

## About this New Testament in the Gondi language

### Foreword

#### Language is a gift from God to man

**What is language really?** Language is form of talking or writing in order to convey meaning that is within each other's minds and hearts and any other matter. It is made up of words, meaning where words should come in a sentence and according to tense/timing. Due to using this kind of language, humans are separate from all living creatures in the world/creation. This language (emph) is people's important/primary characteristic. Through this (emph), the people of this world will know a people's tribe, rituals-and-customs, rules-and-regulations and respectful living.

**Where did language come from?** God created this creation very beautiful. How that is, he created different kinds of trees, colourful flowers, different-different animals, different-different tribes and languages. Because God likes/appreciates variety in this way. Therefore God (emph) gave the gift of these languages to the people of this world. Just as man's origin is from God, language's origin also is from God.

**What is the purpose of language?** Every language in the world should get respect and [one] should carefully study about that language. In order for it to remain and not be forgotten through people forgetting [how to] speak it little-by-little, this language must be preserved (lit:prepared and kept). For example, our Koya or Gondi words in the form of dictionaries, [and] our Koya/Gondi language should be printed and kept in the form of books. Like that this should also be prepared and kept in the form of songs and movies.

**Why should the Bible be in (Koya or) the Gondi language?** Everyone has the right to read and write a language. Everyone has the right to know and understand the truth. Everyone has the right to choose what they should believe. Everyone in the world also has the right to be able to read and listen to the news about God. And having heard that message which is for them, they must think [about that] in their inner-being. Until now we have not read in our language what God has done for us and what he has prepared for us. It has been written in the Gondi language so that we may know what God is saying to us. In this way, this important work has been done so that having known that God, and understood about him, we should serve him in the right way.

**What is the Bible really?** God (emph) caused his prophets and believers to write this book of his words and commands. All these authors, who were from the three different continents of Asia, Africa and Europe, in different countries and different generations, wrote as God commanded. Altogether there were about forty (40) people. They wrote this between fifteen hundred (1,500) years before the Lord Jesus was born and one hundred (100) years after the Lord Jesus was born. Meaning altogether the books of this Bible were written over sixteen hundred (1,600) years. There are a total of sixty six (66) books in this. In this there are two parts: the first part is called the *Old Testament* and the second part is called the *New Testament*. But in this book/religious-scripture, only the second part has been translated into Gondi [and] is there. The first part is yet to be translated completely.

**How is that ancient scripture/book related to our Gond religious-rules-and-customs?** In the Gond/Koya religion the religious-rules-and-customs of giving of grain offerings and goat sacrifices have been running from long-ago/ancient-times (emph). Each year we keep on doing all these kinds of sacrifices so that we should have peace-and-happiness and get salvation. But in order that we would not have to keep repeating those religious-rules-and-customs, God sacrificed his son once (emph) for all of us. Through this sacrifice we get salvation in heaven. We become that God's children. If we think of that matter of sacrifice, we will come to know how much God loves [and loves] us. God created the whole of creation. He created us who are people to live/stay in it [in creation]. And he told, remember me and worship me. Therefore God's word is useful at all time for all the people in the world. So there is also a great necessity to have this scripture/book for us Gonds. The truth in God's word is the same [and] unchangeable from generation to generation. And the promises which that God has given

to us can never be broken. In this scripture/book, are God's words about how we should live in the world in order to be acceptable that God would give us salvation.

### How can we know that God?

1. **God's purpose:** God loves you very much. He caused you to be born of your parents for one purpose. His purpose is that you should know that God [and] be with him forever. About this,  
 "Due to God loving the people of the world very much he sent his only son to the earth. He did like this so that everyone putting faith on his son, would get eternal life without being destroyed." like that it is written on page XYZ of this religious-scripture (John 3:16).
2. **The barrier/block between people and God:** His good purpose is that you should know that God [and] be with him forever. But people are going their own way. And they are not living according to the law that God decided. Living like this against God is called sin. This sin has separated us and God. It has prevented us from being with him and from having a relationship with him. This sin stands as a barrier/block from ever approaching God and brings the death punishment on everyone. Because,  
*"There is not even one righteous-one!  
 There is not even one who understands about righteous ways!  
 There is not even one who searches for God!  
 Everyone, having lost their way,  
 [they] became useful for nothing"*  
 like that it is written on page XYZ of this religious-scripture (Romans 3:10-12).
3. **God's plan to overcome that barrier/block:** We cannot go to God with/by our completely useless efforts. Therefore God (emph) prepared something to completely pay off our sins. How that is, he sent Jesus Christ into this world in order to get rid of the sin that is between men and God. About this,  
 "The righteous-one Christ, bore suffering according to the sins of us who are unrighteous-ones. And to draw us close to God, he died only once in bodily form" like that it is written on page XYZ of this religious-scripture (1 Peter 3:18).

### The translation process:

**On what basis was this scripture translated into our Gondi?** Having read Bibles written in different languages and having understood them, it was written in common Gondi language that we all understand. Not only that, whenever there was a different word in Bibles of different languages, then having looked at the Greek or Hebrew Bible, [and] having understood the meaning, it was written.

**How trustworthy is the translation written like this?**

1. **Who (all) did the translation?** our Gonds who have translated this were trained in translation for six years, [and] learned the rules/principles of translation.
2. **Who (all) checked this translation?** Those who are knowledgeable in the Bible and very experienced in translation of [the Bible] checked. How they did this, they carefully read each book, chapter and verse. And in those verses they checked for mistakes and caused [those] to be corrected.
3. **Who (all) approved the Bible translated into Gondi for use in their own community?** Even after all kinds of checking, we (excl), the brothers of the Gondi Translation Committee, carefully read each and every translated book, and further corrected matters relating to our Gondi culture and we approved it for use within our community.

**How is this Gondi translation of the Bible different to translations of the Bible in other languages?**

The primary goal of any translation work is that those reading at this time will understand just like those ancient ones at first understood the meaning of the original Biblical languages (meaning in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek).

Due to it being written in language that is being used today, everyone who reads or hears will be able to understand. Each language's grammar and structure is different. For this reason, if we translate as it is word-for-word, then many of the ideas/purposes of those ancient written matters will be mixed-up. Then the reader or the hearer will not understand the true meaning in that. Someone else would have to explain and tell that. To avoid this kind of problem, and to ensure that everyone who reads will understand properly, we have tried to translate the meaning of each and every section, without translating word-for-word.

Sometimes, in order to bring the meaning in the translation we have used different words. And in those places we have written the words we used at the bottom of the page according to the verse. For example, Matthew 16:24 in Gondi says "bearing his own troubles". But in the Greek language it says, "carry the cross and walk." "Carrying the cross" means "bearing suffering and death."

In some sections, in order for the correct meaning to come in Gondi, we have joined verses together. <sup>3-5</sup>In this way, if two or more verses are joined [and] those verses re-ordered, then those who are reading will understand very well.

None of the translators can translate the exact meaning completely (meaning one hundred percent) from the first language to another language. Knowing this, we have also prayed much to God, requesting wisdom in order to translate, [and] having taken much trouble, we have handed/passed-on to our Gonds. Now our prayer is that many of our people will understand the word of the creator and life-giving God, believe and put faith in his son Jesus Christ. Because, [God] has sent his son Jesus Christ [and] caused his holy blood and life to be given as a sacrifice for us who have lost our way from God's true way and slidden away from his word. And God raised him on the third day according to the scriptures he caused to be written before Jesus' birth. Whoever puts faith in him, he will get salvation. About this,

"Except by the name of this Jesus, no one's name on earth can save us" like-that it is written on page XYZ of this religious-scripture (Acts 4:12).

And in another place,

"Having accepted with our mouth that Jesus (emph) is Lord, believing with our heart that God raised him from among the dead, we will be saved" like-that it is written on page XYZ of this religious-scripture (Romans 10:9).

**Gondi Translation Committee**

2018

## How to use this book? (also see various indexes at the back)

Keep these matters in mind while reading this scripture:

1. Wherever there is a dotted underline for new and difficult words (for example, baptism, synagogue, or Pharisee) there is [something] about those kinds of words in the final section of this book/scripture.
2. Also, in order to understand about a word or phrase which is marked with this kind (\*) of star symbol, there is something about this at the bottom of the page.
3. And if there is a symbol of a dagger like this (†), it shows those matters are also in different books.
4. In some places, in the original language books, where these words are not there, and in some books where verses have been missed, in order to show them, we have marked in square brackets like this [... ] and have written about them at the bottom of the page.

# John

## The Good News that John wrote

### Message about this book

**Author's name:** John who was Jesus Christ's disciple.

**Period when written:** The first century A.D.

**Important matter:** Jesus is God's son. With the power of God's spirit, he came in the form of a man to save this world's people from their sin. Only those who with devotion place their faith on Jesus will be able to go to heaven where God is.

In order to prove as said above, he did countless miracles. For example, changing water into grape juice, healing a man that was unwell for thirty eight years, giving sight to born-blind person, raising to life the dead Lazarus, putting on a feast for five thousand people, walking on top of the sea. And “Not by looking at my reputation, but put your faith in me by seeing these miracles. If you put like that, then you will live forever with God in heaven” he preached. These matters are written about.

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### God's word becoming human

**1** Before the world was created, the one called the Word\* was there. The one called the Word was with God. That one called the Word is God. <sup>2</sup> That one called the Word was with God from the beginning. <sup>3</sup> God created everything in the world through that Word. Without him not even one thing was created. <sup>4</sup> In him is life. That life gave light to everyone. <sup>5</sup> Just as the light shines in the darkness, like that he is giving light in people's hearts. But the darkness\* can never extinguish that light.

<sup>6</sup> God sent one man. His name is John the Baptist.\* <sup>7</sup> Having heard his testimony about that light, everyone may believe in the one who is like light. <sup>8</sup> That light giving-one is not John. But he is only a witness to tell about the one who is like light. <sup>9</sup> He who is giving the true light of life to the people of this world, is coming.

<sup>10</sup> He who is called the word has come into this world. Through him God caused everything to be created. But those [people] of this world didn't recognize who he really was. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own [people], but those Israel people\* did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But even then whoever believes in him, he gave all of them the authority to become God's children. <sup>13</sup> They were not born of body and blood like children born of husband and wife. But they became his children through God appointing\* them.

<sup>14-15</sup> That word, having become a man, having come on the earth, lived in our midst. John the Baptist said about that word, “He who will come after me I had told, he is this one. Due to him living before me, he is greater than me” he loudly testified. That word showed us God's complete truth and complete grace. Having seen this truth and grace we came to know God's glory. This is the glory which God gave to his only son. <sup>16</sup> Due to his complete grace we are receiving one blessing after another blessing. <sup>17</sup> What those are, the first blessing, so that the people should live according to his desire God had given the law through Moses. But now, the second

blessing, through Jesus Christ he gave grace and truth - even better than that law. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. But the son who is forever with the father,\* has revealed about God to us.

