

Read the Bible in A Year: Chronological

Readings for September Nov 1-7, 2020

Selections from Matthew 26-28; Mark 14-16; Luke 22-24; John 18-20; Acts 1-2

The Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) tell the story of Jesus' birth, life, ministry, death, resurrection, and ascension. While they are all written semi-chronologically, large portions of each gospel are arranged thematically. So, the exact order in which certain stories or teachings occur in the gospels may not match. Also, depending on the emphasis of the writer of the gospel, certain accounts may be included in one or more gospels, but not in all. As we continue our way through the gospels, we will read the various accounts in as close to a chronological order as possible and will read similar accounts from the different gospels together.

At the end of this week's reading, we begin to move into the Book of Acts which is believed to be written by the author of the Gospel of Luke, and continues the narrative thread of that gospel.

The Betrayal of Jesus

John 18:1-2 When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples across the Kidron Valley. There was a garden which He and His disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with His disciples.

Mark 14:32-42 They came to a place which was named Gethsemane. And He said to His disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took Peter and James and John with Him and began to be greatly distressed and very troubled. And He said to them, "My soul is deeply sorrowful unto death. Remain here and keep watch." He went a little farther and fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. He said, "*Abba*, Father, all things are possible for You. Remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will." Then He came and found them sleeping and said to Peter, "Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not keep watch one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again He went away and prayed the same words. When He returned, He again found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. And they did not know what to answer Him. When He returned a third time, He said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise up, let us go. Look! He who betrays Me is at hand."

Matt 26:36-46 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray close by." He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then He said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Wait here, and keep watch with Me." He went a little farther, and falling on His face, He prayed, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me. Nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will." Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "So, could you not keep watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray that you enter not into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." He went away a second time and prayed, "O My Father, if this

cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.” Again, He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, He went away and prayed the third time, saying the same words. Then He came to His disciples and said to them, “Sleep on now, and take your rest. Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going. Look, he who betrays Me is at hand.”

Luke 22:39-46 According to His custom, He came out and went to the Mount of Olives. And His disciples followed Him. When He came there, He said to them, “Pray that you may not fall into temptation.” He withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and He knelt down and prayed, “Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me. Nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done.” An angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him. And being in anguish, He prayed more earnestly. And His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. When He rose from prayer and had come to His disciples, He found them sleeping from sorrow. He said to them, “Why do you sleep? Rise and pray, lest you fall into temptation.”

Mark 14:43-52 Immediately, while He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. Now he who betrayed Him had given them a sign, saying, “Whomever I kiss, He is the One. Seize Him and lead Him away safely.” So as soon as he came, he went to Him immediately and said, “Rabbi, Rabbi!” and kissed Him. They laid hands on Him and seized Him. Then one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. Jesus said to them, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest Me as you would a thief? Every day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.” Then they all deserted Him and fled. A young man followed Him, wearing a linen cloth around himself. And the young men laid hold of him, so he left the linen cloth, and fled from them unclothed.

Matt 26:47-56 While He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, came. And with him was a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now he who betrayed Him had given them a sign, saying, “Whomever I shall kiss is the Man. Seize Him.” He immediately came to Jesus and said, “Hail, Rabbi!” and kissed Him. And Jesus said to him, “Friend, why have you come?” Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him. Immediately, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back in its place. For all those who take up the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will at once give Me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?” At that same moment Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out as against a thief to take Me with swords and clubs? Daily I sat with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me. But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled.

Luke 22:47-53 While He was yet speaking, a crowd came. And he who was called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss Him. But Jesus said to him, “Judas, do you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?” When those who were around Him saw what would follow, they said, “Lord, shall we strike with the sword?” And one

of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, "This is enough!" And He touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, and captains of the temple guard, and the elders who had come for Him, "Have you come out with swords and clubs as against a rebel? Daily, while I was with you in the temple, you did not lay hands on Me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!"

