The Ten Capsules

The Ten Capsule is a program that guides you through the main points of the Bible. If you have little or no earlier experience with the Bible, click here for an explanation of what the Bible is and why it is important. In other words, it gives a “capsule view” of the Bible’s message. You will read ten sections of the Bible and an interpretation of the passage in each “capsule” which is a set of lessons. You can always work through the capsules on your own time.

Before you begin, I recommend you have a physical Bible with you or that you can access a Bible website like BibleGateway. Certain capsules will have the Bible excerpt on the webpage. In that case, the verses may be in many different versions due to copyright requirements. I recommend the NIV or NIrV for readability. The concept of different versions/translations of the Bible is explained here.

My disclaimer is this: The Bible is written by God and every chapter, verse, word, and letter is important. These capsules could never explain every point in the Bible. These capsules help you to understand the Bible’s main purpose: to tell the world about how God deeply loves us.

# Capsule 1: Verses – For introduction to the Bible and Christianity

Hi! Before we begin, let's make sure this is the capsule for you. Choose this capsule if you've had little or no exposure to the Bible and are not at all familiar with basic Bible concepts and stories.

If you meet these criteria, I'd like to invite you to see a capsule view of the Bible that lasts a maximum of ten days. Each day, you will read a passage that ranges from two to six verses and an explanation along with it. All of the complete passages are here, and the gaps are basically filled in in the explanations where necessary. If you would like to read any of the verses in context, though, you will need a full Bible. Many quotations here are New International Version® (NIV) and I recommend the NIV if you get a Bible to accompany this capsule and/or for later capsules where you must have a Bible. Still, I recommend an internet Bible (e.g. BibleGateway) instead for this capsule so you can switch between translations.

## The Story Begins (Genesis)

### Genesis 1:1-2 – Creation

*1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. (NLT)*

As we begin our journey through the amazing Bible, it is important to start here. First, it acknowledges one, all-powerful, perfect God who is not created but created everything. He reigns over everything forever and ever, has no equal, and is second to none. Like a good book, the beginning gives the setting, which plays a key role. It is absolutely critical to lock this down and believe it fully to grasp the message of the Bible. After this verse, God creates everything in our world over a six-day period to fill “the earth [which] was formless and empty.” On day one, God created light (day) to separate it from darkness (night). On day two, God created sky and sea. On day three, land and plants. On day four, the stars, sun, and moon. On day five, birds and sea creatures. On the sixth and final day, God created land animals and “mankind in [His own] image.” (Gen. 1:26b NIV®) The first man and woman were Adam and Eve, respectively, and they were given authority over all the creatures and plants. God affirmed that all of his creation was perfect and rested on the seventh day.

### Genesis 3:1-6 – Fall

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?” 2 The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” 4 “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. 5 “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. (NIV®)

All of God’s creation *was* perfect, and humans ruled over God’s creation with free will. Adam and Eve lived in a perfect world with almost no boundaries. Almost. God knew that their life would be better if they followed one simple instruction: “but you must not eat fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will surely die.” (Gen. 2:17, referenced again 3:3) One tree, in the middle of plants beyond imagination, was prohibited and yet, Adam and Eve managed to want more. That one rebellious act called sin against the ultimate, holy God resulted in every bad, evil, unpleasant, hurtful, damaging, destructive, troubling, imperfect thing in our world and afterward. Worst of all, the ultimate penalty for sin would now have to be inflicted: death.

### Genesis 22:15-18 – Promise

15Then the angel of the Lord called again to Abraham from heaven. 16“This is what the Lord says: Because you have obeyed me and have not withheld even your son, your only son, I swear by my own name that 17I will certainly bless you. I will multiply your descendants beyond number, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will conquer the cities of their enemies. 18And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed—all because you have obeyed me.” (NLT)

We now observe a man named Abraham many years since the fall of mankind. Earlier, Abraham was promised a great nation from his offspring if they set off into the wilderness and follow him. Abraham and his wife were shocked – especially since they were far beyond that stage of their life and have no children. They struggle for years to trust God as they follow God through what is now the desert and wait for the child God promised. Finally, the promised baby is born and named Isaac when Abraham is one-hundred years old! God then tells Abraham to sacrifice this child who Abraham waited for twenty-five years for as an offering. Abraham has finally learned to have faith in God and agrees to God's request regardless of how hard it must have been to do so. (God isn’t really this cruel, this is only God testing Abraham as it says in verse one.) With Isaac prepared for sacrifice, God stops Abraham, knowing that Abraham is willing to trust God through anything. God provides a ram to sacrifice instead, and Abraham passes the test of faith. Amazingly, God tells Abraham that from his family line would come a great nation that would eventually bless and save the entire world through one man: The Messiah.

