

JOHN

Conversational Version

The Pre-Existence and Incarnation of the Messiah

1¹In the beginning the Word was *there*. The Word was with God, and the Word was deity. **2**He was in the beginning with God. **3**He made everything; nothing came into existence without him. What has come **4**in him was life, life that gave people light. **5**The light shined^p in the darkness, but the darkness tended not to accept it.

6God sent a man named John **7**to tell about the light so everybody would believe. **8**He wasn't the light, but came to reveal **9**it, the true light for enlightening everyone in the world. **10***The Word* was in the world and made the world, but it didn't know him. **11**He came into his own things, but his own people tended not to accept him. **12**But, to as many as did accept and believe in him, he gave the right to become God's offspring, **13**not born by blood, physical desire, or a husband's will, but by God.

14The Word took on a physical nature and lived with us. We saw his glory, glory like the only One from the Father, full of grace and reality.

15John testified^p about him, shouting, *"He's the One I was talking about when I said, 'After me a man is coming that has become before me because he existed before me!'"* **16**From his full measure we've all received grace on top of grace. **17**Moses gave law, but Jesus the Messiah brought grace and reality. **18**Nobody's ever seen God, *but* the unique deity—the One dear to the Father—has shown what he's like.

Jn 1:1-18

John's Defense of His Ministry

19This is what John said when Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was.

20*"I'm not the Messiah."*

21*"Are you Elijah, then?"*

"I'm not Elijah."

"Are you 'the prophet'?"

"No."

22*"Who are you, so we can answer the ones that sent us? What do you say about yourself?"*

23*"I'm one shouting in the desert, 'Make the LORD's road straight!' [Is 40:3] like Isaiah the prophet said."*

24The Pharisees had sent the ones that came. **25**They asked him, *"Why are you baptizing if you're not the Messiah, Elijah, or 'the prophet'?"*

²⁶“I’m baptizing in water, but there’s a man you don’t know standing among you. ²⁷He’ll succeed me, a man whose sandal strap I’m not worthy to unfasten.”

²⁸That happened at Bethany beyond the Jordan River, where John was baptizing.

Jn 1:19-28:1

John’s Identification of Jesus as the Messiah

²⁹The next day he saw^p Jesus coming,

“Look, the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰He’s the One I was talking about when I said, ‘After me a man is coming that has become before me because he existed before me.’ ³¹I didn’t know who he was; but to point him out to Israel, I came immersing in water. ³²I’ve seen the Spirit coming down from the sky like a dove and remaining on him. ³³The One that sent me to immerse people in water told me, ‘Whoever you see the Spirit coming down and remaining on is the One that will ‘immerse’ them in the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴I’ve seen that, and I’m telling you, this is God’s Son.”

Jn 1:29-34

The First Disciples of Jesus

³⁵The next day John was standing with a couple disciples. ³⁶When he saw Jesus walk by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!” ³⁷His two disciples followed Jesus. ³⁸Jesus turned around and saw them,

“What are you looking for?”

“Rabbi (Teacher), where are you staying?”

³⁹“I’ll show you.”

So they went and stayed with him that day. It was about 4 o’clock.

⁴⁰Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two that followed Jesus. ⁴¹The first thing Andrew did was go^p and find^p his brother Simon, “We’ve found the Messiah (the Christ).” ⁴²When he brought him to Jesus, Jesus looked at him, “You’re Simon Barjonah; you’ll be called Cephaz (Peter).”

⁴³The next day Jesus wanted to leave for Galilee. He found^p Philip, “Come with me.” ⁴⁴Philip was from Bethsaida, where Andrew and Peter lived. ⁴⁵Philip found^p Nathanael, “We’ve found the One that Moses and the Prophets wrote about in the Law: Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.”

⁴⁶Nathanael said, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”

“I’ll show you.”

⁴⁷Jesus saw Nathanael coming, “A true Israelite with no deceit in him.”

⁴⁸Nathanael said^p, “Where do you know me from?”

“Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree.”

⁴⁹Nathanael answered, “Rabbi, you’re the Son of God, the king of Israel!”

⁵⁰“You believe because I said I saw you under the fig tree? You’re going to see greater things than that. ⁵¹You’ll see the sky opened up and God’s angels ascending and descending on the Son of Man.” Jn 1:35-51

The First Miracle—at Cana

^{2:1}Three days later there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, ²and he and his disciples were invited. ³When the wine ran out, his mother told^p him they’d run out of wine.

⁴Jesus said^p, “*What is this? It’s not my time yet.*”

⁵His mother told^p the help, “*Do whatever he tells you.*”

⁶Six big stone water jars were standing there that the Jews use for purification. They held 20 or 30 gallons apiece. ⁷Jesus said^p, “*Fill the jars with water.*” They filled them to the brim. ⁸“*Dip some out and take it to the master of ceremonies.*” ⁹When he tasted it, he didn’t know where it had come from—but the help that drew the water knew. He called the groom, ¹⁰“*Everybody serves good wine first. When guests have had a lot to drink, they serve wine that’s not as good. You’ve kept the good wine till now.*” ¹¹So Cana was where Jesus performed his first sign and demonstrated his glory, and his disciples believed in him. Jn 2:1-11

Visit to Capernaum

¹²After that, he went down to Capernaum for a few days with his mother, his brothers, and his disciples. Jn 2:12

The First Cleansing of the Temple

¹³The Jews’ Passover was coming, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the Temple he found moneychangers sitting and merchants selling oxen, sheep, and doves. ¹⁵He made a whip out of cords and drove the sheep and oxen out of the Temple. He poured out the moneychangers’ coins and turned their tables over. ¹⁶He told the ones that were selling doves, “*Get them out of here! Don’t make my Father’s house a marketplace.*” ¹⁷His disciples remembered the scripture, “*Zeal for your house has consumed me*” [Ps 69:9a].

¹⁸The Jews said, “*What sign do you do to show us you have a right to do this?*”

¹⁹Jesus answered, “*Destroy^{pl} this Temple, and I’ll rebuild it in 3 days.*”

²⁰“*It took 46 years to build; you’re going to rebuild it in 3 days?*” ²¹(He was talking about his body, “the Temple.” ²²When he resurrected, his disciples remembered he’d said that and believed it and the scripture.)

²³While he was in Jerusalem at the Passover, many believed in him because they saw the signs he did. ²⁴But he didn’t entrust himself to them because he knew everybody. ²⁵He didn’t need anybody to tell him about anyone; he knew what each person was like. Jn 2:13-25

Conversation with Nicodemus

³¹Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, ²came to Jesus at night, “*Rabbi, we know you’re a teacher from God. Nobody can do the signs you do unless God’s with him.*”

³Jesus answered, “*Unless a person has been born again, he can’t see God’s kingdom.*”

⁴Nicodemus said^p, “*How can you be born when you’re an adult? You can’t get into your mother’s womb a second time and be born, can you?*”

⁵Jesus answered,

“*Unless you’ve been born of water and spirit, he can’t get into God’s kingdom.* ⁶*What’s born out of the physical is physical; what’s born out of the spiritual is spiritual.* ⁷*Don’t be surprised that I told you^{sg} you^{pl} have to be born again.* ⁸*The wind blows where it wants to. You^{sg} hear it, but you can’t tell where it’s from or where it’s going. That’s how everybody is that’s born out of the spirit.*”

⁹Nicodemus responded, “*What are you talking about?*”

¹⁰“*You’re a teacher in Israel and don’t understand that?* ¹¹*I’m telling you^{sg}, we’re talking about what we know and have seen, and you^{pl} don’t accept what we’re telling you.* ¹²*If you^{pl} don’t believe my earthly illustrations, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly ones?* ¹³*Nobody has gone up to heaven except the One that came down from heaven, the Son of Man.* ¹⁴*As Moses held up the brazen viper in the desert, the Son of Man needs to be held up* ¹⁵*so everybody that believes can in him have eternal life.*”

¹⁶God cared about the world so much he gave his only Son so anybody that trusts in him wouldn’t perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷God didn’t send his Son to the world to condemn it, but to save it. ¹⁸Whoever trusts in him is not condemned, but whoever doesn’t, stands condemned for not trusting in God’s only Son. ¹⁹Here’s the condemnation: light has come into the world, but people like darkness better than light because they do bad things. ²⁰People that do bad things hate light and don’t come to it; they don’t want their deeds condemned. ²¹But people that do the truth come to the light to show that they’re doing what God wants. Jn 3:1-21

Jesus’ Growing Ministry and John’s Waning Ministry at Aenon

²²After that, Jesus and his disciples went to Judaea, and he stayed there baptizing. ²³John was baptizing too—at Aenon close to Salem; there was a good supply of water there. ²⁴(Herod hadn’t put John in prison yet.)

²⁵A controversy about purification came up between John's disciples and a Jew. ²⁶They came to John and said, "*Rabbi, the man that was with you on the other side of the Jordan—the one you vouched for—is baptizing, and everybody's going to him.*"

²⁷John answered,

"A person can't receive anything unless Heaven lets him. ²⁸You heard me say I'm not the Messiah; I've been sent ahead of him.' ²⁹The groom has the bride, but the best man enjoys listening to him talk. I'm perfectly content, then, with this situation. ³⁰He needs to increase; I need to decrease.

³¹*"The One from above is above everything; someone from the earth talks about the earth. ³²The One from above talks about what he's seen and heard, and people tend not to accept what he says. ³³Whoever does accept it, is acknowledging that God tells the truth. ³⁴The One that God sent speaks God's message; he gives the spirit without measure. ³⁵The Father loves the Son and has turned everything over to him. ³⁶Whoever trusts in him has eternal life; whoever doesn't, won't see life. God's displeasure rests on him."* **Jn 3:22-36**

The Ministry in Samaria

^{4:1}When Jesus found out that the Pharisees heard he was making and baptizing more disciples than John ²(though Jesus didn't perform the baptisms himself; his disciples did them), ³he left Judaea and headed back to Galilee. ⁴He had to go through Samaria. ⁵He came^p to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land Jacob gave his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there. Jesus was sitting on the well *wall* about noon, tired from the trip.

⁷A Samaritan woman came^p to draw water, and he said to her, "*Give me a drink.*" ⁸(His disciples had gone into town to buy food.)