### The witness of John the Baptist

(Matthew 3:1-12; Mark 1:1-8; Luke 3:1-9,15-17)

<sup>19</sup> In order to ask whether this man is the Christ, the Jewish authorities sent priests and Levites\* to John from Jerusalem. <sup>20</sup> So John said, “I am not Christ” he openly testified to them. <sup>21</sup> Then they said, “So, who are you? The prophet Elijah\*?”. So “I'm not”. “It-seems you are [the] prophet that they said will come in the future?”. But John said, “I'm not”. <sup>22</sup> Then they said, “Who are you really? We have to give an answer to those who sent us. Tell us what we should say about you” they asked John. <sup>23</sup> So John said, “Just as the prophet Isaiah told earlier, I am that voice in the wilderness shouting ‘Prepare a way for God\* to come’” he told them.

<sup>24-25</sup> From among the ones who were sent to ask questions, some [Pharisees]\* said, “You are not Christ, you are not Elijah, also you are not a prophet coming in the future. So with what authority are you giving baptism?” they asked John. <sup>26</sup> So John said, “I am giving water baptism. But the one coming after me is in your midst (or among you). You don't recognize him. <sup>27</sup> The one coming after me is much greater one than I am. I am useless\* to even untie the straps of his sandals”. <sup>28</sup> This event took place in the town called Bethany on the east side of the Jordan river where John was giving baptism.

### Revealing that Jesus is God's son

<sup>29</sup> The next day John having seen Jesus coming to him said,

“Look! He is God's lamb who is carrying away the sins of the people of the world. <sup>30</sup> Before this, ‘Whoever comes after me, he is greater

\* **1:1** The Word: meaning Jesus Christ. — \* **1:5** The world which is full of sinful works, having turned from God's way. — \* **1:6** He is not the apostle John. — \* **1:11** They also call them Jews. — \* **1:13** They became children through God giving his spirit to them. — \* **1:18** Meaning that father God and the son Jesus are one. — \* **1:19** Levites are from the branch of Levi. These people making sure that everything is in order in God's temple, they were helpers for the priests' work. — \* **1:21** He was an ancient a prophet before John the Baptist. The Jews believe that before Christ comes, that prophet would come again. — \* **1:23** God: or Lord. — \* **Pharisees**: One of the groups of elders from the Jews were the Pharisees. They used to say with pride that they obeyed God's laws. And having made up many rules-and-regulations and rituals-and-customs of their own minds, they used to also force them on other people to follow. But they [read:the Pharisees] did not always follow them. (Matthew 12:2) — \* **1:27** He is a great master. I am not even worthy to become his slave.

than me. Because he was alive even before me\*, I had told about him. <sup>31</sup> I did not recognize who he really was. But having said that he might reveal himself to the people of Israel, I gave baptism. <sup>32</sup> Then I saw the sky having opened and God's Holy Spirit descending on Jesus like a dove. <sup>33</sup> That God who sent me to give water baptism said, 'On whom you see the Holy Spirit like a dove having descended and sitting, he is the giver of the [Holy Spirit]\* baptism\*. If [he had] not told like that, I would not have recognized him. <sup>34</sup> Having seen all this said, 'He is God's son\*'"

like-that John the Baptist testified about Jesus.

### Jesus' first disciples

<sup>35</sup> On the next day at four in the afternoon, John and also two of his [disciples] were standing there. <sup>36</sup> Just then Jesus was passing by from there. Having seen him said, "**Look! God's lamb**" John told his disciples. <sup>37</sup> Having heard that, those two disciples followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> So having seen them following him, Jesus turned around (and said), "What do you want?". So they said, "Teacher!\* Where do you live?". <sup>39</sup> So Jesus said, "Come and see". It was about four in the afternoon then. So having gone to where he was staying, they were there with him on that day. <sup>40</sup> One of those two who had heard John's message and followed Jesus was called Andrew. This man was Simon-Peter's younger brother. <sup>41</sup> That Andrew having met his older brother Simon-Peter and told, "Brother! We have seen the Christ\*". <sup>42</sup> And he brought him to Jesus. So Jesus having seen him said, "You are John's\* son Simon. But from now on may they call you Cephas\*". They also call him Peter.<sup>a</sup>

### Jesus calling Philip and Nathaniel

<sup>43</sup> On the next day Jesus decided to go Galilee area. So having seen Philip on the way he said, "**Come with me**" Jesus told. <sup>44</sup> That Philip, Andrew and Peter were all three from the town of Bethsaida. <sup>45</sup> Philip went to find Nathaniel. After meeting him said, "We have met the one written about in Moses' religious law and in the writings of other prophets. He is Jesus, the son of Joseph of Nazareth town" Philip told. <sup>46</sup> Having heard that Nathaniel said, "Uh uh! Can anything good be got in Nazareth?" he asked Philip. So, "Come and see" Philip said. <sup>47</sup> So when Nathaniel was coming to Jesus, having seen him said, "Look! He is a true Israelite. In him there is no deceit" Jesus told about him. <sup>48</sup> So Nathaniel said, "How do you know about me?". So Jesus said, "Before Philip called you, I saw you while you were below the fig tree". <sup>49</sup> Then Nathaniel said, "Oh teacher! You are God's son and you are Israelite's king!". <sup>50</sup> So Jesus said, "Are you putting faith due to the telling that I saw you while you were under the fig tree, or what? You will see even bigger works than these. <sup>51</sup> What those are, the sky having opened, you will see God's angels from heaven descending and ascending on Heaven's Man.\*<sup>b</sup> This is true".

### Making water into grape juice

**2** Two days after this happened, in Galilee area, in the town called Cana, \*a wedding happened. Jesus' mother was there. <sup>2</sup> Jesus and his [disciples] were also invited to the wedding. So they went there. <sup>3</sup> At the feast the grape juice finished. So mother said, "The grape juice with them finished" she said to Jesus. <sup>4</sup> So Jesus said, "Why are you telling me mum? The time for

\* **1:30** Jesus was alive as a word even before the creation of the world. \* *Holy Spirit*: The Holy Spirit is there since before creation and is working in the world even now. And it makes people realize that they need God. Like that in many ways it helps those who have put faith in Jesus. The Bible tells that there is only one true God. And he is one [God] in three ways. Meaning God the father, God the son, and God the holy spirit. While Jesus was taking baptism, we can see about these three. When God the son, who is Jesus, was coming out of the water, then God the holy spirit descended on him from heaven in the form of a dove, and God the Father spoke from heaven above. These three are separate but united in their characteristics, [so] we call him as one God. (Acts 1:8) \* **1:33** This means that the sinners hearts are made holy by the spirit's power. \* **1:34** He who God appointed. \* **1:38** *Teacher*: or 'Rabbi'. \* **1:41** *Christ*: In the Hebrew language, they say Messaiah. It's meaning is the king that God appointed and was sending in order to save the people. The Jews were looking for him. \* **1:42** He is not the John the Baptist. \* **1:42** The meaning of both these names is rock. \* **1:51** On God's son who came as a man. \* **2:1** In some places it says three days.

<sup>a</sup> **1:42** Matthew 16:18    <sup>b</sup> **1:51** Genesis 28:12

revealing who I am is not yet come” he told mother. <sup>5</sup>Then mother with the serving-ones said, “Do as he tells”. <sup>6</sup>In order for Jews to do deed of cleansing, there were six large-pots carved from rock. Each large-pot used to hold seven-or-eight water-carriers of water. <sup>7</sup>Jesus said, “Fill those large-pots with water” he told the serving-ones. So they filled those large-pots completely. <sup>8</sup>Then Jesus said, “Now you all! Draw some of it and take it to the master of the feast”, he told like that. So they took [it]. <sup>9-10</sup>That master of the feast tasted the grape juice that was from water. Those servants knew where that juice came from and how it was prepared. But the master of the feast did not know. So that man having called the bridegroom said, “Everyone else having poured good juice\* first, after the crowd became drunk, [they] pour untasty grape juice. But you have caused the best juice to be poured even at the end”. <sup>11</sup>Like this in Galilee area's village called Cana having done this glorious sign Jesus showed his power. Therefore his disciples put faith on him.

<sup>12</sup> After that Jesus, his mother, brothers and disciples gathered and went to the town called Capernaum. And for some days they were there.

### Jesus going to the temple

(Matthew 21:12-13; Mark 11:15-17; Luke 19:45-46)

<sup>13-14</sup> The Jew's Passover festival came near. So Jesus went to Jerusalem. After reaching there, Jesus went to God's temple. In that [temple's]\* courtyard there were business people selling bulls, sheep and doves for giving sacrifices and also money-exchangers. <sup>15</sup> Having seen that, Jesus having made a like a whip with ropes, he chased the sheep-and-bulls and everyone from the temple. Having scattered the money of those money-exchangers, he turned their tables upside-down. <sup>16</sup> He said to those selling doves, “Don't make my father's house like a market. Take all these things out from here”.

\* **2:9-10** The Jews having extracted grape juice, and having kept it for many days, cause it to ferment. After it has changed like wine they drink it. \* **Temple:** In ancient times in the country of Israel, in order for the Jews to worship God and to give sacrifices, there was a huge temple. Surrounding the temple was also a large courtyard. This temple was only in Jerusalem. (John 2:20) \* **Raising back to life:** Having died and coming back to life is called resurrection. Jesus raised several people to life after they had died. Like that, Jesus' believers will also be raised to an eternal spiritual body after dying. (1 Corinthians 15:12-34) \* **Pharisees:** One of the groups of elders from the Jews were the Pharisees. They used to say with pride that they obeyed God's laws. And having made up many rules-and-regulations and rituals-and-customs of their own minds, they used to also force them on other people to follow. But they [read:the Pharisees] did not always follow them. (Matthew 12:2) \* **3:3** In the Greek language it has “Cannot see the kingdom of God”.

<sup>a</sup> **2:17** Psalms 69:9    <sup>b</sup> **3:5** Ezekiel 36:25-28

<sup>17</sup> Having seen that, “Due to desiring that people give much respect to your house, others are strongly opposing me”<sup>a</sup> the disciples remembered that it is written in the scripture.

<sup>18</sup> But the Jewish authorities having come to Jesus said, “If God has given you authority to do like this, [then] show us a sign?”. <sup>19</sup> So Jesus said, “Break down this temple. I will come back and build it in three days”.