## The Promise Fulfilled (Gospels)

### Luke 1:29-33 – Proclamation

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. 31You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.” (NIV®)

It’s been over 400 years since the nation of Judah has heard from God in any way, shape, or form. Jacob came after Abraham and Isaac, and the nation promised in the last lesson was birthed from Jacob. Well, sort of. They started as slaves in Egypt in order to escape famine and waited hundreds of years for God to rescue them through Moses. That began millennia of ups in downs in following God. Way too much happened to explain here, but now the nation has been through a split, exile, and rebirth to get here. Now, the nation is under Roman oppression and occupation. Many are tired of the Romans and are looking forward to the promised Messiah as hope. In such a time, this proclamation is huge. The Savior and Messiah – Christ – is coming! This man would come to fulfill a prophecy thousands of years old. Most important of all, this child would come to save the whole world from the clutch of the enemy, death, and sin for eternity.

### Matthew 27:50-53 – Over

And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. 51 At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split 52 and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. 53 They came out of the tombs after Jesus’ resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people. (NIV®)

This Jesus has come to be the Savior of the world as we know from earlier. At about the age of thirty, Jesus was publicly identified as God’s Son by none other than God Himself (see Matthew 3:13-17). He started a successful ministry that lasted for three and a half years and has many followers including a group of 12 specific disciples. But now, the man who so many know as *the Messiah* has been arrested, tried, and sentenced to crucifixion!?!? Crucifixion was the most painful, most shameful way to die, and only the absolute worst criminals were executed this way. This leaves his followers both baffled and devastated; you’re probably confused, too. After sin entered the world, all were condemned to die (“For the wages of sin is death” –Romans 6:23a NIV®) unless a sufficient sacrifice was made. These sacrifices died in place of the sinful human. Before Jesus, animal sacrifices would make temporary atonement (i.e. compensation) for the sins of God’s holy nation, the Israelites, and anyone who would turn to the true God. Now, God sent Jesus as fully divine and fully human to permanently wipe out our sins as the ultimate sacrifice by dying even though he never sinned. More simply stated, Jesus never rebelled against God like we often do by doing acts that go against God’s commands, but he still took the penalty of our rebellious acts upon himself so that God looks at us as though we were before the fall of mankind.

### Luke 24:5-8 – Alive

*5 So the women were terrified and bowed down to the ground. “Why are you looking for the living among the dead?” asked the men. 6 “He is not here, but He has been resurrected! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, 7 saying, ‘The Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and rise on the third day’?” 8 And they remembered His words. (HCSB)*

In order to fully understand this passage, you have to think like one of these women who had come to Jesus’s tomb. Imagine that the man who you have trusted as the Savior of your life, the one you’ve expected to conquer evil once and for all, has died three days ago as a Roman criminal even though he had done nothing wrong. Some quick background knowledge: in that time, the common belief was that the spirit left a dead body after three days. Therefore, Jesus would be as good as gone. But the women who had come to put perfume and spices over the body of Jesus had forgotten that this Jesus had told them that he would have to die and then live again. And that the Savior’s death had been foretold, though not understood. And that Jesus had raised His friend Lazarus from the dead after three days had passed beforehand. If He could raise Lazarus from the dead, why couldn’t He overcome His own death? Anyway, you – as one of the people coming to see Jesus – enter the tomb with the stone that had been sealing the tomb rolled away (*Weren’t there Roman Guards here before?*) and discover that Jesus is missing. Then you see two men in *glowing clothes* that tell you that Jesus is alive! Jesus has conquered death by coming as a servant to mankind and suffering like the prophets had prophesied. Because of this, those who are saved may physically die, but their spirit will exist forever in heaven after their life on earth.

### John 3:16-17 – Gospel (Good News)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (NIV®)

Often said to be *the* most quoted verse in the bible, John 3:16 just about sums it up. The gospel, literally translated as “good news,” is the term used by Christians everywhere to define what Jesus did for us and what it means for those who believe. It’s more like miraculous, marvelous, incredible, wonderful, mind-boggling, staggering, astonishing news. We sinned and rebelled. He loved us anyway. We denied and turned away. He never gave up chasing us. We crucified our Savior. He rose again to save us. I can’t say it any better than this verse. There is one critical point to talk about, though. Jesus freely surrendered His life for everyone. John 3:16b says: “*whoever believes in him* shall not perish but have *eternal life.”* (NIV®, emphasis mine) That means that you, along with anyone else, can have everlasting life in heaven by simply believing with all your heart that Jesus is God, was killed in your place, rose from the grave, and conquered our sins and death forever. Surrender your life to Him, and Jesus will cover and erase your sins. The family of God will adopt you and give you the ultimate inheritance. If you want to be part of this miracle, stop right now and go to our Road to Salvation Capsule. Your time on earth is limited, so don’t wait. Enter the family of God today.

