5 ... Colossians 3:2 ... Hebrews 4:12–13 ... 1 Peter 3:15 ... Revelation 2:23



23. Psalm 22:1–28 NKJV Messiah–Christ

*A prophetic description of Christ on the Cross, rising out of David's own distress*

My 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.  
Our fathers trusted in You;  
They trusted, and You delivered them.  
They cried to You, and were delivered;  
They trusted in You, and were not ashamed.  
But I am a worm,<sup>1</sup> and no man;  
A reproach of men, and despised by the people.  
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.  
... 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. >

<sup>1</sup> “Worm” is essentially the same Hebrew word translated “scarlet” in Isaiah 1:18. In ancient times, scarlet dye was made from crushed bodies of the “crimson grub.” The female of this insect species attached herself to oak tree twigs or branches, gave birth to her young, secreted her life in a red fluid to protect her offspring, then died. Compare with Joshua 2:21 and Matthew 27:28. (This footnote is supplied here—it is not in the source Bible version.)

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!  
... 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.  
... 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.

Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12 ... John 19:23–24

#### 24. **Psalm 23:1–6** ESV *faith–challenge*

*"The Shepherd's Psalm"*

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures.  
He leads me beside still waters.  
He restores my soul.  
He leads me in paths of righteousness  
for his name's sake.

Even 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.

You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall  
follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Psalm 27:4



**25. Psalm 24:7-10** NRSV **Messiah-Christ**

Lift up your heads, O gates!  
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!  
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is the King of glory?  
The Lord, strong and mighty,  
the Lord, mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O gates!  
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!  
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord of hosts,  
he is the King of glory.

Matthew 21:9-11 ... Revelation 19:6-7

**26. Psalm 34:6-10, 15-19** NRSV **faith-challenge**

This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD,  
and was saved from every trouble.

The angel of the LORD encamps  
around those who fear him, and delivers them.

O taste and see that the LORD is good;  
happy are those who take refuge in him.

O fear the LORD, you his holy ones,  
for those who fear him have no want.

The young lions suffer want and hunger,  
but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

... The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous,  
and his ears are open to their cry.

... When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears,  
and rescues them from all their troubles.

The LORD is near to the brokenhearted,  
and saves the crushed in spirit.

Many are the afflictions of the righteous,  
but the LORD rescues them from them all.

Psalms 37:1-4, 25 ... Psalm 91:11 ... Hebrews 1:14

**27. Psalm 40:6-8** NCV **Messiah-Christ**

You do not want sacrifices and offerings.  
But you have made a hole in my ear<sup>2</sup>  
to show that my body and life are yours.  
You do not ask for burnt offerings  
and sacrifices to take away sins. >

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<sup>2</sup> 2nd line of verse 6 in some Septuagint manuscripts: "A body you have prepared for me." (This footnote is supplied here—it is not in the source Bible version.)

Then I said, "Look, I have come.  
It is written about me in the book.  
My God, I want to do what you want.  
Your teachings are in my heart."

Deuteronomy 15:12-17 ... Psalm 22 ... Hebrews 10:5-7

## 28. Psalm 51:1-17 *ESV* relationship-holiness

*King David's prayer of confession, after his sin of adultery and murder, and a rebuke from the prophet Nathan*

Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin!

For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.  
Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you may be justified in your words  
and blameless in your judgment.  
Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,  
and in sin did my mother conceive me.  
Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,  
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.  
Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from

your presence,  
and take not your Holy  
Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of  
your salvation,  
and uphold me with a  
willing spirit.

Then I will teach  
transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to  
you.

Deliver me from  
bloodguiltiness, O God, >



O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.  
O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.  
For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;  
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.  
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.  
1 Kings 14:8

**29. Psalm 73:23–26** NIV *relationship-holiness*

Yet I am always with you;  
you hold me by my right hand.  
You guide me with your counsel,  
and afterward you will take me into glory.  
Whom have I in heaven but you?  
And earth has nothing I desire besides you.  
My flesh and my heart may fail,  
but God is the strength of my heart  
and my portion forever.

**30. Psalm 81:10** NKJV *prayer-praise*

I am the LORD your God,  
Who brought you out of the land of Egypt;  
Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.  
Deuteronomy 11:24 ... Joshua 3:8, 15–16 ... Malachi 3:10 ... Luke 17:14

**31. Psalm 84:10–12** ESV *relationship-holiness*

For a day in your courts is better  
than a thousand elsewhere.  
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God  
than dwell in the tents of wickedness.  
For the LORD God is a sun and shield;  
the LORD bestows favor and honor.  
No good thing does he withhold  
from those who walk uprightly.  
O LORD of hosts,  
blessed is the one who trusts in you.  
Psalm 34:9–10 ... Psalm 84:1–4

**32. Psalm 91:1–16** NCV *choice-destiny*

Those who go to God Most High for safety  
will be protected by the Almighty.  
I will say to the LORD, "You are my place of safety and protection.  
You are my God and I trust you."  
God will save you from hidden traps >

and from deadly diseases.  
 He will cover you with his feathers,  
 and under his wings you can hide.  
 His truth will be your shield and protection.  
 You will not fear any danger by night  
 or an arrow during the day.  
 You will not be afraid of diseases that come in the dark  
 or sickness that strikes at noon.  
 At your side one thousand people may die,  
 or even ten thousand right beside you,  
 but you will not be hurt.  
 You will only watch  
 and see the wicked punished.  
 The LORD is your protection;  
 you have made God Most High your place of safety.  
 Nothing bad will happen to you;  
 no disaster will come to your home.  
 He has put his angels in charge of you  
 to watch over you wherever you go.  
 They will catch you in their hands  
 so that you will not hit your foot on a rock.  
 You will walk on lions and cobras;  
 you will step on strong lions and snakes.  
 The LORD says, "Whoever loves me, I will save.  
 I will protect those who know me.  
 They will call to me, and I will answer them.  
 I will be with them in trouble;  
 I will rescue them and honor them.  
 I will give them a long, full life,  
 and they will see how I can save."

Psalm 27:1 ... Psalm 46 ... Psalm 34:6-7, 19 ... Psalm 55:22 ... Psalm 56:10-11 ... Psalm 62:8  
 ... 2 Corinthians 6:4-5, 10

### 33. Psalm 103:1-5, 8-14 NRSV [grace-gospel](#)

Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
 and all that is within me,  
 bless his holy name.  
 Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
 and do not forget all his benefits—  
 who forgives all your iniquity,  
 who heals all your diseases,  
 who redeems your life from the Pit,  
 who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
 who satisfies you with good as long as you live  
 so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.  
  
 ... He will not always accuse,  
 nor will he keep his anger forever. >

He does not deal with us according to our sins,  
nor repay us according to our iniquities.  
For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;  
as far as the east is from the west,  
so far he removes our transgressions from us.  
As a father has compassion for his children,  
so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.  
For he knows how we were made;  
he remembers that we are dust.

Psalm 30:4-5 ... Psalm 32:1-2 ... Psalm 100 ... Psalm 130:3-4 ... Psalm 136:1 ... Psalm 145:8-9  
... Ephesians 2:4-10

**34. Psalm 119:11, 97, 105** ESV relationship-holiness

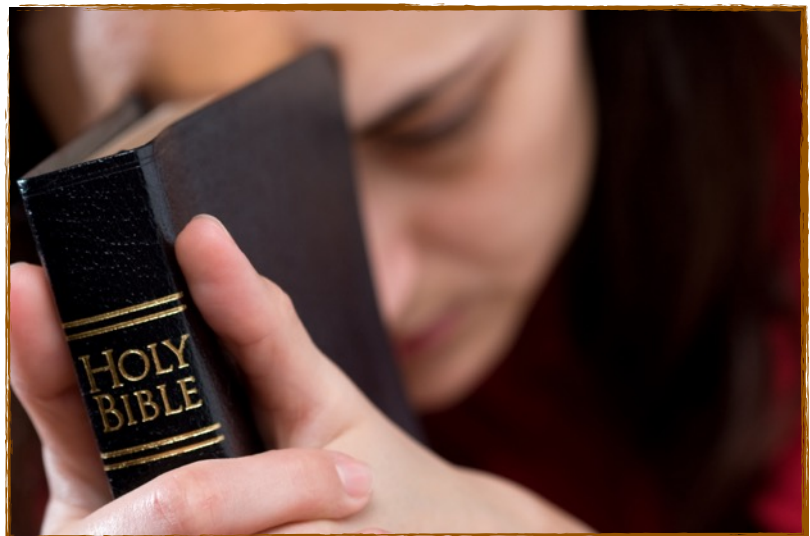
I have stored up your  
word in my heart,  
that I might not sin  
against you.

... Oh how I love your  
law!

It is my meditation all  
the day.

... Your word is a lamp  
to my feet  
and a light to my path.

Psalm 19:7-11 ...  
Isaiah 8:19-20 ...  
2 Peter 1:16-21



**35. Psalm 121:1-8** NIRV choice-destiny

I look up to the hills.  
Where does my help come from?  
My help comes from the LORD.  
He is the Maker of heaven and earth.  
He won't let your foot slip.  
He who watches over you won't get tired.  
In fact, he who watches over Israel  
won't get tired or go to sleep.  
The LORD watches over you.  
The LORD is like a shade tree at your right hand.  
The sun won't harm you during the day.  
The moon won't harm you during the night.  
The LORD will keep you from every kind of harm.  
He will watch over your life.  
The LORD will watch over your life no matter where you go,  
both now and forever.

**36. Psalm 139:7-16, 23-24** *ESV*  
relationship-holiness

Where shall I go from your Spirit?

Or where shall I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there!

If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

If I take the wings of the morning

and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

even there your hand shall lead me,  
and your right hand shall hold me.

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
and the light about me be night,"  
even the darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light with you.

For you formed my inward parts;  
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.  
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works;  
my soul knows it very well.

My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.  
Your eyes saw my unformed substance;  
in your book were written, every one of them,  
the days that were formed for me,  
when as yet there was none of them.

... Search me, O God, and know my heart!  
Try me and know my thoughts!  
And see if there be any grievous way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting!



**37. Psalm 147:1-3** *NRSV* prayer-praise

Praise the LORD!

How good it is to sing praises to our God;  
for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

The LORD builds up Jerusalem;  
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.  
He heals the brokenhearted,  
and binds up their wounds.

Psalm 150



**38. Proverbs 3:5–12** NCV faith-challenge

Trust the LORD with all your heart,  
and don't depend on your own understanding.  
Remember the LORD in all you do,  
and he will give you success.  
Don't depend on your own wisdom.  
Respect the LORD and refuse to do wrong.  
Then your body will be healthy,  
and your bones will be strong.  
Honor the LORD with your wealth  
and the firstfruits from all your crops.  
Then your barns will be full,  
and your wine barrels will overflow with new wine.  
My child, do not reject the LORD's discipline,  
and don't get angry when he corrects you.  
The LORD corrects those he loves,  
just as parents correct the child they delight in.

Proverbs 16:3

**39. Proverbs 9:10** NCV choice-destiny

"Wisdom begins with respect for the LORD,  
and understanding begins with knowing the Holy One."

**40. Proverbs 14:32 & 18:10** NIV choice-destiny

When calamity comes, the wicked are brought down,  
but even in death the righteous seek refuge in God.  
... The name of the Lord is a fortified tower;  
the righteous run to it and are safe.

**41. Ecclesiastes 3:1, 11** NIV choice-destiny

There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under the heavens.  
... He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the  
human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

## The major prophets

### 42. Isaiah 7:14 NIRV Messiah-Christ

*This and most of the following passages from Isaiah are Messianic poems and prophecies, given 700 years before Christ*

“The LORD himself will give you a miraculous sign. The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel.”

Matthew 1:20-23

### 43. Isaiah 9:2, 6 NRSV Messiah-Christ

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

... For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

### 44. Isaiah 11:1-9 NIV Messiah-Christ

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;  
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.  
The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—  
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and of might,  
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—  
and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,  
or decide by what he hears with his ears;  
but with righteousness he will judge the needy,  
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

... The wolf will live with the lamb,  
the leopard will lie down with the goat,  
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;  
and a little child will lead them.  
... They will neither harm nor destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah 25:7-8

**45. Isaiah 12:1–3** NRSV [faith-challenge](#)

You will say in that day:  
I will give thanks to you, O LORD,  
for though you were angry with me,  
your anger turned away,  
and you comforted me.

Surely God is my salvation;  
I will trust, and will not be afraid,  
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might;  
he has become my salvation.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Isaiah 25:9

**46. Isaiah 26:3–4** NIV [faith-challenge](#)

You will keep in perfect peace  
those whose minds are steadfast,  
because they trust in you.  
Trust in the LORD forever,  
for the LORD, the LORD himself, is the Rock eternal.

**47. Isaiah 32:12–13, 15–17 & 33:2** NIV [faith-challenge](#)

Beat your breasts for the pleasant fields,  
for the fruitful vines  
and for the land of my people,  
a land overgrown with thorns and briers  
... till the Spirit is poured on us from on high,  
and the desert becomes a fertile field,  
and the fertile field seems like a forest.  
The LORD's justice will dwell in the desert,  
his righteousness live in the fertile field.  
The fruit of that righteousness will be peace;  
its effect will be quietness and confidence forever.

... LORD, be gracious to us;  
we long for you.  
Be our strength every morning.

Habakkuk 2:3

**48. Isaiah 35:3–10** NIV [faith-challenge](#)

Strengthen the feeble hands,  
steady the knees that give way;  
say to those with fearful hearts,  
"Be strong, do not fear;  
your God will come,  
he will come with vengeance;  
with divine retribution >

he will come to save you.”

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

Then will the lame leap like a deer,  
and the mute tongue shout for joy.

Water will gush forth in the  
wilderness

and streams in the desert.

The burning sand will become a pool,  
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.  
In the haunts where jackals once lay,  
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

And a highway will be there;  
it will be called the Way of Holiness;  
it will be for those who walk on that  
Way.

The unclean will not journey on it.  
... But only the redeemed will walk there,  
and those the Lord has rescued will return.  
They will enter Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy will crown their heads.  
Gladness and joy will overtake them,  
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Luke 7:21-22



**49. Isaiah 40:1-11, 29-31 NRSV Messiah-Christ**

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

... The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever. >

... O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
“Here is your God!”  
... He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.  
... He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.  
Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;  
but those who wait for the LORD shall renew  
their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.

Luke 3:3–6 ... John 1:23



**50. Isaiah 41:10, 13** NRSV faith–challenge

Do not fear, for I am with you,  
do not be afraid, for I am your God;  
I will strengthen you, I will help you,  
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

... For I, the LORD your God,  
hold your right hand;  
it is I who say to you, “Do not fear,  
I will help you.”

Psalms 53:5

**51. Isaiah 42:1–7** NIRV Messiah–Christ

“Here is my servant. I take good care of him.  
I have chosen him. I am very pleased with him.  
I will put my Spirit on him.  
He will make everything right among the nations.  
He will not shout or cry out.  
He will not raise his voice in the streets.  
He will not break a bent twig.  
He will not put out a dimly burning flame.  
He will be faithful and make everything right.  
He will not grow weak or lose hope.  
He will not give up until he makes everything right on the earth.  
The islands will put their hope in his law.”  
God created the heavens and spread them out.  
The LORD made the earth and everything that grows on it.  
He gives breath to its people. >

He gives life to those who walk on it.  
He says to his servant,  
“I, the LORD, have chosen you to do what is right.  
I will take hold of your hand.  
I will keep you safe.  
You will put my covenant with the people of Israel into effect.  
And you will be a light for the other nations.  
You will open eyes that can't see.  
You will set prisoners free.  
Those who sit in darkness will come out of their cells.”