<sup>20</sup> Having heard that the Jews having become amazed said, “It took forty six years to build this temple. You can build it in three days?” they said to Jesus. <sup>21</sup> But Jesus told this message about the temple of his own body. <sup>22</sup> The disciples, after Jesus' death and [resurrection]\*, having remembered this, put their faith on the word that is written in [scripture] and on what Jesus said.

### Jesus knows what is in a man's heart

<sup>23</sup> In Jerusalem during the days of the Passover festival, having seen the miraculous deeds that Jesus did, many people put faith in him. <sup>24-25</sup> But Jesus did not trust them. Due to Jesus knowing everyone's hearts, no one else needs to testify to Jesus about others.

### You will have to take birth once again

**3** There was an important Jewish authority of the [Pharisees]\* called Nicodemus. <sup>2</sup> One night time he went to Jesus (and said), “Teacher, we know that ‘you are one who has come from God’. Because without God's help, no one can do the miracles that you do”. <sup>3</sup> Then Jesus said, “A man cannot partake in\* the kingdom of God without taking new birth. This matter is true” he told Nicodemus. <sup>4</sup> Then Nicodemus said, “How can an old man take birth again? Is he able to enter into his mother's womb once more to take birth, or what?” he asked Jesus. <sup>5</sup> So Jesus said, “A man cannot enter the kingdom of God without the birth of water and of the spirit.<sup>b</sup> This matter is true”. <sup>6</sup> “Parents are able to give



physical birth. But God's spirit is able to give birth to spirit. <sup>7</sup> Therefore you do not be amazed if [I] say '[You] must take a new birth'. <sup>8</sup> The wind blows from whichever side it desires. You hear the noise of that wind but where that wind comes from, and where it goes you do not know. It is also the same way being born with God's spirit" Jesus told.

<sup>9</sup> So Nicodemus said, "How can this happen?" he asked Jesus. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said, "You are an important teacher of the Israelite people. And you don't know about this?". <sup>11</sup> "We tell about what we know and what we have seen. This matter is true. But you do not believe our testimony. <sup>12</sup> You do not put faith when I tell you a message about this world. So how will you put faith if I tell a message about heaven?". <sup>13</sup> "Except for me, Heaven's Man, who came down from heaven, no one else has gone to heaven above. <sup>14</sup> Just as Moses in the wilderness made a bronze snake and dangled it on a tall stick,<sup>a</sup> like that I who am Heaven's Man must also be hung up on the log. <sup>15</sup> Doing like that those who put their faith in me will get eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> "Due to God loving the people of the world very much he sent his only son to the earth. He did like this so that everyone putting faith on his son, would get eternal life without being destroyed. <sup>17</sup> God did not send his son in order to punish the people of the world but he sent [him] in order to save [them].

<sup>18</sup> "Whoever believes in him will not be judged. But he who does not believe, due to him not believing in God's only son, has already been judged. <sup>19</sup> Because he brought light for all the world's people. But people while doing their bad works, liked being in darkness. This is the reason for that judgement. <sup>20</sup> Every man who does bad works does not like the light. In order to keep his bad works hidden, he will not come to the light. <sup>21</sup> But he who follows truth, will come to the light in order to show that his works are happening through God".

### John telling witness about Jesus

<sup>22</sup> After that, Jesus and his [disciples] having gone to the area of Judea, while causing [them] to give baptism to people, he was there for some days. <sup>23</sup> Due to there being much water nearby Salim at a place called Aenon, John was giving baptism there. <sup>24</sup> So people having gone were taking baptism. This event happened before John had fallen into jail. <sup>25</sup> One day, an argument about becoming ritually clean started between a Jew and John's disciples. <sup>26</sup> So the disciples having come to John said, "Teacher! The one who was with you on the other side of the Jordan River, and about whom you gave witness, he is now giving baptism. Everyone is going to him". <sup>27</sup> So John said "Unless God gives it from heaven no one can take anything. <sup>28</sup> You all are witness that 'I am not the Christ. But I am the messenger sent before him'. <sup>29</sup> For example, say that the groom is the important one at the marriage. He is the bride's master. His [the groom's] friend will be very happy to stand near to that groom and to do according to what he tells. In the same way I am very happy. My happiness is complete. <sup>30</sup> Because I should become of lower status and higher status should come to Jesus.

<sup>31</sup> "He who came from heaven is above everyone else. We are of the earth and we speak about matters that will happen on the earth. Whoever has come from heaven, is above everyone else. <sup>32</sup> He will testify about what he has seen and heard there. But no one will accept his testimony. <sup>33–35</sup> Due to God loving his son, he handed over all his authority to him. Due to him being completely filled with his given spirit, he will only speak God's words. Anyone who accepts his testimony shows that the words Jesus told about God are true. <sup>36</sup> Anyone who has faith in God's son, will get eternal life. Anyone who does not have faith in him, does not get eternal life. But God's anger will be on him" John the baptist told.

<sup>a</sup> 3:14 Numbers 21:9

### Jesus talking to a woman at the well

**4** The [Pharisees]<sup>\*</sup> heard that Jesus was making more [disciples] and giving them baptism than John.<sup>2</sup> (In reality Jesus himself did not give baptism. But his disciples were giving.)<sup>3</sup> After hearing this message, having left Judea, Jesus left to go to the area of Galilee.

<sup>4</sup> But now, he had to cross the area of Samaria.<sup>5</sup> Like that while crossing the area of Samaria, he reached a town called Sychar, near to the land<sup>a</sup> that Jacob gave his son Joseph.<sup>6</sup> There was a well that Jacob had caused to be dug. Due to having come walking a long distance, Jesus, having become tired, was sitting beside that well at midday.<sup>7–8</sup> At that time, his disciples went into the town in order to buy food. Just then a Samaritan woman came in order to take water from the well. So Jesus said, “Sister, give me water to drink” he asked that woman.

<sup>9</sup> The Jews and the Samaritans used to live separately. Therefore having heard Jesus' words that woman having become amazed said, “Ya-yah! You are a Jew. I am a Samaritan. How do you ask ‘Give (me) water to drink?’” she said.<sup>10</sup> Having heard that, Jesus said, “You do not know about the one who is asking ‘Give water to drink’, or about God's gift. If you knew these, you would instead ask me for that and I would give you living water” he told her.<sup>11</sup> Then the woman said, “Sir! You don't have either a rope or a bucket with you in order to draw water. This well is very deep. Where will you get that living water?”<sup>12</sup> Our forefather Jacob gave this well to us. He himself, and his sons, and their cattle also drank from this well. Are you greater than Jacob [or what]?” she asked Jesus.<sup>13</sup> So Jesus said, “Everyone who drinks this water will thirst again.<sup>14</sup> But the drinker of the water I am giving will never thirst (again). The water I am giving to live forever, will be like a spring of water always flowing inside him,”.

<sup>15</sup> So that woman said, “Sir! In order to never be thirsty and to not come to draw water, give me that water” she asked Jesus.<sup>16</sup> Then Jesus said, “Having gone, and having called your husband, bring [him]”.<sup>17</sup> So the woman said, “I don't have a husband” she said. Having heard that, “Yes, that's true,<sup>18</sup> you had five

husbands earlier. Now he who is with you is not your husband. Sister, what you told is true” he said to that woman.

<sup>19</sup> Then the woman said, “Sir! I am realising that you are a prophet.<sup>20</sup> So tell me this thing: We worship on this Gerazim hill. Here itself our ancestors also worshipped. But why do you Jews tell that only Jerusalem is the true worship doing place?” she talked with Jesus.<sup>21–23</sup> So Jesus said, “Sister! You Samaritans don't know whom you worship. But we know who we worship. Because from among our Jewish people the work of salvation will come. At that time you all will not worship father God either on this hill or in Jerusalem. But the true worshipers should worship him truly in their spirit. Now that time has come. Believe on this word I have told you. Father God is looking for people who would worship him like that.<sup>24</sup> Due to God being a spirit, his worshippers should worship him truly in their spirit” Jesus told the woman.<sup>25</sup> Then the woman said to Jesus, “I know that Christ<sup>\*</sup> will come. It seems that after he comes he will tell everyone everything openly” she told Jesus.<sup>26</sup> So, “I am that man,” Jesus told the woman.

<sup>27</sup> Just then Jesus' disciples came there. Having seen him speaking to the woman, they were very surprised. But none of them asked either ‘What do you want?’ like-that to the woman, or ‘Why did you speak to that woman?’ like-that to Jesus.

<sup>28</sup> Having left her clay pot there, that woman went off to the town.<sup>29</sup> And she said to people, “He told me about everything I have done until now. Could that man perhaps be the Christ? You all come and see”.<sup>30</sup> So having come out from that town, they were coming to the place where Jesus was.

<sup>31</sup> At that time, his disciples said, “Respected teacher! Eat something” they pleaded to Jesus.<sup>32</sup> But Jesus said, “I have food to eat that you don't know [about]”.<sup>33</sup> So the disciples said, “Could someone have brought food for the teacher?” they said to each other.<sup>34</sup> Then Jesus said, “My food is to follow the desire of God who sent me and to complete his work.<sup>35</sup> For example you say, ‘After sowing the seeds, in four months the harvest

<sup>\*</sup> *Pharisees*: One of the groups of elders from the Jews were the Pharisees. They used to say with pride that they obeyed God's laws. And having made up many rules-and-regulations and rituals-and-customs of their own minds, they used to also force them on other people to follow. But they [read:the Pharisees] did not always follow them. (Matthew 12:2) — <sup>\*</sup> *4:25 Christ*: In the Hebrew language, they say Messaiah. It's meaning is the king that God appointed and was sending in order to save the people. The Jews were looking for him.

<sup>a</sup> **4:5** Genesis 33:19; Joshua 24:32

will come'. But look towards the fields. That harvest is now ready to cut<sup>\*</sup>" I am telling you. <sup>36</sup> "The reapers are getting the daily wage now. The crop that he reapers get is bringing people into eternal life. Through this both the sowers and the reapers will be able to be happy together. <sup>37</sup> 'One man is a sower and another man is a reaper' is a saying that is true. <sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that crop which you did not take the trouble of planting. Other people took the trouble to sow the seed. You are all taking the fruit of their trouble".

<sup>39</sup> "He told me about all I have done before I told him" that woman said. So, on hearing that testimony many people of that Samaritan town believed in Jesus. <sup>40</sup> The Samaritans having come to him said, "[Respected] teacher! Having come to us you must stay" the pleaded. So Jesus was with them for two days. <sup>41</sup> Having directly heard the words Jesus told, many more became believers. <sup>42</sup> (They said), "We believed, not just according to what you said, but having heard his message directly, having come to know that he is the Christ, the saviour of the world" having said they told the woman.