John 18:3-11 So Judas, having taken a detachment of soldiers and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Jesus therefore, knowing everything that would happen to Him, went forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am He." And Judas, who betrayed Him, was standing with them. When He said, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground. Again Jesus asked them, "Whom do you seek?" They said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I told you that I am He. So then let these go their way if you are looking for Me." This was to fulfill the word which He had spoken, "I have lost none of those whom You have given Me." Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. Then Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?"

Jesus Before the High Priest

John 18:12-14 Then the detachment of soldiers and the commander and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him. First they led Him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law to Caiaphas, who was the high priest that year. Now it was Caiaphas who advised the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.

Peter's Denial of Jesus

John 18:12-18 Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. That disciple was known to the high priest and went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest. But Peter stood at the door outside. Then the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the doorkeeper and brought Peter in. Then the servant girl, being the doorkeeper, said to Peter, "Are you not also one of this Man's disciples?" He said, "I am not." Now the servants and officers stood there and warmed themselves, having made a fire of coals, for it was cold. Peter also stood with them and warmed himself. As Simon Peter was standing and warming himself, they said to him, "Are you not also one of His disciples?" He denied it and said, "I am not!" One of the servants of the high priest, being a relative of the man whose ear Peter cut off, said, "Did I not see you in the garden with Him?" Peter then denied it again, and immediately a rooster crowed.

Mark 14:66-72 While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came. When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, "You also were with Jesus of Nazareth." But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you are saying." Then he went out to the porch, and a rooster crowed. The servant girl

saw him again and began to say to those who stood by, "This man is one of them." But again, he denied it. A little while later, those who stood by said again to Peter, "Surely, you are one of them. For you are a Galilean, and your speech confirms it." Peter began to invoke a curse on himself, and to swear, "I do not know this Man of whom you speak." And the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times." And when he thought on this, he wept.

Matt 26:69-75 Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a girl came to him, saying, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee." But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you are saying." Then when he went out onto the porch, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This man was also with Jesus of Nazareth." Again he denied with an oath, "I do not know the Man." After a while those who stood by came to Peter and said, "Surely you also are one of them, for your accent betrays you." Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and he swore, "I do not know the Man." Then immediately a rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken, "Before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." Then he went out and wept bitterly.

Luke 22:54-63 Then they arrested Him, and led Him away, and brought Him into the high priest's house. Peter followed at a distance. But when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant girl saw him as he sat near the fire, and gazed at him, and said, "This man was with Him." But he denied Him, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him." A little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." Peter said, "Man, I am not!" About an hour later another man firmly declared, "Certainly, this man also was with Him, for he is a Galilean." Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are saying." Immediately, while he was yet speaking, the rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." And Peter went outside and wept bitterly.

The High Priest Questions Jesus

John 18:19-24 The high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and His teaching. Jesus answered him, "I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in the synagogue and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and I said nothing in secret. Why do you ask Me? Ask those who heard Me and what I have said to them. Certainly they know what I said." When He had said this, one of the officers who stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, "Is that how You answer the high priest?" Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil, but if well, why do you strike me?" Then Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Mark 14:53-65 They led Jesus away to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes were assembled with him. ⁵Peter followed Him at a distance into the courtyard of the high priest. He sat with the guards and warmed himself by the fire. Now the chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin requested testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, but found none. Many bore false witness against Him, but their testimonies did not

agree. Then some rose up and bore false witness against Him, saying, "We heard Him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another not made with hands.'" But still their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, "Do You answer nothing? What is it which these men testify against You?"⁶⁴ But He kept silent and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?" Jesus said, "I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power and coming with the clouds of heaven." The high priest tore his robes, saying, "What need do we have of any further witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?" They all condemned Him as guilty unto death.⁶⁵ Then some began to spit on Him, and to blindfold Him, and to strike Him, saying to Him, "Prophesy!" And the guards struck Him with the palms of their hands.