Matthew 12:15-21

**52. Isaiah 45:21-25** NKJV choice-destiny

“Tell and bring forth your case;  
Yes, let them take counsel together.  
Who has declared this from ancient time?  
Who has told it from that time?  
Have not I, the LORD?  
And there is no other God besides Me,  
A just God and a Savior;  
There is none besides Me.  
“Look to Me, and be saved,  
All you ends of the earth!  
For I am God, and there is no other.  
I have sworn by Myself;  
The word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness,  
And shall not return,  
That to Me every knee shall bow,  
Every tongue shall take an oath.  
He shall say,  
'Surely in the LORD I have righteousness and strength.  
... In the LORD all the descendants of Israel  
Shall be justified, and shall glory.”

Romans 14:10-12 ... Philippians 2:9-11

**53. Isaiah 46:3-4, 9-10** NKJV choice-destiny

“Listen to Me, O house of Jacob,  
And all the remnant of the house of Israel,  
Who have been upheld by Me from birth,  
Who have been carried from the womb:  
Even to your old age, I am He,  
And even to gray hairs I will carry you!  
I have made, and I will bear;  
Even I will carry, and will deliver you.  
... “Remember the former things of old,  
For I am God, and there is no other;  
I am God, and there is none like Me, >

Declaring the end from the beginning,  
And from ancient times things that are not yet done,  
Saying, 'My counsel shall stand,  
And I will do all My pleasure.'"

**54. Isaiah 49:13-16 NIV choice-destiny**

Shout for joy, you heavens;  
rejoice, you earth;  
burst into song, you mountains!  
For the LORD comforts his  
people  
and will have compassion on  
his afflicted ones.

But Zion said, "The LORD has  
forsaken me,  
the Lord has forgotten me."

"Can a mother forget the  
baby at her breast  
and have no compassion on  
the child she has borne?

Though she may forget,  
I will not forget you!

See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands."

Isaiah 54:7-8, 10



**55. Isaiah 52:7, 9 NIV church-mission**

How beautiful on the mountains  
are the feet of those who bring good news,  
who proclaim peace,  
who bring good tidings,  
who proclaim salvation,  
who say to Zion,  
"Your God reigns!"  
... Burst into songs of joy together,  
you ruins of Jerusalem,  
for the LORD has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

Psalms 126

**56. Isaiah 53:1-12 NKJV Messiah-Christ**

*Most powerful of the "Servant" passages of Isaiah, prophetically pointing to Jesus*

Who has believed our report?  
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?  
For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant,  
And as a root out of dry ground.  
He has no form or comeliness; >

And when we see Him,  
There is no beauty that we should desire Him.  
He is despised and rejected by men,  
A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.  
And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him;  
He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.  
Surely He has borne our griefs  
And carried our sorrows;  
Yet we esteemed Him stricken,  
Smitten by God, and afflicted.  
But He was wounded for our  
transgressions,  
He was bruised for our iniquities;  
The chastisement for our peace  
was upon Him,  
And by His stripes we are healed.  
All we like sheep have gone astray;  
We have turned, every one, to his  
own way;



And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.  
He was oppressed and He was afflicted,  
Yet He opened not His mouth;  
He was led as a lamb to the slaughter,  
And as a sheep before its shearers is silent,  
So He opened not His mouth.  
He was taken from prison and from judgment,  
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 labor 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.

Matthew 8:16-17 ... John 12:37-38, 41 ... Acts 8:32-35 ... 1 Peter 2:24-25



57. **Isaiah 55:1-9** ESV choice-destiny

“Come, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and he who has no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.  
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?  
... Incline your ear, and come to me;  
hear, that your soul may live;  
and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.  
... “Seek the LORD while he may be found;  
call upon him while he is near;  
let the wicked forsake his way,  
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;  
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.  
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.  
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Isaiah 61:10

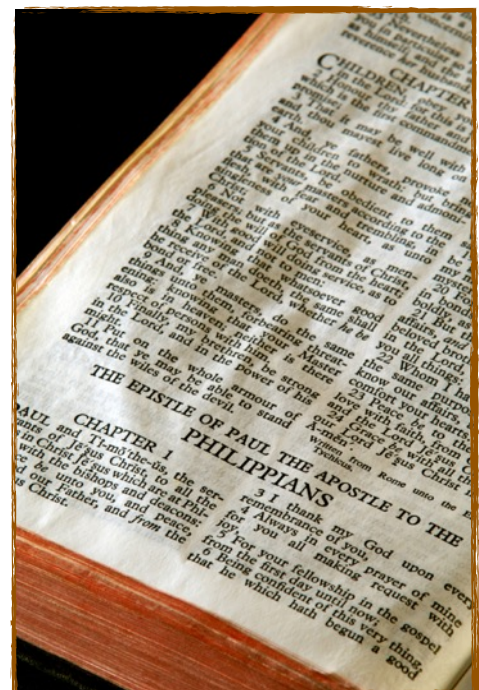
58. **Isaiah 55:10-11** NIRV church-mission

“The rain and the snow  
come down from the sky.  
They do not return to it  
without watering the earth.  
They make plants come up and grow.  
The plants produce seeds for farmers.  
They also produce food for people to eat.  
The words I speak are like that.  
They will not return to me without producing  
results.  
They will accomplish what I want them to.  
They will do exactly what I sent them to do.”

Isaiah 59:21

59. **Isaiah 56:1-3, 6-7** ESV church-mission

Thus says the LORD:  
“Keep justice, and do righteousness,  
for soon my salvation will come,  
and my righteousness be revealed. >



Blessed is the man who does this,  
and the son of man who holds it fast,  
who keeps the Sabbath, not profaning it,  
and keeps his hand from doing any evil.”

Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the LORD say,  
“The LORD will surely separate me from his people”;  
and let not the eunuch say,  
“Behold, I am a dry tree.”

... “And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,  
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,  
and to be his servants,  
everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it,  
and holds fast my covenant—  
these I will bring to my holy mountain,  
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;  
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices  
will be accepted on my altar;  
for my house shall be called a house of prayer  
for all peoples.”

Isaiah 58:13–14 ... Isaiah 66:22–23 ... Ezekiel 20:12–20 ... Matthew 21:12–14

**60. Isaiah 57:15–16, 19–21** NCV choice-destiny

God lives forever and is holy.  
He is high and lifted up.  
He says, “I live in a high and holy place,  
but I also live with people who are sad and humble.  
I give new life to those who are humble  
and to those whose hearts are broken.  
I will not accuse forever,  
nor will I always be angry,  
because then human life would grow weak.  
Human beings, whom I created, would die.  
... I will give peace, real peace, to those far and near,  
and I will heal them,” says the LORD.  
But evil people are like the angry sea,  
which cannot rest,  
whose waves toss up waste and mud.  
“There is no peace for evil people,” says my God.

**61. Isaiah 58:6–9** NIRV church-mission

“Here is the way I want you to fast.  
“Set free those who are held by chains without any reason.  
Untie the ropes that hold people as slaves.  
Set free those who are crushed.  
Break every evil chain.  
Share your food with hungry people. >

Provide homeless people with a place to stay.  
Give naked people clothes to wear.  
Provide for the needs of your own family.  
Then the light of my blessing will shine on you like the rising sun.  
I will heal you quickly.  
I will march out ahead of you.  
And my glory will follow behind you and guard you.  
That is because I always do what is right.  
You will call out to me for help.  
And I will answer you.  
You will cry out.  
And I will say, 'Here I am.'"

**62. Isaiah 61:1-3 NKJV Messiah-Christ**

"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 brokenhearted,  
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."

Luke 4:16-21



**63. Isaiah 64:5-9 NIV grace-gospel**

How then can we be saved?  
All of us have become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;  
we all shrivel up like a leaf,  
and like the wind our sins sweep us away.  
No one calls on your name  
or strives to lay hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us  
and have given us over to our sins.  
Yet you, LORD, are our Father.  
We are the clay, you are the potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
Do not be angry beyond measure, LORD; >

do not remember our sins forever.  
Oh, look on us, we pray,  
for we are all your people.

Job 9:2 ... Ephesians 2:4-10

**64. Isaiah 65:17, 24-25** NCV choice-destiny

“Look, I will make new heavens and a new earth,  
and people will not remember the past  
or think about those things.  
... I will provide for their needs before they ask,  
and I will help them while they are still asking for help.  
Wolves and lambs will eat together in peace.  
Lions will eat hay like oxen,  
and a snake on the ground will not hurt anyone.  
They will not hurt or destroy each other  
on all my holy mountain,”  
says the LORD.

Revelation 21:1-5

**65. Jeremiah 2:5, 11-13, 32 & 3:12-15** NIV choice-destiny

*This selection of verses represents the key message of Jeremiah*

“They followed worthless idols  
and became worthless themselves.  
... “Has a nation ever changed its gods?  
(Yet they are not gods at all.)  
But my people have exchanged their glorious God  
for worthless idols.  
Be appalled at this, you heavens,  
and shudder with great horror,”  
declares the LORD.  
“My people have committed two sins:  
They have forsaken me,  
the spring of living water,  
and have dug their own cisterns,  
broken cisterns that cannot hold water.”  
... “Does a young woman forget her jewelry,  
a bride her wedding ornaments?  
Yet my people have forgotten me,  
days without number.”  
“Return, faithless Israel,’ declares the LORD,  
‘I will frown on you no longer,  
for I am faithful,’ declares the LORD,  
‘I will not be angry forever.  
Only acknowledge your guilt—  
you have rebelled against the LORD your God.’” >

... “Return, faithless people,” declares the LORD, “for I am your husband. I will choose you—one from a town and two from a clan—and bring you to Zion. Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding.”

Jeremiah 23:1-4 ... Jeremiah 50:6-7 ... 1 Peter 5:2-4

**66. Jeremiah 6:16** NRSV choice-destiny

Thus says the LORD:  
Stand at the crossroads, and look,  
and ask for the ancient paths,  
where the good way lies; and walk in it,  
and find rest for your souls.

**67. Jeremiah 8:20-22 & 30:15, 17** ESV choice-destiny

“The harvest is past, the summer is ended,  
and we are not saved.”  
For the wound of the daughter of my people is my heart wounded;  
I mourn, and dismay has taken hold on me.  
  
Is there no balm in Gilead?  
Is there no physician there?  
Why then has the health of the daughter of my people  
not been restored?  
  
... Why do you cry out over your hurt?  
Your pain is incurable.  
Because your guilt is great,  
because your sins are flagrant,  
I have done these things to you.  
... For I will restore health to you,  
and your wounds I will heal,  
declares the Lord.

**68. Jeremiah 9:23-24** NRSV choice-destiny

Do not let the wise boast in their wisdom, do not let the mighty boast in their  
might, do not let the wealthy boast in their wealth; but let those who boast boast in  
this, that they understand and know me, that I am the LORD; I act with steadfast  
love, justice, and righteousness in the earth, for in these things I delight, says the  
LORD.

James 1:9-11

**69. Jeremiah 17:5-8** NRSV relationship-holiness

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals  
and make mere flesh their strength,  
whose hearts turn away from the Lord.  
They shall be like a shrub in the desert,  
and shall not see when relief comes. >

They shall live in the parched  
places of the wilderness,  
in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in  
the Lord,  
whose trust is the Lord.

They shall be like a tree planted  
by water,  
sending out its roots by the  
stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,  
and its leaves shall stay green;  
in the year of drought it is not  
anxious,  
and it does not cease to bear fruit.



**70. Jeremiah 23:5-6** NIRV *Messiah-Christ*

“A new day is coming,” announces the LORD.  
“At that time I will raise up from David’s royal line  
a true and rightful Branch.  
He will be a King who will rule wisely.  
He will do what is fair and right in the land.  
In his days Judah will be saved.  
Israel will live in safety.  
And the Branch will be called  
The LORD Who Makes Us Right With Himself.”

Romans 5:21 ... 2 Timothy 4:8

**71. Jeremiah 29:11-14** NIV *prayer-praise*

“I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,” declares the LORD, “and will bring you back from captivity.”

**72. Jeremiah 31:3, 8-17** ESV *choice-destiny*

“I have loved you with an everlasting love;  
therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.”

... “I will bring them from the north country  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame,  
the pregnant woman and she who is in labor, together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,  
and with pleas for mercy I will lead them back,  
I will make them walk by brooks of water, >

in a straight path in which they shall not stumble.”

... “Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.’  
For the LORD has ransomed Jacob  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.  
They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD.  
... I will turn their mourning into joy;  
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.  
I will feast the soul of the priests with abundance,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness,  
declares the LORD.”

Thus says the LORD:

“A voice is heard in Ramah,  
lamentation and bitter weeping.  
Rachel is weeping for her children;  
she refuses to be comforted for her children,  
because they are no more.”

Thus says the LORD:

“Keep your voice from weeping,  
and your eyes from tears,  
for there is a reward for your work,  
declares the LORD,  
and they shall come back from the land of the enemy.  
There is hope for your future,  
declares the LORD.”

Matthew 2:16–18

### 73. **Jeremiah 31:31–34** *ESV* [grace-gospel](#)

“The days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

Ezekiel 11:19–21 ... Hebrews 8:13 ... Hebrews 10:15–17

**74. Jeremiah 32:26-27, 38-41** NCV Godhead-Holy Spirit

Then the LORD spoke this word to Jeremiah: "I am the LORD, the God of every person on the earth. Nothing is impossible for me."

... "The people of Israel and Judah will be my people, and I will be their God. I will make them truly want to be one people with one goal. They will truly want to worship me all their lives, for their own good and for the good of their children after them.

"I will make an agreement with them that will last forever. I will never turn away from them; I will always do good to them. I will make them want to respect me so they will never turn away from me. I will enjoy doing good to them. And with my whole being I will surely plant them in this land and make them grow."

**75. Lamentations 3:21-26** NRSV Godhead-Holy Spirit

*This passage comes in the middle of Jeremiah's "funeral songs"*

But this I call to mind,  
and therefore I have hope:

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.

"The LORD is my portion,"  
says my soul,  
"therefore I will hope in  
him."

The LORD is good to those  
who wait for him,  
to the soul that seeks him.  
It is good that one should  
wait quietly  
for the salvation of the  
LORD.



**76. Ezekiel 33:10-11** ESV grace-gospel

"And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: 'Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?' Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?"

Ezekiel 18:30-32 ... Habakkuk 2:4 ... 2 Peter 3:9

**77. Ezekiel 34:1-6, 15-16, 23-24, 31** NRSV church-mission

The word of the LORD came to me: Mortal, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel: prophesy, and say to them—to the shepherds: Thus says the Lord GOD: Ah, you shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you >



slaughter the fatlings; but you do not feed the sheep. You have not strengthened the weak, you have not healed the sick, you have not bound up the injured, you have not brought back the strayed, you have not sought the lost, but with force and harshness you have ruled them. So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd; and scattered, they became food for all the wild animals. My sheep were scattered, they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill; my sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with no one to search or seek for them.

