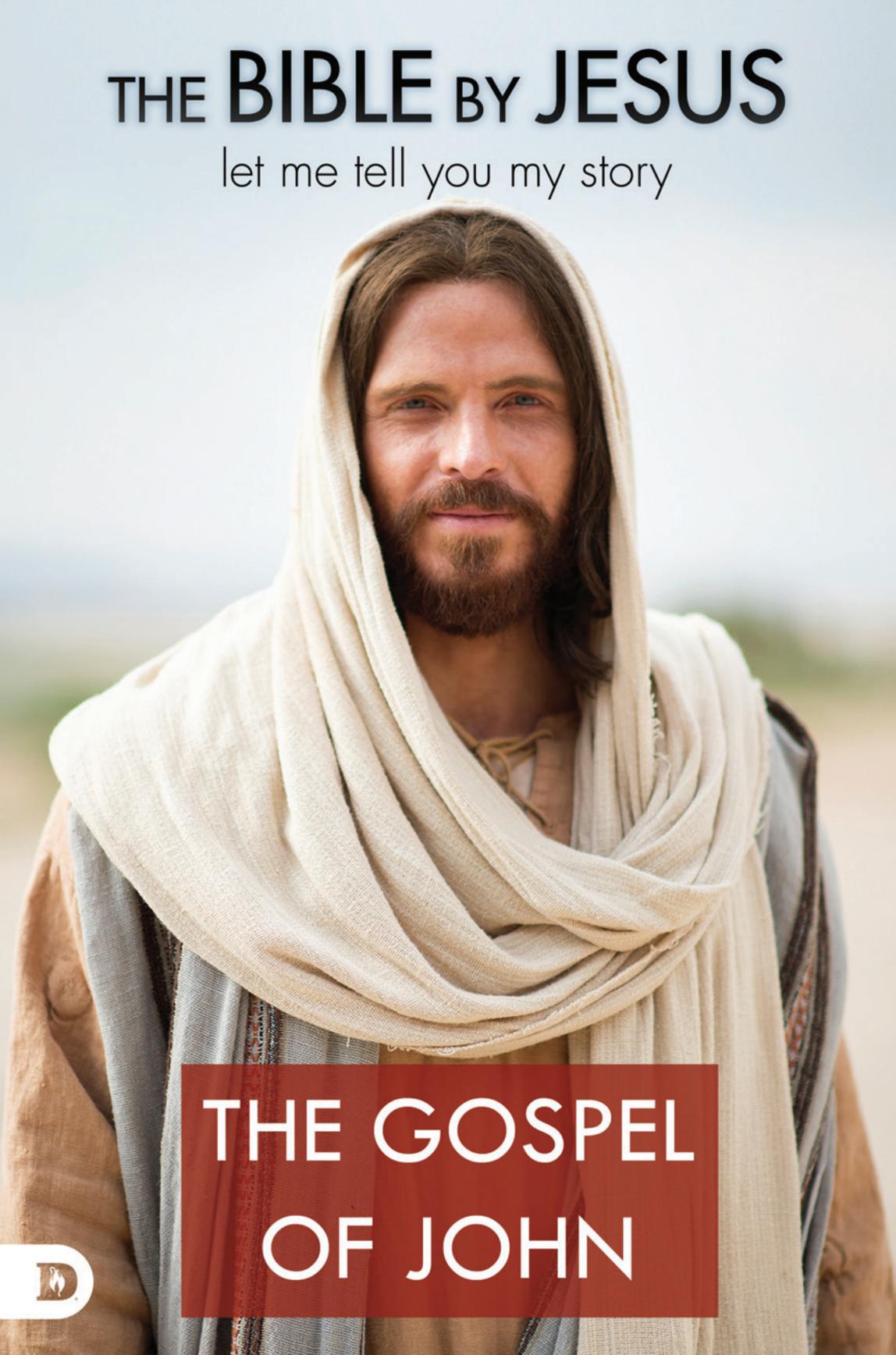


# THE BIBLE BY JESUS

let me tell you my story



THE GOSPEL  
OF JOHN



*Follow in My footsteps  
and I will show you how  
to live forever!*



# I AM JESUS

## The Son of God

Based on the Gospel of John



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I led John to write a book about My Godhead. The key passage is, "But these are written that you may believe that I am the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in My name." When you believe in Me for salvation, you have eternal life. I will transform you by My indwelling power. My supernatural promise to you is, "I in you, and you in Me." In salvation, I come to dwell in you on this earth so you can live for Me. That means you are in Me as I intercede for you at the right hand of My Father. I intercede for the forgiveness of your sins, and I pray to My Father so you will live victorious for Me. As you read this book, you will discover My relationship with God My Father. I came from heaven to the earth I created, and gave My life on the cross, and then I returned to My Father in heaven. I did all of this for you so that you could believe in me and have eternal life. Be sure that you believe that I am the Christ, and promise that you will love others as I love you.

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## I Am God

**I** I Am God the Son, who is from the beginning. I tell all about God, My heavenly Father. I was face to face with God throughout eternity because I am God.

And without Me, nothing was created. I do all the things that God, My heavenly Father, will do. I have all life in Myself and give life to all My creation. I am the life of God who is the Light to all who are lost in a dark, forbidding world. I shine in the hostile darkness, but the darkness doesn't even know I exist.

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*Commit yourself to My message, which is written in the Word of God. It is eternal and perfect. You will learn My message, believe My message, and share it with others.*

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## John Is My Witness

John the Baptizer was a prophet sent by Me, who came to tell all about the shining Light, that through Me, the Light, all might be saved. John the Baptizer was not the saving light but was the human sent to point everyone to Me, the Light of the world.

I am the true saving Light who offers spiritual light to everyone in the world. I came to the world that I created, but those living in the world did not recognize Me as their Creator Savior. I came to My own people—the Jews—and they refused to recognize Me.

But as many as recognize Me, and receive Me, I will make them children of God, simply because they believe in the authority of My name. They will be born again by My power, which is not a birth of blood, or the choice of people, or of flesh.

I had all the celestial glory of heaven, but I clothed My heavenly glory with human flesh. God living in the flesh was the greatest glory of all. I am the uniquely begotten Son and have all the grace and truth of God. John the Baptizer said of Me, “This is the Messiah whom I introduced to the world. Jesus comes after me, but is preeminently before me.”

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*I Am the Eternal Word, who created the universe, who had eternal fellowship with God My Father, and who became flesh when I was born of the Virgin Mary. You should worship and praise Me for all I am and do. I created you and everything in this universe. Worship Me for My unlimited power and greatness.*

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## I AM GOD

My grace was offered, and your need of grace was fulfilled. The law of Moses condemned you to death, but grace and truth, by Me, gave you life. You could never have seen the eternal Father, but I came from His heart to show you what your Father is like.

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*Commit your life to Me. I became flesh and lived among the mortals I created. I am the truth and spoke the truth to you. You can experience the riches of eternal life because of Me.*

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### Religious Leaders Question John the Baptizer

The religious establishment sent delegates to ask John the Baptizer this question, “Who are you?” John told them he was not the Messiah. Then they asked, “Are you Elijah or the prophet who will come at the end of the age?”

John said, “No.”

They said, “Give us an answer to report to our authorities.”

John quoted Isaiah, answering, “I am a voice crying in the wilderness; prepare the way for the Messiah.” They were Pharisees who questioned him. The religious delegates asked why he was baptizing with water. He answered, “I baptize with water, but there is One standing among us who will baptize with the Spirit of God. He who is coming after me is preferred before me because He lived before me. These things happened on the banks of the Jordan River, but I came baptizing so He might be revealed to Israel.”

### My Baptism

The next day John saw Me coming to him and told the crowd, “See that Man. He is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” He said this to let everyone know I was the One coming after him. John said, “I didn’t know who He was.” John the Baptizer added, “I didn’t know Jesus was to be the Messiah until I saw the Spirit come upon Him like a dove. But the Lord who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The One on whom the Spirit comes, and stops there, this is the One who is the Messiah. He will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’” Then John said, “I then noted and believed He is the Son of God.”

### I Meet Six Disciples

The next day John the Baptizer stood with two of his disciples; as they saw Me walking, he said, “Behold the Lamb of God.”

As Andrew and John were following Me, I turned to ask, “What do you want?” That evening Andrew and John talked at length to Me.

## THE BIBLE BY JESUS

The next day Andrew told his brother Simon, “We have found the Messiah,” and Andrew brought his brother to Me. I changed Simon’s name to Peter, which means he was firm and solid as a stone.

The next day when I saw Philip, I said, “Follow Me.” Philip was from the same hometown as Andrew and Peter.

Philip told his friend Nathaniel, “We have found the Messiah.”

Nathaniel was skeptical, “Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?”

Philip just said, “Come and see.”

When I saw Nathaniel, I said, “You are a sincere Israelite, you are an honest seeker.”

Nathaniel asked, “How do you know me?”

I revealed My divine omnipresence by saying, “I saw you talking under the fig tree to Philip when he told you about Me.”

Nathaniel responded, “Jesus, You are the Son of God. You are the King of Israel.”

Nathaniel believed in Me because of what Philip told him; but I said, “You’ll see much greater things than this. You’ll see heaven opened and the angels of God going up and down upon Me, the Son of Man.”

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*Tell your family and friends about Me, and bring them to know Me as their Lord and Savior. You can find answers to all of your questions in Me. Focus your sight on Me, and see the greatness of My character.*

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## My First Miracle

**2**On the seventh day after My baptism, I was in Cana where a marriage ceremony was held; My mother was also there. My six disciples and I were invited to the meal. When the wine ran out, My mother said to Me, “There is no more wine.”

I answered, “Why do you turn to Me for help? It is not the time to reveal who I am.”

My mother told the servants, “Do whatever He tells you.”

There were six stone water pots available to them, and each one held twenty to thirty gallons. I said to the servants, “Fill them to the brim with water.” Then I said, “Take them to the master of ceremonies.” The servants carried the water to the one in charge. When they had arrived, the water had turned to wine; then the master of ceremonies toasted the wine. The servants who carried the water pots knew what happened. “Why have you kept back the best wine until now? People usually serve their best wine first. When the

## A NIGHT INTERVIEW WITH NICODEMUS

guests have drunk a lot, then a poorer quality is served.”

This was the first miracle I did that manifested My glory, and My disciples believed in Me.