Matt 26:57-68 Those who had seized Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had assembled. But Peter followed Him from afar to the high priest's courtyard and went in, and sat with the servants to see the end. The chief priests and the elders and the entire Sanhedrin searched for false witness against Jesus to put Him to death, but they found none. Yes, though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. At last two false witnesses came forward and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'" Then the high priest stood up and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?" But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to Him, "I adjure You by the living God, tell us whether You are the Christ, the Son of God." Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has uttered blasphemy. What further need do we have for witnesses? See, now you have heard His blasphemy. What do you think?" They answered, "He is guilty unto death." Then they spat in His face and struck Him. And others slapped Him with the palms of their hands, saying, "Prophesy to us, You Christ! Who is it that struck You?"

The Mocking and Whipping of Jesus

Luke 22:63-65 The men who guarded Jesus mocked Him and whipped Him. When they had blindfolded Him, they struck Him on the face and asked Him, "Prophesy! Who struck You?" And many other things they blasphemously spoke against Him.

The Death of Judas

Matt 27:3-10 When Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned in that I have betrayed innocent blood." They said, "What is that to us? You must see to that." So he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed. And he went and hanged himself. The chief priests took the silver pieces and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because this is the price of blood." So they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field to bury strangers in. Therefore that

field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: "They took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of that the sons of Israel set on Him, and gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord appointed me."

Jesus Before Pilate

- Mark 15:1** Early in the morning the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole Sanhedrin. And they bound Jesus and took Him away and handed Him over to Pilate.
- Luke 22:66-71** When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and scribes, came together and led Him away to their council, saying, "Are You the Christ? Tell us!" He said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe. And if I also question you, you will not answer Me or release Me. From now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." They all said, "Are You then the Son of God?" He said to them, "You truly say that I am." Then they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it from His own mouth.
- Matt 27:1-2** When the morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put Him to death. When they had bound Him, they led Him away and handed Him over to Pontius Pilate the governor.
- Mark 15:2-5** Pilate asked Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You have said so." The chief priests accused Him of many things, but He answered nothing. So Pilate asked Him again, "Do You answer nothing? See how many things they testify against You." But Jesus still answered nothing, so that Pilate was astonished.
- Matt 27:11-14** Jesus stood before the governor. And the governor asked Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" Jesus said to him, "You have said so." When He was accused by the chief priests and elders, He gave no answer. Then Pilate said to Him, "Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?" But He never answered him a word, so that the governor was greatly amazed.
- Luke 23:1-5** Then the whole assembly rose and led Him to Pilate. And they began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this Man perverting our nation, and forbidding us to pay taxes to Caesar, and saying that He Himself is Christ a King." So Pilate asked Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" He answered, "You truly say so." Then Pilate said to the chief priests and to the people, "I find no fault in this Man." But they insisted, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to here."
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Jesus Before Herod

- Luke 23:6-12** When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked whether the Man was a Galilean. When he learned that He belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he greatly rejoiced, for he had desired to see Him for a long time, because he had heard many things of Him, and he was hoping

to see some miracle performed by Him. He questioned Him with many words, but He gave no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing Him. Then Herod with his soldiers despised Him, and mocked Him, and dressed Him in a fine robe, and sent Him back to Pilate. On the same day Pilate and Herod became friends with each other, having previously been at enmity with each other.

Jesus Sent Back Before Pilate

John 18:28-40 Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium. It was early. Yet they themselves did not enter the Praetorium, so that they might not be defiled, but might eat the Passover. Pilate then went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?" They answered him, "If He were not an evildoer, we would not have handed Him over to you." Then Pilate said, "Take Him and judge Him according to your law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death," that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled which He spoke, signifying what death He would die. Again Pilate entered the Praetorium, called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking of your own accord, or did others tell you about Me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests handed You over to me. What have You done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would fight, that I would not be handed over to the Jews. But now My kingdom is not from here." Therefore Pilate said to Him, "Then are You a king?" Jesus answered, "You say correctly that I am a king. For this reason I was born, and for this reason I came into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" When he had said this, he went out again to the Jews and said to them, "I find no guilt in Him at all. But you have a custom, that I should release someone to you at the Passover. Do you therefore want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" They all shouted again, "Not this Man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

Jesus Sentenced to Die

Mark 15:6-15 Now at the feast Pilate always released to them one prisoner, whomever they requested. There was one named Barabbas, who had committed murder in the insurrection and was bound with the rebels. The crowd began crying aloud, asking Pilate to do as he had always done for them. He answered them, "Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" For he knew that the chief priests had handed Him over out of envy. But the chief priests stirred the people, so that he should instead release Barabbas to them. Pilate answered them again, "What then would you have me do to Him whom you call the King of the Jews?" They again cried out, "Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out even more, "Crucify Him!" So Pilate, resolving to satisfy the people, released Barabbas to them. And when he had scourged Jesus, he handed Him over to be crucified.