... I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak.

... I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.... You are my sheep, the sheep of my pasture and I am your God, says the Lord GOD.

Psalm 23 ... Isaiah 40:11 ... Ezekiel 37:24-28 ... Matthew 10:6-7 ... Luke 15:3-7 ... Luke 19:10

#### 78. Ezekiel 34:26 & 36:25-29 NRSV relationship-holiness

I will make them and the region around my hill a blessing; and I will send down the showers in their season; they shall be showers of blessing.

... I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. I will save you from all your uncleannesses, and I will summon the grain and make it abundant and lay no famine upon you.

Hosea 6:3

#### 79. Ezekiel 37:1-14 NCV Godhead-Holy Spirit

I felt the power of the LORD on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and put me down in the middle of a valley. It was full of bones. He led me around among the bones, and I saw that there were many bones in the valley and that they were very dry. Then he asked me, "Human, can these bones live?"

I answered, "Lord GOD, only you know."

He said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. This is what the Lord GOD says to the bones: I will cause breath to enter you so you will come to life. I will put muscles on you and flesh on you and cover you with skin. Then I will put breath in you so you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.'"

So I prophesied as I was commanded. While I prophesied, there was a noise and a rattling. The bones came together, bone to bone. I looked and saw muscles come on the bones, and flesh grew, and skin covered the bones. But there was no breath in them. >

Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the wind. Prophecy, human, and say to the wind, 'This is what the Lord GOD says: Wind, come from the four winds, and breathe on these people who were killed so they can come back to life.'" So I prophesied as the LORD commanded me. And the breath came into them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, a very large army.

Then he said to me, "Human, these bones are like all the people of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope has gone. We are destroyed.' So, prophecy and say to them, 'This is what the Lord GOD says: My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves. Then I will bring you into the land of Israel. My people, you will know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and cause you to come up from them. And I will put my Spirit inside you, and you will come to life. Then I will put you in your own land. And you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken and done it, says the LORD.'"

**80. Daniel 2:44** NIV *choice-destiny*

*Daniel, giving to King Nebuchadnezzar the interpretation of the king's dream of a large statue*

"In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever."

**81. Daniel 3:16-18** NIRV *relationship-holiness*

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king. They said, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we don't need to talk about this anymore. We might be thrown into the blazing furnace. But the God we serve is able to bring us out of it alive. He will save us from your powerful hand.

"But we want you to know this. Even if we knew that our God wouldn't save us, we still wouldn't serve your gods. We wouldn't worship the gold statue you set up."



**82. Daniel 4:37** NCV *Godhead-Holy Spirit*

*Nebuchadnezzar's acknowledgment of God, following his seven years of insanity*

Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, give praise and honor and glory to the King of heaven. Everything he does is right and fair, and he is able to make proud people humble.

Daniel 4:28-36

**83. Daniel 6:10, 21–22** NCV prayer-praise

*Daniel's response to the royal decree to pray only to the king of Babylon ... and the result*

Even though Daniel knew that the new law had been written, he went to pray in an upstairs room in his house, which had windows that opened toward Jerusalem. Three times each day Daniel would kneel down to pray and thank God, just as he always had done.

... Daniel answered, "O king, live forever! My God sent his angel to close the lions' mouths. They have not hurt me, because my God knows I am innocent. I never did anything wrong to you, O king."

King Darius was very happy and told his servants to lift Daniel out of the lions' den. So they lifted him out and did not find any injury on him, because Daniel had trusted in his God.



**84. Daniel 7:9–10** ESV choice-destiny

*Daniel's description of judgement-hour, in his prophetic dream involving four symbolic animals*

"As I looked,  
thrones were placed,  
and the Ancient of Days took his seat;  
his clothing was white as snow,  
and the hair of his head like pure wool;  
his throne was fiery flames;  
its wheels were burning fire.  
A stream of fire issued  
and came out from before him;  
a thousand thousands served him,  
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him;  
the court sat in judgment,  
and the books were opened."

**85. Daniel 9:4–7, 16–19** ESV prayer-praise

*Daniel's intercessory prayer for his people*

Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession, saying, "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules. We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. To you, O Lord, belongs righteousness, but to us open shame. >

“O Lord, according to all your righteous acts, let your anger and your wrath turn away from your city Jerusalem, your holy hill, because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and your people have become a byword among all who are around us. Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his pleas for mercy, and for your own sake, O Lord, make your face to shine upon your sanctuary, which is desolate. O my God, incline your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations, and the city that is called by your name. For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, pay attention and act. Delay not, for your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people are called by your name.”

Daniel 9:20-27 ... Daniel 10:12-14

**86. Daniel 12:1-4** NCV choice-destiny

*Words from a heavenly messenger to Daniel, in answer to the prophet's prayers for his people*

“At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will stand up. There will be a time of much trouble, the worst time since nations have been on earth, but your people will be saved. Everyone whose name is written in God's book will be saved. Many people who have already died will live again. Some of them will wake up to have life forever, but some will wake up to find shame and disgrace forever. The wise people will shine like the brightness of the sky. Those who teach others to live right will shine like stars forever and ever.

“But you, Daniel, close up the book and seal it. These things will happen at the time of the end. Many people will go here and there to find true knowledge.”



The minor prophets

**87. Hosea 6:1-3** NRSV choice-destiny

“Come, let us return to the LORD;  
for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us;  
he has struck down, and he will bind us up.  
After two days he will revive us;  
on the third day he will raise us up,  
that we may live before him.  
Let us know, let us press on to know the LORD;  
his appearing is as sure as the dawn;  
he will come to us like the showers,  
like the spring rains that water the earth.”

2 Chronicles 28:8-11, 14-15 ... Hosea 10:12 ... Matthew 16:21 ... Luke 10:34 ... Luke 13:32-33  
... Luke 24:21, 46-47

**88. Hosea 13:14** NIV choice-destiny

“I will deliver this people from the power of the grave;  
I will redeem them from death.  
Where, O death, are your plagues?  
Where, O grave, is your destruction?”

1 Corinthians 15:51-55

**89. Joel 2:1, 12-13** NRSV choice-destiny

Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sound the alarm on my holy mountain!  
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,  
for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near.

... Yet even now, says the LORD,  
return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
rend your hearts and not your clothing.  
Return to the LORD, your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

**90. Joel 2:28-32** NCV Godhead-Holy Spirit

“After this,  
I will pour out my Spirit on all kinds of people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
your old men will dream dreams,  
and your young men will see visions.  
At that time I will pour out my Spirit  
also on male slaves and female  
slaves.

I will show miracles  
in the sky and on the earth:  
blood, fire, and thick smoke.  
The sun will become dark,  
the moon red as blood,  
before the overwhelming and  
terrible day of the LORD comes.  
Then anyone who calls on the LORD  
will be saved.”

Acts 2:1-21 ... Romans 10:12-13 ...  
1 Corinthians 12:7 ... 1 John 2:12-14



**91. Joel 3:14-16** NRSV choice-destiny

Multitudes, multitudes,  
in the valley of decision!  
For the day of the LORD is near  
in the valley of decision. >

The sun and the moon are darkened,  
and the stars withdraw their shining.  
The LORD roars from Zion,  
and utters his voice from Jerusalem,  
and the heavens and the earth shake.  
But the LORD is a refuge for his people,  
a stronghold for the people of Israel.

Psalm 95:7-8 ... Hebrews 3:7-8

**92. Jonah 2:1-10** ESV *prayer-praise*

Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish, saying,  
“I called out to the LORD, out of my distress,  
and he answered me;  
out of the belly of Sheol I cried,  
and you heard my voice.  
For you cast me into the deep,  
into the heart of the seas,  
and the flood surrounded me;  
all your waves and your billows  
passed over me.  
Then I said, ‘I am driven away  
from your sight;  
yet I shall again look  
upon your holy temple.’  
The waters closed in over me to take my life;  
the deep surrounded me;  
weeds were wrapped about my head  
at the roots of the mountains.  
I went down to the land  
whose bars closed upon me forever;  
yet you brought up my life from the pit,  
O LORD my God.  
When my life was fainting away,  
I remembered the LORD,  
and my prayer came to you,  
into your holy temple.  
... Salvation belongs to the LORD!”

**93. Micah 5:2** NIV *Messiah-Christ*

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans of Judah,  
out of you will come for me  
one who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from of old,  
from ancient times.”

Matthew 2:4-6

**94. Zechariah 3:17** NIV Godhead-Holy Spirit

“Do not fear, Zion;  
do not let your hands hang limp.  
The Lord your God is with you,  
the Mighty Warrior who saves.  
He will take great delight in you;  
in his love he will no longer rebuke you,<sup>3</sup>  
but will rejoice over you with singing.”

**95. Zechariah 3:1-5** NKJV grace-gospel

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. And the LORD said to Satan, “The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?”

Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel.

Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, “Take away the filthy garments from him.” And to him He said, “See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes.”

And I said, “Let them put a clean turban on his head.”

So they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him. And the Angel of the LORD stood by.

**96. Zechariah 4:6** ESV Godhead-Holy Spirit

“This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel:  
Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit,  
says the LORD of hosts.”

Jeremiah 17:5-8 ... 1 Corinthians 2:4-5, 9-10

**97. Zechariah 12:10 & 13:1 & 14:8** ESV Godhead-Holy Spirit

“And I will pour out on the house of David  
and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of  
grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they  
look on me, on him whom they have pierced,  
they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an  
only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one  
weeps over a firstborn.

... “On that day there shall be a fountain  
opened for the house of David and the  
inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness.”

... On that day living waters shall flow out from Jerusalem.

John 7:37-39 ... John 19:37



<sup>3</sup> “The quietness of his love will calm you down”—NIRV. (This footnote is supplied here—it is not in the source Bible version.)

**98. Malachi 3:1-3 & 4:5-6** NIV Messiah-Christ

“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty.

But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver.

... “See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction.”

Luke 1:13-17

**99. Malachi 3:8-10** NIRV relationship-holiness

“Will a man dare to steal from me? But you rob me!

“You ask, ‘How do we rob you?’

“By holding back your offerings. You also steal from me when you do not bring me a tenth of everything you produce. So you are under my curse. In fact, your whole nation is under it. That is because you are robbing me.

“Bring the entire tenth to the storerooms in my temple. Then there will be plenty of food. Put me to the test,” says the LORD. “Then you will see that I will throw open the windows of heaven. I will pour out so many blessings that you will not have enough room for them.”

Psalm 81:10 ... Ephesians 3:14-21

**100. Malachi 4:1-2** NKJV choice-destiny

“For behold, the day is coming,  
Burning like an oven,  
And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble.  
And the day which is coming shall burn them up,”  
Says the LORD of hosts,  
“That will leave them neither root nor branch.  
But to you who fear My name  
The Sun of Righteousness shall arise  
With healing in His wings.”

Luke 1:76-79 ... Revelation 1:13-16



# 100 powerful texts of the four gospels

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“Look, the Lamb of God who  
takes away the sin of the world!

“... The God who sent me to  
baptize with water told me, ‘You  
will see the Spirit come down and  
rest on a man; he is the One who  
will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ I  
have seen this happen, and I tell  
you the truth: This man is the Son  
of God.”

≈ John the Baptizer  
John 1:29, 33–34 NCV

# Synoptic gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke

The synoptic gospels section generally follows a chronological sequence, rather than book-by-book.

## >> Birth of Jesus

### 1. **Matthew 1:20–23** NIV Messiah–Christ

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

### 2. **Luke 1:46–49, 54–55** NIV Messiah–Christ

And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has been mindful  
of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me—  
holy is his name.

... He has helped his servant Israel,  
remembering to be merciful  
to Abraham and his descendants forever,  
just as he promised our ancestors.”

### 3. **Luke 1:67–79** ESV Messiah–Christ

*Zechariah's song at the birth of his son, John the Baptizer*

And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,  
“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has visited and redeemed his people  
and has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
in the house of his servant David,  
as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,  
that we should be saved from our enemies  
and from the hand of all who hate us;  
to show the mercy promised to our fathers >

and to remember his holy covenant,  
the oath that 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 our days.  
And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
in the forgiveness of their sins,  
because of the tender mercy of our God,  
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high  
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Malachi 4:2

#### 4. **Luke 2:10-14** NRSV **Messiah-Christ**

*Appearance of an angel to shepherds  
near Bethlehem*

The angel said to them,  
“Do not be afraid; for see—I  
am bringing you good news of  
great joy for all the people: to  
you is born this day in the city  
of David a Savior, who is the  
Messiah, the Lord. This will be  
a sign for you: you will find a  
child wrapped in bands of  
cloth and 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 heaven,  
and on earth peace among  
those whom he favors.”



## >> Jesus' ministry in Galilee

#### 5. **Mark 1:7-8** ESV **Godhead-Holy Spirit**

*About John the Baptizer*

And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 1:4-5, 8

6. **Luke 3:21–22** *ESV* **Godhead-Holy Spirit**

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”



7. **Matthew 4:1–4, 11** *NIRV* **faith-challenge**

The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert. There the devil tempted him. After 40 days and 40 nights of going without eating, Jesus was hungry.

The tempter came to him. He said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

Jesus answered, “It is written, ‘Man doesn’t live only on bread. He also lives on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

... Then the devil left Jesus. Angels came and took care of him.

Matthew 4:5–10 ... Hebrews 1:14 ... Hebrews 2:17–18

8. **Mark 1:14–15** *ESV* **grace-gospel**

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

Luke 17:20–21

9. **Luke 4:16–22** *NCV* **Messiah-Christ**

Jesus traveled to Nazareth, where he had grown up. On the Sabbath day he went to the synagogue, as he always did, and stood up to read. The book of Isaiah the prophet was given to him. He opened the book and found the place where this is written:

“The Lord has put his Spirit in me,  
because he appointed me to tell the Good News to the poor.  
He has sent me to tell the captives they are free  
and to tell the blind that they can see again.

God sent me to free those who have been treated unfairly  
and to announce the time when the Lord will show his kindness.”

Jesus closed the book, gave it back to the assistant, and sat down. Everyone in the synagogue was watching Jesus closely. He began to say to them, “While you heard these words just now, they were coming true!”

All the people spoke well of Jesus and were amazed at the words of grace he spoke. They asked, “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?”

Isaiah 58:6 ... Isaiah 61:1–2

**10. Mark 1:35–39** NRSV prayer-praise

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.” And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Matthew 14:23 ... Mark 9:28–29 ... Luke 5:15–16 ... Luke 6:12–13 ... Luke 9:28–29 ... Hebrews 5:7

**11. Matthew 5:1–12** NRSV relationship-holiness

*The Beatitudes—blessings ... this and the next nine passages (# 12–20) are from Jesus’ “Sermon on the Mount”*

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

**12. Matthew 5:13–16** NCV church-mission

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its salty taste, it cannot be made salty again. It is good for nothing, except to be thrown out and walked on.

“You are the light that gives light to the world. A city that is built on a hill cannot be hidden. And people don’t hide a light under a bowl. They put it on a lampstand so the light shines for all the people in the house. In the same way, you should be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do and will praise your Father in heaven.”