## Beyond (Acts & Revelation)

### Acts 1:8-10 – Commission

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” 9After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. 10They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. (NIV®)

Jesus does not stick around for long. After a mere 40 days since His resurrection, He gives a mysterious command that hints at a special power and spreading the message of Christ to the world. The disciples and close friends who were with Jesus were expecting Jesus to fulfill the Jewish dreams of a conquering Messiah. They will not realize until later what we already know; the Savior must suffer before coming again to abolish evil. Jesus will come back the same way (Acts 1:11) to finally wipe the world clean of our sin. This passage, the Great Commission, is the calling of every Christian. The Holy Spirit is the manifestation of Christ in every believer that maintains God’s presence and power during our time on earth. When you are saved by Christ, the Holy Spirit enters you and enables you to do amazing things through God’s power when He allows. Christians should be actively on a mission to spread the good news of Jesus Christ doing great things through the power of the Holy Spirit. After this, the Holy Spirit first comes to the believers on the Day of Pentecost, and the church grows from there rapidly. The gospel spreads, and thousands at a time are saved. The church becomes the central way for Christians to connect and strengthen each other in their faith. Church attendance is important for new believers to develop you as a Christian, or a church can guide you through the salvation process if you need guidance. See this Finding A Church informational page for more info.

### Revelation 21:1-5 – New

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away (vanished), and there is no longer any sea. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, arrayed like a bride adorned for her husband; 3 and then I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “See! The tabernacle of God is among men, and He will live among them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them [as their God,] 4 and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be death; there will no longer be sorrow and anguish, or crying, or pain; for the former order of things has passed away.”

5 And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also He said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true [they are accurate, incorruptible, and trustworthy].” ([AMP](http://www.lockman.org))

After all that has happened in the world, we arrive here. Revelation is the recording of a vision that showed how the world would end. This specific passage details the amazing new world in store for those who have been saved. It’s hard to imagine such an amazing universe to live in, so I can’t describe it much better. Instead of an in-depth description, I’d like you to read this passage a few more times until you fully realize the awe-inspiring world described here. If you are ready to join those who will be here for eternity, Jesus is ready to forgive you. For some guidance, click here.

### Revelation 22:20-21 – Amen

He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.”

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

21The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people. Amen. (NIV®)

Amen, indeed. He will come back in a glorious return we will talk more about later. The amazing story of salvation that we have explored isn’t even close to the whole Bible and there is so much more to explore. Still, this is it for our first capsule. The story doesn’t stop here. The key is that *you* join in on the free gift Jesus has given us and continue reading the Bible. You can choose to continue exploring the storyline of the Bible in Capsule 2 and beyond by going back to our homepage. If you are ready to accept the gift of salvation, go to our Road to Salvation Capsule. Thank you for joining me on this journey of exploration, and I hope that you continue with our further capsules. Goodbye for now!

# Capsule 2: Twelve Chapters – To expand basic knowledge of the main plotline of the Bible

Choose this capsule if you already finished Capsule 1 or if you have minor exposure to the Bible and want to refresh your knowledge.

Welcome! You have probably been through Capsule 1 at this point and know the basics of my format. I have made a few changes. Due to copyright issues and for appearance, you will not find the chapters right here. I have given links to the proper chapters on BibleGateway. Also, a new section called Further Reading (or Prior Reading when it comes before the main lesson) has another passage that I would recommend you read along with each lesson. Since each lesson is a little bit longer and more involved than in Capsule 1, I would suggest completing this capsule over ten days, one lesson per day. These links go to the NIV version, but you can also use the NIrV version using the dropdown menu next to the search bar.

### Genesis 1-2

(<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+1-2&version=NIV>)

This is the full account of how the world *really* came into existence. Many people try to convince others that random events created the universe, but there is much evidence against that theory. (*The Case for a Creator* by Lee Strobel discusses this evidence.) In the most amazing way, God created everything by simply speaking. It is also shown that “God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” (Gen. 1:27) This means that God created us to paint a picture of Him and what He is like; that is our purpose in life. There is a distinct separation between man and woman, and God created the original version of marriage in this passage. God gives control of the whole earth to the human race and blesses us. Like manager positions in large companies, we become the managers of the Earth: We take care of it even though it is not really ours. Adam and his wife, the first humans, live in complete paradise with free access to God. Their work is enjoyable and exciting since everything works together in harmony. Everything was perfect.