After this, I changed My base of operation from Nazareth to Capernaum, which is located by the Sea of Galilee.

### I Cleanse the Temple

When the Passover came in the spring of AD 26, I went up to Jerusalem with My disciples. I found people in the temple selling animals and birds for sacrifice—cattle, sheep, and pigeons. Money changers had set up tables to exchange foreign coins into Jewish money because the foreign coins had images of false gods. I made a whip out of some rope, and drove the animals out of the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers. I commanded, “Stop turning my Father’s house into a market to sell your sacrifices.”

The disciples were amazed at My anger and said, “His devotion to the Lord’s house burns in Him like a fire.”

The Jewish leaders challenged Me, “What miracle can You show us that gives You the authority to do this?”

I replied, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it up in three days.”

They said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple. Do You think You can rebuild it in three days?” But I was speaking about the temple of My body. After the resurrection, My disciples remembered I spoke about this event earlier; it was not about rebuilding the temple. While I was in Jerusalem for the Passover, many believed in Me, because they saw the miracles I did. But I did not entrust Myself to them because I knew what was in their hearts.

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*There comes a time when you must no longer tolerate heresy and evil, but you must confront evil by prayer and action. That’s what I did when I cleansed the temple at the beginning of My ministry and the end of My ministry.*

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## A Night Interview With Nicodemus

**3** Nicodemus was a Jewish leader who observed the law. He came to Me at night to compliment Me, saying, “Jesus, You are a Teacher who comes from God, because You perform miracles that couldn’t be done without God’s help.”

I told him, “I say to you, you must be born again to see the kingdom of God.”

## THE BIBLE BY JESUS

Nicodemus replied, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he go back into his mother’s womb to be born again?”

I answered, “I say to you unless you are born again of water and the Spirit, you will not enter the kingdom of God. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of Spirit is Spirit. Do not be surprised when I say you must be born again. The wind blows anywhere it pleases; you can hear its sound, but you can’t tell where it comes from or goes. That describes those who are born of the Spirit, and how the Spirit bestows life on them.”

Nicodemus asked, “How can this happen?”

I answered, “You are a respected teacher, yet you do not understand these things.” I continued, “I say to you, I am telling you what I know, but you will not believe Me. If you do not believe what I say about this world, how can you believe heavenly things? Since I have come to earth from heaven, I can explain heavenly things to you. As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so, by looking to the serpent people could repent. In the same way, I, the Son of Man, will be lifted up so that everyone who looks to Me in belief will be saved. My Father loved everyone in the world so much that He gave Me, His only begotten Son, to die for each of them. Now everyone who believes in Me will not perish but will have eternal life. For My Father did not send Me to condemn the people of the world, but that they might be saved through belief in Me. No one who believes in Me will be condemned, but those who refuse to believe in My name are condemned already. The verdict of death is handed down because light has shined on the people of the world, but people love darkness more than light, because of their love of evil things. Everyone who continually does evil things hates the light and rejects it because it exposes their motives and actions. Those who believe the truth and come to the Light will be saved. Their deeds verify their faith that they are of God.”

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*The death I talk about is eternal separation from God My Father in a place called Hell, where the fire never dies and is never put out. But God loved you so much that He sent Me to die, for your sins, on the cross. Now, if you place your complete trust in me, you will never perish, but you will have eternal fellowship with Me in heaven. I want you to know that you can have this eternal life just as I said to Nicodemus, “You must be born again.”*

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### **My Baptism and John the Baptizer’s Baptism**

My disciples and I left Jerusalem for the countryside where many people were

## THE STORY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

baptized by My disciples. John the Baptizer was baptizing nearby at Aenon, for he had not yet been thrown into prison. Many also came there for baptism. The Jewish leaders tried to tell the disciples of John the Baptizer that My baptism was better than their baptism, and there arose a dispute.

John's disciples came to tell John, "The man you baptized, the One you called Messiah, He is baptizing more than you are."

John the Baptizer answered, "God in heaven gives each man the work he is to do. I told you I am not the Messiah. I am sent to prepare the way for Messiah. The crowds—the Bride of Christ—will naturally go where Christ the Bridegroom is located. I am a friend of the Bridegroom. I rejoiced when I answered His voice calling to me. He—Jesus—must increase, I—John the Baptizer—must decrease. He comes from heaven, and He is greater than all. We who are born on this earth only understand the things of earth. He testifies what He has seen and heard, and no one receives His testimony. Those who believe in Jesus have discovered the truth of God that has come from heaven. He speaks the words of God because He has the Spirit of God on Him. The Father loves Jesus, the Son, and has given everything to Him. Those who believe in the Son already have eternal life, and those who have not believed in the Son do not have eternal life, but the punishment of God rests on them."

### The Story of the Samaritan Woman

**4** I learned that the Pharisees were told that I was winning and baptizing more followers than John the Baptizer. Although I didn't actually baptize, My disciples did it, so I left Judea to go home. When I left Jerusalem, I surprisingly went home through Samaria, because the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans. When I came near Sychar, I sat on Jacob's well because I was worn out from the hot journey, and it was noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water from the well. I was sitting there and said, "Give Me a drink." The disciples had gone into the town to get food.

She was surprised that a Jew would ask because the Jews despised the Samaritans. She said, "Why would You, a Jew, ask water from me, a Samaritan?"

I said, "If you only knew God's gift and who it is that offers you water, you would have asked Me for a drink, and I would have given you living water."

The woman replied, "You don't have a bucket; how could You get water from this deep well?" She continued, "Are You greater than Jacob who drank from it with his family and cattle?"

*When you are thirsty, I will come and fill your cup. You can drink of My presence. That water satisfies and refreshes your spirit.*

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I answered, “Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I give will never be thirsty again. The water I give will be an artesian well inside them that gushes up into eternal life.”

The woman said, “Give me some of that water so I will never get thirsty again, and have to come to this well for water.”

I abruptly said, “Go call your husband!”

She answered, “I have no husband.”

I replied, “You have correctly answered because you have had five husbands, and now you’re not married to the one you’re living with.”

She exclaimed, “You must be a prophet to know this.” Then she argued, “Our fathers worshiped here. The Jews say Jerusalem is the place to worship.”

I interrupted to say, “The hour is coming when no one will worship on this mountain or in Jerusalem. You don’t know whom you worship, but the Jews know whom they worship. In fact, the hour is already here when true worshipers will worship My Father in Spirit and truth. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in their hearts and truthfully.”

The woman said, “I know that Messiah is coming; He will tell us everything when He comes.”

I answered, “I am He.”

Then My disciples came and saw that I talked with a woman. “Why are You talking with her?”

The woman left her water pot and hurried off to tell the men in the village, “Come see a man who told me everything I’ve ever done.” She asked, “Could this man be the Messiah?” They left the town to meet Me.

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*I will give you a passion for sharing your testimony with needy people, like the Samaritan woman. You will tell your non-Christian friends, “Come see a Man who knows everything about me.”*

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Meanwhile, the disciples told Me to eat, but I said, “I have food to eat that you don’t know about.” The disciples thought someone else had brought Me food. I said, “My food is doing the will of My Father and completing His work. People say, ‘Harvest comes four months after planting,’ But I say, ‘Look around at the fields, they are already ripe for harvest.’ Everything is ready for the reaper to go to work to bring in the ‘grain’ of eternal life; then the sower and reaper will rejoice together.” Then I explained, “One sows, and another

## PROOF THAT I AM GOD

reaps. I send you to reap where you didn't sow, and you get rewards for their effort."

Many Samaritans believed in Me because the woman said, "Come see a man who told me everything I've ever done." The Samaritans begged Me to stay with them, and I stayed two days, and many got saved.

The Samaritan men told the woman, "Now we believe because of what we have heard for ourselves, not just because of what you said."

After two days, I left and continued to Galilee. But that was My home area, so I said, "A prophet is not respected in his home country." But when I got to Galilee, the crowds welcomed Me.

### Healing the Nobleman's Son

I returned to Cana where I had turned water to wine. There, an official from Herod's court came begging Me to heal his son. The official had sought to find Me in the area because his son was very sick. I said, "Why is it that none will believe in Me unless they see miracles?"

The official answered, "Come down to Capernaum and heal my son before he dies."

I answered, "Go home, your son will live." The official believed My words and turned to start his journey home. While he was on the road, his servants met him to say his son had recovered. The official asked what time had the fever broke; the servant told him, "4 p.m." The father realized that was the same hour when I said, "Your son will live." This was the second sign-miracle I did in Cana, and the official and his family believed in Me.

## Proof That I Am God

**5** I obeyed the Old Testament command to attend the Festival of Passover at Jerusalem at the end of My first full year of ministry. I went by the pool of Bethesda, a name that means "House of Mercy." There were five porches where a great number of sick invalids were waiting for an angel to come and stir the waters in the pool. The sick believed that the first one into the water would automatically get healed. There was a man who had waited unsuccessfully for thirty-eight years. I went only to him because he had been there a long time. I asked, "Would you like to be healed?"

The lame man answered, "I don't have anyone to put me in the waters after it is stirred up. When I am going to the water, someone jumps in before me."

I said, "Take up your bedroll and walk!" Immediately, the man was healed, and he picked up his bedroll and walked.

## THE BIBLE BY JESUS

The healed man walked through the crowd to the temple. The Jews told him it was wrong to carry any burden, even a bedroll, on the Sabbath. The man told them, “The One who healed me said, ‘Take up your bedroll and walk.’”

The Jews asked, “Who healed you and told you to break the Sabbath law?” But the healed man did not know who healed him because I left him to walk through the crowds.

Later, I found the healed man in the temple and told him, “Go and don’t do the sin anymore that was responsible for this lame condition, because a worse thing will happen if you do.” The healed man went and told the Jews that it was Me who healed him. The Jews confronted Me because I told the healed man to carry his bedroll on the Sabbath.

I answered the Jewish leaders, “My Father, who is just like Me, has worked up until now, but now I work.” The Jewish leaders sought to kill Me because I said I was just like My Father, and because I had broken their law, and because I said the Father and Son are equal in nature.

### **I Am Equal in Nature, Power, and Authority**

I answered the Jewish leaders, “I say to you, I do nothing by Myself. But when I see the things God My Father does, I do the same things. God the Father and God the Son are equal in power.” Then I said, “My Father loves Me as His Son and shows Me everything He does. My Father will do greater miracles than healing the lame, so you’ll marvel. As My Father raises the dead and gives them life, so I, the Son of God, will also raise the dead. The Father and Son are equal in authority.