**13. Matthew 5:27–28, 38–48** NRSV relationship-holiness

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart....

“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you. >

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

1 Corinthians 4:9–13 ... Colossians 1:28<sup>4</sup>

**14. Matthew 6:3–13 NKJV prayer-praise**

“When you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.

“And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

“Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
As we forgive our debtors.  
And do not lead us into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.  
For Yours is the kingdom and the  
power and the glory forever. Amen.”

Luke 18:9–14



<sup>4</sup> The Greek word for “perfect” in Matthew 5:48 and Colossians 1:28 may also be translated *complete* or *mature*.

**15. Matthew 6:19–21, 24** NCV relationship-holiness

“Don’t store treasures for yourselves here on earth where moths and rust will destroy them and thieves can break in and steal them. But store your treasures in heaven where they cannot be destroyed by moths or rust and where thieves cannot break in and steal them. Your heart will be where your treasure is.

“... No one can serve two masters. The person will hate one master and love the other, or will follow one master and refuse to follow the other. You cannot serve both God and worldly riches.”

Mark 10:17–31 ... Mark 12:41–44 ... Luke 12:15–21 ... 1 Corinthians 7:29–31 ... 1 Timothy 6:17–19 ... James 5:1–5

**16. Matthew 6:25–34** NCV faith-challenge

“So I tell you, don’t worry about the food or drink you need to live, or about the clothes you need for your body. Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothes. Look at the birds in the air. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, but your heavenly Father feeds them. And you know that you are worth much more than the birds. You cannot add any time to your life by worrying about it.

“And why do you worry about clothes? Look at how the lilies in the field grow. They don’t work or make clothes for themselves. But I tell you that even Solomon with his riches was not dressed as beautifully as one of these flowers. God clothes the grass in the field, which is alive today but tomorrow is thrown into the fire. So you can be even more sure that God will clothe you. Don’t have so little faith! Don’t worry and say, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ The people who don’t know God keep trying to get these things, and your Father in heaven knows you need them. Seek first God’s kingdom and what God wants. Then all your other needs will be met as well. So don’t worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will have its own worries. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

Philippians 4:4–7 ... 1 Peter 5:7

**17. Luke 6:37–38, 41–45** NRSV relationship-holiness

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

“... Why do you see the speck in your neighbor’s eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, ‘Friend, let me take out the speck in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor’s eye.

“No good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; for each tree is known by its own fruit. Figs are not gathered from thorns, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good, and the evil person out of evil treasure produces evil; for it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks.”

**18. Matthew 7:12** NIV relationship-holiness

“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”

Romans 12:9–21 ... 1 Corinthians 10:24, 32–33 ... Philippians 2:1–5 ... 1 Thessalonians 5:14–15

**19. Matthew 7:13–14** NCV choice-destiny

“Enter through the narrow gate. The gate is wide and the road is wide that leads to hell, and many people enter through that gate. But the gate is small and the road is narrow that leads to true life. Only a few people find that road.”

**20. Matthew 7:21–23, 28–29** NIV relationship-holiness

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”

... When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

Matthew 25:31–40

**21. Matthew 8:7–10, 13** NIV faith-challenge

Jesus said to him, “Shall I come and heal him?”

The centurion replied, “Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, “Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith...”

Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would.” And his servant was healed at that moment.

Luke 17:5–6

**22. Matthew 8:23–27** NRSV faith-challenge

And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. A windstorm arose on the sea, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. And they went and woke him up, saying, “Lord, save us! We are perishing!” And he said to them, “Why are you afraid, you of little faith?” Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a dead calm. They were amazed, saying, “What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?”





**23. Matthew 9:1–7** NCV Messiah–Christ

Jesus got into a boat and went back across the lake to his own town. Some people brought to Jesus a man who was paralyzed and lying on a mat. When Jesus saw the faith of these people, he said to the paralyzed man, “Be encouraged, young man. Your sins are forgiven.”

Some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, “This man speaks as if he were God. That is blasphemy!”

Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, “Why are you thinking evil thoughts? Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to tell him, ‘Stand up and walk’? But I will prove to you that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” Then Jesus said to the paralyzed man, “Stand up, take your mat, and go home.” And the man stood up and went home. When the people saw this, they were amazed and praised God for giving power like this to human beings.

Luke 7:46–50

**24. Matthew 9:35–36** NRSV Messiah–Christ

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Matthew 15:30–32

**25. Matthew 9:37 – 10:1 & 10:5–14, 16** NIV church–mission

Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

... These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

“Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts—no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep. Whatever town or village you enter, search there for some worthy person and stay at their house until you leave. As you enter the home, give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet...

“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.”

John 18:36

**26. Matthew 10:19–20** NIV *faith–challenge*

“When they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.”

John 14:25–26 ... John 15:26–27

**27. Matthew 11:28–30** NIRV *relationship–holiness*

“Come to me, all of you who are tired and are carrying heavy loads. I will give you rest. Become my servants and learn from me. I am gentle and free of pride. You will find rest for your souls. Serving me is easy, and my load is light.”

Revelation 22:17

**28. Mark 3:28–30** NCV *Godhead–Holy Spirit*

“I tell you the truth, all sins that people do and all the things people say against God can be forgiven. But anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of a sin that continues forever.”

Jesus said this because the teachers of the law said that he had an evil spirit inside him.

Mark 3:23–24 ... Luke 12:8–10 ... Hebrews 6:4–6 ... Hebrews 10:26–27 ... 2 Peter 2:20–21

**29. Matthew 12:47–50** NIRV *relationship–holiness*

While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside. They wanted to speak to him. Someone told him, “Your mother and brothers are standing outside. They want to speak to you.”

Jesus replied to him, “Who is my mother? And who are my brothers?” Jesus pointed to his disciples. He said, “Here is my mother! Here are my brothers! Anyone who does what my Father in heaven wants is my brother or sister or mother.”

**30. Matthew 13:44–48** NIRV *choice–destiny*

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure that was hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again. He was very happy. So he went and sold everything he had. And he bought that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a trader who was looking for fine pearls. He found one that was very valuable. So he went away and sold everything he had. And he bought that pearl.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net. It was let down into the lake. It caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and gathered the good fish into baskets. But they threw the bad fish away.”

**31. Mark 6:2–6** NCV *faith–challenge*

*At Nazareth, Jesus’ home town*

On the Sabbath day he taught in the synagogue. Many people heard him and were amazed, saying, “Where did this man get these teachings? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? And where did he get the power to do >

miracles? He is just the carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon. And his sisters are here with us.” So the people were upset with Jesus.

Jesus said to them, “A prophet is honored everywhere except in his hometown and with his own people and in his own home.” So Jesus was not able to work any miracles there except to heal a few sick people by putting his hands on them. He was amazed at how many people had no faith.

Luke 4:24–30

### 32. **Matthew 16:13–19** NRSV Messiah–Christ

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Matthew 16:21–23 ... Matthew 18:18–19 ... John 20:21–23 ... 1 Corinthians 10:3–4 ... Revelation 1:17–18

### 33. **Matthew 16:24–26** NIRV choice–destiny

Then Jesus spoke to his disciples. He said, “If anyone wants to follow me, he must say no to himself. He must pick up his cross and follow me. If he wants to save his life, he will lose it. But if he loses his life for me, he will find it.

“What good is it if someone gains the whole world but loses his soul? Or what can anyone trade for his soul?”

Matthew 10:37–39

### 34. **Matthew 17:1–8** NIRV Messiah–Christ

After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John the brother of James with him. He led them up a high mountain. They were all alone. There in front of them his appearance was changed. His face shone like the sun. His clothes became as white as the light. Just then Moses and Elijah appeared in front of them. Moses and Elijah were talking with Jesus.

Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters. One will be for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

While Peter was still speaking, a bright cloud surrounded them. A voice from the cloud said,

“This is my Son, and I love him. I am very pleased with him. Listen to him!” >



When the disciples heard this, they were terrified. They fell with their faces to the ground. But Jesus came and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don’t be afraid.” When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

Luke 9:28–36 ... 2 Peter 1:16–18

**35. Mark 9:22–29** NIRV *faith–challenge*

*A father with a child possessed by an evil spirit, speaking to Jesus*

“But if you can do anything, take pity on us. Please help us.”

“If you can?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for the one who believes.”

Right away the boy’s father cried out, “I do believe! Help me overcome my unbelief!”

Jesus saw that a crowd was running over to see what was happening. Then he ordered the evil spirit to leave the boy. “You spirit that makes him unable to hear and speak!” he said. “I command you, come out of him. Never enter him again.”

The spirit screamed. It shook the boy wildly. Then it came out of him. The boy looked so lifeless that many people said, “He’s dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand. He lifted the boy to his feet, and the boy stood up.

Jesus went indoors. Then his disciples asked him in private, “Why couldn’t we drive out the evil spirit?”

He replied, “This kind can come out only by prayer.”

Matthew 17:20 ... Mark 1:35–39

**36. Mark 9:38–40** NIV *church–mission*

“Teacher,” said John, “we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us.”

“Do not stop him,” Jesus said. “For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, for whoever is not against us is for us.”

Matthew 18:10 ... Luke 9:51–55 ... Acts 19:13–17 ... 1 Corinthians 12 (especially note verse 3) ... 2 Corinthians 13:8 ... Philippians 1:15–18 ... 1 Thessalonians 5:19–22

**37. Matthew 18:18–20** NRSV *prayer–praise*

“Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Matthew 16:19



## >> Luke's distinctive section

*This section includes several accounts not told by Matthew or Mark—such as the parable of the good Samaritan, the incident in the home of Mary and Martha, the parable of the rich fool, the story of the prodigal son's compassionate father, and the healing of the 10 lepers.*

### 38. **Luke 10:17–20** NIV faith–challenge

The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”

He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

Luke 11:27–28

### 39. **Luke 10:21–24** NRSV Messiah–Christ

At that same hour Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

Then turning to the disciples, Jesus said to them privately, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.”

John 8:56 ... John 12:16

### 40. **Luke 10:25–37** NCV church–mission

Then an expert on the law stood up to test Jesus, saying, “Teacher, what must I do to get life forever?”

Jesus said, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?”

The man answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.” Also, “Love your neighbor as you love yourself.”

Jesus said to him, “Your answer is right. Do this and you will live.”

But the man, wanting to show the importance of his question, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Jesus answered, “As a man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, some robbers attacked him. They tore off his clothes, beat him, and left him lying there, almost dead. It happened that a priest was going down that road. When he saw the man, he walked by on the other side. Next, a Levite came there, and after he went over and looked at the man, he walked by on the other side of the road. Then a Samaritan traveling down the road came to where the hurt man was. When he saw the man, he felt very sorry for him. The Samaritan went to him, poured olive oil and wine on his wounds, and bandaged them. Then he put the hurt man on his own donkey and took him to an inn where he cared for him. The next day, the Samaritan brought out two coins, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of this man. If you spend more money on him, I will pay it back to you when I come again.’” >

Then Jesus said, “Which one of these three men do you think was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by the robbers?”

The expert on the law answered, “The one who showed him mercy.”

Jesus said to him, “Then go and do what he did.”

Leviticus 19:18 ... 2 Chronicles 28:8-15 ... Matthew 19:24-26 ... Mark 12:32-34 ... Romans 13:8-10  
... James 2:1-9

**41. Luke 10:38-42** NRSV relationship-holiness

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.” But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.”

**42. Luke 11:9-10, 13** NRSV Godhead-Holy Spirit

“So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.... If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Luke 18:1-8 ... John 4:34-35 ... Titus 3:5-6 ...  
Revelation 3:8 ... Revelation 4:1



**43. Luke 12:4-7, 32** NRSV faith-challenge

“I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that can do nothing more. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him! Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God’s sight. But even the hairs of your head are all counted. Do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.”

“... Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

**44. Luke 12:15-21** NRSV relationship-holiness

And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions. Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my >

grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

Matthew 6:19-21, 24 ... James 4:13-16 ... 2 Peter 2:14

**45. Luke 15:4-7** NRSV *grace-gospel*

"Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."

**46. Luke 15:11-24** ESV *grace-gospel*

And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate."

Luke 15:25-32

**47. Luke 17:11–19** NCV faith-challenge

While Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem, he was going through the area between Samaria and Galilee. As he came into a small town, ten men who had a skin disease met him there. They did not come close to Jesus but called to him, “Jesus! Master! Have mercy on us!”

When Jesus saw the men, he said, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.”

As the ten men were going, they were healed. When one of them saw that he was healed, he went back to Jesus, praising God in a loud voice. Then he bowed down at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. (And this man was a Samaritan.) Jesus said, “Weren’t ten men healed? Where are the other nine? Is this Samaritan the only one who came back to thank God?” Then Jesus said to him, “Stand up and go on your way. You were healed because you believed.”

## >> Jesus’ ministry in Judea

**48. Mark 10:13–16** NIV church-mission

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.



Matthew 18:1–5, 10

**49. Matthew 20:25–28** NCV church-mission

Jesus called all the followers together and said, “You know that the rulers of the non-Jewish people love to show their power over the people. And their important leaders love to use all their authority. But it should not be that way among you. Whoever wants to become great among you must serve the rest of you like a servant. Whoever wants to become first among you must serve the rest of you like a slave. In the same way, the Son of Man did not come to be served. He came to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many people.”

Matthew 20:1–24 ... John 13:12–17



**50. Matthew 21:7–11** NKJV Messiah–Christ

They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying:

“Hosanna to the Son of David!  
‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’  
Hosanna in the highest!”

And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, “Who is this?”

So the multitudes said, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee.”

Psalm 118:15–29

**51. Matthew 21:12–14** NKJV Messiah–Christ

Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. And He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a ‘den of thieves.’”

Then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.

Isaiah 56:6–7 ... Jeremiah 7:11 ... John 2:14–17

**52. Mark 11:22–25** NIRV prayer–praise

“Have faith in God,” Jesus said. “What I’m about to tell you is true. Suppose one of you says to this mountain, ‘Go and throw yourself into the sea.’ You must not doubt in your heart. You must believe that what you say will happen. Then it will be done for you.

“So I tell you, when you pray for something, believe that you have already received it. Then it will be yours. And when you stand praying, forgive anyone you have anything against. Then your Father in heaven will forgive your sins.”

Isaiah 59:1 ... Matthew 17:20 ... Luke 1:37 ... John 14:13–14 ... John 15:7

**53. Matthew 21:42–43** NRSV Messiah–Christ

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:  
‘The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
this was the Lord’s doing,  
and it is amazing in our eyes’?”

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom.”

**54. Matthew 23:37-39** ESV Messiah-Christ

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

**55. Matthew 24:3-14, 21-31, 36-42** ESV choice-destiny

As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

“... For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand. So, if they say to you, ‘Look, he is in the wilderness,’ do not go out. If they say, ‘Look, he is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe



it. For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of >

Man, 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 out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other....

“But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.”