**Further Reading:** Psalm 8 – A song that expresses amazement at how amazing God and His creation are

### Genesis 3

(<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+3&version=NIV>)

So, what happened? The world around us is far from the world of Genesis 1. God gave humankind one simple rule: they cannot eat the fruit of ONE tree (out of countless other trees with perfect fruit). The forbidden fruit gives knowledge of good and evil. God knows that if they eat it, they will defy Him and do what is evil. Then, there will be consequences of pain, sickness, fear, anger, sadness, and death because *we are not able to control our lives better than God can.* He has unlimited power, control, and knowledge which He uses to rule the universe in the best way possible. We were not created to be the ruler, the “god” of our own life, so when we do, we mess up a lot. God’s limit made our lives better. Still, God did not want to force us into submission and, hence, gave us the ability to make our own choices. When the serpent, controlled by evil, tries to get Adam and Eve to disobey God, they choose the path apart from God filled with evil, suffering, and death. So, begins the life of consequences we all inherit from that original sin (the act of rebellion against God) which we cannot escape. In all the darkness, one verse gives hope: “And I will put enmity between you (the serpent) and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” This quote from God talking to the forces of evil that hold the serpent describes how good and evil will live in war within the human race. Evil will strike the heel, or hurt, mankind, but good will crush the head, or destroy, evil. This victory will come through a certain person, a Savior.

**Further Reading:** Romans 3:10-18 – Facts about our tendency to sin and reject God

### Genesis 15

(<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+15&version=NIV>)

**Prior Reading:** Genesis 12:1-9 – God’s original promises to Abram and Abram’s faith to follow God without question

Abram, later known as Abraham, has left his comfortable home and followed God into the wilderness (see Prior Reading). Now, God is promising Abram a son and countless grandchildren even though he is childless and old. Regardless, “Abram believed the Lord.” (vs. 6) When God tells Abram that his ancestors will take over the land that he now wanders through, Abram asks for confirmation. The scene that comes next seems odd and irrelevant but is really a traditional way of making serious, life-or-death promises. However, both sides making the agreement would normally pass through the carcasses together. In this case, only the firepot, standing for God, does so. God is showing, even if Abram is not perfectly faithful to God, He will still keep His promise. Throughout the Old Testament, the children who inherit this promise will reject God by worshipping fake statues as gods, blatantly ignoring God’s commands, following His commands only when they are convenient, considering stuff or pleasure more important than God, and killing God’s only Son. God still wants to have a loving relationship with every person regardless of what they do against Him.

### Exodus 20

(<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+20&version=NIV>)

God follows up on His promises, as He always does, and Abraham’s descendants grow into a huge nation known as the Israelites. Moses, the nation’s leader, has gone up to a mountaintop to speak with God. God tells Moses how the Israelites can live up to His standard of living. In other words, God tells them how to be perfect. In return, God will help, protect, and bless the nation of Israel. To sum it up, God wants the people to put Him above everything and to love others as you would want to be loved. This summary is found in Matthew 22:36-40. Because the Israelites are prone to sin along with the rest of humanity, they will not be able to follow all the guidelines that God gives; they will give things of this world higher priority than God and think about themselves before others. God knows this and is willing to keep His promise even when the Israelites mess up. God’s example of perfection is meant to show that we are sinful people. We need someone who can release us from the punishments of our sins, a life apart from God, by taking those punishments on himself. The best part is God would do just that.

**Further Reading:** Romans 7:7-25 – The message of this passage is that the Law, referring to God’s standard of perfection, came so that the sins we commit are recognized as evil. We would sin whether we know how to be perfect or not, but with the Law, we realize that we sin and need to be saved from our sin

### Isaiah 53

(<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+53&version=NIV>)

This is a prophecy that was given to the Israelites regarding the Savior that would come (from Genesis 3:15). We, in the 21st century after Jesus, have a new perspective because Jesus came and fulfilled this prophecy. Verses 2-3 tell that the Savior would not have an easy life and will not look special. He will not fit in with the popular people of his culture but will be rejected. As we go through verses 4-6, we find that he would have to suffer the punishment (i.e. death, pain, sadness) that we deserve for our sins even though he lived perfectly. The government would declare him guilty even though he could have declared his innocence and been set free as declared in 7-10. This is known as *substitutionary atonement*: Because God keeps justice, he would not just let us into heaven without punishment for our sins. But He loves us even as we insist on going against Him, so God would send his son to receive the punishments and pay the debts that we owe by dying as a criminal. In this way, we would be justified, or made right and sinless, in God’s eyes if we believe in Christ as the Savior and ask him to forgive our sins. If you have not, now is the perfect time to accept this gift given to anyone who asks. For guidance, go to the [Road to Salvation Capsule](http://tencapsule.com/salvationcapsule.html). The story does not end there. The Son of God will not be trapped by death. No, the Savior would defeat death and would sit down in heaven again as the King of the Universe. Those who have trusted in Jesus as their Savior will join Him when He comes back.