### Jesus heals an official's son

(Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10)

<sup>43</sup> Two days later Jesus left to go to Galilee area. <sup>44</sup> (Jesus had earlier said that, 'A prophet does not get respect in his home area.') <sup>45</sup> But even then, after he in Galilee area, the people from there, having given him respect, welcomed him. Because, while the Passover festival was going on, they had gone to Jerusalem and had seen Jesus' miraculous works. <sup>46</sup> While going-and-going like that, he arrived at Cana town in Galilee, where previously he had caused water to be changed into grape juice. There was a king's officer in the town called Capernaum. His son was sick and about to die. <sup>47</sup> So that officer, having heard that Jesus had come from Judea to the area of Galilee, went to Jesus. And said, "My son is sick and about to die. You must come and heal him" he pleaded. <sup>48</sup> So Jesus said, "Will you not believe in me without wonders and miraculous works?". <sup>49</sup> But even then that officer said, "Lord! Come before my son's life goes". <sup>50</sup> Then, "Go home. Your son will live" Jesus told. So the officer

put his trust in Jesus word and left. <sup>51</sup> While he was on the way like that, his servants having come before [him] said, "Your son is healed". <sup>52</sup> So the officer asked, "At what time did he become healed?" he asked the servants. Then they said, "Yesterday afternoon at one o'clock he became well". <sup>53</sup> Having realized it was at that time Jesus had said, 'Your son will live', the officer and his household members put their faith in Jesus. <sup>54</sup> Having come from Judea area to Galilee, this was the second glorious sign that Jesus did.

### Healing the paralyzed man

**5** After that, due to a Jewish festival approaching, Jesus went up to Jerusalem city. <sup>2</sup> In Jerusalem, near a place called the Sheep's Gate, there was a [man-made] pool called Bethesda in the Hebrew language. At that pool there were five porches. <sup>3-4</sup> \* [At that pool sometimes God's angel having descended used to stir up the water. Then whoever was first to descend [into the water] used to be healed of whatever disease.] All kinds of sick people - the blind, the handicapped people, and paralyzed - used to stay at those porches. <sup>5</sup> Among them, there was a man who had been sick for thirty eight years. <sup>6</sup> Having seen the man, Jesus, having known he was suffering for many years with sickness said, "Do you want to become well?" he asked him. <sup>7</sup> So that man said, "Lord! There is nobody to lower me into that pool while the water is shaking. Therefore, while I am coming to descend someone else will descend before me". <sup>8</sup> Then Jesus said, "Get up! Take your sleeping-mat and go home" he said. <sup>9</sup> As soon as said like that, having become well, having taken his sleeping-mat, he went walking.

This incident happened on the Jew's rest day. <sup>10</sup> So the Jews said, "Due to today being the rest day, carrying your sleeping-mat is against the religious law" they said to the healed man. <sup>11</sup> But he said, "The one who healed me said 'Take your sleeping-mat and go'" he told them. <sup>12</sup> So they asked, "Who told you to 'Take your sleeping-mat and go?'". <sup>13</sup> But he could not tell. Because there was a big crowd of people, Jesus mixed into the crowd and went off. <sup>14</sup> After that Jesus, having seen him at the [temple] courtyard, said, "Look, listen! You have been healed. In order to avoid more sorrow, don't

\* **4:35** The harvest is bringing people to God's presence. What it means is that many Samaritan people were coming to Jesus. He said [my] food is to tell them about God's way. \* **5:3-4** These words are not in some ancient Greek scriptures.

do sinful deeds”.<sup>15</sup> Then, having gone to the Jewish authorities, said, “It was Jesus who healed me”.

<sup>16</sup> As a result of Jesus doing works like these on the rest day, those Jewish authorities started persecuting Jesus.<sup>17</sup> But Jesus said, “Due to my father always working, I am also working”.<sup>18</sup> So, for this reason the Jewish authorities said, “Not only is he sliding away from our law of a rest day, (but) having told that God is his father, he is making himself as great as God” due to these two reasons they decided that they should kill Jesus.

### God's authority is with Jesus

<sup>19</sup> So Jesus explained to them like this: “This is true. God's son cannot do anything by himself. The son will only do that which he has seen the father do. However father God does, in that way the son will do.”<sup>20</sup> Due to the father loving the son, he is showing the son all his work. Having seen the great works my father causes the son to do in the future, you will be very amazed.<sup>21</sup> How the father causes the dead to rise [to life], like that the son himself will also cause-to-live those whom he chooses.<sup>22</sup> The father does not judge anyone. But he gave his son the complete authority to judge.<sup>23</sup> God gave that authority into his son's hand so that everyone should also respect the son just as they respect him. If anyone does not respect the son he sent, they will also not be counted as someone giving respect to the father.<sup>24</sup> Having heard my message and having put faith in the one who sent me, he will get eternal life. That kind of man will escape the coming punishment for sins. Having escaped death, he has got eternal life.

<sup>25</sup> “This is true. The time is coming (when) the dead ones will hear the word of God's son. Now that (time) has come. Those who hear and follow that word will live forever.”<sup>26</sup> Just as God is the owner of life, like that he gave his son the authority for giving eternal life.<sup>27</sup> Due to him being Heaven's Man, the father gave him the authority to judge people.<sup>28</sup> You don't be amazed! A time is coming. At that time, having heard the word of God's son, all the dead ones in their graves, having

risen [to life] they will come out.<sup>29</sup> The son, having judged those having [risen]<sup>\*</sup> and come out, from among them he will give eternal life to righteous ones and he will punish sinners.<sup>30</sup> I do not judge according to my wish but according the wish of the one who sent me. By myself I cannot do anything. I will judge people in the way my father tells me to. Whatever I judge is just.

### Testimonies about Jesus

<sup>31</sup> “If I testify about myself, they will not accept my testimony as true.”<sup>32</sup> Someone is there to testify about me. I know that the testimony he is telling is true.

<sup>33</sup> “You sent some people to John. His testimony is true.”<sup>34–35</sup> John was giving light like a burning lamp. You all were very happy for a short time with his light. So that you may be saved, I am telling these words.

“But I do not need mankind's testimony.”<sup>36</sup> Because there is a testimony greater than John's with me. That is the miraculous works that I did. God handed over these works to me to do. These prove that the father sent me.<sup>37</sup> And that father is testifying about me. But you all never listened to his word and never saw his shape.<sup>38</sup> Due to you not putting your faith in the sent one, his teaching will not be in your hearts.<sup>39</sup> Thinking that you will find out about eternal life, you search the [scriptures]<sup>\*</sup> well. But those words are telling witness about me.<sup>40</sup> But even then you refuse to come to me for that eternal life.

<sup>41</sup> “I don't want honour of men.”<sup>42</sup> Because I know that you do not love God.<sup>43</sup> I have come in the name of my father. You did not accept me. But if someone else comes in his own name, you accept him with joy.<sup>44</sup> You like others giving you honour, but you don't try to get the honour that the only God gives. So, how will you be able to put your faith in me?<sup>45</sup> Don't think that I will accuse you in [the presence of] the father. But you put your hope on the prophet Moses who wrote the religious law. That Moses will accuse you.<sup>46</sup> Due to what Moses wrote about me, if you had faith in him, you would have also have had faith in me.<sup>47</sup> But if you

<sup>\*</sup> *Raising back to life:* Having died and coming back to life is called resurrection. Jesus raised several people to life after they had died. Like that, Jesus' believers will also be raised to an eternal spiritual body after dying. (1 Corinthians 15:12–34) <sup>\*</sup> *Scripture:* Due to God causing the books to be written long ago by Moses and other prophets this is called Scripture. The books written in the first century were also added to this. (2 Timothy 3:16)



do not believe the words of the law that Moses wrote, how can you believe my message?” Jesus told the Jewish authorities.

### **Jesus giving a feast to a crowd of five thousand people**

(Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17)

**6** After that, Jesus went with his disciples toward the other side of the sea of Galilee.\* <sup>2</sup> Having seen Jesus doing miracles of healing sick people, a big crowd was following him. <sup>3</sup> So, having climbed a hill Jesus sat (down) with his [disciples]. <sup>4</sup> In those days the Jewish Passover festival was approaching. <sup>5</sup> At that time, having looked up and around, Jesus saw a crowd of many people coming to him. “From where should we buy and bring food for all these people to eat?” Jesus asked Philip. <sup>6</sup> He himself knew what he was going to do. But to know what was in Philip's mind, Jesus asked like that. <sup>7</sup> So Philip said, “Even if you bought and brought food with 200 silver coins,\* it would be insufficient for each man to have even a little” he gave an answer. <sup>8-9</sup> Then from among his disciples, Simon-Peter's younger brother, Andrew, said “Here, with one boy are five (loaves of) bread and two small fish. But these will not be enough for this many people” he told Jesus. <sup>10</sup> So, as there was grass for sitting there, Jesus said, “You make the people sit on it”. So, without counting the children and women, approximately five thousand (5,000) males sat [to eat]. <sup>11</sup> Then Jesus, having held the breads, having said thanks to God, he gave to be distributed. Like that he gave the fish. They ate as much as they could eat. <sup>12</sup> After the people had fully eaten, he said “To prevent even a little being wasted, gather all the remaining pieces” he told the disciples. <sup>13</sup> So the disciples filled twelve large baskets, by gathering the leftover pieces from the five breads that were eaten. <sup>14</sup> Having seen that glorious sign, the people became amazed. And they said, “Truly he is the prophet<sup>a</sup> who has to come into this world”. <sup>15</sup> So Jesus, having known the people would forcefully (try) to make him king, he went alone toward the a hill.

### **Jesus walking on water of the sea**

(Matthew 14:22-27; Mark 6:45-52)

<sup>16-17</sup> While the sun was setting that day, Jesus' disciples having gone near the shore of the Sea of Galilee, were waiting for Jesus. But even though it was becoming dark, Jesus had not yet returned. So the disciples left in a boat to go to Capernaum on the other side of the sea. <sup>18</sup> Just at that time a big wind-storm rose up, increasing the sea's waves. <sup>19</sup> After making the boat go about three or four 'kosk' (1 kosk=one and a half kilometres), having seen Jesus coming towards their boat walking on the water, they were very afraid. <sup>20</sup> But Jesus said, “Don't fear! It is me” he told them. <sup>21</sup> Then they joyfully caused him to sit in that boat. Then immediately that boat arrived at the palce where they were going.

<sup>22-23</sup> On the next day some boats arrived from Tiberias city at the place where the Lord had prayed and given the feast. So, the people who stayed on the other side of the sea knew that the disciples went by only one boat. But Jesus had not gone along with them. <sup>24</sup> The crowd searched for Jesus and his disciples but they did not find any one. So having sat in those boats, they went searching for Jesus to Capernaum.