Matt 27: 15-26 Now at the feast, the governor was accustomed to releasing to the people a prisoner whom they chose. They had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they

had gathered together, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release to you—Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" For he knew that they had handed Him over out of envy. When he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous Man, for I have suffered much today in a dream on account of Him." But the chief priests and elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and kill Jesus. The governor answered, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!" The governor said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more, "Let Him be crucified!" When Pilate saw that he could not prevail, but rather that unrest was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this righteous Man. See to it yourselves." Then all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" Then he released Barabbas to them. But when he had scourged Jesus, he handed Him over to be crucified.

Luke 23:13-25 Pilate called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, and said to them, "You have brought this Man to me as one who incites the people. And truly, I, having examined Him before you, have found no fault in this Man concerning those things of which you accuse Him. No, neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing worthy of death has been done by Him. I will therefore chastise Him and release Him." For he was obligated to release one man to them at the feast. But they all cried out at once saying, "Take this Man away and release Barabbas to us!" This man had been thrown in prison for an insurrection in the city and for murder. Therefore Pilate spoke to them again, desiring to release Jesus. But they cried out, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" He said to them a third time, "Why, what evil has He done? I have found in Him no cause worthy of death. I will therefore chastise Him and release Him." But they insisted with loud voices, asking that He be crucified. And the voices of these men and of the chief priests prevailed. So Pilate gave the sentence as they demanded. He released to them the man who was thrown in prison for insurrection and murder, whom they asked for. But he sentenced Jesus according to their will.

Jesus Beaten and Mocked

John 19:1-16 Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged Him. The soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put a purple robe on Him. They said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they hit Him with their hands. Again Pilate went out and said to them, "Look, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no guilt in Him." Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the Man!" When the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and by our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God!" When Pilate heard these words, he was more afraid, and entered the Praetorium again, and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to release You, and power to crucify You?" Jesus answered, "You would have no power at all over Me, unless it were given to you from above. Therefore he who handed Me over to you has the greater sin."

From then on, Pilate tried to release Him. But the Jews cried out, "If you release this Man, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar!" When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement (which in Hebrew is Gabbatha). It was the Day of Preparation of the Passover and about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" But they shouted, "Away with Him! Away with Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!" Then he handed Him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led Him away.

Mark 15:16-20 The soldiers led Him away to Praetorium Hall, and they called together the entire battalion. They clothed Him with a purple robe. And they wove a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and began to salute Him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They struck His head with a staff and spit on Him. And bowing their knees, they worshipped Him. When they had mocked Him, they took the purple robe off of Him and put His own garments on Him. Then they led Him out to crucify Him.

Matt 27:27-31 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole detachment of soldiers before Him. They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him, and when they wove a crown of thorns, they put it on His head and put a staff in His right hand. They knelt before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spit on Him and took the staff and hit Him on the head. After they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own garments on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him.

The Crucifixion

Mark 15:21-24 They compelled a man named Simon from Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus, as he was passing through from the country, to bear Jesus' cross. They brought Him to the place called Golgotha, which means, "Place of a Skull." They gave Him wine mingled with myrrh to drink, but He did not take it. When they had crucified Him, they divided His garments, casting lots for them, to decide what each man should take.

Matt 27:32-34 As they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. This man they compelled to bear His cross. When they came to a place called Golgotha, which means The Place of the Skull, they gave Him sour wine mingled with gall to drink. But when He tasted it, He would not drink it.