**Further Reading:** Philippians 2:1-18 – The way that Jesus [named as Christ, a term meaning Savior] lived

### Luke 2

(<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+2&version=NIV>)

This is a classic story that is told and retold every Christmas. But often ignored or overshadowed in holiday festivities was this critical event in history. Jesus gave up his seat in heaven and came to earth! That is, in a stable as a baby. See, Jesus did not want to deal with the famous, wealthy leaders. Instead, he came to the lowliest, the rejected, the poor, the sick, the blind, the paralyzed, the demon-possessed, and the sinners to be a light of salvation to the world trapped in its sin. He had been worshiped endlessly from before the beginning of this world but came to this earth where he would be rejected as a commoner and a criminal while living a life that none of us could, one that pleased God in every way. We see this prophesied and foreshadowed when Jesus is presented at the temple and then when he was a boy in his “Father’s (God’s) house.” He went through everything that we do, making the God-pleasing choice at each opportunity. He knows what it is like in our shoes and can “empathize with our weaknesses.” (Hebrews 4:15) We can be personal with Him, for He understands our problems and knows how to help us in our need.

**Further Reading:** John 1 – Jesus’s identity as the Messiah is confirmed by God.

### Matthew 6

(<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+6&version=NIV>)

This chapter is part of Jesus’s Sermon on the Mount, a speech made by Jesus that contained many of His most important teachings. One major point that Jesus drives home is that you should not do good works to seem religious or to get a good reputation because it is better to be good in God’s eyes, who knows what you do, than in the eyes of people. By serving God and allowing Him to control your life, you store up riches in heaven which are much more valuable than anything you could gain on this earth. Any hardship or pain is worth going through if it shows the amazing glory of God to others. This is the reason that many today survive punishment by governments and any other troubles that following Jesus causes them to have. Jesus also promises that God will take care of your needs if you devote your life to Him. Verses 9 through 13 are often known as the Lord’s Prayer, for Jesus gives an outline of how you should talk with God. Prayer is simply talking with God and can be out loud or in your mind. Following this paragraph is an interpretation of the ideas from the Lord’s Prayer.

Breaking Down the Lord’s Prayer

*Format: “Quotation from NASB translation” | Paraphrase (Theme/Idea from that section)*

v. 9: “Pray then, in this way:” | This is the way to pray: (You can use the ideas from this basic format and make them fit your situation, for this is an ideal way to talk with God)

“Our Father who is in heaven” | Dear perfect Father, (God is our father, so we can approach Him as we would our dad. He is close and loves you. He wants to care for you in the best way.)

“Hallowed be Your name” | You are holy (Worship and honor God in your prayers, for prayer would mean nothing if you did not believe God was the King of the Universe.)

vs. 10: “Your Kingdom come.

Your will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven” | You know how the world works best, so make everything right according to your wisdom (Ask God to address the evils and struggles of this world and make them right.)

vs. 11: “Give us this day our daily bread.” | Provide for each of our needs (Ask God to give you what you need to live and thrive in a way that honors Him.)

vs. 12: “And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.” | Forgive all our sins and help us to forgive others as you command (Even though your sins are all forgiven, admitting your sins to God builds your relationship with Him and suppresses regret, so you should ask for forgiveness and the ability to put your sins behind you. Moreover, ask God to prompt and strengthen you to forgive those who hurt you when doing so is the last thing you want to do.)

vs. 13: “And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil” | Do not let evil overtake our minds or actions (Ask God to help you reject what is not right is His eyes so you will not want to do these things)

NOTE: Some translations say “…deliver us from the evil one.” This refers to Satan, the enemy of God who causes evil and will be punished in the end.

“[For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]” | Not in all copies of the Bible: You rule over everything for eternity. Indeed. (Always focus on the fact that God is King and worthy of worship when praying. Amen is a word that adds finality, emphasis, and sincerity to what you said. It is often used to conclude specific prayers.)