Matthew 25:1-13 ... 2 Corinthians 11:14-15 ... Colossians 1:6 ... 1 Thessalonians 5:1-4 ...  
2 Thessalonians 2:1-10 ... 2 Peter 3:3-4, 8-10, 13

#### 56. **Matthew 25:31-40** ESV church-mission

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’”

Matthew 25:41-46



## >> Jesus' death & resurrection

### 57. **Matthew 26:26–29** ESV grace-gospel

*The Last Supper*

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

1 Corinthians 11:23–26

### 58. **Luke 22:31–32** NIV prayer-praise

"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

Matthew 26:33–35, 56 ... Luke 22:33–34, 54–62 ... John 21:15–17

### 59. **Luke 22:40–46** ESV prayer-praise

And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

Mark 14:32–42 ... Hebrews 5:7–9

### 60. **Matthew 27:22–26** NIV choice-destiny

"What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" Pilate asked.

They all answered, "Crucify him!"

"Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"

When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!"

All the people answered, "His blood is on us and on our children!"

Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

Luke 23:27–31

**61. Luke 23:33–36** NRSV Messiah–Christ

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” The soldiers also mocked him.



**62. Luke 23:39–43** NRSV grace–gospel

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

Luke 19:9–10

**63. Mark 15:33–34, 37–39** NCV Messiah–Christ

At noon the whole country became dark, and the darkness lasted for three hours. At three o'clock Jesus cried in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani.” This means, “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?”

... Then Jesus cried in a loud voice and died.

The curtain in the Temple was torn into two pieces, from the top to the bottom. When the army officer who was standing in front of the cross saw what happened when Jesus died, he said, “This man really was the Son of God.”

Matthew 27:51–53 ... Luke 23:44–46

**64. Matthew 28:1–10** NCV Messiah–Christ

The day after the Sabbath day was the first day of the week. At dawn on the first day, Mary Magdalene and another woman named Mary went to look at the tomb.

At that time there was a strong earthquake. An angel of the Lord came down from heaven, went to the tomb, and rolled the stone away from the entrance. Then he sat on the stone. He was shining as bright as lightning, and his clothes were >

white as snow. The soldiers guarding the tomb shook with fear because of the angel, and they became like dead men.

The angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus, who has been crucified. He is not here. He has risen from the dead as he said he would. Come and see the place where his body was. And go quickly and tell his followers, 'Jesus has risen from the dead. He is going into Galilee ahead of you, and you will see him there.'" Then the angel said, "Now I have told you."

The women left the tomb quickly. They were afraid, but they were also very happy. They ran to tell Jesus' followers what had happened. Suddenly, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings." The women came up to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. Go and tell my followers to go on to Galilee, and they will see me there."

Matthew 27:62-65 ... Luke 24:2-8



#### 65. **Matthew 28:16-20** NRSV church-mission

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Mark 16:9-20 ... John 4:35 ... Romans 10:14-15

#### 66. **Luke 24:25-27, 31-32** ESV Messiah-Christ

*Jesus on the road to Emmaus, joining the seven-mile walk with two disciples*

And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself....

And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?"

**67. Luke 24:36–49** NCV Messiah–Christ

While the two followers were telling this, Jesus himself stood right in the middle of them and said, “Peace be with you.”

They were fearful and terrified and thought they were seeing a ghost. But Jesus said, “Why are you troubled? Why do you doubt what you see? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have a living body as you see I have.”

After Jesus said this, he showed them his hands and feet. While they still could not believe it because they were amazed and happy, Jesus said to them, “Do you have any food here?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish. While the followers watched, Jesus took the fish and ate it.

He said to them, “Remember when I was with you before? I said that everything written about me must happen—everything in the law of Moses, the books of the prophets, and the Psalms.”

Then Jesus opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He said to them, “It is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that a change of hearts and lives and forgiveness of sins would be preached in his name to all nations, starting at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I will send you what my Father has promised, but you must stay in Jerusalem until you have received that power from heaven.”



**68. Luke 24:50–53** NIRV Messiah–Christ

Jesus led his disciples out to the area near Bethany. Then he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them. He was taken up into heaven.

Then they worshiped him. With great joy, they returned to Jerusalem. Every day they went to the temple, praising God.

## The gospel of John

### 69. John 1:1–18 ESV Messiah–Christ

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 was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 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 have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

Colossians 1:15–17

### 70. John 1:29–34 NCV Godhead–Holy Spirit

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him. John said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the One I was talking about when I said, ‘A man will come after me, but he is greater than I am, because he was living before me.’ Even I did not know who he was, although I came baptizing with water so that the people of Israel would know who he is.”

Then John said, “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven in the form of a dove and rest on him. Until then I did not know who the Christ was. But the God who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘You will see the Spirit come down and rest on a man; he is the One who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ I have seen this happen, and I tell you the truth: This man is the Son of God.”



**71. John 3:3-8, 13-18** *ESV* *grace-gospel*

*Jesus' meeting at night-time with Nicodemus, a church leader*

Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, 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, "Truly, truly, 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 its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.

"No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God."



John 8:28 ... 2 Corinthians 5:21 ...  
1 Thessalonians 5:9

**72. John 3:34-35** *NIRV* *Godhead-Holy Spirit*

"The One whom God has sent speaks God's words. God gives the Holy Spirit without limit.

"The Father loves the Son and has put everything into his hands."

Psalms 81:10 ... Luke 11:13 ... Romans 5:5<sup>5</sup>

**73. John 4:13-14** *NIV* *Godhead-Holy Spirit*

*To the Samaritan woman at the well*

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

John 7:37-39

<sup>5</sup> For Romans 5:5, see The Message Bible version.

**74. John 4:23–26** NCV **Messiah–Christ**

*Jesus, to the Samaritan woman at the well*

“The time is coming when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, and that time is here already. You see, the Father too is actively seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

The woman said, “I know that the Messiah is coming.” (Messiah is the One called Christ.) “When the Messiah comes, he will explain everything to us.”

Then Jesus said, “I am he—I, the one talking to you.”

John 6:63

**75. John 5:24–26** NIRV **grace–gospel**

“Anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He will not be found guilty. He has crossed over from death to life.

“What I’m about to tell you is true. A time is coming for me to give life. In fact, it has already begun. The dead will hear the voice of the Son of God. Those who hear it will live.



“The Father has life in himself. He has also allowed the Son to have life in himself. And the Father has given him the authority to judge. This is because he is the Son of Man.”

John 6:37–40 ... John 11:25–26 ... John 12:47 ... Acts 17:31

**76. John 5:39–40** NCV **choice–destiny**

“You carefully study the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. They do in fact tell about me, but you refuse to come to me to have that life.”

John 5:45–47

**77. John 6:35–40, 51** NRSV **grace–gospel**

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.

“... I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

John 5:24

**78. John 7:37–39** NCV Godhead–Holy Spirit

On the last and most important day of the feast Jesus stood up and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. If anyone believes in me, rivers of living water will flow out from that person’s heart, as the Scripture says.” Jesus was talking about the Holy Spirit. The Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet been raised to glory. But later, those who believed in Jesus would receive the Spirit.

Psalms 22:14 ... Zechariah 13:1 ...  
Zechariah 14:8 ... John 4:13–14 ...  
Revelation 21:6 ... Revelation 22:17



**79. John 8:6–11** NIV grace–gospel

*Jesus’ response when church leaders presented to him an immoral woman*

Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

“No one, sir,” she said.

“Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

**80. John 8:12, 31–32, 36** NRSV choice–destiny

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

“... If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

“... So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

**81. John 10:9–10, 14–16, 27–30** NCV grace–gospel

“I am the door, and the person who enters through me will be saved and will be able to come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes to steal and kill and destroy, but I came to give life—life in all its fullness.”

“... I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep, and my sheep know me, just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. I give my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not in this flock, and I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock and one shepherd.” >

“... My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never die, and no one can steal them out of my hand. My Father gave my sheep to me. He is greater than all, and no person can steal my sheep out of my Father’s hand. The Father and I are one.”

Acts 20:28

**82. John 11:23–27, 41–44** NRSV Messiah–Christ

Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”



... So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

John 5:28–29 ... John 12:10–11

**83. John 12:27–33** NRSV Messiah–Christ

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Jeremiah 31:3 ... Luke 10:17–19 ... John 3:14–15 ... John 8:28 ... John 12:23–24 ... John 13:21 ... John 14:30–31 ... John 16:11 ... Romans 16:20 ... Revelation 12:7–9

**84. John 13:3–7, 12–15, 34–35** ESV church–mission

Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, >

do you wash my feet?” Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.”

... When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.”

“... A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Ephesians 4:32 – 5:2 ... Philipians 2:1–4, 19–21

**85. John 14:1–3, 27** NRSV [faith–challenge](#)

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.”

“... Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”

John 16:33 ... Philipians 4:6–7

**86. John 14:5–7** ESV [Godhead–Holy Spirit](#)

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and 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. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

1 John 5:6

**87. John 14:12–18, 25–26** NRSV [Godhead–Holy Spirit](#)

“Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.

“... I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.”

Job 16:19–21

**88. John 14:19–21, 23** NRSV relationship-holiness

“In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.” ... “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.”

Colossians 1:27 ... 1 John 2:3–6

**89. John 15:5–8, 16 & 16:23–24** NIV prayer-praise

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

“... You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.”

“... In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.”

Proverbs 18:10 ... Mark 11:22–24



**90. John 15:9–15** NIRV relationship-holiness

“Just as the Father has loved me, I have loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love. In the same way, I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy will be in you. I also want your joy to be complete.

“Here is my command. Love each other, just as I have loved you. No one has greater love than the one who gives his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.

“I do not call you servants anymore. Servants do not know their master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends. I have told you everything I learned from my Father.”

**91. John 16:7–8, 12–16** NCV Godhead-Holy Spirit

“But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go away. When I go away, I will send the Helper to you. If I do not go away, the Helper will not come. When the Helper comes, he will prove to the people of the world the truth about sin, about being right with God, and about judgment. >

“... I have many more things to say to you, but they are too much for you now. But when the Spirit of truth comes, he will lead you into all truth. He will not speak his own words, but he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is to come. The Spirit of truth will bring glory to me, because he will take what I have to say and tell it to you. All that the Father has is mine. That is why I said that the Spirit will take what I have to say and tell it to you.

“After a little while you will not see me, and then after a little while you will see me again.”

John 15:26–27

**92. John 16:33** NRSV *faith–challenge*

“I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!”

John 14:27 ... John 16:20 ... Philippians 1:29

**93. John 17: 1–3, 10–23** NCV *church–mission*

*The prayer of Jesus to his Father, as our high priest*

After Jesus said these things, he looked toward heaven and prayed, “Father, the time has come. Give glory to your Son so that the Son can give glory to you. You gave the Son power over all people so that the Son could give eternal life to all those you gave him. And this is eternal life: that people know you, the only true God, and that they know Jesus Christ, the One you sent.

“... All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And my glory is shown through them. I am coming to you; I will not stay in the world any longer. But they are still in the world. Holy Father, keep them safe by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they will be one, just as you and I are one. While I was with them, I kept them safe by the power of your name, the name you gave me. I protected them, and only one of them, the one worthy of destruction, was lost so that the Scripture would come true.

“I am coming to you now. But I pray these things while I am still in the world so that these followers can have all of my joy in them. I have given them your teaching. And the world has hated them, because they don’t belong to the world, just as I don’t belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world but to keep them safe from the Evil One. They don’t belong to the world, just as I don’t belong to the world. Make them ready for your service through your truth; your teaching is truth. I have sent them into the world, just as you sent me into the world. For their sake, I am making myself ready to serve so that they can be ready for their service of the truth.

“I pray for these followers, but I am also praying for all those who will believe in me because of their teaching. Father, I pray that they can be one. As you are in me and I am in you, I pray that they can also be one in us. Then the world will believe that you sent me. I have given these people the glory that you gave me so that they can be one, just as you and I are one. I will be in them and you will be in me so that they will be completely one. Then the world will know that you sent me and that you loved them just as much as you loved me.”

**94. John 19:16–18, 28–30** NCV Messiah–Christ

So Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.

The soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, Jesus went out to a place called The Place of the Skull, which in the Hebrew language is called Golgotha. There they crucified Jesus. They also crucified two other men, one on each side, with Jesus in the middle....

After this, Jesus knew that everything had been done. So that the Scripture would come true, he said, "I am thirsty." There was a jar full of vinegar there, so the soldiers soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a branch of a hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' mouth. When Jesus tasted the vinegar, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and died.



Revelation 16:17–18

**95. John 20:1–8** NRSV Messiah–Christ

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed.

**96. John 20:10–18** NIRV Messiah–Christ

*Mary Magdalene's encounter with the resurrected Lord*

Then the disciples went back to their homes. But Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she cried, she bent over to look into the tomb. She saw two angels dressed in white. They were seated where Jesus' body had been. One of them was where Jesus' head had been laid. The other sat where his feet had been placed.

They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said. "I don't know where they have put him."

Then she turned around and saw Jesus standing there. But she didn't realize that it was Jesus.

"Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who are you looking for?"

She thought he was the gardener. So she said, "Sir, did you carry him away? Tell me where you put him. Then I will go and get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him. Then she cried out in the Aramaic language, "Rabboni!" Rabboni means Teacher. >



Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me. I have not yet returned to the Father. Instead, go to those who believe in me. Tell them, ‘I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news. She said, “I have seen the Lord!”

**97. John 20:19–23** ESV church-mission

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”

Matthew 16: 19 ... Acts 1:4–8

**98. John 20:26–29** NIRV faith-challenge

A week later, Jesus’ disciples were in the house again. Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus came in and stood among them.

He said, “May peace be with you!” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here. See my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen me but still have believed.”

1 Peter 1:8–9

**99. John 20:30–31** ESV Messiah-Christ

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

**100. John 21:15–17** NCV church-mission

When they finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

A third time he said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” Peter said, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you!”

He said to him, “Feed my sheep.”

Luke 22:31–32 ... John 18:15–18, 25–27 ... 1 Peter 5:2–4

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mankind by which we must be  
saved."

Acts 4:11–12 NIV

# The book of Acts

## 1. Acts 1:4-8 NIV Godhead-Holy Spirit

One day Jesus was eating with them. He gave them a command. “Do not leave Jerusalem,” he said. “Wait for the gift my Father promised. You have heard me talk about it. John baptized with water. But in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

When the apostles met together, they asked Jesus a question. “Lord,” they said, “are you going to give the kingdom back to Israel now?”

He said to them, “You should not be concerned about times or dates. The Father has set them by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Then you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem. You will be my witnesses in all Judea and Samaria. And you will be my witnesses from one end of the earth to the other.”

Mark 1:7-8 ... John 20:21-22

## 2. Acts 1:9-11 NIV Messiah-Christ

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

1 Corinthians 16:22



## 3. Acts 2:1-4, 14-18, 21 NRSV Godhead-Holy Spirit

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

... Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what >

I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'In the last days it will be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams.  
Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;  
and they shall prophesy.  
... Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Acts 19:1-6 ... Ephesians 5:18

#### 4. Acts 2:32-33, 36-41 NRSV Messiah-Christ

*Peter, in his sermon at Pentecost*

"This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you both see and hear..."

Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Acts 3:19-21 ... Acts 26:8, 22-23 ... 2 Peter 1:16

#### 5. Acts 2:42-47 NCV church-mission

They spent their time learning the apostles' teaching, sharing, breaking bread, and praying together.

The apostles were doing many miracles and signs, and everyone felt great respect for God. All the believers were together and shared everything. They would sell their land and the things they owned and then divide the money and give it to anyone who needed it. The believers met together in the Temple every day. They ate together in their homes, happy to share their food with joyful hearts. They praised God and were liked by all the people. Every day the Lord added those who were being saved to the group of believers.