“My Father does not judge the sins of everyone. All judgment is given to Me. He who does not honor Me honors not My Father.”

I said, “He who receives My Word and believes on Me, has eternal life and will not be judged for his sins, but has passed from death unto eternal life.

“I tell you, an hour has been coming, but now it has arrived, when spiritually dead people will hear My words and receive eternal life. My Father has this life in Himself, and I also have it and give it to those who believe in Me. My Father has given Me the authority to execute judgment; therefore, the time is coming when all in their graves will hear My voice and be raised. They who have obeyed My Father will be raised to the resurrection of life. They who have disobeyed My Father will be raised to the resurrection of the damned.” I told them, “I can do nothing by Myself, but I do the will of My Father who sent Me.”

## TWO MIRACLES AND A LESSON

### Four Proofs That I Am God

#### John the Baptizer

I said, “No one can bear witness of himself, and have other people believe him. If I only tell how great I am, don’t listen to Me. John the Baptizer told you about Me, and he told the truth. The Old Testament said at the mouth of two witnesses shall every testimony be established. The testimony of John the Baptizer was a light that shined, so people could believe what he said about Me.

#### My Miracles

“But the testimony of My miracles was even greater. They proved that My Father sent Me into the world.

#### God My Father’s Voice

“A third testimony is the voice of My Father that thundered at My baptism. Immediately coming out of the water, I saw heaven open, and the Spirit descended on Me like a dove. I heard a voice from heaven say, “You are My Son whom I love; I am well pleased with You.”

#### The Scriptures

I told them, “Search the Scriptures, these words testify of Me that I am from My Father, but you will not come to Me to have eternal life. You think you have eternal life, but you don’t. Because you refuse to believe in Me, you do not have the love of God in you.” I said, “I have come in My Father’s name, and you will not receive Me, yet you receive others coming in their own name. You seek glory from other Jewish leaders and do not seek the glory that comes from My heavenly Father. I will not accuse you in the final judgment. Moses whom you revere, he will accuse you in the judgment. If you believe Moses, and you don’t, then you would believe Me, because Moses predicted my coming.”

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*Search the Scriptures to know Me in salvation and to know Me in order to grow in grace. I will open your spiritual eyes as you study the Bible. May you find My presence concealed in the written Word.*

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## Two Miracles and a Lesson

**6** There was a great multitude following Me, so I went up into a mountain near Tiberias. The multitude followed Me because of My miracles, and

## THE BIBLE BY JESUS

because I healed the sick. I then went up into the mount to sit with My disciples. We were on our way to Jerusalem to celebrate the springtime festival of Passover. I surveyed the multitude, and then said to Philip, "Where can we buy food for them?" I knew that I would feed them with a miracle. I was testing Philip's faith in Me.

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*Be faithful when you are tested. Those who endure testing for a season know that joy comes in the morning.*

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Philip answered, "If we had the day's wages of two hundred servants, there would only be a little bit for each one."

Andrew heard the conversation and found a young boy with five loaves of bread and two small fish. Then Andrew said, "This isn't enough for all the crowd."

I said, "Make the men sit down in groups of fifty and one hundred to make distribution easy." They sat on the grass in the area. I looked to heaven to bless the food, then I gave it to the disciples, and they distributed it to the multitude. Everyone had as much as they could eat. Then I said to My disciples, "Gather the food that is left over." So they gathered up twelve full baskets.

After the people saw the miracle, they said, "This is the One whom the prophet Jeremiah predicted was coming into the world to feed us bread."

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*I will feed you when you are spiritually hungry, just as I fed the five thousand by the sea.*

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### **I Walk on the Water**

The multitude rushed toward Me. They wanted to make Me King, but I went into the hills to pray. When evening came, the disciples went down to the lakeside and got into a boat heading toward the other side toward Capernaum. It was dark, and I was not with them. A storm came up, and the winds blew threateningly. They rowed three or four miles but were not making headway. Then they saw Me walking on the sea towards them. I said, "It is I, do not be afraid." They received Me into their boat, and immediately we were on land.

### **Sermon on the Bread of Life**

The next day the crowd walked around the sea toward Capernaum, and they

## TWO MIRACLES AND A LESSON

saw only one boat the disciples used. However, there were other boats that came from the place where I fed the multitude. People had gotten into these boats to follow Me. So they asked Me, “Rabbi, how did You get here?”

I answered and said, “You seek Me because you saw the miracles. Yesterday you ate of the bread and fish.” I told them, “Don’t work for food that perishes, but work for the bread of eternal life which I, the Son of Man, offer you.”

The crowd asked, “What must we do to perform the works of God which You do?”

I answered, “The work of God is to believe in Me, the Son whom the Father has sent.”

The crowd answered, “Do a miracle for us so we can believe in You and follow You. Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness that Moses gave to them during the forty years of wilderness wanderings.”

Then I said to them, “I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you bread from heaven. My Father gives true bread out of heaven. I am the bread of God who comes from heaven to give life to the world.”

The crowd said, “Please give us this bread.”

I said, “I am the Bread of Life. He who comes to Me will never hunger. He who believes in Me will never thirst, but you don’t believe in Me. All My Father gives Me shall come to Me, and I will not turn them away because I come from heaven to do the will of My Father and not My will. It is my Father’s will that I should lose no one who believes in Me, and I should raise them up in the resurrection. And this is the will of My Father that everyone who believes in My Father will have eternal life and that I will raise them up in the last day.”

The Jewish leaders complained because I said, “I am the bread who comes from heaven.” They argued, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph? We know His father and mother; how can He say, ‘I come from heaven?’”

I answered, “Don’t complain! No one comes to Me except My Father draws him, and I will raise him up in the last day. It is written in Isaiah, ‘All will be taught by God, everyone who believes what I say will come to Me.’ No one has seen My Father except Me, the One who comes to you from My Father. I have seen My Father. I say to you, the one who believes has eternal life. I am the Bread of Life. I am the Bread who comes from heaven that you may eat and not die. The Jewish forefathers ate manna in the wilderness, and they died. If you eat of My Bread, you will live forever, and the bread I give you is Myself, it is given for the world.”

The Jewish leaders argued among themselves saying, “How can this man give us Himself to eat?”

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I answered them, “I say to you, except you believe in Me, and accept Me as Savior, you will not have eternal life. He who believes in Me and accepts Me as Savior has eternal life, and I will raise him up from the dead in the last day. I am true spiritual meat to eat, and true spiritual water to drink; and the one who believes in Me, and accepts Me as Savior, will live in Me and I will live in Him. I live, because the living Father sent Me, and the one who believes in Me and accepts Me as Savior, will live because of Me. This is the Bread Who comes from heaven. It’s not like the bread the forefathers ate and died. He who eats this Bread will live forever.” I ended these things I taught in Capernaum.

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*I Am the Bread of Life. I will provide physical food for you when you are hungry. I will fill you spiritually with the Bread of Life when you are weak. Accept Me today as your Savior, and live forever with Me in heaven.*

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Many of My disciples said this sermon was too difficult to believe. But I knew they were complaining, so I said, “If this sermon causes you problems, what will you think when you see Me ascending back to heaven where I was previously? The words I spoke are Spirit and life; the Spirit will give you eternal life, the flesh cannot help you. Some of you have not put your faith in Me.” I knew from the beginning those who believed in Me, and who would betray Me. So I said, “No one can come to Me except My Father draws Him.” Therefore, many disciples stopped following Me.

Then I said to the twelve, “Will you also stop following Me?”

Peter answered, “Who else can we follow? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know You are the Messiah.”

I answered them, “I chose all twelve of you; yet one of you is a devil.” I was referring to Judas Iscariot, the one who would betray Me.

## The Coming of the Holy Spirit

**7**After this, I stayed in Galilee because the Jewish leaders sought to kill Me in Judea. The Festival of Shelters was approaching, and every Jewish male was to attend once. My unsaved brothers counseled Me to go to the Festival of Shelters in Jerusalem. They said, “Go do miracles so the multitude will believe You and follow You. A person who wants to be known doesn’t do things in secret, but he manifests himself to the world.”

### My Unbelieving Brothers

My brothers did not believe in Me. I told them, “This is not the hour for Me to manifest Myself. The world does not hate you, but it hates Me because I

## THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

tell them their works are evil. It's not the time for Me to manifest Myself," so I didn't do what they suggested. After My brethren went to the festival in Jerusalem, I privately went on an out-of-the-way road, arriving in the middle of the week.

### I Attend the Festival of Shelters

The Jewish leaders were looking everywhere saying, "Where is Jesus?" The crowd was confused, some said, "Jesus was a good man." Others said, "He leads the multitude astray." Yet no one supported Me publicly because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders.

I went into the temple on Wednesday and taught. Everyone marveled at My knowledge because I hadn't graduated from the best schools. I answered, "I don't think up the things I teach, this doctrine comes from My heavenly Father. If anyone is yielded to do My Father's will, he shall understand this doctrine whether this is My idea or My Father's. He who does his own will also seek his own glory, but he who seeks to glorify My Father, there is no unrighteousness in him. Moses gave you the law, but none of you keeps it; none of you is righteous before God." I said, "Why do you want to kill Me?"

The Jewish leaders said, "You have a demon because You think someone is trying to kill You."

I said, "I healed a lame man on the Sabbath eighteen months ago, and you hate Me for it. Moses gave you the law to circumcise a boy, and you circumcise on the Sabbath, yet you are angry with Me because I healed on the Sabbath day. Aren't healing and circumcision both a work of God? Let's judge according to God's perfect judgment. Did we not both do right on the Sabbath?"

The crowd began talking among themselves, "Isn't this the man the leaders want to kill; yet they say nothing when He speaks openly? Maybe they think He is our messianic Deliverer, so they don't do anything to Him."

I preached loudly to the crowd, "You think you know Me, and you think you know where I come from, but you don't really know Me. My Father, who sent Me, knows Me, and I know Him because I come from Him."

The crowd wanted to take Me to the Jewish leaders, but no one laid a hand on Me because My hour had not come. Yet many in the crowd believed in Me saying, "The Messiah won't do more miracles than this man has done."