**Further Reading:** Matthew 5+7 – The remainder of the Sermon on the Mount with more teaching from Jesus.

### Matthew 27

(<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+27&version=NIV>)

**Prior Reading:** Luke 22 – The events leading up to the capture of Jesus

The time has come for Jesus’s purpose to be fulfilled. To rid us of the curse that we received in Genesis 3, Christ would have to receive the punishment of death to wash humanity of all sins before, during, and after his sacrifice. Judas, a helper of Jesus, helped the selfish leaders kill his leader for a little money. Then, Jesus resisted the temptation to save himself from the pain we deserve and represented our sins as he suffered on a cross. The cross was the tool of crucifixion, a method of absolute torture and death penalty reserved for the absolute worst of criminals. You felt searing pain of metal spikes driven through your wrists and ankles. As you bled, you had to pull up on the spikes to get in a position where you could breathe at all. Finally, when you could do no more, you suffocated to death because you could not move to breathe. Truly, Jesus did not die of his failing health on the cross. “He gave up his spirit.” Death did not capture Jesus in its trap. He put himself in the trap of death. For us. For you and me. When Jesus took our sins, he became the worst and only criminal and sinner of humanity, so his death eliminated our sin. Therefore, God is willing to cover our sins with Jesus’s sacrifice if we believe that Jesus saved us from our sins and recreate us as if we had never sinned. This is *spiritual rebirth*: We become a new person because we love Jesus and are free from sin on our eternal record. We think, speak, and act differently than we did before. God looks at us and sees no sin. John 3:16 is the most profound statement of this. God says, “For I so loved the world that I gave my one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” When we believe, we are destined for life in heaven in the end and we develop a new purpose of serving God on this earth. These rewards surpass everything you can imagine; I promise that and God promises that. You only need to accept this gift to gain its benefits. The [Road to Salvation Capsule](http://tencapsule.com/salvationcapsule.html) can help you understand how to be freed from your sins and accept God’s gift. I suggest you go there now if you have not already.

### Matthew 28

(<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+28&version=NIV>)

Imagine seeing a graveyard with holes in the ground and all the people gone. Then, someone tells you that everyone had risen to life and left. You actually encounter one of the risen people and find that they are a close friend of yours. A similar scenario plays out with the two women in this chapter. They had devoted their lives to Jesus. They knew He was the Messiah, but now their amazing Savior is dead. As they approach the tomb where He lays, everything seems hopeless. But their faith is not in vain, for an angel comes and gives the great news that Jesus is alive! Conflicting feelings of fear and joy overwhelm the two women. Calmly, Jesus meets the two on their way to declare the news. With Jesus’s guidance, his followers will come to understand all the events of their Savior’s life over the next weeks. In his final words to these followers, Jesus gives a command those who believe in Him and His salvation: Spread the message of the way to be saved across the whole earth to every single person. Yet, once again, some deny the amazing truth for money and safety. They drag many into disbelief and hopelessness with them through their lies. To be most effective in following Jesus, we cannot be worried about stuff and being safe. Following Christ may be difficult or dangerous, but it is worth anything you must give up. Those who trust in Christ as their Savior would come to be known as Christians or Christ-followers. They band together from that point on to support each other and follow Jesus’s final command. (They are known as the church, discussed in [Acts 1:8-10](http://tencapsule.com/capsule1.html#church) lesson from Capsule 1)

**Further Reading:** 1 Corinthians 15 – Importance of Christ’s Death and Resurrection

### Revelation 21-22

(<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+21-22&version=NIV>)

Revelation is the account of a vision regarding what will happen at the end of time as we know it. Christ will return to the earth He left and take those who have trusted Him as their Savior away. Creation will be remade and restored to its pure state for the redeemed Christ-followers to live in. There will be no sin nor any of its consequences, and this new world will last forever. The final two chapters of the Bible describe the beauty and perfection of the eternal world. Verse 21:4 declares, “‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” Those who did not follow Christ will be subject to eternal punishment in Hell [a.k.a. the Lake of Fire] with everything evil. Those who have rejected Jesus will be horrified at his return, but being with Him is the great hope of every Christ-follower. The Christians will rejoice as Jesus takes them away from the evil and problems of this world.

This ends our introduction to the Bible. At this point, the truth of Jesus has been revealed to you. You have the opportunity to make the biggest decision of your life and trust Jesus to save you if you are still waiting. There is no better time than **now**. You do not have to make yourself worthy of Him. You just have to let Him pour out His love on you and enjoy it. Trust His love to save you from your sin! Future capsules will focus on studying the Bible in more detail and understanding its lessons, advice, ideas, and revelations about God and our own lives. I hope you go further with Capsule 3 or visit the Road to Salvation Capsule to accept God’s gift to you.

**Further Reading:** Genesis 1-2 – Reread these passages and see how the beginning of creation and the renewed creation are similar.