Acts 1:14 ... Acts 4:32-33 ... Acts 10:1-2

**6. Acts 4:8–12** NIV Messiah–Christ

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. Jesus is

“the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.’ Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

Matthew 21:42–43 ...

Acts 4:19–20, 29–31 ... Acts 5:27–29, 39 ... Ephesians 2:19–21



**7. Acts 5:40–42** NCV church–mission

*The council of leaders of the established church, dealing with the threat of the Christian Gospel*

They called the apostles in, beat them, and told them not to speak in the name of Jesus again. Then they let them go free. The apostles left the meeting full of joy because they were given the honor of suffering disgrace for Jesus. Every day in the Temple and in people’s homes they continued teaching the people and telling the Good News—that Jesus is the Christ.

Acts 13:52

**8. Acts 7:55–60** NIV faith–challenge

*The council of leaders of the established church, dealing with the threat from Stephen—first Christian martyr*

Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep.

9. **Acts 9:1–6** NRSV church-mission

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The reply came, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.”



Acts 26:4–20

10. **Acts 16:25–34** NRSV grace-gospel

*After Paul and Silas had been stripped, beaten, and placed in an inner cell with stocks on their feet*

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They answered, “Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

Acts 17:11–12

11. **Acts 20:22–32, 36–38** NCV church-mission

*Paul’s farewell to leaders of the Christian church in Ephesus*

“But now I must obey the Holy Spirit and go to Jerusalem. I don’t know what will happen to me there. I know only that in every city the Holy Spirit tells me that troubles and even jail wait for me. I don’t care about my own life. The most important thing is that I complete my mission, the work that the Lord Jesus gave me—to tell people the Good News about God’s grace.

“And now, I know that none of you among whom I was preaching the kingdom of God will ever see me again. So today I tell you that if any of you should be lost, I am not responsible, because I have told you everything God wants you to know. Be careful for yourselves and for all the people the Holy Spirit has given to you to oversee. You must be like shepherds to the church of God, which he bought with >

the death of his own Son. I know that after I leave, some people will come like wild wolves and try to destroy the flock. Also, some from your own group will rise up and twist the truth and will lead away followers after them. So be careful! Always remember that for three years, day and night, I never stopped warning each of you, and I often cried over you.

“Now I am putting you in the care of God and the message about his grace. It is able to give you strength, and it will give you the blessings God has for all his holy people...”

When Paul had said this, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. And they all cried because Paul had said they would never see him again. They put their arms around him and kissed him. Then they went with him to the ship.

Acts 21:4-5, 11-14 ... Acts 3:1, 11 ... Acts 28:30-31

## The letters of the apostle Paul

### 12. Romans 1:16-17 NCV *grace-gospel*

I am not ashamed of the Good News, because it is the power God uses to save everyone who believes—to save the Jews first, and then to save non-Jews. The Good News shows how God makes people right with himself—that it begins and ends with faith. As the Scripture says, “But those who are right with God will live by faith.”

Habakkuk 2:4 ... Galatians 1:11-12

### 13. Romans 3:10-12, 19-22 NIV *grace-gospel*

“There is no one righteous, not even one;  
there is no one who understands;  
there is no one who seeks God.  
All have turned away,  
they have together become worthless;  
there is no one who does good,  
not even one.”

... Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

Psalms 14:1-3 ... Galatians 3:13

**14. Romans 3:22–26, 28, 31** NRSV grace-gospel

For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

... For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.... Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

James 1:25

**15. Romans 5:1–5** ESV grace-gospel

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

**16. Romans 5:6–10** NIV grace-gospel

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life.



Colossians 1:21–23 ... 1 John 5:6



**17. Romans 5:18-21** NCV *grace-gospel*

So as one sin of Adam brought the punishment of death to all people, one good act that Christ did makes all people right with God. And that brings true life for all. One man disobeyed God, and many became sinners. In the same way, one man obeyed God, and many will be made right. The law came to make sin worse. But when sin grew worse, God's grace increased. Sin once used death to rule us, but God gave people more of his grace so that grace could rule by making people right with him. And this brings life forever through Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:22, 45-49

**18. Romans 6:1-6, 12-15, 17, 22** ESV *relationship-holiness*

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin....

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.



What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!... But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness....

But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.

Romans 13:11-14 ... 2 Peter 2:19

**19. Romans 6:23** NRSV *grace-gospel*

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**20. Romans 7:18–25** ESV relationship-holiness

For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

**21. Romans 8:1–4** ESV grace-gospel

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

**22. Romans 8:12–17** NIRV relationship-holiness

Brothers and sisters, we have a duty. Our duty is not to live under the control of our sinful nature. If you live under the control of your sinful nature, you will die. But by the power of the Holy Spirit you can put to death the sins your body commits. Then you will live.

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. You didn't receive a spirit that makes you a slave to fear once again. Instead you received the Holy Spirit, who makes you God's child. By the Spirit's power we call God "Abba." *Abba* means Father. The Spirit himself joins with our spirits. Together they give witness that we are God's children.

As his children, we will receive all that he has for us. We will share what Christ receives. But we must share in his sufferings if we want to share in his glory.

Galatians 4:6 ... 2 Timothy 1:7

**23. Romans 8:26–27** NIRV prayer-praise

The Holy Spirit helps us when we are weak. We don't know what we should pray for. But the Spirit himself prays for us. He prays with groans too deep for words. God, who looks into our hearts, knows the mind of the Spirit. And the Spirit prays for God's people just as God wants him to pray.



**24. Romans 8:28** NIV *faith-challenge*

We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

**25. Romans 8:31–39** NRSV *faith-challenge*

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Timothy 4:16–18

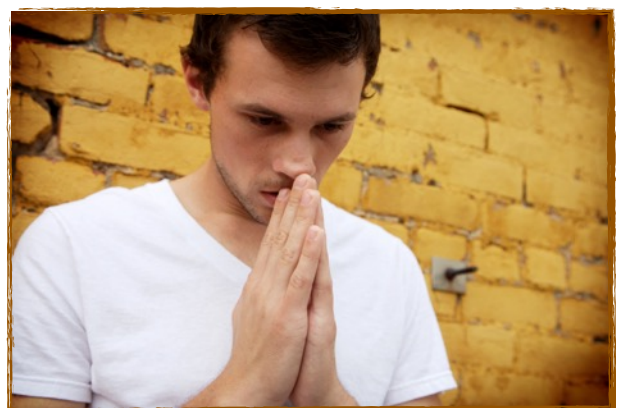
**26. Romans 10:9** NIV *grace-gospel*

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:10–13

**27. Romans 11:33, 36** NIV *prayer-praise*

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!  
How unsearchable his judgments,  
and his paths beyond tracing out!  
... For from him and through him  
and for him are all things.  
To him be the glory forever! Amen.



**28. Romans 12:1–2** NRSV *relationship-holiness*

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Ephesians 4:22–24 ... 1 John 2:15–17

**29. Romans 14:12–13, 17–19** NIV church-mission

So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister... For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.

Romans 15:5–6

**30. 1 Corinthians 1:17–18, 21–24, 30–31 & 2:1–2** NIV church-mission

Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

... God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

... It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

1 Corinthians 4:20 ... 1 Corinthians 6:11 ...

1 Corinthians 9:16, 22–23 ... 1 Corinthians 15:3–8 ...

2 Corinthians 4:5, 7 ... 2 Corinthians 10:17–18 ... Galatians 6:14 ... Ephesians 6:19–20



**31. 1 Corinthians 2:3–5, 9–10** NIRV Godhead-Holy Spirit

When I came to you, I was weak and afraid and trembling all over. I didn't preach my message with clever and compelling words. As I preached, the Holy Spirit showed his power. That was so you would believe not because of human wisdom but because of God's power. >

... It is written,  
“No eye has seen,  
no ear has heard,  
no mind has known  
what God has prepared for those who love him.”  
But God has shown it to us through his Spirit.  
The Spirit understands all things. He understands even the deep things of God.  
Isaiah 64:4 ... 2 Timothy 4:2-5

**32. 1 Corinthians 3:11, 16-17** NCV church-mission

*Referring to believers together, as the church*

The foundation that has already been laid is Jesus Christ, and no one can lay down any other foundation....

Don't you know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person, because God's temple is holy and you are that temple.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 ... Ephesians 2:19-22

**33. 1 Corinthians 6:18-20** NCV relationship-holiness

*Referring to believers as individuals*

So run away from sexual sin. Every other sin people do is outside their bodies, but those who sin sexually sin against their own bodies. You should know that your body is a temple for the Holy Spirit who is in you. You have received the Holy Spirit from God. So you do not belong to yourselves, because you were bought by God for a price. So honor God with your bodies.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 ... 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 ... Hebrews 13:4

**34. 1 Corinthians 10:12-13** NRSV relationship-holiness

So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.<sup>6</sup>

**35. 1 Corinthians 10:24, 31-32** NIRV relationship-holiness

We should not look out for our own interests. Instead, we should look out for the interests of others....

So eat and drink and do everything else for the glory of God. Don't do anything that causes another person to trip and fall.

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<sup>6</sup> "Testing" can equally be translated "temptation." (This footnote is supplied here—it is not in the source Bible version.)

**36. 1 Corinthians 11:23–26** ESV church-mission

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.



Matthew 26:26–29

**37. 1 Corinthians 12:1, 4–11** NCV Godhead-Holy Spirit

Now, brothers and sisters, I want you to understand about spiritual gifts....

There are different kinds of gifts, but they are all from the same Spirit. There are different ways to serve but the same Lord to serve. And there are different ways that God works through people but the same God. God works in all of us in everything we do. Something from the Spirit can be seen in each person, for the common good. The Spirit gives one person the ability to speak with wisdom, and the same Spirit gives another the ability to speak with knowledge. The same Spirit gives faith to one person. And, to another, that one Spirit gives gifts of healing. The Spirit gives to another person the power to do miracles, to another the ability to prophesy. And he gives to another the ability to know the difference between good and evil spirits. The Spirit gives one person the ability to speak in different kinds of languages and to another the ability to interpret those languages. One Spirit, the same Spirit, does all these things, and the Spirit decides what to give each person.

Ephesians 1:22–23

**38. 1 Corinthians 12:28–31** NCV church-mission

Together you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of that body. In the church God has given a place first to apostles, second to prophets, and third to teachers. Then God has given a place to those who do miracles, those who have gifts of healing, those who can help others, those who are able to govern, and those who can speak in different languages. Not all are apostles. Not all are prophets. Not all are teachers. Not all do miracles. Not all have gifts of healing. Not all speak in different languages. Not all interpret those languages. But you should truly want to have the greater gifts.

1 Corinthians 14:33, 39–40 ... Ephesians 4:7–8, 11–13

**39. 1 Corinthians 12:31 – 13:13** ESV relationship-holiness

And I will show you a still more excellent way.

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, >

but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Colossians 3:12-14 ... Colossians 4:6 ... 1 Peter 4:8

#### 40. 1 Corinthians 15:16-26 *ESV* Messiah-Christ

For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

#### 41. 1 Corinthians 15:51-55 *NRSV* choice-destiny

Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will 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 imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

“Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

“Where, O death, is your victory?  
Where, O death, is your sting?”

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18



**42. 1 Corinthians 15:57–58** NCV prayer-praise

But we thank God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
So my dear brothers and sisters, stand strong. Do not let anything move you.  
Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your work in the Lord is never wasted.

1 Corinthians 16:13 ... 2 Corinthians 2:14–16 ... Colossians 3:17

**43. 2 Corinthians 1:3–5** NIV prayer-praise

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:8–11 ... 2 Corinthians 7:6, 10 ... Ephesians 4:32 – 5:2

**44. 2 Corinthians 1:18–20** NIV prayer-praise

But as surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not “Yes” and “No.” For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me and Silas and Timothy—was not “Yes” and “No,” but in him it has always been “Yes.” For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.

2 Corinthians 7:1

**45. 2 Corinthians 1:21–22** NIV Godhead-Holy Spirit

Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

2 Corinthians 5:5 ... Ephesians 4:30

**46. 2 Corinthians 2:14–16** NIV church-mission

But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ’s triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life. And who is equal to such a task?



1 Corinthians 15:58 ... 2 Corinthians 3:4–6 ... 2 Corinthians 4:16–18



**47. 2 Corinthians 3:15–18** NIV Godhead–Holy Spirit

Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

**48. 2 Corinthians 4:4–7** ESV Messiah–Christ

The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

Colossians 2:2–3

**49. 2 Corinthians 4:16–18** NRSV faith–challenge

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:7–12 ... 2 Corinthians 6:4–10 ... 2 Corinthians 11:23–30 ... 2 Corinthians 12:7–10

**50. 2 Corinthians 5:1, 10** ESV choice–destiny

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens....

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

2 Corinthians 13:5 ... Hebrews 4:13 ... Hebrews 9:27–28 ... James 2:10–13 ... 1 Peter 4:17 ... Revelation 20:11–15

**51. 2 Corinthians 5:7** NKJV faith–challenge

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

1 John 5:4–5

**52. 2 Corinthians 5:14, 17–21** NIRV grace–gospel

Christ's love controls us. We are sure that one person died for everyone. And so everyone died.

... Anyone who believes in Christ is a new creation. The old is gone! The new has come! It is all from God. He brought us back to himself through Christ's death on the cross. And he has given us the task of bringing others back to him through Christ. >

God was bringing the world back to himself through Christ. He did not hold people's sins against them. God has trusted us with the message that people may be brought back to him. So we are Christ's official messengers. It is as if God were making his appeal through us. Here is what Christ wants us to beg you to do. Come back to God!

Christ didn't have any sin. But God made him become sin for us. So we can be made right with God because of what Christ has done for us.

**53. 2 Corinthians 8:7, 9 & 9:6-8, 15** NRSV relationship-holiness

Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking....

For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich....

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

... Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

**54. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5** NRSV faith-challenge

We live as human beings, but we do not wage war according to human standards; for the weapons of our warfare are not merely human, but they have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every proud obstacle raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to obey Christ.



**55. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10** NCV faith-challenge

So that I would not become too proud of the wonderful things that were shown to me, a painful physical problem was given to me. This problem was a messenger from Satan, sent to beat me and keep me from being too proud. I begged the Lord three times to take this problem away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is enough for you. When you are weak, my power is made perfect in you." So I am very happy to brag about my weaknesses. Then Christ's power can live in me. For this reason I am happy when I have weaknesses, insults, hard times, sufferings, and all kinds of troubles for Christ. Because when I am weak, then I am truly strong.

2 Corinthians 12:2-4 ... Philippians 4:11-13

**56. 2 Corinthians 13:14** NIV prayer-praise

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Romans 15:13

**57. Galatians 2:20** ESV grace-gospel

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 5:24 ... Galatians 6:14 ... Philippians 1:21

**58. Galatians 5:1, 4-6** NIRV grace-gospel

Christ has set us free. He wants us to enjoy freedom. So stand firm. Don't let the chains of slavery hold you again.

... Some of you are trying to be made right with God by obeying the law. You have been separated from Christ. You have fallen away from God's grace.

But we expect to be made completely holy because of our faith in Christ. Through the Holy Spirit we wait in hope.... The only thing that really counts is faith that shows itself through love.