When the Jewish leaders heard I was preaching to the multitude, they sent officers to arrest Me. I responded, "I will be with you for only a little while, then I'll go to the One who sent Me. You will look for Me, but not find Me because I'm going where you can't come."

The crowd talked among themselves asking, "Where is He going that

we can't find Him? Is He going to the Jews in the dispersion or is He going to teach Gentiles?" Also, they asked, "What does He mean when He says we can't go where He is going?"

## God, the Holy Spirit

On Sunday, the last day of the Festival of Shelters, when thousands of priests were parading with pots of water to pour out as a drink offering to God, I shouted to the crowd, "If anyone is thirsty, come to Me for satisfaction. He who believes on Me will have living water flowing out of his inner being." I was referring to the indwelling Holy Spirit, but the Holy Spirit had not yet been given because I had not yet gone to glory.

Someone, who had been in the crowd, said of Me, "Jesus is a true prophet!"

Others said, "He is the Messiah!"

But the crowd argued, "The Messiah doesn't come from Gentiles, but from Bethlehem, the village where David was born." The crowd was divided because of Me, and no one laid a hand on Me.

The Jewish leaders asked the officers why they didn't arrest Me. They answered, "No one speaks like Him." Some said, "This man is not the Messiah. We know this man comes from Nazareth, but we don't know where Messiah comes from."

The leaders rebuked them, "Are you also deceived by this Man? Have any of our leaders believed Him?"

The Pharisees said, "The crowd is cursed because they don't know the law."

Nicodemus, by this time a believer, said to them, "Does our law judge a man before we hear Him?"

The leaders ridiculed Nicodemus, accusing him of coming from Galilee, "Search the record; no prophet comes out of Galilee." After the festival was over, they all went home.

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*I invite you to come to Me and drink of the Water of Life freely, to find energy and satisfaction. When you are weak, come to drink of Me for strength to continue on. When you can't find happiness or satisfaction, come to Me to drink and to find purpose in life, and peace. I will fill you with My presence.*

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## An Argument With Religious Leaders

8 I went to the Mount of Olives for the night, but early the following morning I went to the temple and sat down in the middle of the multitude to

## AN ARGUMENT WITH RELIGIOUS LEADERS

teach. The religious leaders threw a woman in the middle of the crowd who was caught in the very act of adultery. The leaders said to Me, "This woman was caught in the very act of adultery. The law demands that she be stoned, but what do You say we should do?"

The Jews used this occasion to try and trap Me so they would have an accusation against Me. I stooped to write with My finger on the ground, but the leaders continued to question Me. Then I stopped to say, "He who has not committed this self-same sin, let him cast the first stone." Again I stooped to write on the ground, then the eldest leader left first and eventually all the other leaders left. Then I said to the woman, "Where are those who accuse you of sin?"

She answered, "They are not here to accuse me."

I said, "Neither do I accuse you, go from here and sin no more."

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*There will be times when you won't know which way to turn. I will shine a light in your soul, so you will know the plan I have for your life. I Am the light that brightens your path. Come walk with Me, and I will show you where to go. With My light, you will see dangers on the path as well as safe places when you need protection from danger.*

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### I Argue With the Religious Leaders

I said, "I am the light of the world, those following Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

The religious leaders snarled, "You bear witness to Yourself. You are bragging and lying."

I answered them, "My claim is true, I know where I came from, and I know where I am going. But you don't know anything about Me. You judge according to the flesh; you don't know the facts. I will not judge you now, but I will in the future. The law says to accept a statement if two agree about what happened. Then I am one witness to My claims, and My Father is the other witness."

"Where is the Father?" they asked.

I answered, "If you had known that I Am God the Son, you would have known God the Father." Later, I was sitting where money was received, but the officials didn't arrest Me because My hour had not yet come. I said to the crowd, "I am going away. You will search and not find Me because you can't come to where I'm going."

The Jews didn't understand, so they asked, "Will You commit suicide?"

Then I said to them, "I am from above, you are from this world, and you shall die in your sins unless you believe that I am the Messiah."

## THE BIBLE BY JESUS

The Jews asked again, “Who are You?”

I answered, “I am the One I claim to be. I could teach you much, but that would condemn you. I am the One My Father sent to you, the One who sent Me is true.” But the Jews still didn’t understand I was telling them I came from God, and that I AM God the Son. Then I said, “When you have lifted up the Son of God, then you will realize I am the Messiah from heaven. The One who sent Me is with Me; He has not deserted Me. I always do the things that please the One who sent Me into the world.” Many people believed the words I spoke. Then I explained to them, “If you abide in My words, then you are truly My disciples, and you’ll know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

Then the Jewish leaders answered, “We are Abraham’s descendants, we have never been slaves to anyone. How can You make us free?”

I answered, “I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a bond slave to sin. A slave does not live in the house forever, but a son lives there forever. If the Son makes you free, you shall be truly free. Yes, you are descendants of Abraham, but some of you are trying to kill Me because My words have not set you free. I speak what My Father tells Me to say, but you speak what your father tells you.”

The Jews answered, “Our father is Abraham.”

I answered, “No! If Abraham were your father, you would do what Abraham told you to do. Instead, you are planning on killing Me just because I told you the truth.”

The Jews said sarcastically, “We were not born out of wedlock,” suggesting I didn’t have a father. The Jews bragged, “Our Father is God.”

I answered, “If God were your father, you would love Me because I come from the Father.” Then I told them plainly, “Your father is the devil, and you do the lustful sins of the devil. The devil is a murderer from the beginning and doesn’t have any truth in him. The devil is a liar and doesn’t speak the truth. I tell you the truth, and you do not believe Me. None of you can point out any sin that I have ever done. If you were of God, you would listen to My words, but you don’t understand them because you are not of God.” The Jews accused Me of being a Samaritan and being possessed with a demon. I answered, “I do not have a demon, and I honor My heavenly Father. I have no desire to make Myself great; My Father will do this for Me.” Then I said, “I say to you, if you will obey My words, you will never taste death.”

“Now we know you have a demon,” the Jews answered. “Even Abraham died, and You claim if a man obeys Your words he shall never die.” The Jews asked, “Who do You think You are—God?”

Then I answered them, “If I am just bragging, it doesn’t mean anything; it is My Father who will glorify Me. But you do not know My Father. If

## I HEAL A MAN BORN BLIND

I said you knew My Father, I'd be lying as you lie. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day. He knew I would come into the world and Abraham rejoiced to see My day."

The Jewish leaders said, "You aren't even fifty years old, and You said You'd seen Abraham."

I answered, "You're right; before Abraham was even born, I existed." The Jewish leaders picked up stones to kill Me, but I hid Myself and walked past them out of the temple.

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*There is a battle between the kingdom of light and the kingdom of darkness. I knew the religious Jews were agents of satan, and I knew their strategy to defeat Me. Therefore, you must study Scripture to understand satan's strategy, and then follow God's principles to lead a godly life, and serve God successfully.*

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## I Heal a Man Born Blind

**9**As I left the temple, I saw a blind man, and My disciples asked, "Who sinned, his parents or this man that he was born blind?"

I answered, "Neither did this man nor his parents, but his blindness demonstrates the power of God. Each of us is given a task in life. We must do it in the daylight because the night comes when work ends. While I'm still in this dark world, I am the light of the world."

Then I spat on the ground to make clay and then rubbed it on the blind man's eyes and told him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam." So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

The neighbors who knew he was blind were dumbfounded. "Is this the same one we knew who begged?"

Others said, "It looks just like him."

The healed man said, "I'm the one who was blind!"

They said, "How were you healed?"

He answered, "A man named Jesus made clay, and rubbed it on my eyes and said, 'Go wash in Siloam.' I did, and now I see."

They asked, "Where is this Jesus fellow?"

He answered, "I don't know!" The crowd brought the healed man to the religious leaders; it was the Sabbath. They also asked how he was healed. The healed man answered, "Jesus put clay on my eyes, and now I see."

The religious leaders criticized, "This Jesus is not from God, because He breaks the Sabbath."

## THE BIBLE BY JESUS

But someone in the crowd answered, "How can a sinner do such a great miracle?"

The religious leaders asked the healed man what he thought of Me. He answered, "Jesus is a prophet!"

The religious leaders said, "This man wasn't blind." So they asked his parents if the man was born blind.

The parents answered them, "We know that he is our son and that he was born blind, but we don't know what happened to him. Ask him; he is old enough to speak for himself." The parents were afraid of the Jewish leaders because anyone saying I was the Messiah would be excommunicated from the temple.

His parents again said, "Ask him, he is of age."

Then the Jewish leaders asked the man a second time, "Give glory to God, not to this Jesus fellow; we know He is a sinner."

The healed man said, "I don't know if Jesus is evil; all I know is that I was blind, and now I see."

The religious leaders kept demanding, "How did Jesus heal you?"

The healed man became exasperated. "I told you once, do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become Jesus' disciple?"

They cursed him, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. We know God spoke to Moses, but we don't know this fellow."

The healed man was incredulous, "Why, here is a miracle, and you don't realize Jesus opened my eyes. We know God does not hear the prayer of sinners, but He answers those who worship Him and do His will. Since the world began, no one has opened the eyes of a blind man. If this Jesus is not of God, He could do nothing."

The religious leaders shouted, "You were born in sin. Are you trying to teach us anything?" So they excommunicated him from the temple.

### Spiritual Blindness

I heard they excommunicated him, so I found him and asked, "Do you believe in the Son of God?"

The healed man answered, "Who is He?" I answered, "You are looking at Him. I am the One who healed you."

The blind man said, "Lord, I believe," and then he worshiped Me.

Then I announced to the crowd, "I come to judge so that those who think they see will become blind, and those who are blind will see."

The religious leaders asked, "Do you think we are blind?"

I answered, "If you were blind, you would want Me to heal you. But because you don't understand who I Am, you are blinded to the truth of God."

## I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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*Healing a man who was born blind was proof that I Am God, but there is something worse than physical blindness. I will give you eyes to see My truth, and I will take away your spiritual blindness. I will give you a heart to obey My commands, and I will take away any doubt. When the healed man saw Me, he recognized I did a miracle in his life. Then he worshiped Me. I can give you eternal life, and you too can worship Me.*

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### I Am the Good Shepherd

**10**I said, “Those who don’t follow Me, but climb over the wall into the sheepfold, are thieves. My sheep enter by the door because I am the Shepherd of the sheep. The sheep hear My voice, and I call My own sheep by name and lead them out.”