Luke 23:26-31 As they led Him away, they seized Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him to carry it behind Jesus. A large number of people followed Him, including women who mourned and lamented Him. Jesus turned to them, saying, "Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. Listen, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, who never bore and never nursed!' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

- John 19:17** He went out, carrying His own cross, to a place called The Place of a Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.
- Mark 15:25-32** Now it was the third hour, and they crucified Him. The inscription of His accusation was written above: THE KING OF THE JEWS. With Him they crucified two thieves, one on His right and the other on His left. And the Scripture was fulfilled, which says, "He was numbered with the lawless ones." Those who passed by blasphemed Him, shaking their heads and saying, "Ah, You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself, and come down from the cross!" Likewise the chief priests mocked Him among themselves with the scribes and said, "He saved others, but He cannot save Himself! Let the Christ, the King of Israel, descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with Him also reviled Him.
- Matt 27:35-44** When they crucified Him, they divided His garments by casting lots to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, "They divided My garments among themselves and for My clothing they cast lots." And sitting down, they kept watch over Him there. They put His accusation over His head, which read: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS. Then two thieves were crucified with Him, one on the right and another on the left. Those who passed by insulted Him, wagging their heads, saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross." Likewise the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked Him, saying, "He saved others. He cannot save Himself. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. He trusted in God. Let Him deliver Him now, if He will have Him. For He said, 'I am the Son of God.'" Even the thieves who were crucified with Him insulted Him in the same way.
- Luke 23:32-43** Two different men, who were criminals, also were led with Him to be killed. When they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they divided His clothes by casting lots. The people stood by watching. But the rulers with them scoffed, saying, "He saved others. Let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the Chosen One of God." And the soldiers also mocked Him, coming to Him and offering Him sour wine, saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself." An inscription was written over Him in letters of Greek and Latin and Hebrew: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. One of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, seeing you are under the same sentence? And we indeed, justly. For we are receiving the due reward of our deeds. But this Man has done nothing amiss." Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."
- John 19:18-27** There they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the middle. Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. The writing was: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city. And it was written in Hebrew, in Greek, and in Latin. The chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but 'He said, I am King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written." When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took His garments and divided

them into four parts, a part for each soldier; and also His tunic. Now the tunic was seamless, woven from top to bottom. So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to decide whose it shall be. This happened to fulfill the Scripture which says: "They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots." Therefore the soldiers did these things. But standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then He said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time, this disciple took her to his own home.

The Death of Jesus

Mark 15:33-41 When the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*" which means, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Some of those who stood by, when they heard it, said, "Listen, He is calling Elijah!" One man ran and filled a sponge with vinegar, put it on a stick, and gave it to Him to drink, saying, "Leave Him alone. Let us see if Elijah will come to take Him down. But Jesus cried with a loud voice and gave up the spirit. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion who stood facing Him saw that He cried out and gave up the spirit, he said, "Truly, this Man was the Son of God." There were also women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the Less and of Joseph, and Salome. They also had followed Him and had ministered to Him when He was in Galilee. And many other women who came up with Him to Jerusalem were there.

Matt 27:45-56 Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "*Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?*" which means, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Some of those who stood there heard it and said, "This Man is calling for Elijah." Immediately one of them ran, took a sponge, filled it with wine, and put it on a stick, and gave it to Him to drink. The rest said, "Leave Him alone. Let us see if Elijah will come to save Him." And Jesus, when He had cried out again with a loud voice, released His spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from the top to the bottom. And the ground shook, and the rocks split apart. The graves also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had died were raised, and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the Holy City and appeared to many. When the centurion and those with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they feared greatly and said, "Truly He was the Son of God!" Many women who were there watching from afar followed Jesus from Galilee, serving Him, among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

Luke 23:44-49 It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over all the land until the ninth hour, while the sun was darkened. And the veil of the temple was torn in the middle. And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." Having said this, He gave up the spirit. When the centurion saw what had

happened, he glorified God and said, "Certainly, this was a righteous Man." All the crowds who came together to that sight, witnessing what occurred, struck their chests and returned. But all those who knew Him and the women accompanying Him from Galilee stood at a distance, seeing these things.