⁹The woman said^p, "*How does a Jewish man ask a Samaritan woman for a drink? Jews don't have anything to do with Samaritans.*"

¹⁰Jesus answered, "*If you knew God's gift and who's asking you for a drink, you'd be asking him to give you living water.*"

¹¹*"Sir, you don't even have a bucket, and the well is deep. Where are you going to get 'living water'?" ¹²You aren't greater than our ancestor Jacob, are you? He gave us the well and drank from it himself—his sons and herds too."*

¹³Jesus answered, "*Everybody that drinks this water gets thirsty again. ¹⁴Whoever drinks the water I give him won't get thirsty again. It'll become a well inside him that springs up into eternal life.*"

¹⁵*"Give me that water so I won't get thirsty and have to come here to draw it!"*

¹⁶Jesus told her^p, "*Go get your husband and come back.*"

¹⁷*"I don't have a husband."*

¹⁸“You said it well. You’ve had five husbands; the one you’re living with now isn’t your husband. You told the truth.”

¹⁹The woman said^p, “Sir, you must be a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain. You^{pl} say people should worship in Jerusalem.”

²¹Jesus told^p her,

“Believe me, the time’s coming when you^{pl} won’t worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. ²²You^{pl} don’t know what you’re worshiping. We do, because salvation does come from the Jews. ²³But, the time’s coming—it’s here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. The Father’s looking for people to worship him like that. ²⁴God’s a spirit. and those who worship him need to worship him in spirit and truth.”

²⁵“I know Messiah’s coming [called Christ]. He’ll explain everything to us.”

²⁶Jesus said^p, “I am the Messiah.”

²⁷At that point his disciples got back and were surprised that he was talking to a woman. But nobody said, “What are you trying to find out?” “Why are you talking to her?” ²⁸She left her water pot and went into town and told^p the men, ²⁹“Come see a fellow that told me everything I ever did. He’s not the Messiah, is he?” ³⁰They left the town and were on the way to him.

³¹Meanwhile the disciples kept saying, “Rabbi, eat something.”

³²But he said, “I have ‘food’ to eat that you don’t know about.”

³³They said to one another, “Nobody’s brought him anything to eat, have they?”

³⁴Jesus said^p,

“My ‘food’ is doing the will of the One that sent me and finishing it up.

³⁵Aren’t you^{pl} saying harvest is still four months away? Look; the fields are ready for harvest now. ³⁶Whoever reaps earns wages and gathers grain for eternal life.

³⁷In this respect, the saying holds true, ‘One sows, another reaps.’ ³⁸I’ve sent you to reap what you haven’t worked on. Other people have worked, and you’ve joined in their work.”

³⁹From that town many Samaritans believed in him because the woman said, “He told me everything I ever did.” ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans got to where he was, they asked him to stay with them; he stayed two days. ⁴¹Many more believed because of what he said. ⁴²They told the woman, “We don’t believe just because of what you said. We’ve heard him ourselves and know this really is the One that will save the world.”

Jn 4:1-42

Introductory Statements About the Galilean Ministry

⁴³Two days later, Jesus left for Galilee. ⁴⁴He observed that a prophet doesn't get any respect in his hometown.

⁴⁵Yet when he got to Galilee, the Jews welcomed him because they'd seen what he'd done in Jerusalem; they'd attended the festival themselves. **Jn 4:43-45**

Healing the Official's Son

⁴⁶Then he went to Cana in Galilee, where he'd turned the water into wine. An official's son in Capernaum was sick. ⁴⁷When he heard that Jesus had come from Judaea to Galilee, he went to ask him to come down and heal his son, who was about to die.

⁴⁸Jesus told him, *"Unless you^{pl} see signs, you won't believe, will you?"*

⁴⁹The official said^p, *"Sir, come on down before my little boy dies."*

⁵⁰Jesus told him^p, *"Go on, your son's alive."*

The man took his word for it and went on back.

⁵¹As he was going back down to *Capernaum*, his servants met him and said his child was alive. ⁵²He asked what time he recovered. *"Yesterday at 1 o'clock the fever broke."* ⁵³So his dad knew it was when Jesus said, *"Your son's alive."* He and his whole family believed. ⁵⁴That was a second sign Jesus did in Galilee, *which he did* after he came back from Judaea. **Jn 4:46-54**

Healing and Controversy at the Pool of Bethesda

⁵¹After that, Jesus went up to a festival of the Jews in Jerusalem. ²By the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem there's a pool with five porches, called Bethzatha in Hebrew. ³A crowd of sick, blind, lame, and paralyzed people was lying in those porches. [⁴]^{ms} ⁵One fellow had been in his condition for 38 years.

⁶Jesus saw him and knew he'd been there a long time. *"Do you want to get well?"*

⁷The crippled man answered, *"Sir, I don't have anybody to take me into the pool when the water stirs. While I'm making my way down, somebody else gets there ahead of me."*

⁸Jesus told^p him, *"Get up, pick up your bedroll, and walk."*

⁹Right away the fellow was sound. He picked up his bedroll and started walking. **Jn 5:1-9a**

It was a Sabbath, ¹⁰so the Jews started telling him, ¹¹*"It's against the Law to be carrying your bedroll."*

He answered, *"The One that made me well told me to pick it up and walk."*

¹²*"Who told you that?"*

¹³He didn't know because he hadn't noticed Jesus leave in the crowd. ¹⁴Later, Jesus found him in the Temple, *"You've been made well. Don't sin anymore so something worse doesn't happen to you."*

¹⁵The man left and told the Jews it was Jesus that had cured him. ¹⁶They started harassing Jesus because he did it on a Sabbath.

¹⁷But Jesus answered them, *“My Father has been working till now, and so am I.”*

¹⁸Now the Jews tried to do more to him—to put him to death. Not only had he broken the Sabbath; he said God was his Father. That made him equal to deity. **Jn 5:9b-18**

¹⁹Jesus answered them,

“The Son of Man can’t do anything on his own. He does what he sees the Father do. ²⁰The Father loves the Son and shows him what he’s doing; he’ll show him greater deeds than these to amaze you. ²¹As the Father raises the dead, so the Son makes alive the ones he wants to. ²²The Father doesn’t judge anybody; he’s given judgment to the Son ²³so everybody will respect the Son like they do the Father. Whoever doesn’t respect the Son doesn’t respect the Father that sent him. ²⁴Whoever listens to what the Son says and believes the One who sent him, has eternal life and doesn’t end up condemned. He’s crossed over from death to life. ²⁵The time’s coming—it’s already here—when the dead will hear the Son and come to life. ²⁶As the Father has life in himself, he’s enabled the Son to have life in himself. ²⁷And he’s given him authority to judge because he’s a human being.

Jn 5:19-27

²⁸*“Don’t be surprised that the time’s coming when everybody in the tombs will hear him. ²⁹The ones that did good things will come out to a resurrection that leads to life. The ones that did bad things will come out to a resurrection that leads to condemnation.*

³⁰*“I can’t do anything on my own. As I hear I judge, and my judgment is just, because I’m not trying to accomplish my own purpose, but the purpose of the One that sent me.*

³¹*“If I speak for myself, you might consider suspect what I’m saying. ³²There’s somebody else that vouches for me, and I know his testimony about me is true: ³³you’ve sent to John, and he’s vouched for the truth. ³⁴I don’t receive people’s claims about me, but I do say this so you can be saved: ³⁵John was a burning, shining lamp, and you were happy for a while in his light. ³⁶But I present greater testimony than John did. The works the Father has given me to accomplish speak for the fact that he sent me. ³⁷The Father that sent me has spoken for me. You haven’t heard him speak or seen him, ³⁸and you don’t believe in the One he sent. ³⁹Search the scriptures, because you suppose you have eternal life in them, and they talk about me. ⁴⁰You don’t want to come to me to have life.*

Jn 5:28-40

⁴¹*“I don’t accept honor from people; ⁴²I know you don’t love God. ⁴³I’ve come in my Father’s name, and you don’t accept me. If others comes in their own name, you^{pl} accept them. ⁴⁴How can you believe when you accept honor from one*

another instead of striving for the honor that only comes from God? ⁴⁵Don't suppose I'm going to accuse you to the Father. Moses accuses you, the one you've put your faith in. ⁴⁶If you believed Moses, you'd believe me because he wrote about me. ⁴⁷If you don't believe what he wrote, how can you believe what I say?"

Jn 5:1-47

Retirement with the Apostles;

Feeding the 5,000

^{6:1}After that, Jesus went to the other side of Lake Galilee (*Lake Tiberias*). ²A big crowd followed him because they saw the signs he was performing on the sick. ³He went up on a hillside and sat down with his disciples. ⁴The Jews' Passover Festival was coming up. ⁵Jesus looked up and saw a huge crowd arriving, and said to Philip, "*Where are we going to buy enough bread for these people to eat?*" (⁶He said that to test him because *Jesus already* knew what he was going to do.)

⁷Philip answered, "*Bread worth 200 denarii won't be enough for each person to get even a little bit.*"

⁸Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said^p, ⁹"*There's a boy here that has five barley loaves and two fish, but what good is that for this big crowd?*"

¹⁰Jesus said, "*Have them sit down.*" There was lots of grass there, so they sat down—about 5,000 men. ¹¹Jesus took the loaves, blessed them, and gave them to the ones that were sitting there—the fish too, as much as people wanted.

¹²When they were full, he told his disciples, "*Pick up the leftover pieces so nothing's wasted.*" ¹³So they filled twelve baskets with scraps from the five barley loaves that Jesus had multiplied.

¹⁴The people that saw the sign said, "*This really is the prophet that's supposed to come.*" ¹⁵Jesus knew they intended to take him by force to make him king, so he withdrew up the hill alone.

Jn 6:1-15

Jesus Walking on the Water

¹⁶When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, ¹⁷got in a boat, and headed over to Capernaum. It was dark now, and Jesus hadn't come. ¹⁸The lake was getting rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹When they'd rowed three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the lake, getting close to the boat, and it scared them. ²⁰But he said^p, "*It's me; don't be afraid.*" ²¹So they came to take him into the boat, and presently the boat landed where they were headed.