1 Corinthians 13 ... Galatians 1:6-7 ... Galatians 3:1-3, 23-25 ... Galatians 6:2 ... Colossians 2:13-17

**59. Galatians 5:16-25** NIRV relationship-holiness

The sinful nature does not want what the Spirit delights in. And the Spirit does not want what the sinful nature delights in. The two are at war with each other. That's what makes you do what you don't want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the authority of the law.

What the sinful nature does is clear. It enjoys sexual sins, impure acts and wild living. It worships statues of gods. It also worships evil powers. It is full of hatred and fighting. It is full of jealousy and fits of anger. It is interested only in getting ahead. It stirs up trouble. It separates people into their own little groups. It wants what others have. It gets drunk and takes part in wild parties. It does many things of that kind. I warn you now as I did before. People who live like that will not receive God's kingdom.

But the fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself. There is no law against things of that kind.

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed their sinful nature to his cross. They don't want what their sinful nature loves and longs for.

Since we live by the Spirit, let us march in step with the Spirit.

Galatians 6:7-8 ... Ephesians 5:3-5, 8-11

**60. Ephesians 1:3-10** NCV grace-gospel

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In Christ, God has given us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly world. That is, in Christ, he chose us before the world was made so that we would be his holy people—people without blame before him. Because of his love, God had already decided to make us his >

own children through Jesus Christ. That was what he wanted and what pleased him, and it brings praise to God because of his wonderful grace. God gave that grace to us freely, in Christ, the One he loves. In Christ we are set free by the blood of his death, and so we have forgiveness of sins. How rich is God's grace, which he has given to us so fully and freely. God, with full wisdom and understanding, let us know his secret purpose. This was what God wanted, and he planned to do it through Christ. His goal was to carry out his plan, when the right time came, that all things in heaven and on earth would be joined together in Christ as the head.

Ephesians 1:18-23 ... Colossians 1:13-14

**61. Ephesians 2:4-10** NCV *grace-gospel*

But God's mercy is great, and he loved us very much. Though we were spiritually dead because of the things we did against God, he gave us new life with Christ. You have been saved by God's grace. And he raised us up with Christ and gave us a seat with him in the heavens. He did this for those in Christ Jesus so that for all future time he could show the very great riches of his grace by being kind to us in Christ Jesus. I mean that you have been saved by grace through believing. You did not save yourselves; it was a gift from God. It was not the result of your own efforts, so you cannot brag about it. God has made us what we are. In Christ Jesus, God made us to do good works, which God planned in advance for us to live our lives doing.

**62. Ephesians 2:13-14, 17-22** NRSV *grace-gospel*

*Paul speaks to non-Jews*

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.... So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

1 Corinthians 3:11, 16-17 ... Ephesians 4:15-16

**63. Ephesians 3:14-21** ESV *prayer-praise*

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have >



strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Malachi 3:10 ... 1 Timothy 1:17 ... 1 Timothy 6:15-16

**64. Ephesians 4:1-6** NIRV relationship-holiness

I am asking you to live a life worthy of what God chose you for.

Don't be proud at all. Be completely gentle. Be patient. Put up with one another in love. The Holy Spirit makes you one in every way. So try your best to remain as one. Let peace keep you together.

There is one body. There is one Spirit. You were appointed to one hope when you were chosen. There is one Lord. There is one faith and one baptism. There is one God and Father of all. He is over everything. He is through everything. He is in everything.

**65. Ephesians 5:18-21** ESV prayer-praise

Be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Philippians 4:4-7, 11-13 ... Colossians 3:15-17 ... 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19 ... Hebrews 13:15 ... James 5:13

**66. Ephesians 5:25-33** NIRV relationship-holiness

Husbands, love your wives. Love them just as Christ loved the church. He gave himself up for her. He did it to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her with water and the word. He did it to bring her to himself as a brightly shining church. He wants a church that has no stain or wrinkle or any other flaw. He wants a church that is holy and without blame.

In the same way, husbands should love their wives. They should love them as they love their own bodies. Any man who loves his wife loves himself. After all, people have never hated their own bodies. Instead, they feed and care for their bodies. And that is what Christ does for the church. We are parts of his body.

Scripture says, "That's why a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife. The two will become one." That is a deep mystery. But I'm talking about Christ and the church.

A husband also must love his wife. He must love her just as he loves himself. And a wife must respect her husband.

Ephesians 6:1-4 ... Colossians 3:18-21

**67. Ephesians 6:10–18** NIV faith-challenge

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.



And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Ephesians 6:19–20 ... Colossians 4:2, 12 ... 1 Thessalonians 5:8 ... 1 Timothy 2:8

**68. Philippians 1:3–6** NIV relationship-holiness

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:9–11 ... Philippians 2:12–13 ... 1 Thessalonians 5:23–24 ... 2 Peter 1:10–11

**69. Philippians 2:5–11** NIV Messiah-Christ

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:  
Who, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;  
rather, he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.  
And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death —  
even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

Isaiah 45:23–24 ... Matthew 23:37–39 ... Revelation 1:7

**70. Philippians 3:8–9** NIRV *grace-gospel*

I consider everything to be nothing compared to knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. To know him is the best thing of all. Because of him I have lost everything. But I consider all of it to be garbage so I can get to know Christ. I want to be joined to him.

For me, being right with God does not come from the law. It comes because I believe in Christ. It comes from God. It is received by faith.

**71. Philippians 3:10–14** NIRV *relationship-holiness*

I want to know Christ better. I want to know the power that raised him from the dead. I want to share in his sufferings. I want to become like him by sharing in his death. Then by God's grace I will rise from the dead.

I have not yet received all of those things. I have not yet been made perfect. But I move on to take hold of what Christ Jesus took hold of me for.

Brothers and sisters, I don't consider that I have taken hold of it yet. But here is the one thing I do. I forget what is behind me. I push hard toward what is ahead of me. I move on toward the goal to win the prize. God has appointed me to win it. The heavenly prize is Christ Jesus himself.

Philippians 3:20–21

**72. Philippians 4:4–7** NCV *prayer-praise*

Be full of joy in the Lord always. I will say again, be full of joy.

Let everyone see that you are gentle and kind. The Lord is coming soon. Do not worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks. And God's peace, which is so great we cannot understand it, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

John 14:27 ... Ephesians 5:19–20 ... 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

**73. Philippians 4:8** NRSV *relationship-holiness*

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

**74. Philippians 4:11–13, 19** ESV *faith-challenge*

I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

... And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 12:7–10 ... 1 Timothy 6:6–10 ... Hebrews 13:5

**75. Colossians 1:15–20** ESV *Messiah–Christ*

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

John 12:44–45

**76. Colossians 2:6–7** ESV *relationship–holiness*

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.



**77. Colossians 3:1–4** NRSV *relationship–holiness*

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Colossians 3:5–10 ... Hebrews 3:1

**78. Colossians 3:23–24** NCV *relationship–holiness*

In all the work you are doing, work the best you can. Work as if you were doing it for the Lord, not for people. Remember that you will receive your reward from the Lord, which he promised to his people. You are serving the Lord Christ.

1 Thessalonians 4:11–12

**79. 1 Thessalonians 1:5 & 2:2–4, 13** NIV *grace–gospel*

Our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction....

We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition. For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts....

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.



**80. 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18** ESV choice–destiny

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

1 Corinthians 15:16–26 ... Revelation 20:4–6

**81. 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18** NRSV prayer–praise

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Philippians 4:4–7 ... Ephesians 5:19–20

**82. 1 Thessalonians 5:19–21** NIRV Godhead–Holy Spirit

Don't put out the Holy Spirit's fire. Don't treat prophecies as if they amount to nothing. Put everything to the test. Hold on to what is good. Stay away from every kind of evil.

Mark 9:38–40

**83. 1 Thessalonians 5:23–24** ESV relationship–holiness

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Philippians 1:3–6

**84. 1 Timothy 1:15–16** NIRV grace–gospel

Here is a saying that you can trust. It should be accepted completely. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

And I am the worst sinner of all. But for that very reason, God showed me mercy.

**85. 1 Timothy 2:5–6** NIRV Messiah–Christ

There is only one God. And there is only one go-between for God and human beings. He is the man Christ Jesus. He gave himself to pay for the sins of everyone.



**86. 1 Timothy 6:6-10** NIV relationship-holiness

Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Philippians 4:11-13 ... 1 Timothy 6:17-19 ... Hebrews 13:5

**87. 2 Timothy 2:11-13, 19** NRSV relationship-holiness

The saying is sure:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;  
if we endure, we will also reign with him;  
if we deny him, he will also deny us;  
if we are faithless, he remains faithful—  
for he cannot deny himself.

... God's firm foundation stands, bearing this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who calls on the name of the Lord turn away from wickedness."

Hebrews 6:19-20

**88. 2 Timothy 3:14-17** NRSV relationship-holiness

As for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that



everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

Hebrews 4:12

**89. 2 Timothy 4:7-8** NRSV choice-destiny

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

**90. Titus 2:11-14** NIV relationship-holiness

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Hebrews 10:23-25

**91. Titus 3:4-8** NCV grace-gospel

When the kindness and love of God our Savior was shown, he saved us because of his mercy. It was not because of good deeds we did to be right with him. He saved us through the washing that made us new people through the Holy Spirit. God poured out richly upon us that Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ our Savior. Being made right with God by his grace, we could have the hope of receiving the life that never ends.

This teaching is true, and I want you to be sure the people understand these things.



**92. Hebrews 1:1-3** ESV Messiah-Christ

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

**93. Hebrews 2:9, 14-15, 17-18** NRSV Messiah-Christ

We do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone....

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.... Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> “Tested” can equally be translated “tempted.” (This footnote is supplied here—it is not in the source Bible version.)

**94. Hebrews 4:9–11** ESV *relationship-holiness*

So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

Let us therefore strive to enter that rest.

**95. Hebrews 4:14–16** NKJV *Messiah-Christ*

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Ephesians 3:12 ... Hebrews 3:12–15



**96. Hebrews 5:7–9** NRSV *Messiah-Christ*

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

Mark 1:35 ... 1 Corinthians 15:22, 45–49

**97. Hebrews 6:19–20 & 7:25–26** ESV *Messiah-Christ*

We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever....

Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.

John 8:29–30 ... Hebrews 6:17–18 ... Hebrews 8:1–2 ... 1 Peter 1:18–19

**98. Hebrews 9:11–15, 27–28** NCV *Messiah-Christ*

But when Christ came as the high priest of the good things we now have, he entered the greater and more perfect tent. It is not made by humans and does not belong to this world. Christ entered the Most Holy Place only once—and for all time. He did not take with him the blood of goats and calves. His sacrifice was his own blood, and by it he set us free from sin forever. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a cow are sprinkled on the people who are unclean, and this makes their bodies clean again. How much more is done by the blood of Christ. He >

offered himself through the eternal Spirit as a perfect sacrifice to God. His blood will make our consciences pure from useless acts so we may serve the living God.

For this reason Christ brings a new agreement from God to his people. Those who are called by God can now receive the blessings he has promised, blessings that will last forever....

Just as everyone must die once and then be judged, so Christ was offered as a sacrifice one time to take away the sins of many people. And he will come a second time, not to offer himself for sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

Hebrews 10:10-14

#### 99. Hebrews 10:19-23 NCV [grace-gospel](#)

So, brothers and sisters, we are completely free to enter the Most Holy Place without fear because of the blood of Jesus' death. We can enter through a new and living way that Jesus opened for us. It leads through the curtain—Christ's body. And since we have a great priest over God's house, let us come near to God with a sincere heart and a sure faith, because we have been made free from a guilty conscience, and our bodies have been washed with pure water. Let us hold firmly to the hope that we have confessed, because we can trust God to do what he promised.

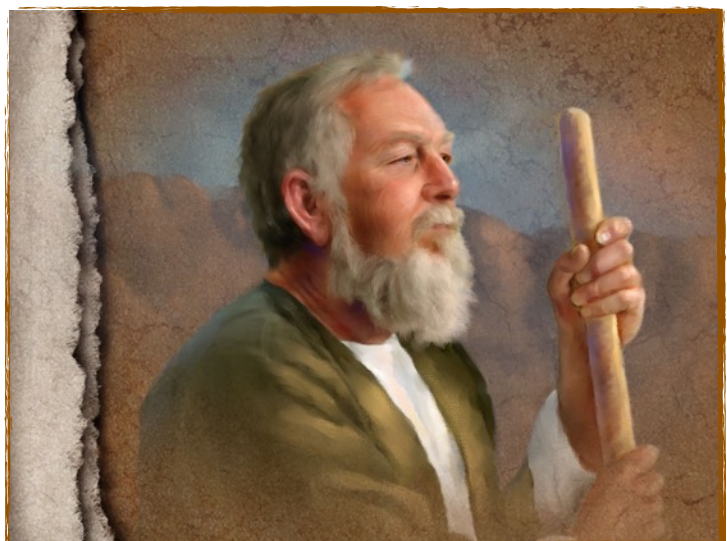
#### 100. Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-10, 13-16, 30-31, 39-40 NCV [faith-challenge](#)

Faith means being sure of the things we hope for and knowing that something is real even if we do not see it. Faith is the reason we remember great people who lived in the past.

It is by faith we understand that the whole world was made by God's command so what we see was made by something that cannot be seen.

... It was by faith Abraham obeyed God's call to go to another place God promised to give him. He left his own country, not knowing where he was to go. It was by faith that he lived like a foreigner in the country God promised to give him. He lived in tents with Isaac and Jacob, who had received that same promise from God. Abraham was waiting for the city that has real foundations—the city planned and built by God.

... All these great people died in faith. They did not get the things that God promised his people, but they saw them coming far in the future and were glad. They said they were like visitors and strangers on earth. When people say such things, they show they are looking for a country that will be their own. If they had been thinking about the country they had left, they could >



have gone back. But they were waiting for a better country—a heavenly country. So God is not ashamed to be called their God, because he has prepared a city for them.

... It was by faith that the walls of Jericho fell after the people had marched around them for seven days.

It was by faith that Rahab, the prostitute, welcomed the spies and was not killed with those who refused to obey God.

... All these people are known for their faith, but none of them received what God had promised. God planned to give us something better so that they would be made perfect, but only together with us.

Hebrews 11—remaining verses ... Hebrews 13:12-14

### 101. Hebrews 12:1-3 ESV relationship-holiness

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

2 Corinthians 4:18 ... Hebrews 3:1-5 ... Hebrews 12:4-6, 11

### 102. Hebrews 12:14 NRSV relationship-holiness

Pursue peace with everyone, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

Hebrews 12:22-29 ... 1 Peter 1:14-16 ... 2 Peter 3:11-12, 14

### 103. Hebrews 13:5-6 NIV faith-challenge

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

“Never will I leave you;  
never will I forsake you.”

So we say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.

What can mere mortals do to me?”

### 104. Hebrews 13:8 NKJV Messiah-Christ

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Malachi 3:6

### 105. Hebrews 13:15 NIV prayer-praise

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.

**106. James 1:2-4, 12** NIV faith-challenge

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything....

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

2 Peter 2:9



**107. James 1:5-6 & 4:2-3** NIRV prayer-praise

If any of you need wisdom, ask God for it. He will give it to you. God gives freely to everyone. He doesn't find fault.