John 19:28-37 After this, Jesus, knowing that everything was now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst." A bowl full of sour wine was placed there. So they put a sponge full of sour wine on hyssop and held it to His mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished." And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit. Since it was the Day of Preparation, to prevent bodies from remaining on the cross on the Sabbath day (for that Sabbath day was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Therefore the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was dead already, they did not break His legs. However, one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. He who saw it has testified, and his testimony is true. He knows that he is telling the truth, that you may believe. For these things happened so that the Scripture should be fulfilled, "Not one of His bones shall be broken," and again another Scripture says, "They shall look on Him whom they have pierced."

The Burial of Jesus

Mark 15:42-47 When the evening had come, because it was the Day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, an honorable member of the Council, who also waited for the kingdom of God, came and went in boldly to Pilate, and requested the body of Jesus. Pilate wondered if He were already dead. And calling for the centurion, he asked him whether He had been dead for a while. When he learned about it from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. So he bought fine linen, and taking Him down, wrapped Him in the linen and laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

Matt 27:57-61 When the evening came, there came a rich man of Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him. When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut out of the rock. And he rolled a large stone to the door of the tomb and departed. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

Luke 23:50-56 Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, who was a good and just man. He had not consented to their counsel and deed. He was from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, and he himself was also waiting for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took Him down, and wrapped Him in linen, and placed Him in a hewn tomb, where no one had ever been buried. It was the Day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was drawing near.

John 19:38-42 After this, Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away His body. Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about seventy-five pounds. Then they took the body of Jesus and wrapped it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden was a new tomb in which no one had ever been buried. So because of the Jewish Day of Preparation, and since the tomb was nearby, they buried Jesus there.

The Resurrection of Jesus

Matt 27:62-66 The next day, following the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered before Pilate, saying, "Sir, we remember that deceiver saying while He was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' The last deception will be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard. Go your way. Make it as secure as you can." So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and posting the guard.

Mark 16:1-8 When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb at the rising of the sun. They said among themselves, "Who will roll the stone away from the door of the tomb for us?" But when they looked, they saw that the stone had been rolled away. For it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white robe. And they were frightened. He said to them, "Do not be frightened. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen. He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go your way, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you to Galilee. There you will see Him, as He told you." They went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Matt 28:1-7 At the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And then there was a great earthquake. For the angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone from the door and sat on it. His countenance was like lightning, and his garments white as snow. The soldiers shook for fear of him and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid. For I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here. For He has risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. Then go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead, and indeed, He is going before you to Galilee. There you will see Him. Listen, I have told you."

Luke 24:1-12 Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices they had prepared. They found

the stone rolled away from the tomb. But when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were greatly perplexed concerning this, suddenly two men stood by them in shining garments. As they were afraid and bowed their faces to the ground, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen! Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.'" Then they remembered His words. And they returned from the tomb and reported all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰It was Mary Magdalene and Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and other women with them, who told these things to the apostles. But their words seemed like fables to them, and they did not believe them. But Peter rose and ran to the tomb. Stooping down, he saw the linen clothes lying by themselves. He departed, wondering in himself what had happened.

Mark 16:9-11 Now when Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons. She went and told those who had been with Him as they mourned and wept. When they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe it.

John 20:1-18 Early on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb while it was still dark and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she came running to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have put Him." So Peter came out with the other disciple and they went toward the tomb. They both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. Stooping down and looking in, he saw the linen cloths lying. Yet he did not enter. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went inside the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that was around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but wrapped in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who came first to the tomb, went in also. He saw and believed. For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.

But Mary stood outside at the tomb weeping. As she wept, she stooped down and looked into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have put Him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have put Him, and I will take Him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Stop holding on to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father. But go to My brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord and that He had said these things to her.

Matt 28:8-15 So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word. As they went to tell His disciples, suddenly Jesus met them, saying, "Greetings!" They came and took hold of His feet and worshipped Him. Then

Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go tell My brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me." While they were going, indeed, some of the soldiers went into the city and described to the chief priests everything that had happened. When the chief priests were assembled with the elders and had taken counsel, they gave much money to the soldiers, saying, "You are to say, 'His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were sleeping.' If this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you secure." So they took the money and did as they were instructed. And this saying has been commonly reported among the Jews to this day.