Jn 6:16-21

Jesus' Refusal to Be a Political Messiah

²²The next day the crowd that was standing back on the other side of the lake, saw that no other small boat had been there except the one Jesus hadn't got into with his disciples; they'd left

by themselves. ²³Other small boats came from Tiberias to where the people ate the bread the Lord had blessed. ²⁴When the crowd saw that he and his disciples weren't around, they got in those small boats and went to Capernaum, looking for him.

²⁵When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said, "*Rabbi, when did you get here?*"

²⁶Jesus answered, "*You're looking for me, not so much because you saw signs, but because you ate bread till you were full. ²⁷Don't work for bread that molds, but for bread that stays fresh forever. That's the kind of bread the Son of Man will give you, because he's the One the Father has marked with a seal.*"

²⁸They asked him, "*What'll we do to be working God's works?*"

²⁹Jesus answered, "*This is God's 'work': believe in the One he sent.*"

³⁰They said, "*What sign are you doing so we can see it and believe? What 'work' do you do?*" ³¹*Our ancestors ate manna in the desert like scripture says, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat' [Ps 78:24].*

³²Jesus said, "*Moses didn't give you bread from heaven. My Father is giving you the real 'bread from heaven.'*" ³³*God's 'bread' is the One that has come down from heaven to give life to the world.*"

Jn 6:22-33

³⁴They said, "*Sir, give us that bread all the time!*"

³⁵Jesus said,

"I'm the life-giving bread. Whoever comes to me will never get hungry; whoever trusts in me will never get thirsty. ³⁶But, you've seen me and not believed. ³⁷Everything the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I won't reject; ³⁸because I haven't come down from heaven to do my will, but the will of the One that sent me. ³⁹This is his will: that I not lose anything he's given me, ⁴⁰that everybody who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I raise him up in the end."

⁴¹The Jews started grumbling because he said, "*I'm the bread that's come down from heaven.*" ⁴²They were saying, "*Isn't this Jesus, Joseph's son? We know his parents. How can he be saying now that he has come down from heaven?*"

Jn 6:34-42

⁴³Jesus answered,

*"Don't grumble around with one another. ⁴⁴Nobody can come to me unless the Father that sent me is drawing him. ⁴⁵The prophets wrote, '**God will teach them all**' [Is 54:13]. Everybody that listens to the Father and learns, comes to me—⁴⁶not that anybody has seen him except the One that's come from him; he's seen him. ⁴⁷Whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸I'm the life-giving 'bread.' ⁴⁹Your ancestors ate manna in the desert and died. ⁵⁰Nobody that eats this 'bread' from*

heaven will die. ⁵¹I'm the life-giving 'bread' that comes from heaven. Everybody that eats this 'bread' will live forever. Yes, and the 'bread' I'll give for the life of the world is my own flesh." **Jn 6:43-51**

⁵²The Jews started quarreling with one another, "How can he give us his flesh to eat?"

⁵³Jesus said,

"Unless you 'eat' the flesh of the Son of Man and 'drink' his blood, you don't have any life in you. ⁵⁴People that 'eat' my flesh and 'drink' my blood have eternal life, and I'll raise them up in the end. ⁵⁵My flesh is real 'food,' and my blood is real 'drink.' ⁵⁶People that 'eat' my flesh and 'drink' my blood remain in me and I in them. ⁵⁷As the living Father has sent me and I live because of him, whoever 'eats' me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the 'bread' from heaven; it's not like what the ancestors ate and died. Whoever 'eats' this bread will live forever."

⁵⁹He said that as he was teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum. ⁶⁰When they heard it, many disciples said, "That's hard to understand. Who can make sense of it?" **Jn 6:52-60**

⁶¹Jesus knew his disciples were grumbling about it,

"Does that shock you? ⁶²What if you see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³The spirit of what I've said is the point, not the literal words. What I've said I mean figuratively. ⁶⁴But some of you don't believe. (Jesus knew from the start who wouldn't believe and who'd betray him.) ⁶⁵That's why I told you that people can't come to me unless the Father lets them."

⁶⁶At that point, many disciples quit traveling with him. ⁶⁷Jesus said to the Twelve, "You don't want to go too, do you?"

⁶⁸Simon Peter answered, "Lord, who would we go to? You have the life-giving message. ⁶⁹We believe and have come to know that you're God's Holy One."

⁷⁰Jesus answered, "Didn't I choose you twelve, and one of you is a devil?" (⁷¹He was referring to Judas, Simon Iscariot's son, the one that would betray him.) **Jn 6:61-71**

Attack of the Jerusalem Pharisees

About Traditions

^{7:1}After that, Jesus was traveling around in Galilee. He didn't want to travel around in Judaea because the Jews were trying to kill him. **Jn 7:1**

Jesus and His Unbelieving Brothers

²The Jews' Festival of Unleavened Bread was coming up. ³Jesus' brothers told him, "Go to Judaea so your disciples can see what you're doing. ⁴Nobody does something privately when

he's trying to get known publicly. If you're doing these things, show yourself to the world."
 (⁵Even his brothers didn't believe in him.)

⁶Jesus told^p them, *"It's not time for me to go yet. You can go anytime. ⁷The world can't hate you; it hates me because I speak to the fact that it does sinful things. ⁸You go on up; it's not time for me to go up to this festival yet."*

⁹He stayed in Galilee.

Jn 7:2-9

Jesus at the Feast of Tabernacles

¹⁰Then Jesus went up secretly. ¹¹The Jews were looking for him at the festival, *"Where is he?"* ¹²A lot of murmuring was going on in the crowds. Some were saying, *"He's a good man."* Others said, *"No, he's misleading the crowd."* ¹³But, people wouldn't talk openly about him because they were afraid of the Jews.

¹⁴In the middle of the festival, Jesus did go up to the Temple and start teaching. ¹⁵The Jews were amazed, *"How does he know letters without going to school?"*

¹⁶Jesus answered,

"My teaching's not mine; it's the teaching of the One that sent me. ¹⁷If anybody wants to do his will, he'll know if my teaching is from God or if I'm speaking on my own. ¹⁸Somebody that speaks on his own is looking for his own honor. Somebody that's looking for the honor of the One that sent him is genuine; there's nothing dishonest about him. ¹⁹Didn't Moses give you the Law? But none of you keep it. Why are you trying to kill me?"

Jn 7:10-19

²⁰The crowd answered, *"You've got a demon. Who's trying to kill you?"*

²¹Jesus responded,

"I did one thing, and it amazed you all. ²²Moses gave you circumcision—not that it originated with him but with the ancestors—and you circumcise a man on a Sabbath. ²³If you circumcise a man on a Sabbath to avoid breaking the Law, are you mad at me because I made a whole man well on a Sabbath? ²⁴Don't make superficial judgments; base your judgments on what's real."

²⁵Some that lived in Jerusalem were saying, *"Isn't this the One they're trying to put to death? ²⁶And look, he's speaking openly, and they're not saying anything to him. Do the rulers know maybe that he is the Messiah?"*

²⁷*"But we know where this man's from. Nobody knows where the Messiah's from."*

²⁸Then, as he was teaching, he shouted, *"You know me, and you know where I'm from! I haven't come on my own; the One that's true sent me. You don't know him; ²⁹but I do, because he sent me."*

Jn 7:20-29

³⁰They were trying to arrest him, but nobody laid a hand on him because it wasn't time yet. ³¹Many in the crowd believed in him, *"When the Messiah comes, he won't do more signs than this man's done, will he?"*

³²The Pharisees heard the crowd murmuring those things, and the chief priests and Pharisees sent officers to arrest him. ³³Jesus said, *"I'll be with you for a little while yet; then I'll go back to the One that sent me."* ³⁴*You'll look for me, but you won't find me. You can't go where I'm going."*

³⁵The Jews said to each other, *"Where's he going that we won't find him? He's not going to the Diaspora among the Greeks to teach the Greeks, is he?"* ³⁶*What does he mean, 'You'll look for me and won't find me,' and, 'You can't go where I'm going'?"* **Jn 7:30-36**

³⁷On the last day of the festival, the main day, Jesus stood and shouted, *"If anybody's thirsty, come to me and drink."* ³⁸*Everyone that believes in me, like the scripture has said, will have streams of living water flowing from within him."* ³⁹(He said that about the Spirit the ones who believed in him would receive. The Spirit hadn't come yet because Jesus hadn't been glorified.)

⁴⁰Some in the crowd said, *"This really is 'the prophet'";* some said, *"He's 'the Messiah.'"* ⁴¹Others said, *"The Messiah's not supposed to come from Galilee, is he?"* ⁴²*Doesn't scripture say he descends from David and comes from Bethlehem, where David lived?"* ⁴³So a difference of opinion about him arose in the crowd. ⁴⁴Some wanted to arrest him, but nobody laid a hand on him.

⁴⁵The officers came back to the chief priests and Pharisees, *"Why didn't you bring him?"*

⁴⁶The officers answered, *"Nobody's ever spoken like that."*

⁴⁷The Pharisees answered them, *"You haven't been deceived too, have you?"* ⁴⁸*None of the rulers or the Pharisees have believed in him, have they?"* ⁴⁹*This crowd that doesn't know the Law is accursed."*

⁵⁰Nicodemus said^p to them—the one who came to him at first, ⁵¹*"It's not legal, is it, to convict someone without a hearing?"*

⁵²They answered him, *"You're not from Galilee, too, are you? Search the Scriptures and see that no prophet is supposed to arise from Galilee."* ⁵³*[Each one went home.]*^{ms} **Jn 7:37-53**

Woman Caught in Adultery

[8:1] Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ²Early in the morning he went back to the Temple. The people came, and he sat down and started teaching them. ³The scribes and Pharisees brought^p a woman they'd caught in adultery and stood her in front of everybody, ⁴*"Rabbi, we caught this woman in adultery—in the very act."* ⁵*In the Law Moses commanded us to stone a woman like this. What do you say?"* ⁶(They were trying to trap him so they could accuse him.)

Jesus squatted down and scribbled on the ground with his finger. ⁷When they kept badgering him, he stood up, *“The one of you that doesn’t have any sin, throw the first stone at her.”* ⁸He squatted down again and scribbled on the ground. ⁹They began to go away one by one, starting with the oldest, and left him alone with the woman standing there.