<sup>25</sup> After hey saw Jesus on the other shore of the sea, they said, “(Respected) teacher! When did you come here?”.

### **Jesus is the food that gives strength to life**

<sup>26-27</sup> So Jesus said, “You are searching for me, not because of understanding the miraculous deeds but because [you] fully ate food. Don't be eager for food that becomes rotten. But be eager for the food which keeps your life forever given by Heaven's Man. God has put his seal of authority on me to give like that. This is true”. <sup>28</sup> Then they said, “What does God want us to do?”. <sup>29</sup> So Jesus said, “God asks that you put your faith on whomever he has sent,” having said he told. <sup>30-31</sup> Having heard that they said, “Our ancestors, while coming from Egypt, ate food called manna in the wilderness.

\* **6:1** They also call it the Sea of Tiberias. \* **6:7** Two hundred silver coins were worth more than eight months' daily wages. They call these Denarius.

<sup>a</sup> **6:14** Deuteronomy 18:15,18



According to what is written in scripture, he gave them that food to eat from heaven.<sup>a</sup> So, for us now to put faith on you, what kind of glorious sign will you show?”.<sup>32</sup> Then Jesus, said, “The prophet Moses did not give that food from heaven, but my father from heaven gave (it). Now my father is giving that true food from heaven.<sup>33</sup> Whatever the father has sent from heaven, it will give life to the people of the world. This is the true food God sent”.<sup>34</sup> So they said, “Lord! Always give us that food”.<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus said, “I am the life-giving food. Those who trust in me and follow my way, their hearts will never be hungry and they will never thirst.<sup>36</sup> But as I said before, even after seeing me you did not put your faith in me.<sup>37</sup> But even then, whoever the father sends to me, they will come to me. I will not shove away anyone who comes to me.<sup>38</sup> Because having descended from heaven, I did not come in order to do my will. But I have come to do the will of the one who sent me.<sup>39</sup> What that means is that the desire of the one who sent me is that I should protect so that not even one man is lost from among those who are sent to me. On that judgement doing day, I must raise them [to life].<sup>40</sup> Because the father's desire is that he who puts faith and looks towards his son should get eternal life. On the judgement doing day I will raise [to life] the faith putting one like that” he told them.<sup>41-42</sup> Then those Jewish people, said, “‘Having descended I am the food that came from heaven,’ he says. Isn't this Jesus just Joseph's son! We know his parents. Why does he say ‘I have descended from heaven?’” they murmured.<sup>43</sup> So Jesus said, “You yourselves don't murmur” he said to them.<sup>44</sup> “In whoever's heart the father who sent me causes the desire, they come to me. Others won't come. I will raise to life on that judgement doing day whoever comes to me”.<sup>45</sup> “‘God will teach them’<sup>b</sup> like that the prophets wrote. Whoever has learned and followed according to those words, only they come to me.<sup>46</sup> I am telling that there is no one who has seen the father. Only I have seen the father and come.<sup>47</sup> It is true that whoever who puts his faith in me, will get eternal life.<sup>48</sup> I am the food of life.<sup>49</sup> Your ancestors ate that food called manna in the wilderness but even then they died.<sup>50</sup> But anyone who eats this food that comes down from heaven will never die.<sup>51</sup> I am the life-giving food that

came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this food will live forever. That food is my body. I will sacrifice that body in order to give eternal life to the world's people”.<sup>52</sup> Having heard this the Jews said, “How is he able to give us his own body to eat?” they discussed angrily among themselves.<sup>53</sup> So Jesus, said, “If you don't eat the body of Heaven's Man, or drink his blood, you cannot get this eternal life. This is true.<sup>54</sup> But anyone who eats my body and drinks my blood, he will live forever. Even if he dies, I will raise him [to life] on the judgement doing day.<sup>55</sup> Because my body is the true food and my blood is the true drink.<sup>56</sup> Anyone who eats my body and drinks my blood, we will be together - I will be in him and he will be in me.<sup>57</sup> Due to the living father sending me, I am alive. Like that anyone who eats my body will remain alive through me.<sup>58</sup> I am the true food that came from heaven. [Our] ancestors ate food called manna and died. But I am telling you that those who eat this food will live forever”.<sup>59</sup> Jesus told these things while teaching in the synagogue\* at Capernaum.

### Teaching about eternal life

<sup>60</sup> Heard these words those believers said, “This teaching is very difficult. Who will accept this teaching?” they grumbled.<sup>61-62</sup> So having known that Jesus said, “If you become angry having heard this message, how will you be if you see Heaven's Man, being taken up to the place he came from?” he said to the believers.<sup>63</sup> “The body cannot give life. Only through God's spirit are you alive. The things I say are the words of the life-giving spirit.<sup>64</sup> But among you there are some people who don't have faith” he told them. Because from the beginning Jesus knew who will not believe and who will deceive him.<sup>65</sup> And again Jesus said, “No one is able to come to me unless my father sends you. For that reason I told you all these words”.<sup>66</sup> From then on many of Jesus' followers went back and they never again followed his way.<sup>67</sup> Therefore, Jesus having turned towards his twelve disciples said, “Are you also saying let's go?”.<sup>68</sup> Then Simon-Peter said, “Lord, with whom would we go? You are the only one telling the words that give eternal life.<sup>69</sup> Having put faith we came to know that ‘You

\* 6:59 Synagogue: means the house where Jews gather together.

<sup>a</sup> 6:30-31 Psalms 78:24    <sup>b</sup> 6:45 Isaiah 54:13

are the [holy] one that God sent”.<sup>70</sup> So Jesus said, “Didn't I choose you twelve people? But one among you has the mind of Satan”.<sup>71</sup> Simon son Judas of Iscariot village, even though he was one of the twelve disciples, became a betrayer. For that reason he told this message about him.

### Jesus and his brothers

**7** After this due to the Jewish authorities wanting to kill Jesus, he did not go to the area of Judea. He was only going around in the area of Galilee.<sup>2</sup> But at that time the Jewish festival of tents<sup>a</sup> was approaching.<sup>3</sup> So Jesus' brothers said, “You go to Judea from here. Then your devotees from there will see your miracles.”<sup>4</sup> If [you stay] here you will not get honour. If you really do these miracles, show the world's people,” they told their older brother.<sup>5</sup> [This] means, even his brothers did not put their faith in Jesus.

<sup>6</sup> So Jesus, said to them, “The time has not yet come to make myself known. But you can go there whenever [you want].<sup>7</sup> The people of this world cannot stay without liking you. But due to me telling their works are wicked, those people hate me.<sup>8</sup> You go for the festival. Because my time is yet to be fulfilled, I will not go with you now” he told them.<sup>9</sup> Having told like this, Jesus stayed in Galilee.

<sup>10</sup> But after his brothers went for the festival, Jesus also went there, not openly but secretly.<sup>11</sup> While the festival was happening the Jewish authorities (saying), “Where is he?” they searched for him.<sup>12</sup> So some people from that crowd said “Jesus is a good man” said and some other people “No no, he is a deceiver of people” they quietly discussed.<sup>13</sup> But with fear of the Jewish authorities, no one spoke openly about Jesus.

### Jesus teaching in the temple during the Festival of Tents

<sup>14</sup> After half of the days of that festival were over, Jesus having gone to the [temple], began to teach.<sup>15</sup> Having heard that, they said, “This man really did not take training from any teacher. But from where did

he get this much knowledge?” the Jews were amazed.<sup>16</sup> So Jesus said, “I am not speaking my (own) words. But these [words] are God's who sent me.”<sup>17</sup> If anyone from among you wants to live according to God's desire, he will know if these words are coming from God or from me.<sup>18</sup> Whoever teaches his own words, he honours himself. But whoever wishes to honour the one who sent him, he is a trustworthy person. There is nothing wrong in him.<sup>19</sup> The prophet Moses gave you the religious law. Even then not even one from among you is following them. Instead of this you are trying to kill me,” Jesus said.<sup>20</sup> Having heard that the people who had come from different villages said, “Ehe! Who (are) are looking to kill you? Are possessed by an [evil-spirit], or what?”.<sup>21</sup> So Jesus said, “You all were very amazed having seen the miracle I did on the rest day.<sup>22</sup> It is in Moses' law that you should [circumcise]<sup>\*</sup> your sons. This custom was not started by Moses. But it came from (our) ancestors. But even then you are also doing this deed on the rest day.<sup>23</sup> Why are you angry with me? You think that if you circumcise a boy on the rest day it is not breaking Moses' law. But if I heal a man on that day you call me a law-breaker.<sup>24</sup> Don't judge by outer appearance. But having thought, you [should] judge justly” Jesus told.

### Is Jesus the Christ?

<sup>25</sup> Then some people from Jerusalem said, “Isn't this man the one that those authorities are searching for in order to kill?” they started saying like that.<sup>26</sup> “Look! He is openly speaking. But even then no one is saying anything. Perhaps the authorities know that he is the true Christ?<sup>27</sup> But when Christ comes, no one will know where he comes from. We know where he is from” they spoke.<sup>28</sup> Then while Jesus was teaching in the temple he said “You think that you know whose I am and where I have come from. But I did not come here by myself. The one who sent me is the righteous one. You don't know who he is.<sup>29</sup> But I know him. Due to his command [for me] to go, I have come here,” he told loudly.<sup>30</sup> At that time the authorities tried to catch him. But no one could lay a hand on him. Because

<sup>\*</sup> *Circumcision*: Cutting the foreskin of the penis. Normally this deed is done to baby boys. This was a sign of the Jews. It show they are God's chosen people. Abraham's descendents do this deed according to God's command. (Acts 7:8) — <sup>\*</sup> **7:22** There is a command in Moses' law that on the 8th day [after] a baby-boy is born, the circumcision deed must be done.

<sup>a</sup> **7:2** festival of tents: Leviticus 23:39-43

his time was yet to be fulfilled. <sup>31</sup> But even then (the people said), “When Christ comes, will he do even more miracles than him?” having said, many people put their faith in him. <sup>32</sup> The [Pharisees]\* heard these quietly whispered words and these Pharisees and chief priests having gathered together, sent the temple guards to catch Jesus. <sup>33</sup> Then Jesus said, “For a little while, I will be with you. After that time is fulfilled, I will return to the one who sent me. <sup>34</sup> You may search for me, but you will not find me. Where I have gone you cannot come”. <sup>35</sup> The Jewish authorities said to themselves, “Where would he be going if we can't find him even if we look for him? Perhaps, having gone to the Jewish people who have spread out to other countries, will he tell God's teaching to those\* who don't know about God? <sup>36</sup> Saying ‘You may search for me but you will not find me. Where I am going you cannot come’ what does it mean?” they spoke.