# Road to Salvation Specialty Capsule – To gain understanding of the Gospel and lead to salvation

Welcome! I’m here to lead you through ten passages of Scripture that will reveal to you the basics of the gospel. The gospel, in case you didn’t know, is the term used by Christians just about everywhere to refer to salvation in Jesus Christ. Basically, mankind sinned (i.e. rebelled against the Lord God Almighty) soon after they were first created by defying the one command God gave us in the beginning. This separated us from God and sentenced us to death. Fortunately, God’s love for us was so deep that He sent His only son to die for us and bring us back to unity with Himself. Yes, you read that correctly. God’s son, Jesus, gave up the wonderful heavens and his immortality to come to the earth and *die* for us. This way, those who believe in Him will enjoy eternity in Heaven instead of being condemned to the lake of fire (a.k.a. hell, the *real* place of eternal punishment). Even if you don’t understand everything, bear with me and keep reading through the lessons. So join me, and I pray that the Lord God will lead your heart to freedom and salvation in Christ.

Just so you know, you should read Capsule 1 or have knowledge of the life of Jesus before this in order to fully understand these lessons.

### Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (NLT)

If your first thought is, “What does this have to do with salvation?” the first verse of the Bible is more important than you think. Without a firm belief in Creation, there is no salvation in Christ. You have to truly, wholly believe in the true, holy God to begin to understand and gain your salvation.

**Further Reading:** Genesis 1, 2, and 3 – Creation is described, then the first sin occurs and brings evil and death into our world. An important point to note is that God’s rule (notice the singular noun) did not really restrict Adam and Eve from much of anything. It allowed them to live in paradise without shame.

(In the future, these will be optional but strongly recommended. Today’s three chapters won’t take more than twenty minutes, and they are critical to your understanding. Please read these today.)

### Romans 3:10

as it is written:

There is no one righteous, not even one. (HCSB)

This may be a bold statement, but If the last 24 hours of your life were all that counted from your life, you very probably still wouldn’t be righteous in God’s eyes. The reason for this is, because Adam and Eve sinned in Gen. 3, every person has it in their nature to sin. Even if you didn’t commit even one sinful action, your words probably were sinful. Even if you didn’t rebel against the Lord’s commands through your actions or words, you thought of something you shouldn’t have thought of. Do you see what I mean? Because of this evil that is embedded in all of us, we are separated from the holy, perfect God and are doomed to spend eternity apart from Him.

**Further Reading:** Isaiah 59 (The Message translation\*) – Remember, much of the language here is symbolic and not literal, so you must read the passage with that in mind.

\* Use the dropdown menu near the search bar on BibleGateway and select The Message.

### Romans 3:23-24

23For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. 24They are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. (HCSB)

Now, we find some hope. Jesus gives grace and redemption freely! When we accept Christ as Lord he justifies us, meaning God looks at us just as if we’d never sinned, and redeems us meaning we are allowed into heaven for eternity. Even though we don’t follow all of God’s standards, we are considered to be right before the Lord simply because we trusted and accepted Christ as our savior.

### Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Death. It is one of the most influential events in anyone’s life, and fear of death changes the how we live. To think, we started in a world where death *did not exist* until we gave it away in the Garden of Eden for one piece of fruit (see Gen. 3), and the world has never been the same. Jesus, however offers a *free gift*. Through his death on the cross and resurrection on the third day, we can join Christ in victory over death.

**Further Reading:** Romans 5:12 – Some insight on death and sin

### John 1:1-4, 14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

14The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**Further Reading:** Matt. 26:36-44 – Jesus suffers through agony over his upcoming death

### Romans 5:7-8

7For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— 8but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (ESV)

“Love” and other forms of the word (e.g. loved, loves) are used almost 700 times in the NIV Bible, and approximately two-thirds of those mentions are in the New Testament. Why is this important? First, the Bible describes love very differently than society today would. Love, by one definition, is the choice to treat another person as if they never did anything wrong even though you know they have. Jesus showed that he loved us by living a perfect life and suffering the death that should have been ours. He sacrificed Himself even though he did not deserve it in any way. That is the true love Christ pours out.

**Further Reading:** 1 John 4:7-21 – God’s amazing love and what it means to us. Remember that the terms “brothers and sisters” and “neighbors” refer to everyone you come in contact with.

### John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

I have to admit; I can’t beat John 3:16. This verse sums up the gospel beautifully. God loved us so much that, even though he never needed and never will need us, sent His Son to suffer and die, so we could be invited into heaven forever. This is the keystone of the Christian faith and the gateway to salvation. You need to lock down and fully believe these verses so you can truly and genuinely accept Christ.

**Further Reading:** John 3:1-21 – Jesus’s conversation with Nicodemus about being spiritually revived (“born again”). It is a complicated concept, so you may want to read it a few times.