¹⁰Jesus stood up, *“Where are they? Hasn’t anybody condemned you?”*

¹¹*“No, Sir.”*

“I’m not condemning you either. Go and don’t sin anymore.”]]^{ms}

Jn 8:1-11

Sermon on the Light of the World

¹²Jesus started talking to the audience again. *“I’m the light of the world. You that follow me won’t be living in the dark; you’ll have the light to live by.”*

¹³The Pharisees said, *“You’re testifying for yourself; your testimony’s not valid.”*

¹⁴Jesus answered,

“Although I’m testifying for myself, my testimony is valid because I know where I’m from and where I’m going. You don’t. ¹⁵You condemn people by legal standards; I don’t condemn anybody that way. ¹⁶If I do render judgment, my judgment’s valid because I’m not the only witness. There’s me and the Father that sent me. ¹⁷Your^{pl} Law says the testimony of two is valid. ¹⁸I testify for myself, and the Father testifies for me.”

¹⁹*“Where is your Father?”*

Jesus answered, *“You don’t know me or him. If you knew me, you’d know him.”* ²⁰He said that in the Temple Treasury, and nobody arrested him; it wasn’t time yet.

²¹He told them again, *“I’m going away. You’ll^{pl} look for me and die in your sin^{sg}. You can’t go where I’m going.”*

Jn 8:12-21

²²The Jews said, *“He’s not going to kill himself, is he?—because he said, “You can’t go where I’m going.”*

²³He said, *“You’re from below; I’m from above. You’re from this world; I’m not. ²⁴I said you’d die in your sins because if you don’t believe who I am, you will die in your sins.”*

²⁵*“Who are you?”*

“Exactly what I’ve been telling you all along. ²⁶I have a lot to say about you and judgments to make, but the One that sent me is the real basis for it. What I’ve heard from him is what I’m telling the world.” ²⁷(They didn’t know he was talking about the Father; ²⁸so he said,)

“When you lift up the Son of Man, you’ll know who I am and that I’m not saying anything but what I got from the Father. ²⁹The One that sent me is with me. He hasn’t left me alone, because I always do what pleases him.” ³⁰While he was saying that, many believed in him.

³¹Then he told the Jews that believed him, *“If you keep following what I say, you really are my disciples. ³²You’ll know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”* **Jn 8:22-32**

³³*“We’re Abraham’s descendants. We’ve never been servants to anybody. What do you mean, ‘You’ll be free’?”*

³⁴*“Everybody that sins is a servant to sin. ³⁵A servant is not a part of the family. A son is. ³⁶So if a son sets you free, you really are free. ³⁷I know you’re Abraham’s descendants, but you’re trying to kill me because you don’t want to hear what I’m saying. ³⁸I’m telling you what I’ve seen my Father do, and you’re doing what you’ve seen your father do.”*

³⁹*“Abraham’s our father.”*

“If you were Abraham’s children, you’d be acting like Abraham. ⁴⁰But you’re trying to kill me now, a man that’s told you the truth I heard from God. Abraham didn’t act like that. ⁴¹You’re doing what your father does.”

“We’re not illegitimate children; we have one Father—God.”

⁴²*“If God were your Father, you’d love me because I’ve come from him. I haven’t come on my own; he sent me. ⁴³Why don’t you understand what I’m saying? Can’t you hear? ⁴⁴You belong to your father the devil, and you want to do what he wants you to do. He was a murderer from the beginning and doesn’t stand for the truth. There’s no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he’s doing his own thing because he’s a liar and invented lying. ⁴⁵Because I’m telling the truth, you don’t believe me. ⁴⁶Which of you can convict me of wrongdoing? If I’m telling the truth, why don’t you believe me? ⁴⁷Whoever belongs to God listens to God. Here’s the reason you don’t listen: you don’t belong to him.”*

⁴⁸*“Wouldn’t we be right to say you’re a Samaritan with a demon?”* **Jn 8:33-48**

⁴⁹Jesus answered, *“I don’t have a demon, but I do respect my Father, and you disrespect me. ⁵⁰I’m not trying to honor myself. There is One who seeks and condemns. ⁵¹Truth is, if anybody keeps what I say, he’ll never die.”*

⁵²The Jews said, *“Now we know you’ve got a demon. Abraham died and the prophets died, but you’re saying, ‘If anybody keeps what I say, he’ll never die.’ ⁵³You aren’t greater, are you, than our ancestor Abraham that died and the prophets that died? Who do you think you are anyway?”*

⁵⁴*“If I honor myself, it’s not important. My Father honors me—who you say is your God. ⁵⁵You don’t even know him, but I do. If I said I didn’t, I’d be lying like you^{pl}. But I know him and keep his word. ⁵⁶Your ancestor Abraham was overjoyed at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was happy.”*

⁵⁷*“You’re not even 50 years old, and you’ve seen Abraham?”*

⁵⁸*“Truth is, I existed before Abraham.”*

⁵⁹They picked up stones to throw at him, but he was hidden and left the Temple. **Jn 8:49-59**

Healing the Man Born Blind

^{9:1}As he was walking along, he saw a man that had been blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, *“Rabbi, who sinned, him or his parents, that caused him to be born blind?”*

³*“Neither he nor his parents sinned to cause his blindness. That has happened so I could demonstrate God’s work in him. ⁴We need to work for the One that sent me while it’s daylight. Night’s coming when nobody can work. ⁵While I’m in the world, I’m the light of it.”*

⁶When he’d said that, he spit on the ground and made some mud and smeared it on the blind man’s eyelids, ⁷*“Go wash it off in the Pool of Siloam (‘Sent’).”*

He went and washed it off and came back able to see. ⁸Neighbors and people that had seen him begging said, *“Isn’t that the fellow that sits and begs?”*

⁹*“It is him.”*

“No, he just looks like him.”

“It is me.”

¹⁰*“How did you get your sight?”*

¹¹*“The man they call Jesus made mud and smeared it on my eyelids and told me to go to Siloam and wash it off. So I did, and I could see.”*

¹²*“Where is he?”*

“I don’t know.”

Jn 9:1-12

¹³They took^p him to the Pharisees. ¹⁴It was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and gave him sight. ¹⁵The Pharisees, too, asked him how he’d received his sight. He told them, *“He put mud on my eyelids. I washed it off and I can see.”*

¹⁶Some Pharisees said, *“That man’s not from God; he doesn’t keep Sabbath.”*

Others said, *“How could a man that’s a sinner do such a thing?”* So they were divided over it.

¹⁷They said^p to the blind man again, *“You’re the one he made see. What do you think about him?”*

“He’s a prophet.”

¹⁸The Jews doubted that he’d been blind till they called his parents, ¹⁹*“Is this your son that you claim was blind? How can he see now?”*

²⁰*“He’s our son, and he was born blind. ²¹We don’t know how he can see now or who gave him his sight. Ask him; he’s legal age; he can speak for himself.” ²²(They said that because they were afraid. The Jews had already agreed to excommunicate from the synagogue anybody who agreed that Jesus was the Messiah. [²³]^{repeat})*

²⁴They called the man a second time, *“Give God the credit; we know that man’s a sinner.”*

²⁵He responded, *"I don't know if he's a sinner. I do know one thing: I was blind; now I can see."* Jn 9:13-25

²⁶They said, *"What did he do to you? How did he make you able to see?"*

²⁷*"I already told you and you didn't listen. Why do you want to hear it again? You don't want to become his disciples too, do you?"*

²⁸*"You're his disciple; we're Moses' disciples. ²⁹We know God spoke to Moses, but we don't know where this man's from."*

³⁰*"It's amazing that you don't know where he's from: he gave me my sight. ³¹We know God doesn't listen to sinners, but if anybody is devout and does his will, he listens to him. ³²From eternity past nobody ever heard of someone giving sight to a man born blind. ³³If he weren't from God, he couldn't have done anything."*

³⁴*"You were totally born in sins, and you're trying to teach us?"* They excommunicated him. Jn 9:26-34

³⁵Jesus heard they'd excommunicated him. When he found him, he said, *"Do you believe in the Son of Man?"*

³⁶*"Who is he so I can believe in him?"*

³⁷*"You've seen him; he's the One talking to you."*

³⁸*"I believe, Lord,"* and knelt down to him.

³⁹Jesus said, *"I came to the world to render judgment so the ones that can't see can see, and the ones that can see can go blind."*

⁴⁰The Pharisees that were with him heard it, *"We aren't blind too, are we?"*

⁴¹*"If you were blind, you wouldn't be guilty. But you say, 'We can see.' You're still guilty."* Jn 9:35-41

Sermon on the Good Shepherd

10:¹*"Whoever doesn't go through the gate into the sheep pen but climbs up somewhere else, is a thief. ²A shepherd comes through the gate. ³The gatekeeper lets him in, and the sheep recognize his voice. He calls them by name and leads them out. ⁴When he gets them out, he goes in front of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They won't follow a stranger. They'll run away because they don't recognize his voice."*

⁶They didn't understand what Jesus meant by the illustration.

⁷Again, Jesus said,

"I'm the gate for the sheep. ⁸The ones that came before me were thieves and insurrectionists, but the sheep didn't listen to them. ⁹If anybody comes in through me, he'll be safe and can go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰A thief comes

to steal, slaughter, and destroy. I've come so they can live and live more abundantly. ¹¹I'm a good shepherd; a good shepherd risks his life for his sheep. ¹²A hired hand sees a wolf coming and runs away because the sheep don't belong to him. A wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³A hired hand doesn't care about them. ¹⁴I'm a good shepherd; I know my sheep, and they know me. ¹⁵I know the Father like the Father knows me, and I risk my life for my sheep.

¹⁶"And, I have other sheep that aren't part of this fold. I need to lead them too. They'll hear my voice and become one flock under one shepherd. ¹⁷The Father loves me because I lay down my life to take it back again. ¹⁸Nobody's taking it away from me. I'm laying it down voluntarily. I have the authority to lay it down and the authority to pick it up again. That's what my Father told me to do."

¹⁹Again a division arose among the Jews over what he said. ²⁰A number of them said, "He's got a demon; he's crazy. Why are you listening to him?"