### Jesus promising life sustaining water

<sup>37</sup> The final day of that festival is very important. So on that day Jesus, having stood up, said, “He who is thirsty, having come to me should drink water. <sup>38</sup> In whoever puts their faith in me, as it is said in the [scripture], ‘Life sustaining water will be flowing from his inside’ just”. <sup>39</sup> Jesus told that matter about life sustaining water flowing out, about those who believed on him getting God's spirit. Jesus had not yet resurrected. Therefore the spirit had not yet come to them. <sup>40</sup> Some people listening to these words said, “This man really is the prophet that is to come in the future”. <sup>41</sup> Some other people said, “He is the Christ”. So some other people said, “No! How will Christ come from Galilee? <sup>42</sup> ‘Christ will be born from the line of David and he will come from David's the town of Bethlehem’ doesn't the scripture tell like that?”. <sup>43</sup> Because of Jesus a division arose among the people. <sup>44</sup> So some people

were trying to catch him. But no one could lay a hand on him.

### The Jewish authorities rejected putting faith on Jesus

<sup>45</sup> After the temple guards returned empty handed, “Why didn't you catch him?” the chief priests and Pharisees asked. <sup>46</sup> So the temple guards said, “Until now, no one has spoken as that man speaks”. <sup>47</sup> So the Pharisees said, “Did he also deceive you? <sup>48</sup> Has even one man, either from among the authorities or from the Pharisees put their faith in Jesus? No, no one has put [faith]. <sup>49</sup> But without knowing the religious law, these foolish people put their faith in him. God's curse will be on them” they told the temple guards. <sup>50</sup> From among those who had come to Jesus earlier, a man called Nicodemus was among those authorities. <sup>51</sup> So Nicodemus said, “Are we able to judge him according to the religious law without listening to his testimony, and without knowing what he did? Surely we cannot!” he told them. <sup>52</sup> So they said, “Hey fool! Are you also a Galilean? Read the scripture properly. It says that no prophet will come from Galilee” they mocked.

### A woman caught doing adultery

<sup>53</sup> \* [After that happened, they all went home.

**8** But Jesus went up to the Mount of Olive Trees. <sup>2</sup> Very early in the morning on the next day, he returned to the [temple]. Then many people gathered around him. So Jesus sat in order to teach them. <sup>3</sup> Then the religious-teachers and [Pharisees]\* brought a woman who was caught while she was committing adultery. Having made that woman stand in the middle of everyone, <sup>4</sup> “(Respected) teacher! This woman was caught while committing adultery. <sup>5</sup> There is a command in Moses' law that this kind of woman should

\* *Pharisees*: One of the groups of elders from the Jews were the Pharisees. They used to say with pride that they obeyed God's laws. And having made up many rules-and-regulations and rituals-and-customs of their own minds, they used to also force them on other people to follow. But they [read:the Pharisees] did not always follow them. (Matthew 12:2) \* **7:32** *Pharisees*: The Pharisees were important people in the Jewish religion. They said everyone should follow God's customs. But they themselves thought up the customs and rules having prepared them very [carefully] these also should be followed like that they said. \* **7:35** Here it is “Greeks”. But according to the Jews “Greeks” means all the other tribes. \* **7:53–8:11** This section is not in some ancient manuscripts. \* *Pharisees*: One of the groups of elders from the Jews were the Pharisees. They used to say with pride that they obeyed God's laws. And having made up many rules-and-regulations and rituals-and-customs of their own minds, they used to also force them on other people to follow. But they [read:the Pharisees] did not always follow them. (Matthew 12:2)

be killed by stoning. So what do you say?” they asked Jesus.<sup>6</sup> They asked Jesus this question so they could find fault in order to accuse him. But having bent down, Jesus was writing on the ground.<sup>7</sup> They did not give up. So Jesus, having lifted his head and looking towards them said, “Whoever among you has never sinned, can throw the first stone, on this woman”.<sup>8</sup> And he bent over again and was writing on the ground.<sup>9</sup> Having heard that message, those who brought her, starting from the older men one after the other they went from there. So only that woman was standing before Jesus.<sup>10</sup> So Jesus, having lifted his head once more said, “Sister! Where are the people who brought you? Didn't anyone punish you?”.<sup>11</sup> So that woman said, “They didn't put [punishment] Lord!”. Then Jesus said, “I also do not punish you. Go from here and don't sin any more”.]

### Jesus is the light of the world

<sup>12</sup> Again Jesus said to the people, “I am like light to the people. Those who follow me do not walk in darkness. I will give them light for showing life's path”.<sup>13</sup> So the Pharisees said, “You are testifying about yourself. We are not able to accept that testimony as true”<sup>\*</sup> they said like that.<sup>14</sup> Then Jesus said, “[You] will have to accept the testimony I am telling as true. Because I know where I came from and where I am going. But you do not know about that.<sup>15</sup> You judge according to the outer appearance like ordinary people do. But I will not judge anyone in that way.<sup>16</sup> Also, even if I judge, my judgement is true. Because while judging, the father who sent me is also with me.<sup>17</sup> ‘Two people's witness is true’<sup>a</sup> like that it is written in your religious law.<sup>18</sup> I am the first witness and the second witness is my father who sent me” he told them.<sup>19</sup> Then having heard they said, “Where is your father?”. So Jesus said, “You do not know either me or my father. If you knew me, you would also know my father” he told them.<sup>20</sup> He told these words having stood near to the offering putting place inside the temple. But even then no one caught him. Because his time was yet to be fulfilled.

<sup>\*</sup> **8:13** According to Moses' law, in order to accept any matter, two or three testimonies are necessary. <sup>\*</sup> **8:32** You will know the truthful one. He will set you free.

<sup>a</sup> **8:17** Deuteronomy 17:6

### You cannot come where I go

<sup>21</sup> Then once more Jesus said, “I will go. You may search for me, but you will not find me. You will die without your sins being forgiven. Because of this you cannot come where I go” he told them.<sup>22</sup> So those Jews said, “He said we cannot come to where he goes. Perhaps he may kill himself?” they talked.<sup>23</sup> Then Jesus, “You are all people of this world. And your thoughts are about this world. I belong to heaven. And my thoughts are different.<sup>24</sup> For that reason I told you that you will die without your sins being forgiven. If you don't believe in what I have said about me, you will die without your sins being forgiven”.<sup>25</sup> So they said, “Who are you, really?”. Then Jesus said, “Since the beginning I am telling who I am, and I am him.<sup>26</sup> In order to judge you, I have many things about you. But, only those things which I heard from the one who sent me, I am telling the people of the world. Due to him being the truthful one, his judgement is true”.<sup>27</sup> But, they did not understand that Jesus had told about his father God.<sup>28</sup> So Jesus, “When you dangle Heaven's Man up on the log, then you will know who I am. Not only that, I cannot do anything by myself. But you will also know that whatever the father taught to me, those things I have told you.<sup>29</sup> My sending one is with me. Due to always doing the deeds that give him joy, he will never leave me alone” told.<sup>30</sup> Having heard these words, many people put their faith in him.

### Abraham's lineage and Satan's lineage

<sup>31</sup> Therefore Jesus said to the Jews who put faith on him, “If you walk according to my word, you will truly become my [disciples].<sup>32</sup> Then you will know the truth.”<sup>\*</sup> That truth will make you free” he told them.<sup>33</sup> “We are Abraham's descendants. Until now we were not slaves to anyone. But how do you say ‘[You] will make us free?’” having said they asked Jesus.<sup>34</sup> So Jesus said, “Every sin doing one becomes a slave to sin.<sup>35</sup> A slave man will never be a household member. But a son is always with the household members.<sup>36</sup> Therefore



if God's son sets you free from sin, you will be truly free like household members. <sup>37</sup>I know you are all Abraham's descendants. But even then you are looking to kill me. Because there is no place for my word inside you. <sup>38</sup>I am telling what I have seen at my father's place. Like that you are also doing according to what you heard from your father. This is true" he told them. <sup>39</sup>So they said, "Our father is Abraham". Then Jesus said, "If you were Abraham's descendants, you would also do just as Abraham did. <sup>40</sup>Due to [the fact that] I said the truth and heard from God, you are looking to kill me. But Abraham didn't do like that. <sup>41</sup>You are doing just as your father did". So they said, "We were not born from adultery. God is our only father" the said. <sup>42</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "If God were your father, you would look at me lovingly. I did not come here by myself. God sent me. <sup>43</sup>Due to not accepting the words which I told, you are not understanding. <sup>44</sup>You belong to Satan's side. He is your father. You try to fulfil your father's evil desires. Having become a murderer from the beginning, he doesn't stand for truth. There really is no truth in him. He intentionally tells lies. Due to him being a liar, he is the source of lies. <sup>45</sup>Therefore even though I tell you the truth, you do not put faith in me. <sup>46</sup>Not even one of you can prove that I have sinned. I am telling the truth. But why do you not put your faith in me? <sup>47</sup>God's people listen to God's words. But due to you not being God's people, you don't listen to what I told".

### Jesus is greater than the ancestor Abraham

<sup>48</sup>Then those Jews, "Is it not true that you are a Samaritan\* and possessed by [evil-spirits]\*?" they abused Jesus. <sup>49</sup>So Jesus said, "I am not possessed by evil-spirits. I give honour to my father. You are not giving honour to me. <sup>50</sup>I don't want my name to become famous. But there is one who wants honour to come to me. He is the just judge".

<sup>51</sup>"If anyone lives according to my message, he will never see death. This matter is true" he told them. <sup>52</sup>Having heard that, those Jews said, "Now we surely know that you are possessed by an evil-spirit. Abraham and the ancient prophets also died. But even then you

say 'Anyone who lives according to my message will never see death'. <sup>53</sup>Our father Abraham died. Are you greater than him? And those prophets also died. Who do you think you are?". <sup>54</sup>So Jesus said, "If I give myself honour, it is of no value. Whom you call as 'Our God', he is my father. He is giving me honour. <sup>55</sup>You don't know him. But I know him. If I say I don't know him, I will also become a liar like you. But I know him, and I walk according to his message. <sup>56</sup>Your father Abraham was happy that he would see the day of my coming. Having seen that day he was happy". <sup>57</sup>Then those Jews said, "You are not even fifty years old. Did you see Abraham [or what]?" they said to Jesus. <sup>58</sup>So Jesus said, "I am\* the one living from before Abraham was born. This matter is true". <sup>59</sup>Then they picked up rocks to throw forcefully on him. But Jesus having hidden went out from the temple.