“I go before them and call them, and they follow for they know My voice, but will not follow a stranger.” When I used this extended metaphor the crowd didn’t understand what I meant. So I said, “I am the door for the sheep; those who came before are thieves and robbers, but My sheep didn’t obey their voice.” I repeated Myself, “I am the Door, all who enter by Me will be saved, and they will go in and out to find pasture. “The thief comes to kill and destroy the sheep, but I come to give sheep the fullness of life.”

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*I promised that everyone who enters the door of salvation will enjoy the freedom of going and coming into My sheepfold. Also, I promised that they would eat abundantly, and would enjoy life more abundantly. Those who pray salvation’s request will enjoy fellowship with Me forever.*

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I said, “I am the Good Shepherd who gives His life for His sheep. A hired man will run away when the wolf attacks, because the sheep don’t belong to him, and he isn’t their shepherd. The wolf attacks the sheep and scatters the flock. The hired man runs away because he is hired; he doesn’t really care about the sheep.” I said, “I am the Good Shepherd and know My sheep, and My sheep know Me and follow Me. Just as My Father knows Me, and I know My Father, I know My sheep and will lay down My life for them. I have other sheep who are not in this fold; they are the Gentiles who will believe in Me. I will lead them also. These other sheep will listen to My voice, and then all My sheep will be one flock, and all will live in one sheepfold—heaven.”

I said, “My Father loves Me because I lay down My life, but I will take back My life. No one can take My life from Me. I willingly die, and I have

## THE BIBLE BY JESUS

the power to raise Myself from the dead. This is the assignment I was given by My Father.”

The crowd was divided over what I said. Some said, “He raves like a man possessed by a demon. Why should we listen to Him?” Others said, “Can a demon-possessed man cause the blind to see? He doesn’t sound like one possessed by a demon.”

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*You received physical life when you were born physically. Then you received spiritual life when you prayed to receive Me as your Savior. God intended for you to make your physical life a dwelling place for Me to live in you. You must keep your body separated from sin, while God makes you holy by living in you. As you immerse yourselves in Scripture, fellowship with My Father, and attempt to follow Me, you become transformed into God’s image.*

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### Winter in Jerusalem

When winter settled on Jerusalem, it was time for Hanukkah; I returned to the temple near Solomon’s Porch. The crowd surrounded Me, asking, “How long will You keep us in suspense? Tell us if You are Messiah.”

I answered, “I did tell you, but you didn’t listen; I did miracles, but you wouldn’t believe them. You didn’t believe because you are not sheep of My flock. My sheep know My voice and obey Me. I know them, and they know Me and follow Me. I give My sheep eternal life, and they shall never perish, no one can snatch them from Me. My Father has given them to Me, and He is more powerful than anything else so that no one can steal them from Me.” Then I said, “I and My Father are One.”

The Jewish leaders then picked up stones to kill Me. I responded, “My Father has directed Me to do many miracles to help people who are hurting; for which one of these miracles do you stone Me?”

They answered, “Not for works of mercy, but for blasphemy. You are a mere man like us, but You have said You are God.”

I quoted Scripture, “Your law says men are gods, so if the Scripture is always right, why did it call mere men gods? How can You say I blasphemed God when My Father who sent Me said I am the Son of God? Even if you refuse to believe who I am, at least believe the miracles I do. Then you will realize My Father is in Me, and I am in My Father.” They tried to arrest Me, but I walked away from them and crossed over the Jordan to stay near the place where John the Baptizer first baptized.

My disciples said, “John didn’t do miracles, but everything he said about You is true.” At that time many people believed in Me.

## I Raise Lazarus From the Dead

**I** I received a message from Mary and Martha telling Me that Lazarus was sick. This is the same Mary who anointed Me with oil and wiped My feet with the hair of her head. The sisters reminded Me that I loved Lazarus. Actually, I loved all three of them. When I received the message, I told My disciples, “This sickness will not end in death, but I, the Son of God, will be glorified through it.” Now I loved Martha, her sister Mary, and Lazarus. I stayed where I was for two more days, then I told My disciples, “Let’s go to Judea.” They cautioned Me against making the trip because the Jews tried to stone Me the last time I was there. I replied, “There are twelve hours of daylight for walking so you won’t stumble when there is light to see by. Those who walk in darkness stumble, because there is no light to guide them.” I then said, “Our friend Lazarus sleeps, I go to awaken him.”

The disciples answered, “It’s good if he sleeps.”

They didn’t understand what I meant, so I said plainly, “Lazarus is dead. Now I’m glad I wasn’t there when he died because now you will believe completely in Me.”

Then Thomas, the twin, said to the other disciples, “Let us go with Him, and die with Him.”

When I arrived, I found out Lazarus had been dead four days. Bethany was about two miles from Jerusalem, so many Jews had come to sympathize with Mary and Martha. When Martha heard that I had arrived, she went out to the graveyard to meet Me. Mary stayed in the house grieving. Martha accused Me, “If You would have been here, my brother would not have died. But now I know that whatever You ask from God, He will give it to You.”

I told Martha, “Your brother will rise again.”

Martha said, “I know he’ll arise in the resurrection at the last day.”

I said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life, and those who believe in Me will never die.”

Martha answered, “Yes, I believe You are the Deliverer-Messiah, the Son of God Who was sent into the world.” Martha ran to whisper to Mary in a low voice, “The Master is here and wants to see you.” Mary immediately got up and went to Me outside town. When the Jews, who were mourning, saw Mary leave, they followed her thinking she was visiting the cemetery.

As soon as Mary saw Me, she threw herself at My feet, saying the same thing as her sister, “Lord, if You had been here my brother would not have died.”

I saw Mary’s tears and the mourning Jews following her. I said with a deep sigh, “Where is the body?” Then I wept.

## THE BIBLE BY JESUS

The Jews responded, “Behold how much Jesus loved Lazarus.”

Other Jews said, “This man makes the blind see, why couldn’t He keep Lazarus from dying?”

I sighed deeply. When I got to the tomb—a cave—with a stone closing the opening, I said, “Take away the stone.”

Martha protested, “Lord, the body stinks; he’s been dead four days.”

I answered, “Have I not told you that if you will believe, you’ll see the glory of God.” They rolled the stone away, then I looked into heaven, “Father, I thank You for hearing Me before I pray so that the people here will believe in Me.” Then I yelled with a strong voice, “*Lazarus, come out!*” Lazarus came bound, hands and feet with swaths of cloth, and a cloth wrapped around his face. I cried, “Unwrap him and free him.”

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*I raised Lazarus to life after he had been dead four days. I will do the same for you so that one day you can live with Me in hHeaven forever.*

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### Results From Raising Lazarus

Then some of the Jewish leaders saw it happen and believed. Therefore, many Jews believed in Me, because I raised Lazarus from the dead, but others ran to tell the religious rulers what happened. They gathered in council to decide what to do. One said, “What can we do? This man does miracles.”

Another said, “If we don’t do something, the Romans will come punish the nation and us because they will think Jesus is fermenting a revolution.”

Caiaphas, the high priest, said, “You’re all wrong! Let this man die instead of our people. Why should our whole nation perish?”

This prophecy, that I should die for everyone, came from Caiaphas, the high priest when he was inspired by God to make this prediction. So from that time on the religious leaders were convinced that it was right to plan My death. I stopped preaching to the multitudes and went to the desert and stayed on the border of Ephraim and Samaria. People were journeying to Jerusalem for the Passover; they were curious to see Me and kept asking, “Do you think Jesus will come to this Passover?” Meanwhile, the religious leaders had announced that anyone seeing Me must report it to the authorities so I could be arrested.

## My Triumphal Entry Into Jerusalem

**12** Six days before the Passover meal, I attended a banquet at the home of Martha in Bethany. Lazarus, her brother, sat with Me at the head of the

## MY TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

table. Mary poured a jar of costly perfume over My feet and wiped them with her hair. The house filled with the beautiful smell. Judas Iscariot complained that the perfume could be sold and the money given to take care of the poor. He didn't care for the poor. He was a thief who was in charge of the money given to Me. I answered, "Let her alone, she is preparing Me for burial. You can help the poor later, but you won't have Me very long."

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*Worship Me for My death for your sins, just as Mary worshiped Me at the festival at Bethany.*

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When the crowds heard that I had come to Jerusalem, they came eagerly to see Me and Lazarus; the one whom I raised from the dead. Then the religious leaders decided to kill Lazarus also because many believed on Me because of Lazarus.

### My Entry Into Jerusalem

On Sunday morning many people who had come to the Passover Festival wanted to see Me. When they heard I was coming to Jerusalem, they cut palm branches to wave before Me. They shouted, "HOSANNA, blessed is the King of Israel who is representing the Lord." I was riding on a young donkey that had never been ridden before. I was fulfilling Scripture, 'Fear not daughters of Zion. Your King is coming, riding on a young donkey. My disciples didn't understand what was happening that day, but after I was resurrected, they understood the meaning of the triumphant entry because they saw it predicted in the Scriptures. The people who saw Me raise Lazarus from the dead also witnessed this event. Because of Lazarus' resurrection, many people came to see My triumphant entry.

The Pharisees were not impressed. They said, "We are not getting anywhere; the whole world is following Him."

### The Greeks Want to See Me

There were some Greeks worshiping in the temple. They approached Philip asking, "We would like to meet Jesus." Philip told Andrew, and they told Me.

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*Just as the Greeks wanted to see Me in the temple, you too will want to see Me with your spiritual eyes and experience Me in your heart.*

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## THE BIBLE BY JESUS

I didn't answer directly but said, "The hour has come for Me, the Son of Man, to return to heaven and be glorified. A grain of wheat must die when it falls to the ground; otherwise, it will remain only one grain of wheat. But if it dies, it yields a rich harvest of food. Those who love their life will lose it, and those who don't live for this life will exchange it for eternal life. If anyone wants to be My disciple, including the Greeks, they must follow Me. Then they will be where I Am, and My Father will honor them when they follow Me. Now my soul is greatly troubled. Shall I ask My Father to deliver Me from the house of suffering? No! That is the reason why I came to earth. Father, glorify Your name through My coming death."