²¹Others said, "A demon-possessed man doesn't talk like that. A demon can't make blind people see, can it?"

Jn 10:1-21

Jesus at the Feast of Dedication

²²The Festival of Dedication [*Hanukkah*] took place in Jerusalem during the winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the Temple in Solomon's Colonnade. ²⁴The Jews surrounded him and said, "How long are you going to keep us in suspense? Are you the Messiah? Tell us plainly."

²⁵Jesus answered, "I've told you, and you don't believe me. The things I do in my Father's name speak for me. ²⁶But you don't believe me because you're not my sheep. ²⁷My sheep listen to my voice, and I know them. They follow me, ²⁸and I give them eternal life. Nobody is going to snatch them from me. ²⁹My Father, who gave them to me, is stronger than anyone. Nobody is going to snatch them from him. ³⁰The Father and I are at one."

³¹Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him. ³²Jesus replied to them, "I've shown you many good deeds from the Father. Which of them are you ready to stone me for?"

³³"We're not ready to stone you for doing something good, but for blasphemy. You're a mere mortal, and you're trying to make yourself deity."

³⁴Jesus responded, "Doesn't your Law say, '**I said, you are gods**'? [Ps 82:6] ³⁵If he called them 'gods' that the word of God came to—and scripture can't be broken—³⁶how can you say that the One the Father sanctified and sent into the world is blaspheming because I said I'm God's Son? ³⁷If I'm not doing what my Father does, don't believe me. ³⁸If that's what I am doing, even if you don't believe me, believe what I do, so you can know that the Father's in me and I'm in him." ³⁹They tried to grab him again, but he got away.

Jn 10:22-39

Retirement from Jerusalem to Perea

⁴⁰He went away again to the other side of the Jordan River—where John was baptizing at first—and stayed there. ⁴¹Many people came to him. They said, “*John didn’t do any sign, but everything he said about this man is true.*” ⁴²Lots of people believed in him there. **Jn 10:40-42**

Raising Lazarus

11¹There was a man sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the village where Mary and her sister Martha lived. ²That was the Mary who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair. Lazarus was her brother. ³His sisters sent to Jesus, “*Lord, the one you love is sick.*”

⁴When he heard it, he said, “*He’s not going to die from this sickness; it’s for God’s praise so it can praise God’s Son.*”

⁵Now Jesus loved Martha, her sister, and Lazarus. ⁶So when he heard Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was for two days, ⁷then said^p to the disciples, “*Let’s go back to Judaea.*”

⁸They said^p, “*Rabbi, the Jews were trying to stone you just the other day, and you’re going back there?*”

⁹Jesus answered, “*Aren’t there twelve hours of daylight? If you walk in the daylight, you won’t stumble, because you have light. ¹⁰If you try to walk in the dark, you stumble because you doesn’t have light coming out of yourself.*” **Jn 11:1-10**

¹¹After he said that, he told them, “*Our friend Lazarus is sleeping; I’m going to wake him up.*”

¹²His disciples said, “*Lord, if he’s sleeping, he’ll get better.*”

¹³Jesus was talking about death, but they thought he was talking about rest. ¹⁴Then he told them plainly, “*Lazarus has died. ¹⁵For your sake I’m glad I wasn’t there, so you can believe. Let’s go to him.*”

¹⁶Thomas, called Didymus, said, “*Let’s go, too, so we can die with him.*”

¹⁷When Jesus got there, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Bethany was about a mile and three-quarters from Jerusalem, ¹⁹and many Jews had come to console Martha and Mary about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, but Mary stayed in the house. ²¹Martha said, “*Lord, if you’d been here, my brother wouldn’t have died. ²²But I know even now that whatever you ask God for, he’ll give you.*”

²³“*Your brother will rise again.*”

²⁴Martha said^p, “*I know he’ll rise again in the end.*”

²⁵Jesus said, “*I’m resurrection and life. Whoever believes in me will live even though he dies. ²⁶Everybody that lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe that?*”

²⁷“*Yes, Lord; I’ve believed you’re the Messiah, God’s Son, who comes to the world.*”

²⁸When she'd said that, she went and called Mary privately, *"The Rabbi's here; he's asking for you."* **Jn 11:11-28**

²⁹She got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰He hadn't come into the village yet; he was still where Martha met him. ³¹When the Jews in the house saw her get up quickly and leave, they followed her. They supposed she was going to the tomb to mourn. ³²Mary came to where Jesus was and fell down to him, *"Lord, if you'd been here, my brother wouldn't have died."*

³³When Jesus saw her crying and the Jews crying that had come with her, he was deeply moved, ³⁴*"Where have you^{pl} laid him?"*

They said^p, *"We'll show you."*

³⁵Jesus began to cry.

³⁶The Jews said, *"See how much he loved him."*

³⁷Some said, *"Couldn't this man that gave sight to the blind man have kept this man from dying?"* **Jn 11:29-37**

³⁸When Jesus got to the tomb, he was deeply moved. It was a cave with a stone lying against it. ³⁹He said^p, *"Take the stone away."*

Martha said^p, *"Lord, by now he smells; he's been dead four days."*

⁴⁰Jesus said^p to her, *"Didn't I tell you that if you believe, you'd see how great God is?"*

They took the stone away. ⁴¹He looked up and said, *"Father, thank you for listening to me."* ⁴²*I know you always do, but I've said it for the crowd standing here so they would believe you've sent me."* ⁴³Then he shouted, *"Lazarus, come out!"* ⁴⁴The dead man came out wrapped hand to foot with strips of cloth; his face was wrapped in a facecloth.

Jesus said^p, *"Unwrap him and set him free."*

Jn 11:38-44

Plots to Kill Jesus

⁴⁵Many Jews that came to Mary believed in Jesus when they saw what he did; ⁴⁶but some of them went and told the Pharisees what he'd done. ⁴⁷So the high priests and the Pharisees called the Sanhedrin into session. *"What are we going to do? This man is doing lots of signs. ⁴⁸If we let him keep doing this, everybody's going to believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away our place and nation."*

⁴⁹Caiaphas, high priest that year, said, *"There's something you don't understand: ⁵⁰It's to your advantage that one man die for the people so the whole nation doesn't perish."* ⁵¹He didn't say this on his own; but as high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, ⁵²and not just for the nation, but that he'd gather into one *body* the children of God scattered abroad. ⁵³From then on, they conspired to put him to death. ⁵⁴So Jesus quit moving around openly among the Jews and went away to the territory close to the desert—to a town called Ephraim and stayed there with his disciples. **Jn 11:45-54**

**Jesus' Arrival in Bethany;
The Anointing by Mary**

⁵⁵Now the Jews' Passover was coming up, and people from around Ephraim went up to Jerusalem ahead of time to purify themselves ceremonially. ⁵⁶People were looking for Jesus and saying to one another in the Temple, "*What do you think? Surely he won't come to the festival.*" ⁵⁷The chief priests and the Pharisees had passed laws that anybody that knew where he was should report it so they could arrest him. **Jn 11:55-57**

12:¹Six days before Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived that Jesus had raised from the dead. ²They made him a meal there. Martha was waiting on him and Lazarus was reclining at table with him. ³Mary took twelve ounces of ointment—very expensive pure nard—and poured it on Jesus' feet and started wiping them with her hair. The scent from the ointment filled the house.

⁴Judas Iscariot, Jesus' disciple that would betray him, said^p, ⁵"*Why didn't she sell that ointment for 300 denarii [up to a year's wages] and give it to the poor?*" (⁶He didn't say that because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief. He took care of the money pouch and had been stealing from it.)

⁷Jesus said, "*Let her keep it for my burial.* ⁸*You always have poor people around; you won't always have^p me around.*"

⁹A large crowd of the Jews found out that Jesus was there. They hadn't come just because of him, but to see Lazarus. ¹⁰The chief priests planned to kill Lazarus, too, because lots of Jews were ¹¹believing in Jesus because of him. **Jn 12:1-11**

The Triumphal Entry

¹²The next day the huge crowd that attended the festival heard Jesus was coming into Jerusalem, ¹³and took fronds from the palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,

"*Hosanna!*

***Blessed be the One that's coming in the name of the LORD,
the King of Israel!*" [Ps 118:25-26].**

¹⁴Jesus found a young donkey and rode on it, like scripture says,

¹⁵"*Don't be afraid, people of Zion.*

***Look! Your king's coming,
riding on a donkey's colt*" [Zech 9:9].**

(¹⁶His disciples didn't understand what was going on; but when he was glorified, they remembered that the scripture had said these things about him and that people had done these things to him.) ¹⁷The crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb, was telling about it. ¹⁸That's also the reason that the crowd met him: they heard he'd done that sign. ¹⁹The Pharisees said to each other, "*See how you don't get anywhere. The world has gone after him!*" **Jn 12:12-19**

Sermon on the Significance of Life and Death

²⁰Some Greeks that went up to worship at the festival ²¹came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, *“Sir, we’d like to see Jesus.”*

²²Philip went^p and spoke^p to Andrew, and the two of them spoke^p to Jesus.

²³Jesus answered^p them, *“It’s time to honor the Son of Man. ²⁴Unless a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it’s alone. But if it dies, it yields lots of grains. ²⁵Those who love their life will lose it; those who look on past their life in the world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶If people serve me, they need to follow me, and they’ll be where I am. If they serve me, the Father will honor them.*

²⁷*“I’m torn now: Will I ask the Father to save me from this hour? But this is why I came to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.”* **Jn 12:20-28a**

A voice came out of the sky, *“I’ve glorified it, and I’ll glorify it again.”*

²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said it had thundered.