### Jesus healing the blind-from-birth one

**9** Like that, while they were going on the road, Jesus saw one blind-from-birth man. <sup>2</sup>Then the [disciples] said, "(Respected) teacher! The reason for him being born blind [was it because] he did sin, or did his parents?" they asked Jesus. <sup>3</sup>So Jesus said, "Not because of his, or his parents' done sin was he born blind. But he was born as a blind person, so that God's power should be seen through him. <sup>4</sup>Until the sun sets we must do the works of him who sent me. The night is approaching. Then no one will be able to work. <sup>5</sup>But as long as I am in the world, I am like light to the people" he told the disciples. <sup>6</sup>Having said like that, Jesus spat on the ground. With the spittle, having made a little mud, he applied it on the blind person's eyes. <sup>7</sup>Having applied it Jesus said, "Go and wash in the [man-made] pool called Siloam" he told him. Siloam means, 'Sent one'. So, having gone and having washed, he became a seeing man.

<sup>8</sup>After that happened, the neighbours and those who saw [him] while begging for alms said, "Is he the one who sat and begged for alms?". <sup>9</sup>"Yes! He is" some people said and, "No! He is someone else who looks like him" other people said. But he said "I am him!" he went

\* **8:48** Long ago some Jews married non-Jews. These people used to practice Jewish and other-peoples' rules-and-regulations, and ways of worship. Their descendants used to live separately in an area called Samaria. The Jewish people used to treat them as lower tribe.

\* *Evil-spirit*: A bad spirit under Satan's authority. (Luke 9:42) \* **8:58** Only God is able to say I am. According to the Jews, it was blasphemy if anyone else says that matter.



on telling. <sup>10</sup> So they said, “How did your sight come?” <sup>11</sup> Then he said, “A man called Jesus having made mud, applied it on my eyes and ‘having gone and washed in the [man-made] pool of Siloam, come,’ like that he told. Then I went and washed. So sight came to me” he told them. <sup>12</sup> “Where is that Jesus?” they asked him. So he said, “I do not know”.

### **The Pharisees coming to know about that healing**

<sup>13–14</sup> Due to Jesus mixing mud and causing his sight to come on the rest day, they took the blind man who had been healed to the [Pharisees]\*. <sup>15</sup> The Pharisees also asked him about the matter of his sight coming. So he said, “Jesus applied mud on my eyes. So I went and washed. Then my sight came” he told them. <sup>16</sup> Having heard this some Pharisees said, “Due to him not following the custom of the Sabbath, he does not come from God”. And some of them said, “If he is a sinner how is he able to do these kinds of miracles?”. In this way a division arose between the Pharisees. <sup>17</sup> Then once again they said to the one whose sight came, “Due to you receiving your sight, what do you say about him?”. So he said, “He is a prophet”. <sup>18–19</sup> Due to not believing that he was blind and sight came, those Jewish authorities called his parents. And (they asked), “Is this the blind-from-birth son that was born to you? If he was, how is it that he is now seeing?” they asked. <sup>20</sup> So the parents said, “We know that he is the blind-from-birth son. <sup>21</sup> But we do not know how sight came to him and who healed him. He is mature enough to tell [you] himself. You ask him this matter” they told those authorities. <sup>22</sup> His parents told like that because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Because they had taken a decision earlier that if anyone accepts that Jesus is the Christ, they would excommunicate them from the community.\* <sup>23</sup> For that reason [his] parents said, “He is mature enough to tell. You ask him” they told them.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore having called the sight-returned-one once again said, “Tell the truth. The praise for this

work should come to God. Because we know that man is a sinner”. <sup>25</sup> So he said, “I do not know if he is a sinner or not. But I know one thing. What that is, is that before this I was blind but now I am able to see”. <sup>26</sup> But even then they said, “What did he do to you? How did sight come to you?” they asked again. <sup>27</sup> So then he said, “Look! I already told you. But you did not listen. Why are you asking one more time? Are you wanting to also become his disciples?”. <sup>28</sup> Then they said, “You are his disciple. We are the prophet Moses' disciples” they shamed him. <sup>29</sup> And they said, “We know that God spoke to Moses. But we don't know where this man came from”. <sup>30</sup> So having heard that he said, “This matter is very wondrous. You don't know where he came from but he just gave sight to my eyes. <sup>31</sup> God does not listen to the requests of sinners. But we know that anyone who has become God's devotee, and walks according to his will, he will listen to his requests. <sup>32</sup> Since the creation of this world until now, we have never heard of another man healing a born-blind person. <sup>33</sup> If he did not come from God, he would not be able to do any of these kinds of works” he told them. <sup>34</sup> Having heard that they said, “Ehe! You were born and brought up in sin. Have you come in order to teach us?” they cast him out from there.

### **Spiritual blindness**

<sup>35</sup> Jesus, having heard that they cast him out, having searched and found him, said, “Are you putting your faith in Heaven's Man?”. <sup>36</sup> So the man said, “Tell me, Lord, who he is in order to put my faith in him?” he asked Jesus. <sup>37</sup> Then Jesus said, “You are now looking at him. He is the one you are speaking with”. <sup>38</sup> Immediately when he heard that he said, “Lord, I am putting faith” having said, he knelt down completely [to worship]. <sup>39</sup> Then Jesus said, “Blind people should see and sighted people should be blind. I have come to this world so that judgement should happen in this way<sup>a</sup>”. <sup>40</sup> So some Pharisees who heard those words said, “Are you saying that we are also blind (people)?”. <sup>41</sup> Then

\* *Pharisees*: One of the groups of elders from the Jews were the Pharisees. They used to say with pride that they obeyed God's laws. And having made up many rules-and-regulations and rituals-and-customs of their own minds, they used to also force them on other people to follow. But they [read:the Pharisees] did not always follow them. (Matthew 12:2) \* **9:22** In the Greek it says synagogue. In this is Jewish meeting house, called a synagogue, all the community events happen.

<sup>a</sup> **9:39** Isaiah 6:9-10

Jesus said, “If you were blind people, sin would not stay with you. But due to you saying we can see, your sin still stands within you” he told them.

### Jesus is the good shepherd

**10** Then Jesus said, “He who enters the sheep's pen without entering from the gate, having climbed in from the other side is a thief and looter. <sup>2</sup> But whoever enters from the gate is the shepherd. <sup>3</sup> The guard of the pen will open the gate for the shepherd. The sheep recognize his voice. He takes his sheep outside by calling [their] names. <sup>4</sup> Like that, while taking his sheep outside, the shepherd always walks in front on them. Due to recognizing his voice, those sheep follow him. <sup>5</sup> But due to not recognizing the voice of another person, having scattered they run away from him. This is true” he told them.

<sup>6</sup> Having taken this example Jesus told them. But they didn't understand the meaning of what he told about. <sup>7</sup> So once again Jesus started telling [them] like this. “This matter is true. I am like the sheep entering gate. <sup>8</sup> Everyone who came before me were thieves and looters. Those true sheep having heard their voices did not follow. <sup>9</sup> I am like the gate. Those [sheep] who enter through me will be saved and they keep coming in and going out without worry. Those sheep will get green grass. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal, to kill and to destroy. But I came in order to give the sheep a new and full life. <sup>11</sup> I am the good sheep shepherd. The good shepherd will give his own life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> But the hired worker is not like the true shepherd of the sheep. Due to those sheep not being his, even if he sees a wolf, he will run away. Then that wolf will attack them and scare [them] away. <sup>13</sup> Due to a hired worker only coming only for the wage, he will run away without caring for the sheep's well-being. <sup>14–15</sup> But I am the good shepherd. The father [knows] me and I know the father. Like that the sheep [know] me and I know my sheep. I will give my life for my sheep. <sup>16</sup> There are other sheep [that are] mine, not only [those] belonging to this pen. I must also bring them. They will listen to my voice. Then those and these will become one flock. And there will be

one shepherd for all of them. <sup>17</sup> I am giving [up] my life in order to be raised from death [to life]. Because of this the father loves me very much. <sup>18</sup> No one is able to take my life from me. I myself am giving [up] my life. Due to God having commanded me, I have authority to give that life and even to take it [back] once again”.

<sup>19</sup> Through this message once again there was a division among the Jews. <sup>20</sup> From among them many people said, “Due to an [evil-spirit] possessing him, [he] has become even more mad. Why do you listen to his message?”. <sup>21</sup> But some other people said, “These words are not of an evil-spirit possessed one. How could an evil-spirit give sight to blind people”.

### Jesus saying he is God's son

<sup>22</sup> During that winter, the temple entering festival\* called Hanuk was happening in Jerusalem. <sup>23</sup> So one day Jesus was walking in the courtyard of the [temple] at Solomon's porch. <sup>24</sup> At that time, the Jewish authorities having gathered around said, “How long will you keep us doubting? If you are the saving one Christ,\* tell us openly”. <sup>25</sup> So Jesus said, “I told you before, but you did not believe. The deeds that I have done in the father's name are testifying about me. <sup>26</sup> But you are not people of my sheep's flock. For that reason you do not put your faith on me. <sup>27</sup> My sheep listen to my voice. I know which are mine. They follow me. <sup>28</sup> I will give them eternal life. They will never be destroyed. No one can snatch them from my hand. <sup>29</sup> Because My Father has given those sheep to me. Due to my Father being greater than everyone, no one can snatch them from my father's hand. <sup>30</sup> I and my father are one”. <sup>31</sup> Then those Jews picked up rocks in order to hit and kill him. <sup>32</sup> So Jesus said, “I showed you very many miracles from my father. From among them, for which deed are you going to stone me” he asked them. <sup>33</sup> So the Jews said, “We are about to stone you with rocks not because of your good deeds, but due to [you] claiming to be God [while] being a man”.

<sup>34–36</sup> Then Jesus said, “Scripture never lies. Long ago in your [scripture], it is written ‘You are like God’,<sup>a</sup> like that God told some judges. So, having chosen me the

\* **10:22** They are doing this festival because earlier foreigners who opposed [the Jews] defiled this temple. But once again having made the temple ritually-clean in 165 years before the birth of Christ, in order to perform the original religious rites they established the Hanuk festival. \* **10:24** the saving one Christ: The Jews were looking for Christ who was God's chosen king in order for themselves to be saved.

<sup>a</sup> **10:34–36** Psalms 82:6

father, sent me to this world in order to [do] his work, then how will it be blasphemy by saying that I am God's son? <sup>37</sup> Don't put your faith in me if I am not doing my father's works. <sup>38</sup> But if I do those deeds, even if you don't put faith in my message, at least believe my deeds. If you do like that you will clearly know that my father is in me and I am in my father". <sup>39</sup> So once again they tried to catch him. But he went away from there having escaped from their hands.

<sup>40</sup> Having gone to the place [where] John had first baptized him on the other side of the Jordan River, he was there. <sup>41</sup> Then a big crowd having come to him said, "John did not do any glorious signs. But whatever John told about him, all those are true" they talked to each other. <sup>42</sup> Many people there put their faith in Jesus.