Then everyone present heard a voice from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

Some who heard the noise thought it was thunder; others thought it was an angel speaking. I answered, "This sound was for your sake, not Mine, the time for judgment of sin has come. Satan—the prince of the world—will be cast out. When I am lifted up—on the Cross—I will draw all to Me." I said this to predict the way I would die.

The crowd was astonished answering, "We thought the Scriptures taught Messiah would live forever. Why are You saying the Son of Man must be lifted up in death? Are You talking about the Messiah?"

I said, "My light will illuminate you only a short time. Learn from the Light while you can, or else darkness will come, and you'll be lost in it. While you have the Light, believe the Light, and you'll become children of the Light." Then I left, and they couldn't find Me. Despite all the miracles I did, most of the people did not believe I was the predicted Messiah. This fulfilled the prediction of Isaiah, who said, "Lord they don't believe, they don't accept Your miracles." Indeed, they couldn't believe, as Isaiah said in another place, "God has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, lest they should see with their eyes and understand with their hearts, and turn to God, and I save them."

Isaiah said these words when he saw the Lord glorified, sitting on the throne, and he was speaking of Me. Nevertheless, many leading citizens believed on Me, but they didn't confess Me openly for fear of social pressure. They were afraid of being excommunicated from the temple for they desired acceptance by people, more than from God. I proclaimed loudly in the temple, "Those who believe in Me, also believe in My Father who sent Me. And those who understand what I am saying, also understand what My Father wants them to know. I have come as a light to all people, and those who believe in Me will not live in darkness. If anyone hears and understands My teachings, but rejects them, I will not judge them, for I come to save all people. But those

## MY LAST SUPPER WITH MY DISCIPLES

who do not accept My teachings and reject Me will be judged in the last day by what I've said. My Father will judge him because My Father who sent Me told Me what to say, and My words give life eternal. Therefore, everything I am saying to you comes from My Father in heaven."

### My Last Supper With My Disciples

**13** On Thursday night, before the Passover supper, I knew that My hour had come, the time for Me to die for the sins of the world. I would love My followers, having loved them to the end. After the supper, the devil had already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot to betray Me. Knowing My Father had put all things into My hand, and that I had come from My Father, I knew I would return to My Father. I arose from the table, laid aside My tunic, and wrapped a towel around Myself as a servant. I poured water into the basin and began washing the disciples' feet and wiping them dry with the towel. When I came to Peter, the fisherman asked, "Will You wash my feet?"

I answered, "You don't understand now, but you'll understand in the future. If I don't wash you, you'll have no part with Me."

So Peter answered Me, "If that's the case, then not only wash my feet but my hands and head."

I answered, "He that is bathed all over need only to have his feet washed. Now you are clean, but not all of you." For I knew who would betray Me. Therefore, I said, "You are not all clean." When I finished washing their feet, I put My tunic back on and sat down with them and said, "Do you know what I have done for you?"

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*Just as I, God the Son, washed the feet of My followers, I will help you to be humble and serve others, so that you may follow My example.*

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"You call Me Master and Lord, and so I am. If I, then, Your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, then you ought to be willing to wash one another's feet. I have given you the example to do to others what I have done for you. I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, neither is the one sent greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, happy are you if you do them. I have chosen all of you, but not all are of Me, that the Scriptures may be fulfilled, 'He that eats with Me, lifts up his heel against Me.' I'm telling you before it happens, so when it comes to pass, you will know I am your Messiah."

## Judas, the Betrayer

I was obviously troubled. Then I said, “I say to you, one of you will betray Me.” The disciples looked at one another, not completely understanding what I meant. One disciple was leaning on My chest; he was John, the disciple whom I loved. Peter beckoned for John to find out who I meant.

John, who was leaning on Me, said, “Lord, who is it?”

I answered, “He that dips his hand in the same dish that I dip, he is the one who will betray Me. It is good if that man were never born. When I dip the bread into the lamb stew, the one to whom I give it is the one.” Then I dipped the bread into the stew and gave it to Judas. But the disciples didn’t understand, because Judas was the honored guest, and it was the custom to give it to that person first. After Judas received the bread, satan entered in him. I said to him, “Quickly do what you are going to do.” None of the disciples understood what happened because they thought I said, “Buy what is needed for the Passover festival.” When Judas received the bread, he went out into the darkness. The night was spiritually black.

## Peter’s Request

When Judas left, I was relieved saying, “Now I, the Son of Man, am glorified and God is glorified in Me. Since God My Father is glorified in Me, I will also be glorified in Myself. Children, I am going to be with you only a short time. You will look for Me and won’t find Me because where I’m going, you cannot follow Me now. So, I’m giving you a new command, that you love one another as I have loved you. By your love, all people will know you are My disciples.”

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*Everyone has difficulty loving some people. I love everyone in the whole world and died for them. When you encounter those who are difficult to love, let Me love them through you. In this way you will demonstrate to the world true Christian love, and they will know you are My followers because of your love.*

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Peter asked, “Where are You going?”

I answered him, “You cannot now go where I am going, but later you can follow Me.”

Peter answered, “Why can I not follow You now? I’ll lay down my life for Your sake.”

I replied, “You only think you’ll die for Me. I say to you: you will deny Me three times before the rooster crows.”

## The Upper Room Discourse

14 I told the eleven, “Do not let your heart be troubled, hold on to your faith in God and your faith in Me. There are many rooms in My Father’s house; if it were not true, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you there, and when I get it ready, I will come back for you, and I’ll take you to be with Me. You know the way to the place I am going.”

But Thomas responded, “No! We don’t know where You are going, nor do we know how to get there.”

I said, “I am the way to heaven, also, I am truth, and I am eternal life. You must come through Me to go to My Father.” “Since you know Me, you should also know My Father, and from now on you’ll know My Father.”

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*I said that I would come back to take You where I Am. That’s what I want. I want you to live with Me in heaven for all eternity.*

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Philip disagreed, “We don’t know what the Father looks like. Show us the Father so we can believe.”

I answered, “I have been with you all this time, and I’m surprised you don’t know My Father. He who has seen Me has seen the Father. What I say are not My words, but they are from My Father who lives in Me. My Father also does the miracles that I do. Believe that I am in My Father, and He is in Me, or else believe it because you have seen My miracles. I say to you, he who believes in Me shall do the works that I do, and even greater ones, because I am going to My Father. Whatever you pray, asking in My name, I’ll do it, so that My Father will be glorified in Me. If you pray for anything in My name, I’ll do it.”

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*I want you to come in My name, the name of Jesus, to ask your request. I said that I would do it if you ask in My name. You can ask in my name because I Am in your heart. My blood has cleansed you and has given you access to My Father because I Am your intercessor.*

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I told them, “If you love Me, obey My commands, and I will ask My Father to send you another person in My place. He will live in you forever. This other Person is God, the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity. The unsaved cannot receive Him because they do not believe in Him or know

## THE BIBLE BY JESUS

anything about Him. But you will know the Holy Spirit, because you believe in Me. He will dwell with you and be in you. I will not leave you alone in the world; I will come to you. Shortly, I will leave you, because I'm leaving the world. But you will see Me later. Because I live, you shall live also. At that time you'll know I'm with My Father in heaven, but I'll be in you, and you'll be in Me. Those who have My commands and keep them are the ones who love Me, and those who love Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love them, and I'll show Myself to them."

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*I promised two things that you can know beyond a shadow of a doubt: first, I would come to live within your heart when you are saved; second, you would be placed in Me in heaven. The first means you have My life in you. The second means you can be as close to God, My heavenly Father, as I Am.*

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Judas—not Iscariot, but another disciple with that name—asked, “How can You show Yourself to us and not to the world?”

I answered, “Those who love Me will obey My commands, and My Father will love them, and We will come to live in them. Those who don't obey My commands, don't love Me. It's not just My Word they reject; it's My Father's Word. I'm explaining these things to you while I'm with you, but the Holy Spirit, whom My Father will send in My place, He'll explain all spiritual things to you, and will remind you of the things I said to you.”

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*You need the Holy Spirit guiding in your life to help you learn Scripture and to remember the things I said in My Word.*

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“I am leaving My peace with you, but not as the world gives, so don't be afraid of anything. Previously I told you I'm going away, but I'm also coming back. Because you love Me, rejoice that I'm going to My Father. I tell you this before it happens, so you'll believe in Me when it happens. I'll not be able to talk with you much more. The evil prince of this world is coming to try Me, but don't worry, he has no authority over Me. I am going to do the thing My Father wants Me to do; that will show My love to Him. Now, let's leave this upper room.”

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*I did supernatural miracles such as healing a leper and raising the dead. What could be greater than these miracles? A soul saved for all eternity is greater in an insurmountable measure.*

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## I Am the True Vine

**15** I Am your true vine, and My Father is the gardener. He cuts away any branches not growing fruit and prunes back every branch that has fruit. So you are a healthy plant when you live by My words. I will abide in you as you abide in Me. Just as a branch can't bear fruit unless it's attached to the vine, so you can't produce anything unless you are attached to Me. I Am the vine, and you are a branch. As long as you remain attached to Me, and I abide in you, you will bear plenty of fruit. Anyone who will not remain attached to Me will be punished. He'll be like dead branches that are collected and thrown into a fire to be burned. When you remain settled in Me, and My words remain in you, you can ask what you want, and I will give it to you. I Am glorified when you bear much fruit. Then everyone will know you are My disciple.

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*I want you to produce more fruit in your Christian life, and more fruit in your service to Me. I want you to abide in Me so you can be fruitful.*

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As My Father has loved Me, so I love you. You can settle down to rest in My love for you. You will obey My commands to remain in My love, just as I kept My Father's commands to remain in His love. I tell you this so My joy would rest in you and your joy would then be complete. I have commanded you to love one another, just as I have loved you. You can't have a greater love for others than to lay down your life for them. You are My friend when you obey My commands. You are no longer My servant because a servant doesn't know what his master does. But you are My friend because you know what I Am doing, as I Am doing what My Father told Me to do. You did not choose Me, but I chose you and challenged you to go bear fruit. Now, whatever you ask My Father in My name, I will gladly give to you. Again, I command you to love one another, because the world will hate you and those who follow Me.

But know this: the world hated Me long before it hated you. You do not belong to this world. I have separated you from it. Therefore, the world hates you. You will remember what I said, "A servant is not greater than his master. Since they persecute Me, the world will persecute you." They will hate you and persecute you because you are my disciple and because they do not know My Father who sent Me. If I hadn't given the truth, the world wouldn't experience the guilt of their sin, but now they have no excuse. Those who hate you hate My Father. If I hadn't done miracles among them, they would have

been blinded in their sins. Now they see and hate both Me and My Father. As written in the Scriptures, “They hated Jesus without a cause.”