The Walk to Emmaus

Luke 24:13-45 Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they communed and reasoned together, Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing Him. He said to them, "What kind of communication are you sharing with one another while you are walking and are sad?" One of them, named Cleopas, answered Him, "Are You the only foreigner in Jerusalem who does not know what has happened there in these days?" He said to them, "What things?" They said to Him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet, powerful in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers handed Him over to be sentenced to death and crucified Him. But we were hoping that it was He who was to redeem Israel. Moreover, today is the third day since these things happened. Even some women from among us, who arrived early at the tomb, surprised us. When they did not find His body, they returned saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that He was alive. Then some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said. But they did not see Him." He said to them, "O fools! And slow of heart to believe what the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter His glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures. They drew near the village where they were traveling, and He seemed to be going farther. But they urged Him, saying, "Stay with us. For it is nearly evening and the day is far spent." So He went in to stay with them.

As He sat at supper with them, He took the bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him. And He vanished out of their sight. They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the way and while He opened the Scriptures to us?" They rose up and returned to Jerusalem at once. And they found the eleven and those who were with them assembled together, saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" Then they reported what had happened on the way, and how He was recognized by them in the breaking of the bread.

As they were saying this, Jesus Himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be unto you." They were terrified and frightened, and supposed that they saw a spirit. He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See My

hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Feel Me and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." When He said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. And while they yet disbelieved for joy and wondered, He said to them, "Do you have any food here?" They gave Him a piece of broiled fish and some honeycomb. And He took it and ate it before them.

The Post-Resurrection Appearances of Jesus

Mark 16:12-13 After that He appeared in another form to two of them as they walked and went into the country. And they went and told it to the rest, but they did not believe them either.

John 20:19-23 On the evening of that first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. The disciples were then glad when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As My Father has sent Me, even so I send you." When He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven them. If you retain the sins of anyone, they are retained."

Mark 16:14 Afterward He appeared to the eleven as they sat at supper, and He reprimanded them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.

John 20:24-29 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called The Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail prints in His hands, and put my finger in the nail prints, and put my hand in His side, I will not believe." After eight days His disciples were again inside with the doors shut, and Thomas was with them. Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at My hands. Put your hand here and place it in My side. Do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen, and have yet believed."

John 21:1-14 After this, Jesus revealed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias. He revealed Himself this way: Simon Peter; Thomas, called The Twin; Nathanael of Cana in Galilee; the sons of Zebedee; and two more of His disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." Then they said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and immediately entered the boat. But that night they caught nothing. When the morning came, Jesus stood on the shore. But the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered Him, "No." He said to them, "Throw the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they threw it, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the abundance of fish. Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!"

When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he had taken it off, and jumped into the sea. The other disciples came in the little boat, dragging the net full of fish. For they were not far from land, but about three hundred feet away. When they came to land, they saw a charcoal fire there with fish lying on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught." Simon Peter went up and dragged the net, full of one hundred and fifty-three large fish, to land. Although there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and eat breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask, "Who are You?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.

John 21:15-24 So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord. You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs." He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord. You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He asked him the third time, "Do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Lord, You know everything. You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep. Truly, truly I say to you, when you were young, you dressed yourself and walked where you desired. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." He said this, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. When He had said this, He said to him, "Follow Me."

Peter turned and saw following them the disciple whom Jesus loved, who also leaned against His bosom at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray You?" When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?" Jesus said to him, "If it is My will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow Me!" The saying went out among the brothers that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, "If it is My will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?" This is the disciple who testifies about these things, and wrote these things. We know that his testimony is true.

John 20:30-31 Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

John 21:25 There are also many other things which Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that not even the world itself could contain the books that would be written. Amen.