Others said, *“An angel spoke to him.”*

³⁰Jesus responded, *“That voice didn’t come for my sake so much as for yours. ³¹Now judgment is in the world; the ruler of this world will be thrown out. ³²And if I’m lifted up from the ground, I’ll draw everyone to me.” ³³(He said that to indicate how he’d die.)*

³⁴The crowd responded, *“We’ve heard out of the Law that Messiah will remain^p forever. How do you say the Son of Man has to be lifted up? Who is this ‘Son of Man’?”*

³⁵Jesus said, *“The light’s still among you for a little while. Walk while you have it so darkness doesn’t overtake you. People that walk in the dark can’t tell where they’re going. ³⁶While you have light, believe in it so it will enlighten you.”* After saying that, Jesus went away and was hidden from them. **Jn 12:28b-36**

³⁷Despite doing so many signs in their presence, they weren’t believing in him—³⁸just like Isaiah the prophet said,

***“LORD, who has believed our report, and
who has the arm of the LORD been revealed to?” [Is 53:1]***

³⁹Here’s the reason they couldn’t believe: Isaiah said again,

***⁴⁰“He blinded their eyes
and hardened their heart,
so they couldn’t see with their eyes,
understand with their heart,
be converted,
and he would heal them” [Is 6:10].***

⁴¹Isaiah said that because he saw the Messiah’s glory and spoke about him. ⁴²Nevertheless a number even of the rulers did believe in him, but because of the Pharisees they didn’t admit it

and get excommunicated from the synagogue. ⁴³They cared more about honor from people than glory from God.

⁴⁴Jesus shouted, *“Whoever believes in me doesn’t just believe in me, but in the One that sent me. ⁴⁵Whoever sees me sees the One that sent me. ⁴⁶I’ve come to the world as a light so nobody that believes in me will be in the dark. ⁴⁷I don’t condemn anybody that hears what I’m saying and doesn’t do it. I didn’t come to condemn the world, but to save it. ⁴⁸People that reject me do have something that will condemn them in the end: the message I’m delivering. ⁴⁹I haven’t spoken on my own. The Father has told me what to say. ⁵⁰I know that what he says leads to eternal life; so I say what he’s told me to say.”* **Jn 12:37-50**

Jesus Washes the Disciples’ Feet

13:¹Before the Passover Festival, Jesus knew the time had come *for him* to go to the Father. He loved his own that were in the world and loved them to the end. ²During the supper, the devil had already prompted Judas, Simon Iscariot’s son, to betray him. ³Jesus knew the Father had turned everything over to him. ⁴He got^p up from supper, laid^p his outer clothes aside, and took a towel and hung it over his *shoulder*. ⁵He put^p some water in a basin and started washing his disciples’ feet and drying them with the towel.

⁶When he came^p to Simon Peter, Peter said^p, *“Lord, you’re going to wash my feet?”*

⁷Jesus answered, *“You don’t understand right now what I’m doing, but you will in a little bit.”*

⁸Peter said^p, *“Don’t you ever wash my feet!”*

“If I don’t wash you, you don’t have anything to do with me.”

⁹Simon Peter said^p, *“Lord, don’t wash just my feet, but my hands and head too.”*

¹⁰Jesus said^p, *“Someone that’s taken a bath doesn’t need to wash anything but his feet. He’s clean everywhere else. You’re^{pl} clean, but not all of you.”* ¹¹(He knew who would betray him; that’s why he said, *“You^{pl} are not all clean.”*) **Jn 13:1-11**

¹²When he’d washed their feet and put his outer clothes back on, he sat down again,

“Do you understand what I’ve done? ¹³You call me ‘Rabbi’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so. ¹⁴If I—‘Lord’ and ‘Rabbi’—washed your feet, then you should wash each other’s feet. ¹⁵I’ve given you an example to do like I’ve done to you.

¹⁶A servant has it no better than his master; a messenger has it no better than the one that sent him. ¹⁷If you understand that, you’re blessed if you act that way.

¹⁸I’m not talking about all of you. I know who I’ve chosen, but like the scripture says:

***‘The one that eats my food
has lifted up his heel against me’ [Ps 41:9].***

¹⁹*From now on, I'll tell you before things happen so when they do, you'll believe who I am.* ²⁰*Whoever receives somebody I send, receives me, and whoever receives me receives the One that sent me.*"

Jn 13:12-20

Judas Identified as Traitor

²¹After he said that, he began to feel deeply distressed, *"One of you is going to betray me."*

²²The disciples looked at one another at a loss who he meant. ²³One disciple was reclining at table in front of Jesus—one that Jesus loved. ²⁴Simon Peter motioned to him to find out who Jesus meant. ²⁵So he leaned back on Jesus and said^p, *"Lord, who is it?"*

²⁶Jesus answered^p, *"The one I dip the piece of bread and give it to."* He dipped it and handed^p it to Judas. ²⁷After the piece of bread, Satan entered Judas. Jesus said^p, *"Do what you're going^p to do."* ²⁸Nobody at the table knew why he spoke to him. ²⁹Since Judas had the money pouch, some supposed Jesus meant to go buy something we needed for the festival or to give something to the poor. ³⁰He took the piece of bread and went out immediately. It was dark.

Jn 13:21-30

The Disciples Warned

³¹When Judas had gone out, Jesus said^p, *"Now God will glorify the Son of Man, and the Son of Man will glorify him,* ³²*and God will glorify him soon.* ³³*Little children, I'll be with you a little while yet. You'll look for me and, like I told the Jews, 'You can't go where I'm going'; now I'm telling you.* ³⁴*I'm commanding you something new: love one another like I've loved you.* ³⁵*If you love one another, people can tell you're my disciples."*

³⁶Simon Peter said^p, *"Where are you going, Lord?"*

"Where I'm going you^{pl} can't go now; you'll go later."

³⁷Peter said^p, *"Why can't I follow you now? I'll lay down my life for you."*

³⁸Jesus answered, *"Will you? Truth is, before a rooster crows, you're going to deny three times that you know me."*

Jn 13:31-38

Jesus' Farewell Discourse

14:¹*"Don't worry. You believe in God; believe in me too.* ²*There are many rooms in my Father's house. If that weren't so, I would've told you, because I'm going to get a place ready for you.* ³*When I've done that, I'll come back^p to get you so you can be with me.* ⁴*You know how to get to where I'm going."*

⁵Thomas said^p, *"We don't know where you're going. How can we know how to get there?"*

⁶*"I'm the way, truth, and life. No one gets to the Father except through me.* ⁷*If you've come to know me, you'll know my Father too. From now on you know him and have seen him."*

⁸Philip said^{hl}, *"Lord, show us the Father; that'll be enough."*

⁹“Have I been with you^{pl} all this time, Philip, and you^{sg} haven’t seen me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you^{sg} say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Don’t you^{sg} believe I’m in the Father and the Father’s in me? What I say I’m not saying on my own, but the Father that’s in me is working through me. ¹¹Believe^{pl} that I’m in the Father and the Father’s in me. If not, believe^{pl} because of the things I do. ¹²Whoever believes in me will do what I do and more because I’m going to the Father. ¹³I’ll do whatever you ask in my name so I can praise the Father. ¹⁴I repeat, if you ask anything in my name, I’ll do it. **Jn 14:1-14**

¹⁵“If you love me, you’ll do what I tell you. ¹⁶I’ll ask the Father to give you another Helper to be with you permanently. ¹⁷He’s the truth-revealing Spirit that the world can’t receive because they don’t see him or know him. But you know him because he stays with you and will be in you. ¹⁸I won’t leave you as orphans; I’ll come to you. ¹⁹In a little while, the world won’t see me, but you’ll see me. You’ll be living because I’ll be living. ²⁰Then you’ll know I’m in the Father and you’re in me and I’m in you. ²¹The ones that love me are the ones that have my commands and keep them. My Father will love the ones that love me, and I’ll love them and show myself to them.” **Jn 14:15-21**

²²Judas (not Iscariot) said^p, “Lord, what’s happened that you’re going to show yourself to us, but not to the world?”

²³Jesus answered, “If people love me, they’ll follow what I say, and my Father will love them. We’ll come and make our home in them. ²⁴People that don’t love me, don’t follow what I say. The message you hear is not mine, but the Father’s.

²⁵“I’ve said this while I’m with you. ²⁶The Helper—the Holy Spirit the Father will send in my name—will teach you everything and remind you of what I’ve told you. ²⁷I’m leaving my peace with you, not the kind the world gives. Don’t worry or be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say I’m going away, but I’ll come back to you. If you loved me, you’d be happy that I’m going to the Father because the Father is greater than I am.

²⁹“I’ve told you now before it happens so when it does, you’ll believe. ³⁰Lots of things I’m not going to tell you now because the ruler of this world is on his way, and he doesn’t have anything to do with me. ³¹But I’m doing what the Father told me to do so the world can know I love him.

“Let’s go.”

Jn 14:22-31

The Parable About a Vine

15¹*“I’m the true vine; my Father is the vinedresser. ²He cuts off every branch in me that doesn’t bear fruit. He prunes every branch that does bear fruit so it’ll bear more fruit. ³The message I’ve spoken to you has already pruned you. ⁴Stay in me and I in you. A branch can’t bear fruit by itself; it has to stay connected to the vine; you can’t either unless you stay in me. ⁵I’m the vine; you’re the branches. If you stay in me and I in you, you’ll bear lots of fruit. You can’t bear any by yourselves. ⁶If you don’t stay in me, you’re cut off like a branch that dries up and people burn up. ⁷If you stay in me and what I say stays in you, ask whatever you want, and you’ll receive it. ⁸This is what honors my Father: you becoming my disciples and bearing lots of fruit. ⁹I’ve loved you like the Father has loved me. Stay in my love. ¹⁰If you do what I tell you, you’ll be staying in my love like I’ve done what my Father told me and stay in his love.* **Jn 15:1-10**

¹¹*“I’ve told you that so you can have the complete joy I have. ¹²This is my command: love one another like I’ve loved you. ¹³Nobody loves more than a person that lays down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You’re my friends if you do what I tell you. ¹⁵I don’t consider you servants anymore; servants don’t know what their master’s doing. I consider you friends because I tell you everything I’ve heard from my Father. ¹⁶You didn’t choose me; I chose you and appointed you to bear fruit that lasts, so my Father will give you whatever you ask for in my name. ¹⁷I’m commanding these things so you’ll love one another.*

¹⁸*“If the world hates you, understand that it hated me first. ¹⁹If you were like the world, it would love its own kind. But because you’re not like it, it hates you—but I’ve chosen you out of it. ²⁰Remember that I told you servants are not better off than their master. If they persecuted me, they’ll persecute you. If they kept my word, they’ll keep yours. ²¹They’ll do that to you because of me, because they don’t know the One that sent me.* **Jn 15:11-21**

²²*“If I hadn’t come and spoken to them, they wouldn’t be guilty; but now they don’t have any excuse for their sin. ²³Whoever hates me hates my Father too. ²⁴If I hadn’t done among them what no one else has done, they wouldn’t be guilty; but now they’ve seen and hated both me and my Father. ²⁵What they’ve done fulfills what their Law says, ‘**They hated me for no reason**’ [Ps 35:19; 69:4].*

²⁶*“When the Helper comes that I’ll send from the Father—the truth-revealing Spirit—he’ll speak on my behalf. ²⁷You will, too, because you’ve been with me since I began my ministry.* **Jn 15:22-27**

Further Solemn Instruction

16:¹“I’ve told you that, so you won’t get caught off guard. ²They’ll excommunicate you from the synagogues, but—more than that—the time’s coming when anybody that kills you will think they’re serving God. ³That’s because they don’t know the Father or me. ⁴So when it happens, remember that I told you it would.