When the Holy Spirit comes—the Spirit of truth who comes from My Father—He will speak plainly to your heart about Me. Then you can also speak plainly about Me because I will speak through you and remove your blindness. Then you can bear witness because you have been with Me.

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*I promised that if you would abide in My Word, your prayers would be answered. That means you can live and ask according to Scripture to get your prayers answered.*

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## The Testing of Your Faith

**16** I told them about coming persecution so their faith wouldn't be shaken. I said that they would be excommunicated from their assemblies. There was coming a time when people would kill them, thinking they were serving God by doing so. They would do this because they don't have true knowledge of My Father or Me. I did not originally tell My disciples about persecution because I was walking among them. But now that I was going away, they needed to be reinforced, so they wouldn't be shaken when it happened.

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*The world will hate you, just as it hated Me. I will give you strength to endure persecution and live for Me. I will help you to do more than endure trials. I will give you victory over them.*

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Yet none of My disciples asked, “Where are You going?” because they were distressed that I was leaving. But it was a good thing for Me to go away because if I hadn't left, the Holy Spirit would not have come. But because I left, I would send the Holy Spirit to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. The Holy Spirit will cause people to see their sin because they do not believe in Me. The Holy Spirit will also cause people to see their lack of righteousness, which will keep them out of heaven. The Holy Spirit will also cause people to see coming judgment because I suffered for them on the cross. Many more things could be said, but the disciples weren't ready to hear.

Then I told what the Holy Spirit would do for believers. “When He comes, the Spirit of Truth, He will reveal to you everything that is truth. Then He'll guide you to understand truth. The Holy Spirit will not be concerned with His own agenda, but He will bring glory to Me, and He will reveal to you things to come. All My Father's glory also belongs to Me. This is the glory the Holy Spirit will reveal. All things My Father has, also belong to Me.”

## MY PRAYER TO BE GLORIFIED

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*I will send the Holy Spirit to guide you into truth, and to keep you from error. The world, the flesh, and the devil continually try to pull you away from Me.*

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In a little while, I would leave My disciples, and they would see Me no longer in the flesh. But a short time later they would see Me. The disciples did not understand what I meant about leaving them and then coming back to them. They were puzzled over My leaving a little while. I knew they wanted to question Me, so I said plainly, “In a short time you’ll see Me no longer; then a short time later you’ll see Me again.” Then I explained, “You will weep when I’m gone, but the world will rejoice. But your weeping will be turned to rejoicing. It’ll be like a woman suffering in childbirth, but when her child is born, she forgets about her suffering.” I explained that they would be sad, but when they would see Me again, they would be full of joy, a joy that no one could take from them. When that day comes, they won’t have any questions; they can go directly to My Father with their questions. I then promised that whatever anyone asks in My name, My Father will give it to them. Up until then, the disciples hadn’t prayed in My name, now they could ask in My name, and they would receive answers so that their joy would overflow. Up until that time, I used figures of speech and parables, but the time had now come when I spoke plainly. I explained, “When that day comes—and now is—you can ask My Father in My name, and I will pray to My Father for you. My Father loves you because you have loved Me, and you know that I came to the world from My Father.”

The disciples said, “Now we believe You came from the Father. You are not using figures of speech. Now we understand.”

I said, “You only think you understand. The time is coming when you will be scattered to your homes, leaving Me alone.” I said, “I have told you this so you will have peace in the world. But you will also have trials; so have faith, I have conquered the world.”

### My Prayer to Be Glorified

**17**After I left the Upper Room, I lifted My eyes to heaven and prayed, “Father, My hour is come. Glorify Your Son so that I can glorify You. I pray that those You have given Me will have eternal life. Eternal life is in You, the only true God, and is found in Me, the One You sent to earth. I have glorified You on earth and accomplished the work You sent Me to do. Now Father, glorify Me with the glory I had in heaven which I had with You before the world was created.”

## A Prayer for My Disciples

“I have given Your name to the men You gave me. They were Your men, and You gave them to Me. They have faithfully kept Your Word. They know the things You told Me to do because I told them what You said to Me. They have received Your Word, and they believe it, and they believe I came from heaven to do Your will. I pray for these disciples. I do not pray for the world. I pray for those You have given Me. All things that are Mine are Yours, and I am glorified in these disciples. I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, so I pray for them. I pray—Holy Father—that You would keep them safe, that they may be one, as We are One. While I was with them, I kept them —guarded them—and not one of them is missing, except the son of perdition who fulfilled Scripture by betraying Me. Now I come to You, Father, that they may have joy. I have given them Your Word, and the world hates them because they reject the world, even as I am not of the world. I am not praying for You to take them out of the world, but that You would keep them from the evil one. They are not of this world, just as I am not of this world. Make them holy by Your Word. Your Word is truth. I am sending them into the world, even as I was sent into the world. I set Myself apart from heaven for them, now may they be set apart to reach others.

“I am not praying for these disciples only. I’m also praying for those who will believe because of their word.” I prayed that all believers may be one as I and My Father are One. “And the glory You gave Me I give them, so they may also be one as We are. I am in them, as You are in Me, so that the world may realize You sent Me, and You love Me and You love them. Father, I want them to be with Me in heaven, that they may see My glory that I’ve had before the foundations of the earth. O Father, the world does not know You, but I have known You, and made You known to these disciples, that the love You have for Me may be in them, and I in them, and they in Me.”

## I Am Betrayed, Arrested, and Forsaken

**18** After I spoke these words, My disciples and I went over the Brook Kidron and entered a garden. Judas knew the place where I often went to pray, so he led Roman soldiers and officers from the religious leaders with lanterns, torches, and weapons to arrest Me. I knew what was happening, so I met them and asked, “Who are you looking for?”

They answered, “Jesus of Nazareth.”

I responded, “I am He,” This was My statement of deity. Then the Roman soldiers and Jewish guards were driven backward to the ground. Again I asked, “Who are you looking for?”

## I AM BETRAYED, ARRESTED, AND FORSAKEN

They said, “Jesus of Nazareth.”

I answered, “I told you, I am He. Since you want Me, let these go.”

With this, prophecy was fulfilled: “I lost none of those that You gave Me.”

Judas had given them a sign that I would be the one whom he kissed. So Judas kissed Me, and said, “Arrest Him!”

I said to Judas, “Are you betraying Me, the Son of Man, with a kiss?” As the guards moved forward to take Me, Simon Peter, having a sword, cut off the right ear of Malchus, the high priest’s servant. I answered, “Put up your sword. I must drink the cup of suffering My Father has for Me.” Then I touched him and healed him.

They grabbed Me and bound Me, but I responded, “Have you come out in the middle of the night to arrest a thief? I sat daily in the temple, but you didn’t arrest Me.” This came to pass because it was predicted in Scripture. Then the disciples left Me and fled into the night.

### The First Trial—Before Annas, the Former High Priest

The soldiers and guards led Me bound to Annas, the former high priest who was deposed for his corruption. Caiaphas, his son-in-law, was put in that office. Now Caiaphas was the one who counseled the Jewish leaders that it was expedient for one man to die for the people. Simon Peter followed Me along with John. Since John was known by the servants in the high priest’s home, he was allowed to enter, but Peter was kept out. Then John vouched for Peter, and he was allowed to enter the courtyard.

The girl at the door said to Peter, “Aren’t you a disciple of Jesus?”

Peter said, “No!” Then Peter warmed himself by a fire, for it was cold. He was standing with the others by the fire.

Annas asked Me about My disciples and what I taught; I answered, “I spoke openly in synagogues, and the temple and I kept back nothing secretly. Ask those who heard Me what I taught.”

When I answered this way, an officer struck Me with his hand, saying, “Why did You answer the high priest that way?”

I replied, “Tell me if I have spoken evil; if not, then don’t strike Me.”

So Annas sent Me, still in handcuffs, to Caiaphas, the high priest. But Simon Peter was still warming himself when someone said to him, “Are you one of His disciples?”

He denied it and said, “No, I am not.”

One of the high priest’s servants, a relative of the one whose ear Peter cut off, said, “Didn’t I see you in the garden with Jesus?” Again Peter denied it, and immediately a rooster crowed. Peter saw Me and ran away weeping.

## The Second Trial—Before Caiaphas

They led Me from Caiaphas to the judgment hall—the courtroom—in Pilate's place. It was early morning, and they would not go into a Gentile's house because that would defile them, and they would be unfit to eat the Passover meal.

## The Third Trial—Before Pilate

So Pilate came outside and asked, "What charge do you bring against this man?"

They answered, "If He had not broken the law, we would not have brought Him to you."

Pilate told them, "You take Him and try Him in accord with your religious laws."

But the Jews answered, "It is not legal for us to execute anyone." This answer fulfilled the prophecy of Me that indicated how I would die.

So Pilate went back into the judgment hall to call for Me and asked, "Are You the King of the Jews?"

I answered him, "Are you asking Me this on your own or have others put this question in your mind?"

Pilate answered, "I don't think like a Jew. Your people and their high priests have brought You here. What have You done?"

I answered, "My kingdom is not in this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My followers would have fought to keep Me from being arrested. So My kingdom is not about this world."

Then Pilate retorted, "Then You are a King?"

I answered, "Yes, I am a King. For this purpose I was born, for this purpose I have come into the world, to give them the truth. Everyone who seeks truth will listen to what I say."

Pilate asked Me, "What is truth?" Then he went outside again to the Jews to tell them, "I have no grounds to try this man."

Pilate told them there was a custom to set one man free at Passover. He asked, "Do you want me to set free the King of the Jews?"

Then they yelled and chanted, "No! Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

## My Death on the Cross

**19** So Pilate had Me scourged. Then the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns to place on My head. Then they put a purple coat on Me, and mocked Me saying, "All hail, King of the Jews!"

## MY DEATH ON THE CROSS

Then they slapped Me on the face. And Pilate went outside again to the Jews and said, "I am going to bring Him out so you can see that there are no grounds to try Him." So I was brought out still wearing the crown of thorns and the purple coat. Then Pilate announced, "Look at this man!"