The Commissioning of the Disciples

Matt 28:16-20 Then the eleven disciples went away to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw Him, they worshipped Him. But some doubted. Then Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven

and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

Mark 16:15-18 He said to them, “Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved. But he who does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

Luke 24:44-49 He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and in the Prophets and in the Psalms concerning Me.” Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. He said to them, “Thus it is written, and accordingly it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And look, I am sending the promise of My Father upon you. But wait in the city of Jerusalem until you are clothed with power from on high.”

The Ascension and Continuation of the Disciples’ Ministry

Mark 16:19-20 After the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and sat at the right hand of God. Then they went forth and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.

Luke 24:50-53 Then He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. While He blessed them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven. Then they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.

Acts 1:1-11 (Luke introduces this new document: “The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, concerning all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day when He was taken up, after He had given commandments through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He presented Himself alive after His passion by many infallible proofs, appearing to them for forty days, and speaking concerning the kingdom of God.”)

Being assembled with his disciples, Jesus commanded them, “Do not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, of which you have heard from Me. For John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” So when they had come together, they asked Him, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know the times or the dates, which the Father has fixed by His own authority. But you shall

receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When He had spoken these things, while they looked, He was taken up. And a cloud received Him from their sight. While they looked intently toward heaven as He ascended, suddenly two men stood by them in white garments. They said, “Men of Galilee, why stand looking toward heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you to heaven, will come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, which is a Sabbath day’s walk from Jerusalem. When they had entered, they went up into the upper room, where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

In those days Peter stood up among the disciples (the number of people together was about a hundred and twenty), and said, “Brothers, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit previously spoke by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became the guide to those who seized Jesus. For he was numbered with us and took part in this ministry.” (Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity. And falling headlong, he burst asunder in the middle and all his organs spilled out. It became known to all the residents of Jerusalem. So this field is called in their dialect Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) “For it is written in the Book of Psalms, ‘Let his habitation become desolate, and let no one live in it,’ and, ‘Let another take his office.’ Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us while the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the very day that He was taken up from us, one of these men must become with us a witness of His resurrection.” So they proposed two, Joseph, called Barsabbas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed, “You, Lord, who knows the hearts of all men, show which of these two You have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, to go to his own place.” Then they cast lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. So he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1-41

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like a mighty rushing wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. There appeared to them tongues as of fire, being distributed and resting on each of them, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

Now dwelling in Jerusalem were Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. When this sound occurred, the crowd came together and were confounded, because each man heard them speaking in his own language. They were all amazed and marveled, saying to each other, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? How is it

that we hear, each in our own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites, residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the regions of Libya near Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own languages the mighty works of God.” They were all amazed and perplexed, saying to each other, “What does this mean?” Others mocking said, “These men are full of new wine.”

But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice and said to them, “Men of Judea and all you who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to my words. For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is the third hour of the day. But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ‘In the last days it shall be,’ says God, ‘that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even on My menservants and maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy. And I will show wonders in heaven above and signs on the earth below: blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and glorious day of the Lord comes. And whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’ “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth was a man attested to you by God with powerful works and wonders and signs, which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves know. You have taken Him, who was handed over to you by the ordained counsel and foreknowledge of God, and by lawless hands have crucified and killed Him, whom God raised up by loosening the pull of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. For David says concerning Him: ‘I foresaw the Lord always before me, for He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. Therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will dwell in hope. For You will not abandon my soul to Hades, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy with Your presence.’ Brothers, I may speak confidently to you concerning the patriarch David, that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. But being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of his seed according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, he foresaw this and spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. God raised up this Jesus, of which we all are witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured out this which you now see and hear. For David has not ascended to the heavens, yet he says: ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Until I make Your enemies Your footstool.”’ Therefore, let all the house of Israel assuredly know that God has made this Jesus, whom you have crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

When they heard this, they were stung in the heart and said to Peter and to the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you, and to your children, and to all who are far away, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

With many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.” Then those who gladly received his word were baptized, and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

Life Among the Believers

Acts 2:42-47 They continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in the prayers. Fear came to every soul. And many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common. They sold their property and goods and distributed them to all, according to their need. And continuing daily with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.