### Acts 4:10b-12

…It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. 11 Jesus is “‘the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.’ 12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

Many people today think that heaven is given to those who are “mostly good.” Breaking News: that is a *complete, total lie!* The only way to heaven is Christ. Christ’s death covered our sins, and His resurrection defeated death. Without these things, we would be dead people defined by our sins which certainly would not get us into heaven. So truly, *Christ is the only way to be saved*, and That is why accepting Christ is so critical.

Side note: Jesus actually suffered rejection throughout his whole ministry by religious leaders who did not want to their power over the people. Yes, the people who knew all of the prophecies and facts about Jesus were the ones who tried to reject him.

**Further Reading:** Matthew 7 – A collection of some of Jesus’s teachings. Take notice of verses 13 and 14, especially.

### Romans 10:9-11,13

9If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation. 11Now the Scripture says, Everyone who believes on Him will not be put to shame…13For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. (HCSB)

This is the opportunity of a lifetime. No matter what has happened in your past, God still loves you. He still wants you. Understand that God wanted you so much that he died for you and that he would have died all over again even if you were the *only* *one* he was dying to save. Do you want to have a future in heaven? There is only one way, and this is it: Recognize and **Admit** that you are a sinner who does not meet God’s standards. **Believe** that Jesus is God and is the Savior of the world who died in our place and was resurrected from the dead, so everyone who believes will not be condemned to death but will be raised to a new life in heaven as pure and sinless. **Confess** and tell the world that Christ has saved you.

Go to somewhere quiet and peaceful, talk with God, and tell him this:

*I know that I’m a sinner. I’m really sorry for my sins Lord and want your forgiveness. I believe that you died on the cross for me and rose again. I ask you now Lord Jesus, to come into my life, forgive me of my sins, take control of my life, and make me the kind of person you want me to be. I now receive you into my heart. Thank you for coming into my heart. I will follow you all the days of my life. In Your Name I Pray…. Amen.*

If you prayed that, I have great news. You are eternally saved. Now, Jesus lives in you (1 Corinthians 3:16) and you start a new life as you walk with Christ. First, I have three suggestions:

1. Get a Bible if you haven’t already.
2. Read at least one chapter every day.
3. Pray and speak with God for at least 5 minutes when you wake up and go to bed.

These will be of great help as you learn to walk faithfully with God. My final two pieces of advice are 1) to always, *always, always* remember that there is nothing anyone can ever do to take away your salvation and 2) keep checking back to The Ten Capsule for more resources as you grow in your faith.

### Acts 1:8-11 (What Now?)

8But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

9After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

10They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

This verse has at least two important points for new believers. First, verse eight is Christ’s command to his followers when he ascended into heaven. It speaks of the Holy Spirit giving power to those it comes upon. Since you accepted Christ, this power and the Holy Spirit has already entered you. Now, it is your calling to spread the gospel to others so they can be saved just as you have been. You can begin doing this by talking to them and confessing your salvation story, a.k.a. *testimony*, to your friends and family. You wouldn’t want them to miss out on the gift of salvation. It is also important to join a church (See Capsule 1, Acts 1:8-10 – Commission) to become more comfortable talking about your faith and immersing yourself in a Christ-centered environment. The second point I would like to mention is Christ’s second coming, mentioned in verse 11. Christ will return to the earth to wipe out sin, death, and Satan (the enemy of God) forever. In doing so His just and perfect wrath against unbelievers will be poured out, and those who are not saved will be condemned to Hell and eternal punishment. As a saved believer who has accepted Christ, you are excluded from this wrath. You and I will get to live forever in the wonderful world of heaven in the presence of God that will surpass anything this world will ever be.

Imagine that. Until then, continue to grow in your relationship with Christ. Live all in for Him and amass your eternal rewards in heaven (Ephesians 6:8). I will continually update <http://tencapsule.com> with new content, so check back often. Thank you for visiting!

# Copyright Notices:

Scripture quotations taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version® NIV®

Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica Inc.™

Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide

Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked HCSB are taken from the Holman Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2009 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Holman Christian Standard Bible®, Holman CSB®, and HCSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.

**Scripture quotations marked (AMP) taken from the Amplified**® **Bible (AMP),  
Copyright © 2015 by The Lockman Foundation  
Used by permission.** [**www.Lockman.org**](http://www.Lockman.org)

Scripture quotations marked (ESV) are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.”

Scripture marked (NASB) taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®, Copyright © 1960,1962,1963,1968,1971,1972,1973,1975,1977,1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

Scripture marked (MSG) taken from The Message. Copyright © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group.