“I didn’t tell you those things at first because I was with you. ⁵But now I’m going to the One that sent me, and you don’t need to ask where I’m going. ⁶Because I’ve told you that, you feel sad. ⁷But it’s to your benefit that I go away because the Helper wouldn’t be coming to you. If I go, I’ll send him. ⁸When he comes, he’ll convict the world of sin and goodness and judgment—⁹of sin because they don’t believe in me; ¹⁰of goodness because I’m going to the Father and you won’t see me anymore; ¹¹and of judgment because the ruler of this world has been judged.

Jn 16:1-11

¹²“I still have so much to tell you, but you can’t deal with it now. ¹³But when the truth-revealing Spirit comes, he’ll lead you in all truth. He won’t speak on his own; he’ll tell you what he’s heard and what’s going to happen. ¹⁴He’ll honor me because he’ll take from me and tell you. ¹⁵Everything the Father has is mine. That’s why I’ve said the Spirit will take from me and tell you.

¹⁶“In a little while you won’t see me; and a little while after that you’ll see me again.”

¹⁷Some disciples said to one another, “What’s this, ‘In a little while you won’t see me; in a little while you’ll see me again’; and ‘because I’m going to the Father’?” ¹⁸What’s this ‘little while’ mean? We don’t understand it.”

¹⁹Jesus knew they wanted to ask him,

“Are you talking about what I said, ‘In a little while, you won’t see me; in a little while, you’ll see me again’?” ²⁰You’ll mourn, but the world will be happy. You’ll grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. ²¹When a woman’s in labor, she has grief; but when she has the child, she doesn’t think about the anguish anymore because of the joy of bringing a person into the world. ²²You’ll^p grieve now, but I’ll see you again, and you’ll be happy. Nobody will take^p your happiness away. ²³At that time you won’t be asking me for anything. Whatever you ask the Father for in my name now he’ll give you. ²⁴Up till now you haven’t asked for anything in my name. Ask and you’ll receive so you’ll be completely happy.

Jn 16:12-24

²⁵“I’ve been using illustrations. The time’s coming when I’ll speak plainly about the Father. ²⁶Then you’ll ask in my name; and, rest assured, I’ll ask the Father for you. ²⁷The Father himself loves you because you love me and believe I

came from him. ²⁸*I did come from him to the world. Again, I'm leaving the world and going back to him.*"

²⁹The disciples said^p, "Now you're speaking clearly. ³⁰Now we know that you know everything and don't need anybody to ask you. That's why we believe you've come from God."

³¹Jesus responded, "Do you? ³²The time's coming—it's almost here—when you'll all scatter and leave me alone. But I'm not alone, because the Father's with me. ³³I've told you these things so you'll have peace. In the world you have trouble, but take heart, I've overcome the world."

Jn 16:25-33

The High Priestly Prayer

17:¹Jesus looked up to heaven,

"Father, it's time. Honor your Son so he can honor you. ²You gave him the right to give eternal life to everybody you've given him. ³Eternal life means knowing you, the only true God, and Jesus the Messiah you sent. ⁴I've honored you on the earth and finished the work you gave me to do. ⁵Now, glorify me and yourself with the glory I had with you before the earth existed.

⁶"I've shown you to the ones you gave me out of the world, and they've kept your word. ⁷Now they know that the message I've given them came from you, ⁸They know that I really did come from you, and believe you sent me. ⁹I'm not asking about the world right now, but about the ones you gave me. ¹⁰My things are yours and yours are mine, and they've honored me. ¹¹I'm not in the world anymore, but they are, and I'm coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name—which you've given me—so they can be one like we are. ¹²When I was with them, I kept them in your name, and none of them have perished except the one headed for destruction—to fulfill scripture. ¹³I'm saying these things so they can fully experience my joy. ¹⁴The world hates them because they're not like it. ¹⁵I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶They're not like the world as I'm not. ¹⁷I've sanctified them with the truth—with your message. ¹⁸As you sent me into the world, I've sent them into it. ¹⁹I've sanctified myself for them so the truth can sanctify them.

²⁰"Father, I'm not just asking that these be one, but that their converts also be one. ²¹That way the world will know you sent me. ²²I've given them the honor you gave me so they can be one like we are—²³so the world can know you love them like you love me. ²⁴What you've given me I want to be with me where I am so they can see the honor you gave me because you loved me before the world existed.

²⁵*“Righteous Father, the world doesn’t know you, but I know you, and these know you sent me. ²⁶I’ll continue to make you known to them so the love you loved me with can be in them like I am.”*

Jn 17:1-26

Agony in the Garden;

The Arrest; Peter’s First Denial

18:¹When Jesus finished, he went out with his disciples past the wadi Kidron to an orchard ²Judas knew about, because Jesus often went there with his disciples. ³Judas had received a cohort as well as officers from the chief priests and Pharisees. They came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. ⁴Jesus knew what was coming and went out to meet them, *“Who are you looking for?”*

⁵*“Jesus the Nazarene.”*

“I’m Jesus.” (Judas was standing with them.) ⁶When he said, *“I’m Jesus,”* they drew back and fell to the ground.

⁷He asked them again, *“Who are you looking for?”*

“Jesus the Nazarene.”

⁸*“I told you I’m Jesus. If you’re looking for me, let these go”* (⁹like he’d said, *“I haven’t lost any you gave me.”*).

Jn 18:1-9

¹⁰Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant and cut off his right ear. His name was Malchus.

¹¹Jesus said, *“Put your sword back in its sheath. Am I not going to drink the cup the Father gave me to drink?”*

¹²Then the cohort, the tribune, and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. ¹³They led him to Annas first because he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. ¹⁴He’s the Caiaphas who counseled the Jews that it was expedient for one man to die for the people.

¹⁵Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. That disciple was acquainted with the high priest and went in with Jesus to the courtyard. ¹⁶Peter stood outside at the gate. The other disciple went out and spoke to the gatekeeper and brought Peter in.

¹⁷The gatekeeper, a servant woman, said^p to Peter, *“You’re not one of this man’s disciples, are you?”*

“No.”

¹⁸Servants and officers were standing there. They’d built a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were warming themselves. Peter was standing with them, warming himself.

Jn 18:10-18

The Trial Before Annas

¹⁹The high priest asked Jesus about his disciples and his teaching.

²⁰He answered, *“I spoke openly to the world and taught constantly in synagogue and in the Temple, where the Jews all gather. I haven’t done anything secretly.”* ²¹*Why ask me? Ask the ones that heard me. They know what I said.”*

²²One of the officers standing by slapped him, *“Do you answer the high priest that way?”*

²³*“If I said something wrong, what was it? If I didn’t, what are you hitting me for?”*

²⁴Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. **Jn 18:19-24**

Peter’s Final Denials

²⁵While Simon Peter was standing there, warming himself, *the officers* said, *“You’re not one of his disciples too, are you?”*

“No.”

²⁶One of the high priest’s servants, a relative of the one whose ear Peter had cut off, said^p, *“I saw you in the orchard with him, didn’t I?”*

²⁷Peter denied it again. Immediately a rooster crowed. **Jn 18:25-27**

The Trials Before Pilate

²⁸They led^p Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium. It was early. They didn’t go into the Praetorium themselves. They didn’t want to defile themselves and not be able to eat the Passover. ²⁹So Pilate came out to them, *“What charges are you bringing against this man?”*

³⁰*“If he wasn’t a criminal, we wouldn’t have delivered him to you.”*

³¹Pilate said, *“You take him and judge him by your Law.”*

“It’s illegal for us to execute anybody” (³²fulfilling Jesus’ statement about how he would die).

³³Pilate went back into the Praetorium and called Jesus, *“Are you the King of the Jews?”*

³⁴*“Are you asking that yourself, or have other people prompted you?”*

³⁵*“I’m not a Jew, am I? Your nation and the chief priests delivered you to me. What have you done?”*

³⁶*“My ‘kingdom’ is not an earthly kingdom. If it was, my servants would be fighting to keep me from being delivered to the Jews.”*

³⁷*“So you’re a ‘king’ then?”*

“Yes, I’m a ‘king.’ That’s why I was born—why I came into the world—to speak about truth. Everybody that’s committed to truth listens to me.”

³⁸Pilate said^p, *“What’s truth?”*

When he said that, he went out to the Jews, *“He’s not guilty of anything.”* ³⁹*You have a custom that I release a prisoner to you at Passover. Do you want me to release ‘the King of the Jews’?”*

⁴⁰They shouted again, *“Not him! Barabbas!”* (an insurgent). **Jn 18:28-40**

19:¹Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ²The soldiers twisted thorns together to make a crown and put it on his head. They put a purple robe on him ³and started coming up to him and saying, *“Hail, King of the Jews!”* and slapping him.

⁴Pilate brought him out again, *“I’m bringing him out to let you know I don’t find him guilty of anything.”* ⁵So he brought Jesus out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. *“Look at the man!”*

⁶When the chief priests and officers saw him, they shouted, *“Crucify him! Crucify him!”* Pilate said^p, *“You take him and crucify him. I don’t find him guilty of anything.”*

⁷The Jews answered, *“According to our Law he should die because he’s claimed to be God’s Son.”*

⁸When Pilate heard that, he got more concerned. ⁹He went into the Praetorium and said^p to Jesus, *“Where are you from?”*

Jesus didn’t answer him.