But when you ask, you must believe. You must not doubt. People who doubt are like waves of the sea. The wind blows and tosses them around....

You want something, but you can't get it. You kill and want what others have. But you can't have what you want. You argue and fight. You don't have what you want, because you don't ask God. When you do ask for something, you don't receive it. Why? Because you ask for the wrong reason. You want to spend your money on your sinful pleasures.

Isaiah 7:9 ... Mark 11:22-24

**108. James 1:27** NIV relationship-holiness

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

**109. James 2:17-19, 26** NCV relationship-holiness

Faith by itself—that does nothing—is dead.

Someone might say, "You have faith, but I have deeds." Show me your faith without doing anything, and I will show you my faith by what I do. You believe there is one God. Good! But the demons believe that, too, and they tremble with fear.

... Just as a person's body that does not have a spirit is dead, so faith that does nothing is dead.

**110. James 4:4-8** NCV relationship-holiness

You should know that loving the world is the same as hating God. Anyone who wants to be a friend of the world becomes God's enemy. Do you think the Scripture means nothing that says, "The Spirit that God made to live in us wants us for himself alone"? But God gives us even more grace, as the Scripture says, >

“God is against the proud,  
but he gives grace to the humble.”

So give yourselves completely to God. Stand against the devil, and the devil will run from you. Come near to God, and God will come near to you. You sinners, clean sin out of your lives. You who are trying to follow God and the world at the same time, make your thinking pure.

James 4:10

**111. James 5:13–18** NCV prayer-praise

Anyone who is having troubles should pray. Anyone who is happy should sing praises. Anyone who is sick should call the church’s elders. They should pray for and pour oil on the person in the name of the Lord. And the prayer that is said with faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will heal that person. And if the person has sinned, the sins will be forgiven. Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so God can heal you. When a believing person prays, great things happen. Elijah was a human being just like us. He prayed that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years! Then Elijah prayed again, and the rain came down from the sky, and the land produced crops again.

James 5:7–11



**112. 1 Peter 2:4–5, 9–11** NRSV church-mission

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

... You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God’s people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

Beloved, I urge you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul.

**113. 1 Peter 2:24–25** NRSV grace-gospel

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Isaiah 53:5–6



**114. 1 Peter 3:15** NIRV church-mission

But make sure in your hearts that Christ is Lord. Always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you about the hope you have. Be ready to give the reason for it. But do it gently and with respect.

**115. 1 Peter 4:7** NIRV prayer-praise

The end of all things is near. So keep a clear mind. Control yourselves. Then you can pray.

**116. 1 Peter 4:10–11** NIRV church-mission

God's gifts of grace come in many forms. Each of you has received a gift in order to serve others. You should use it faithfully. If you speak, you should do it like one speaking God's very words. If you serve, you should do it with the strength God provides. Then in all things God will be praised through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:12



**117. 1 Peter 4:16, 19** NRSV faith-challenge

If any of you suffers as a Christian, do not consider it a disgrace, but glorify God because you bear this name....

Therefore, let those suffering in accordance with God's will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator, while continuing to do good.

Revelation 2:9–10

**118. 1 Peter 5:2–4** NCV church-mission

Shepherd God's flock, for whom you are responsible. Watch over them because you want to, not because you are forced. That is how God wants it. Do it because you are happy to serve, not because you want money. Do not be like a ruler over people you are responsible for, but be good examples to them. Then when Christ, the Chief Shepherd, comes, you will get a glorious crown that will never lose its beauty.

John 21:15–17

**119. 1 Peter 5:7, 10–11** NRSV faith-challenge

Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.... And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Matthew 6:25–34

**120. 2 Peter 1:3-4** NIRV *relationship-holiness*

God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life. All of that has come to us because we know the One who chose us. He chose us because of his own glory and goodness.

He has also given us his very great and valuable promises. He did it so you could share in his nature. He also did it so you could escape from the evil in the world. That evil is caused by sinful longings.

2 Peter 1:5-8

**121. 2 Peter 1:16-21** NIV *Godhead-Holy Spirit*

For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 17:1-8

**122. 2 Peter 3:3-4, 8-10, 13** ESV *choice-destiny*

Scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation." ...

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

... But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

**123. 1 John 1:1-4** NIV *Messiah-Christ*

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. >



The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete.

**124. 1 John 1:5–7** ESV relationship-holiness

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice 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 his Son cleanses us from all sin.

**125. 1 John 1:9** NKJV grace-gospel

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**126. 1 John 2:1–2** NIV grace-gospel

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

**127. 1 John 2:15–17** ESV relationship-holiness

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

**128. 1 John 2:24–25** ESV grace-gospel

Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.

1 John 2:28 ... 1 John 5:11–13

**129. 1 John 3:1–3** NIV relationship-holiness

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

**130. 1 John 3:8-9 & 5:18** ESV relationship-holiness

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God...

We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

1 John 3:6 ... 1 John 4:4

**131. 1 John 3:16-18** NRSV relationship-holiness

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

Philippians 2:1-4 ... 1 John 3:14-15

**132. 1 John 3:19-24** NRSV relationship-holiness

By this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.



And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

1 John 4:13

**133. 1 John 4:1-3** NIRV choice-destiny

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit. Put the spirits to the test to see if they belong to God. Many false prophets have gone out into the world.

How can you recognize the Spirit of God? Every spirit that agrees that Jesus Christ came in a human body belongs to God. But every spirit that doesn't agree with this does not belong to God. It is the spirit of the great enemy of Christ. You have heard that the enemy is coming. Even now he is already in the world.

1 John 2:18-23

**134. 1 John 4:4** NRSV relationship-holiness

Little children, you are from God, and have conquered them; for the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

1 John 5:18

**135. 1 John 4:7-8** NIV relationship-holiness

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

**136. 1 John 4:10, 19** NCV grace-gospel

This is what real love is: It is not our love for God; it is God's love for us. He sent his Son to die in our place to take away our sins....

We love because God first loved us.

**137. 1 John 4:16-18** ESV grace-gospel

So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love.



**138. 1 John 5:4-5** ESV faith-challenge

Everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

2 Corinthians 5:7

**139. 1 John 5:7-8, 11-13** NRSV choice-destiny

There are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood, and these three agree.... And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

1 John 2:25

**140. 1 John 5:14-15** NRSV prayer-praise

And this is the boldness we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have obtained the requests made of him.

**141. Jude 20-21** NRSV relationship-holiness

But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God; look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

**142. Jude 24–25** NRSV prayer-praise

Now to him who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

2 Peter 3:18

## The book of Revelation

**143. Revelation 1:1–3** ESV choice-destiny

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

Revelation 22:18–20

**144. Revelation 1:4–6** NIRV Messiah-Christ

May grace and peace come to you from the One who is, and who was, and who will come. May grace and peace come to you from the seven spirits who are in front of God's throne. May grace and peace come to you from Jesus Christ. What Jesus gives witness to can always be trusted. He was the first to rise from the dead. He rules over the kings of the earth.

Give glory and power to the One who loves us! He has set us free from our sins by pouring out his blood for us. He has made us members of his royal family. He has made us priests who serve his God and Father. Give him glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

**145. Revelation 1:7–8** NRSV Messiah-Christ

Look! He is coming with the clouds;  
every eye will see him,  
even those who pierced him;  
and on his account all the tribes of  
the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.



**146. Revelation 1:17–18** NIRV *Messiah–Christ*

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as if I were dead.

Then he put his right hand on me and said, “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One. I was dead. But look! I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys to Death and Hell.”

**147. Revelation 2:3–5** NIV *relationship–holiness*

*To the church in Ephesus*

“You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.”

**148. Revelation 2:9–10** NRSV *faith–challenge*

*To the church in Smyrna*

“I know your affliction and your poverty, even though you are rich. I know the slander on the part of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Beware, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison so that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have affliction. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

1 Peter 4:16, 19 ... 1 Peter 5:8–9

**149. Revelation 2:13–14, 16–17** NIRV *relationship–holiness*

*To the church in Pergamum*

“I know that you live where Satan has his throne. But you remain true to me. You did not give up your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness. He was put to death in your city, where Satan lives.

“But I have a few things against you. You have people there who follow the teaching of Balaam. He taught Balak to lead the people of Israel into sin. So they ate food that had been offered to statues of gods. And they committed sexual sins....

“So turn away from your sins! If you don’t, I will come to you soon. I will fight against those people with the sword that comes out of my mouth.

“Those who have ears should listen to what the Holy Spirit says to the churches.”

**150. Revelation 2:18–20, 23–25** NIV *relationship–holiness*

*To the church in Thyatira*

“These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.

Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols.... I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds. >

Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets, 'I will not impose any other burden on you, except to hold on to what you have until I come.'

**151. Revelation 3:1-6** NRSV relationship-holiness

*To the church in Sardis*

"I know your works; you have a name of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is on the point of death, for I have not found your works perfect in the sight of my God. Remember then what you received and heard; obey it, and repent. If you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you. Yet you have still a few persons in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes; they will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. If you conquer, you will be clothed like them in white robes, and I will not blot your name out of the book of life; I will confess your name before my Father and before his angels. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches."

**152. Revelation 3:11-12** NRSV relationship-holiness

*To the church in Philadelphia*

"I am coming soon; hold fast to what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. If you conquer, I will make you a pillar in the temple of my God; you will never go out of it. I will write on you the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem that comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name."

**153. Revelation 3:15-22** NRSV choice-destiny

*To the church in Laodicea*

"I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth. For you say, 'I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing.' You do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. Therefore I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may be rich; and white robes to clothe you and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen; and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. I reprove and discipline those whom I love. Be earnest, therefore, and repent. Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches."





**154. Revelation 4:8-11** NIRV prayer-praise

Each of the four living creatures had six wings. Each creature was covered all over with eyes, even under the wings. Day and night, they never stop saying,

“Holy, holy, holy  
is the Lord God who rules over all.  
He was, and he is, and he will come.”

The living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to the One who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever. At the same time, the 24 elders fall down and worship the One who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns in front of the throne. They say,

“You are worthy, our Lord and God!  
You are worthy to receive glory and honor and power.  
You are worthy because you created all things.  
They were created and they exist.  
That is the way you planned it.”

**155. Revelation 5:1-14** NRSV prayer-praise

Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”

Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

They sing a new song:  
“You are worthy to take the scroll  
and to open its seals,  
for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God  
saints from every tribe and language and people and nation;  
you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God,  
and they will reign on earth.”

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands,

singing with full voice,  
“Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might  
and honor and glory and blessing!” >

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

“To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb  
be blessing and honor and glory and might  
forever and ever!”

And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

**156. Revelation 7:9–17** NIRV choice-destiny

After this I looked, and there in front of me was a huge crowd of people. They stood in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb. There were so many that no one could count them. They came from every nation, tribe, people and language. They were wearing white robes. In their hands they were holding palm branches. They cried out in a loud voice,

“Salvation belongs to our God,  
who sits on the throne.

Salvation also belongs to the Lamb.”

All the angels were standing around the throne. They were standing around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces in front of the throne and worshiped God. They said,

“Amen!

May praise and glory

and wisdom be given to our God for ever and ever.

Give him thanks and honor and power and strength.

Amen!”

Then one of the elders spoke to me. “Who are these people dressed in white robes?” he asked. “Where did they come from?”

I answered, “Sir, you know.”

He said, “They are the ones who have come out of the time of terrible suffering. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. So “they are in front of the throne of God.

They serve him day and night in his temple.

The One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them.

Never again will they be hungry.

Never again will they be thirsty.

The sun will not beat down on them.

The heat of the desert will not harm them.

The Lamb, who is at the center of the area around the throne, will be their shepherd.

He will lead them to springs of living water.

And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Revelation 21:4–6



**157. Revelation 12:7-12** NCV choice-destiny

Then there was a war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But the dragon was not strong enough, and he and his angels lost their place in heaven. The giant dragon was thrown down out of heaven. (He is that old snake called the devil or Satan, who tricks the whole world.) The dragon with his angels was thrown down to the earth.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven saying:

“The salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God  
and the authority of his Christ have now come.

The accuser of our brothers and sisters,  
who accused them day and night before our God,  
has been thrown down.

And our brothers and sisters defeated him  
by the blood of the Lamb’s death  
and by the message they preached.

They did not love their lives so much  
that they were afraid of death.

So rejoice, you heavens  
and all who live there!

But it will be terrible for the earth and the sea,  
because the devil has come down to you!

He is filled with anger,  
because he knows he does not have much time.”

**158. Revelation 12:17 & 13:1, 6-8** ESV choice-destiny

Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.

And I saw a beast rising out of the sea....

It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.

**159. Revelation 14:1-5** NRSV relationship-holiness

Then I looked, and there was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion! And with him were one hundred forty-four thousand who had his name and his Father’s name written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder; the voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, and they sing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the one hundred forty-four thousand who have been redeemed from the earth. It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins; these follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They have been redeemed from >

humankind as first fruits for God and the Lamb, and in their mouth no lie was found; they are blameless.

Revelation 7:1-4 ... Revelation 9:4 ... Revelation 12:17

**160. Revelation 14:6-12** NKJV church-mission

Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”

And another angel followed, saying, “Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”

Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”

Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

Revelation 6:15-17

**161. Revelation 15:2-4** ESV prayer-praise

And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying,

“Great and amazing are your deeds,  
O Lord God the  
Almighty!  
Just and true are your  
ways,  
O King of the nations!  
Who will not fear, O  
Lord,  
and glorify your name?  
For you alone are holy.  
All nations will come  
and worship you,  
for your righteous acts  
have been revealed.”

Revelation 19:6-8



**162. Revelation 18:1-4** NIRV choice-destiny

After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority. His glory filled the earth with light. With a mighty voice he shouted,  
“Fallen! Babylon the Great has fallen!  
She has become a place where demons live.  
She has become a den for every evil spirit.  
She has become a nest for every ‘unclean’ and hated bird.  
All the nations have drunk  
the strong wine of her terrible sins.  
The kings of the earth took part in her evil ways.  
The traders of the world grew rich from her great wealth.”  
Then I heard another voice from heaven. It said,  
“Come out of her, my people.  
Then you will not take part in her sins.  
You will not suffer from any of her plagues.”

**163. Revelation 20:1-3, 7-9** NCV choice-destiny

I saw an angel coming down from heaven. He had the key to the bottomless pit and a large chain in his hand. The angel grabbed the dragon, that old snake who is the devil and Satan, and tied him up for a thousand years. Then he threw him into the bottomless pit, closed it, and locked it over him....

When the thousand years are over, Satan will be set free from his prison. Then he will go out to trick the nations in all the earth—Gog and Magog—to gather them for battle. There are so many people they will be like sand on the seashore. And Satan’s army marched across the earth and gathered around the camp of God’s people and the city God loves. But fire came down from heaven and burned them up.



**164. Revelation 21:1-5** NIV choice-destiny

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

Revelation 21:10-11, 22-27 ... Revelation 22:1-5

**165. Revelation 22:12-17** NRSV Messiah-Christ

“See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone’s work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates. Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and fornicators and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

“It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.”

And let everyone who hears say, “Come.”

And let everyone who is thirsty come.

Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

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