But the high priests and temple officers glared at Me and shouted to stir up the crowd, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

Pilate answered, "You take Him and crucify Him for I find no ground to try Him."

The Jews answered, "We have a law, and He has broken God's law; He deserves to die for claiming to be God's Son."

When Pilate heard that statement, he was more afraid than before and went back into the judgment hall to ask Me, "Where are You from?" but I did not answer. Then Pilate said, "Why do You refuse to speak to me? Don't You know that I have the authority to free You or crucify You?"

I answered, "You could have no power at all over Me if the authority had not been given to you from above. So the one who betrayed me has the greater sin."

Pilate kept looking for a reason to set Me free, but the Jews shouted, "If you set Him free, you are not a friend of Caesar's. Anyone who claims to be a king is speaking treason against Caesar."

When Pilate heard the charge of "treason," he had Me brought out. Then Pilate sat on the judge's bench at the place called the stone platform, or in Hebrew, *gabbatha*. It was the day of preparation for the Passover, and it was about six o'clock in the morning. Then Pilate said to the Jews, "Look at your King!"

But they shouted, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

Pilate said to them, "Do you want me to crucify your King?"

The high priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." Then Pilate turned Me over to them to be crucified.

### My Crucifixion

So they led Me, carrying My cross to a place called "the Skull," or in Hebrew, *Golgotha*. There they crucified Me, with two criminals, one on each side, with Me in the middle. Pilate had the legal indictment written and nailed to the cross: "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."

Now many of the Jews read this sign because I was crucified near the city. It was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek. So the high priests of the Jews demanded of Pilate, "Don't write, 'The King of the Jews,' but write, 'He said, I am the King of the Jews.'"

Pilate refused, saying, "What I have written, I have written!"

## THE BIBLE BY JESUS

After the soldiers crucified Me, they divided My clothes into four parts, one for each soldier. But the coat, woven without a seam, was expensive. So they agreed, “Let us not cut it up, but let us cast lots to see who gets it.”

This action fulfilled Scripture, “They divided My clothes among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.”

My mother and her sister, and Mary, the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala were standing near My cross. So when I saw My mother and the disciple, whom I loved, John, standing near her, I said to My mother, “There is your son.” Then I said to John, “There is your mother.” From that time on, John took My mother to his own home. When I knew that the end was near, I said, “I am thirsty.” Some vinegar was there. So they soaked a sponge in some vinegar and put it to My lips. As soon as I tasted the sour vinegar, I said, “It is finished!” Then I bowed My head and gave up My life.

It was the day of preparation for the Passover, so they did not want the bodies, including mine, to remain on the crosses during the Sabbath. Therefore, the Jews asked Pilate to break our legs and take down our bodies. The soldiers broke the legs of the first and second thieves who had been crucified with Me. But they saw that I was already dead, so they did not break My legs. However, one of the soldiers thrust a lance into My side, and blood and water flowed out. John the Apostle, who saw this testified to it. And his testimony is true, and he knows it is true so that you may believe it. This fulfilled Scripture, “Not a bone of Him was broken.” It also fulfilled another Scripture, “They shall look on Him whom they pierced.”

### My Burial in the Tomb

After this, Joseph of Arimathea, My secret disciple for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate if he could remove My body, and Pilate agreed. So Joseph took down My body. Also, Nicodemus, who came to Me by night, brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes about one hundred pounds to anoint My body. So they wrapped My body in swathes of cloth and anointed it with spices, in accord with the Jewish custom of preparing a body for burial. There was a garden near the place where I had been crucified. There was a new tomb in the garden where no one had yet been buried. So, because it was the Jewish Preparation Day and because the tomb was there, they laid My body there.

### Peter, John, and Mary Visit the Empty Tomb

**20** On the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. It was still dark because it was early in the morning. She saw the stone was removed, so she ran to tell Simon Peter and John, the disciple whom I

## PETER, JOHN, AND MARY VISIT THE EMPTY TOMB

loved. “Someone has taken away the Lord from the tomb, and we do not know what they have done with the body.” So, Peter and John ran to the tomb; the younger John outran Peter. John looked inside the tomb and saw the linen clothes still wrapped together, but he didn’t go in. Peter didn’t stop, but ran straight into the tomb and also saw the linen clothes together, and the death mask was lying in another place. Next, John entered the tomb and examined everything. Then he believed that I had risen from the dead, and they returned to their house.

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*John had faith to believe that I rose physically from the dead. The empty tomb proves that I rose from the dead. You are saved by grace because you put your faith in Me. This faith is not your own doing, but My gift to you. You cannot boast that you had anything to do with it. I have made you what you are, a new person, created in Me, to serve Me by doing good works, which I planned for you to do.*

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### Mary Returns to the Tomb

Later that morning Mary Magdalene returned to the tomb; she wept as she looked into the tomb. Then she saw two angels clothed in white sitting at the head and feet where My body had been laid. “Woman, why are you crying?” the angels asked.

She answered, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I don’t know where He is.” I was standing in back of her, but she didn’t know who I was. She thought I was a gardener, so she asked, “If you have taken away His body, tell me where it is, and I will take Him away.”

It was I who said, “Mary.”

Her blindness was taken away, and she called Me, “Rabboni,” an old Hebrew word for “respected master.”

I said, “Quit clinging to Me as though things will continue in the future as they were in the past.” I explained, “I must go to My Father in heaven. He is also your Father. He is My God and your God.”

Mary returned to Jerusalem to tell the disciples, “I have seen the Lord.” Then she told them all the things I said to her.

### I Appear to the Disciples

In the evening of resurrection day—the first day of the week—the doors of the room were locked where the disciples had gathered for fear of the Jews. I came to stand in the midst of them and said, “Peace to you!” Then I let them examine My hands and My side, and so the disciples were filled with

## THE BIBLE BY JESUS

confidence and joy over seeing Me, their Lord. Then I said again, “Peace to you! Just as My Father has sent Me into the world, so, I am sending you into the world.” I breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit, who will teach you and use you, just as He has done throughout past ages. He will be with you until you are endued with His power. Those you lead to faith will have their sins forgiven; those who reject Me as their Christ will retain their sins.”

Thomas, the disciple, called Didymas—a twin—was not there. The disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.”

He said, “I must see the nail prints in His hands, and put my hand into the wound in His side; otherwise, I will not believe.”

### The Upper Room One Week Later

Eight days after Passover, the disciples gathered again in the upper room on a Sunday evening. Thomas was with them this time. The doors were locked, but I again stood among them and said what I said the previous Sunday, “Peace to you!” I spoke first to Thomas, “Reach your finger to touch My wounds and place your hand in the wound in My side. Don’t doubt, but believe.”

But Thomas didn’t do it, he answered, “You are my Lord and my God.”

I said, “God will bless you because you have seen Me and believe. But God will also bless those who haven’t seen Me, and yet believe.”

I did many miracles that were not written in the gospels, but these miracles are written that people will believe that I am the Messiah, the Son of God, and when they believe, they will receive eternal life.

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*Believe that I am God the Son, so you can know beyond a shadow of a doubt that you have eternal life.*

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## I Appear on the Lake Shore

**21** A week later—on Sunday—I appeared to seven of My disciples on the shore of the Sea of Galilee; Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two of My disciples were together. Simon Peter had announced, “I am going fishing.” Those who went with him were Thomas, Nathaniel, James and John, Andrew, and Phillip. They got into a boat and fished all night, but caught nothing.

When the day was breaking, I stood on the beach, but the disciples didn’t know it was Me. I yelled at them, “Have you caught any fish?”

## I APPEAR ON THE LAKE SHORE

They answered Me, “No!”

I answered, “Cast the net on the other side of the boat, and you will catch fish.” They cast on the right side and couldn’t draw in the fish because there were so many.

So John said to Peter, “It’s the Lord.” Peter put on his tunic and dove into the water to swim to Me. The other disciples came in a little boat, for they were 100 yards from the beach.

When they got to shore, they saw a charcoal fire cooking fish; there was also bread. I said, “Add the fish you’ve caught to these.” Simon Peter went and pulled the net to land. It had 153 fish in it, yet the net didn’t break. I said, “Come eat, break your fast.” No one asked who it was, for they all knew it was Me; I served all of them breakfast. This was the third Sunday that I appeared to them.

### Peter Restored

After breakfast, I said, “Simon, Son of Jonah, do you love Me more deeply than you love these nets?”

Peter answered, “Lord, You know that I like and admire You.”

I answered, “Feed My lambs.” I said to him a second time, “Simon, do you deeply love Me?”

Peter answered, “Lord, You know that I like and admire You.”

I answered, “Tend My sheep.” I said a third time, “Simon, do you really like and admire Me?”

Peter was ashamed I asked him three times, because he denied Me three times, and because he only said he liked and admired Me. So Peter answered, “Lord, You know everything; You know I really like and admire You.”

I said, “Feed My sheep.” Then I predicted, “When you were young, you were able to dress yourself and go where you wanted. But when you get old, they will stretch your hands out on a cross, and they will clothe you with what they choose, and lead you where they want to go.” By this, I was saying Peter would die as a martyr. Then I concluded, “Follow Me.”

Then Peter turned around and saw John who also leaned on His breast at the supper saying, “Lord, who betrays You?”

Peter turned to John and asked Me, “What about him?”

I said, “If he lives till I return, how does that concern you? You must follow Me.”

This statement made many think John would live until I returned to earth. But I didn’t say John wouldn’t die; I only said, “If he lives till I return, how does that concern you?”

## More Could Have Been Written

I have written My message to the world through My Apostle John, and you know that My testimony is true.

I did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

## EPILOGUE

### I Ascend Back to Heaven

Then I said to them, “Let Me tell you again what I said while I was with you; that everything that is written about Me in the law of Moses, in the prophets, and in the Psalms, had to be fulfilled.” Then I opened their spiritual eyes so they might understand the Scriptures.

Then I said to them, “The Scriptures say that I would suffer for sins, rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance in My name as the condition for the forgiveness of sins should be preached to all nations. You are to begin at Jerusalem as witnesses to these things.

“I will send on you the promise of My Father. But you must stay right here in the city and pray until you are anointed with power from on high.” Then I led them out of the city as far as Bethany, and I lifted up My hands and blessed them. While I was blessing them, I was lifted up from them, and was taken up to heaven. And with joy, they went back to Jerusalem, and continued in the temple praying and praising God.