Jn 19:1-9

¹⁰*“You’re not going to talk^p to me? You know, don’t you, that I can release you or crucify you?”*

¹¹*“You wouldn’t have any authority over me if God hadn’t let you have it. So the one that betrayed me to you has committed a worse sin.”*

¹²Pilate tried to release him over that comment.

But the Jews shouted, *“If you release him, you’re no friend of Caesar! Anybody that makes himself king is rebelling against Caesar!”*

¹³When Pilate heard that, he brought Jesus out and sat on the judgement seat at a place called The Pavement (Gabbatha in Hebrew). ¹⁴It was Preparation Day during Passover week, about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, *“Look, your ‘king’!”*

¹⁵They yelled, *“Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!”*

“You want me to crucify your ‘king’!?”

The chief priests answered, *“We don’t have any king but Caesar.”*

¹⁶Then he delivered him over to be crucified.

Jn 19:10-16

The Way to Golgotha

¹⁷They took Jesus, and he went out carrying his own cross to The Place of the Skull (“Golgotha” in Hebrew). ¹⁸They crucified him along with two others, one on each side of him.

Jn 19:17-18

The Death of Messiah

¹⁹⁻²⁰Pilate wrote an inscription in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek, and put it on the cross: *“Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews.”* A lot of Jews read it because the place where they crucified him was close to the city.

²¹The chief priests said to Pilate, *“Don’t write ‘King of the Jews,’ but that he said, ‘I am King of the Jews.’”*

²²Pilate answered, “*What I’ve written I’ve written.*”

²³After the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they divided his clothes four ways, one for each soldier—except for the tunic. It was seamless, woven from the top throughout. ²⁴They said, “*Let’s not tear it apart; cast lots for it.*” So they did—fulfilling the scripture,

***“They divided up my garments among them,
and cast lots for my clothes” [Ps 22:18].***

Jn 19:19-24

²⁵Beside Jesus’ cross stood his mother, the sister of his mother; Mary, wife of Clopas; and Mary the Magdalene. ²⁶When he saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there, he said^p to his mother, “*Your son.*” ²⁷and to the disciple, “*Your mother.*” From that time the disciple took her to his home.

²⁸Since he knew they’d done everything that fulfilled the scripture, Jesus said^p, “*I’m thirsty.*” ²⁹A jar was sitting there full of sour wine. They put a sponge full of it on a hyssop branch and held it up to his mouth. ³⁰When he’d taken it, he said, “*It’s done!*” He dropped his head and quit breathing.

Jn 19:25-30

The Burial of Jesus

³¹Since it was Preparation *Day*, the Jews asked Pilate to break the legs of the crucified men and take *their bodies* away so they wouldn’t be on the cross on a Sabbath. (That Sabbath was a high day.) ³²So the soldiers broke the legs of the first and of the other man crucified with him. ³³When they saw that Jesus was already dead, they didn’t break his legs. ³⁴One soldier thrust his spear into Jesus’ side, and blood and water drained out immediately. ³⁵(The one that watched *it himself* has submitted this report. He knows what he’s telling you is true so you can believe *it* too.) ³⁶That reminds *us* of the scripture, “***Don’t break any of its bones***” [Ex 12:46; Num 9:12; (Ps 34:20)]. ³⁷Another scripture says, “***They’ll look at the one they speared***” [Zech 12:10].

³⁸After that, Joseph of Arimathea—a disciple of Jesus secretly for fear of the Jews—asked Pilate to let him take Jesus’ body, and Pilate granted it. He went and took his body away. ³⁹Nicodemus—who at the first came to Jesus at night—also brought some 70 pounds of myrrh mixed with aloes. ⁴⁰They wrapped his body in linen wrappings along with the aromatic spices, which is the Jews’ burial custom. ⁴¹A garden close to where they crucified Jesus had a new, unused tomb in it. ⁴²That’s where they put Jesus because it was the Jews’ Preparation *Day*.

Jn 19:31-42

**The Resurrection of Messiah;
The Report of the Women;
The Visit of Peter and John**

20¹On the first day of the week, Mary the Magdalene came^p to the tomb while it was still pretty dark and saw that the stone was rolled away from it. ²She ran^p to Simon Peter and the disciple Jesus loved, *“They’ve taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they put him.”*

³So Peter and the other disciple ran to the tomb. ⁴The other disciple outran Peter, ⁵stooped down and saw^p the linen wrappings, but didn’t go in.

⁶Then Simon Peter got^p there and went on in and saw^p the linen wrappings ⁷and the facecloth they’d put over his head. It wasn’t with the linen wrappings; it was folded up by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple went in and looked and believed. ⁹They didn’t yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead. ¹⁰So they went back to their quarters. **Jn 20:1-10**

Appearance to Mary the Magdalene

¹¹Mary stood outside the tomb crying. While she was crying, she stooped down and looked inside the tomb. ¹²She saw^p two angels in white, sitting at the head and foot of where Jesus’ body had been.

¹³They said^p, *“Dear woman, why are you crying?”*

“They’ve taken my Lord, and I don’t know where they’ve put him.” ¹⁴When she’d said that, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but didn’t recognize him.

¹⁵He said^p, *“Why are you crying? Who are you looking for?”*

She thought he was the gardener, *“Sir, if you’ve carried him off, tell me where you’ve put him, and I’ll take him away.”*

¹⁶*“Mary.”*

She turned around and said^p in Aramaic, *“Rabboni (Teacher)!”*

¹⁷Jesus said^p, *“You don’t need to hang onto me. I haven’t gone up to the Father yet. Go tell my disciples I’m going up to my Father and yours^{pl}, my God and yours^{pl}.”*

¹⁸Mary went^p and told them, *“I’ve seen the Lord!”* and what he’d told her to say.

Jn 20:11-18

Appearance to the Ten

¹⁹That evening, the first day of the week, the disciples had locked the doors for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them, *“Hello.”* ²⁰He showed them his hands and side. They were excited to see him.

²¹He said again, *“Peace to you. I’m sending you like the Father sent me.”* ²²Then he blew on them, *“Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³The ones whose sins you forgive are forgiven; the ones whose sins you hold against them are held against them.”* **Jn 20: 19-23**

Appearance to the Eleven

²⁴Thomas, one of the Twelve, called Didymus, wasn’t with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, *“We’ve seen the Lord!”*

²⁵But Thomas said, *“Unless I see the imprints from the spikes in his wrists and put my finger in them and put my hand in his side, I’m not believing it.”*

²⁶A week later, his disciples were behind locked doors again. Jesus came and stood among them and said, *“Hello.”* ²⁷He said^p to Thomas, *“Look at my wrists; put your finger here. Put your hand in my side. Don’t keep on not believing.”*

²⁸Thomas answered^p, *“My Lord and my God!”*

²⁹Jesus said^p, *“You believe because you’ve seen. They’re blessed who believe and haven’t seen.”*

³⁰Jesus did an endless number of signs in front of his disciples that I haven’t recorded here. ³¹I’ve written these down so you’ll believe he’s the Messiah, God’s Son, and have life by believing in him.

Jn 20: 24-31

Appearance to Seven by Lake Galilee

21:¹After that, Jesus appeared again to his disciples at Lake Tiberias. ²Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, Zebedee’s sons, and two other disciples were together.

³Simon Peter said^p, *“I’m going fishing.”*

“We’ll go with you.”

They went out and got in the boat, and that night didn’t catch anything. ⁴When morning came, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples didn’t know it was him.

⁵*“Fellows, you haven’t had anything to eat, have you?”*

“No.”

⁶*“Throw the net on the right side of the boat; you’ll find some.”*

So they did, and they couldn’t haul it in for the number of fish.

⁷The disciple Jesus loved said^p to Peter, *“It’s the Lord!”*

When Simon Peter heard that, he put on his outer garment (he’d stripped down) and dived into the lake. ⁸The rest of the disciples came in the small boat because they were only about 300 feet from shore, dragging the net full of fish. ⁹When they got out of the boat, they saw^p a charcoal fire with a fish and a loaf laid on it.

¹⁰Jesus told^p them, *“Bring some of the fish you just caught.”*

¹¹Simon Peter got up and pulled the net up onto land full of big fish—153. Although there were so many, the net didn’t tear.

¹²Jesus said^p, *“Come eat breakfast.”*

None of the disciples dared to ask him who he was; they knew it was the Lord. ¹³He gave^p them the bread and fish. ¹⁴That was a third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he resurrected.

¹⁵When they'd finished breakfast, Jesus said^p, "*Simon Barjonah, do you love me more than these do?*"

"*Yes, Lord, you know I love you.*"

"*Tend my lambs.*"

¹⁶He said^p the second time, "*Simon Barjonah, do you love me?*"

"*Yes, Lord, you know I love you.*"

"*Tend my sheep.*"

¹⁷He said^p the third time, "*Simon Barjonah, do you love me?*"

It pained Peter that Jesus asked a third time, "*Do you love me?*" He said^p, "*Lord, you know everything; you know I love you.*"

¹⁸Jesus told him, "*Tend my sheep. When you were younger, you'd get dressed and walk wherever you wanted to. When you get old, you'll stretch out your hands, and somebody else will dress you and carry you where you don't want to go.*" ¹⁹(He said that to indicate by what kind of death he would honor God.) When he'd said that, he told him. "*Follow me.*"

²⁰Peter turned around and saw^p the disciple Jesus loved, following, the one that leaned back on Jesus' chest at the supper and asked, "*Lord, who's going to betray you?*" ²¹Peter said^p, "*What about him?*"

²²Jesus said^p, "*If I want him to live till I come back, what's that to you? You follow me.*"

²³So the rumor got out among the believers that he wouldn't die. But Jesus didn't say he wouldn't die; he said, "*If I want him to live till I come back, what's that to you?*" **Jn 21:1-23**

Epilogue

²⁴I'm the disciple that wrote this *book*. I know what I'm telling you is true. ²⁵Jesus did a lot of other things too, but if every one was written down, I suppose the world couldn't hold all the books. **Jn 21:24-25**

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