### The death of Jesus' loved devotee

**11** At a village called Bethany a man called Lazarus had fallen sick. His older-sisters Martha and Mary were also living in that village. <sup>2</sup> This is that Mary who had applied perfume<sup>a</sup> on the Lord, and wiped his feet with her hair. This Lazarus was their younger brother. <sup>3</sup> Therefore those two older-sisters sent news to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love has fallen sick".

<sup>4</sup> Having heard that news Jesus said, "This sickness did not come to kill him. But having given honour to God's son, it came to bring glory to God".

<sup>5</sup> Jesus used to treat Martha, her younger sister and Lazarus lovingly. <sup>6</sup> Jesus heard the news that Lazarus was sick. But even then, he stopped there for two more days. <sup>7</sup> After stopping like that he said, "Let's go around the area of Judea" he said to the [disciples].

<sup>8</sup> Then the disciples asked Jesus, "(Respected) teacher! The Jews from there are just now wanting to stone you. Again you want to go there?" they asked Jesus.

<sup>9</sup> So Jesus said, "It will be light for twelve hours in a day.<sup>b</sup> In the day time, due to having seen the light of the world, the walker will not stumble. <sup>10</sup> But the walker, due to not having light at night, he will stumble".

<sup>11</sup> After Jesus said like this, "Our friend Lazarus is sleeping. I will go to wake him up from sleep".

<sup>12</sup> Then the disciples said, "Lord, if he is sleeping, definitely he will get up and get well!".

<sup>13</sup> Jesus spoke about Lazarus's death but the disciples thought he spoke about ordinary sleep. <sup>14</sup> So Jesus said, "Lazarus died" having told openly, <sup>15</sup> "It was good that I was not there. It happened like this for you. My desire is that your faith should increase. Now let's go there!" he said to them. <sup>16</sup> Then the twin\* called Thomas said, "Let's also go to die along with Jesus" he said to the other disciples who were with him.

### Jesus has power to raise the dead

<sup>17-19</sup> It was two miles (3 kilometres) distance from Jerusalem to the nearby village of Bethany. Many Jews had come to comfort Martha and Mary [who were] very sad due to their younger brother's death. So after Jesus reached near that village, he came to know that having put Lazarus' body in the carved rock tomb, four days had passed. <sup>20</sup> Martha, having heard that Jesus was coming, went out to meet [him] on the way. But Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> Martha having met Jesus said, "Lord! If you had been here my younger brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But it's not a problem even now. Whatever you ask to God, [he] will also give you".

<sup>23</sup> Then Jesus said, "Your younger brother will rise (to life)".

<sup>24</sup> So Martha said, "Yes Lord, I know that he will [rise]<sup>\*</sup> again on judgement doing day".

<sup>25</sup> Having heard that Jesus said, "I am the raiser [of the dead is implied] and I am [the] life. If anyone puts his faith in me, even if he dies, he will live again. <sup>26</sup> Being alive, those who believe in me will not have the forever death punishment.<sup>c</sup> Do you believe this?".

<sup>27</sup> So she said, "Yes Lord! You are God's son Christ and you were to come to this world. I believe this".

<sup>28-30</sup> Jesus had not yet entered the village. He stopped there where Martha had met [him]. Then, Martha went home and having quietly called Mary said, "The teacher came. He is calling you" she said to her younger sister. Mary, having heard this message, immediately got up and went to Jesus. <sup>31</sup> Some Jews were in the house

\* **11:16** Twin or Didumas means either a younger sister or brother born along with him. \* *Raising back to life:* Having died and coming back to life is called resurrection. Jesus raised several people to life after they had died. Like that, Jesus' believers will also be raised to an eternal spiritual body after dying. (1 Corinthians 15:12-34)

<sup>a</sup> **11:2** John 12:1-11; Mark 14:3-5    <sup>b</sup> **11:9** John 9:4-5    <sup>c</sup> **11:26** John 5:28-29

comforting Mary. Then having seen her hurriedly get up and go, maybe she has gone to cry at the tomb like that they followed her. <sup>32</sup> Mary having gone to the place Jesus was, having fallen at his feet said, “Lord! If you had been here my younger brother would not have died”.

<sup>33</sup> Mary and all the Jews coming with her, having seen her crying, Jesus' heart was deeply sad. <sup>34</sup> Then Jesus said, “Where did you put his body?”. So they said, “Lord, come and see”.

<sup>35</sup> Having heard that, Jesus shed tears. <sup>36</sup> Having seen that those Jews said, “See how much he loved Lazarus”.

<sup>37</sup> Some people from among them said, “This Jesus caused sight to come to blind people. So, couldn't he have kept this Lazarus from dying [or what]?”.

### Jesus raising the dead Lazarus [to life]

<sup>38</sup> Once again Jesus' heart was troubled. So he went to the tomb. It was a carved rock tomb. A rock was kept to block it. <sup>39</sup> So Jesus said, “Remove that rock!” he told them. Then the dead one's older sister Martha said, “Lord, his dead body having rotted, there will now be a smell coming. Because it is the fourth days since he died”.

<sup>40</sup> Then Jesus said, “If you put faith, you will see God's glory, didn't I tell you that?”.

<sup>41</sup> So they removed that rock. Then Jesus looking up said, “Father, I thank you due to you hearing my prayer. <sup>42</sup> I know you are always listening to my prayers. But I said this for them so that those around me should believe, that you sent me”.

<sup>43</sup> After saying like this Jesus (shouted), “Lazarus, come outside!” he called loudly.

<sup>44</sup> Then Lazarus came out, along with the cloths that had wrapped around his dead-body. His face was

wrapped with a hand towel. “Release him, having unwrapped the cloths” Jesus told.

### The Jews making plans to kill Jesus

(Matthew 26:1-5; Mark 14:1-2; Luke 22:1-2)

<sup>45</sup> Having seen that deed, many of the Jews who had come to comfort Mary, put their faith in Jesus.

<sup>46</sup> But some people from among them, having gone to the [Pharisees]\*, told about the deed Jesus had done. <sup>47</sup> Therefore the chief priests and Pharisees called the council members and said, “What shall we do? That man is doing many glorious signs. <sup>48</sup> If we just watching him do like this, everyone, calling him king, will put their faith in him. Then the Roman kingdom's authorities having come, will destroy our temple and chase our people out from here”. <sup>49–50</sup> Immediately, “You fools! In order for our people not to be destroyed, don't you realize that it is good for one man to give [his] life for the people?” said Caiaphas, who was the High Priest at that time.

<sup>51–52</sup> It is not only for the benefit of the Jews. But in order to gather together all Gods people who are spread over the world, Jesus will give his life, he told like that what would happen in the future. He did not tell this message by himself. But due to him being the High Priest that year he was able to tell. <sup>53</sup> From that day onwards they started planning to kill him. <sup>54</sup> Therefore from then onwards, without roaming around openly among the Jews, having gone to a town called Ephraim near the wilderness, Jesus was there for a few days with his disciples.

<sup>55–57</sup> Then the Jewish Passover festival was approaching. So, “If anyone knows Jesus whereabouts, they must tell. We will catch him” that-like the chief

\* *Pharisees*: One of the groups of elders from the Jews were the Pharisees. They used to say with pride that they obeyed God's laws. And having made up many rules-and-regulations and rituals-and-customs of their own minds, they used to also force them on other people to follow. But they [read:the Pharisees] did not always follow them. (Matthew 12:2)



priests and the Pharisees had given a command. Before the festival many people came to Jerusalem from the neighbouring villages in order to purify themselves for the festival. Searching for Jesus, having stood in the [temple] they said, “Will he or won't he come for this festival? What do you say?” they asked each other.

### Pouring scent on Jesus at Bethany

(Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9)

**12** Six days before the Passover Festival, Jesus came to Bethany village of Lazarus who died and [rose]<sup>\*</sup> [to life].<sup>2</sup> There they prepared a meal for him. Martha served. And Lazarus also sat along with the eating ones.<sup>3</sup> Then Mary came having held about half a litre of very pure and valuable scent<sup>\*</sup> and having poured it on Jesus feet, she dried it with her hair. The smell of that scent permeated the whole house.<sup>4</sup> Then one of the [disciples] called Judas of Iscariot village the one who [would] hand Jesus over, said,<sup>5</sup> “Hey! Why did you not give to the poor, having sold this scent for three hundred silver coins<sup>6</sup>?” he said to her.<sup>6</sup> He didn't say that due to care of helping the poor. But due to his stealing mind and being the money bag keeper he said like that as he was stealing money from there.<sup>7</sup> So Jesus said, “She was keeping that scent for the day of my burial.<sup>8</sup> Poor people will always be in your midst. But I will not always be in your midst in bodily form”.

<sup>9</sup> At that time, having known that Jesus is there, very many Jewish people, came not only to see Jesus [but] also Lazarus who Jesus raised [to life].<sup>10-11</sup> From among the Jews many people put their faith in Jesus because of Lazarus. Therefore the chief priests made a plan to also kill Lazarus.

### Jesus receiving praise entering Jerusalem

(Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-40)

<sup>12-13</sup> A big crowd, came for the festival, having heard that Jesus would come to Jerusalem, they went [to meet]

him on the way having holding palm branches. Having gone like that they said, “Hail!<sup>\*</sup> May God bless Israel's king who comes with the authority<sup>\*</sup> of the Lord” they shouted.<sup>14-15</sup> “Don't be afraid people of Jerusalem!<sup>\*</sup> Look, your king is coming seated on a donkey” as it was written in the scripture, Jesus sat and is coming on a donkey.<sup>\*</sup><sup>16</sup> While these things were happening, the disciples did not realize. But after Jesus had gone to heaven with glory, they realized that all these things happened exactly as written in the scripture.<sup>17</sup> Those people who were with him while Jesus was raising Lazarus's dead-body [to life] proclaimed this testimony.<sup>18</sup> Due to people hearing that, Jesus did this miracle they went to meet him on the way.<sup>19</sup> For that reason the [Pharisees]<sup>\*</sup> said, “Look! Our plans are useless. All the people of the world are following him” they spoke amongst themselves.

### Jesus telling about his death

<sup>20</sup> During the festival there were also some non-Jews<sup>\*</sup> among those who came in order to worship.<sup>21</sup> They, having met Philip of Bethsaida village in Galilee area said, “Sir! We came in order to meet Jesus” they told him.<sup>22</sup> Philip went and told this to Andrew. The two of them went together and told that to Jesus.<sup>23</sup> Having heard that Jesus said, “The time is near for glory to come to Heaven's Man.<sup>24-26</sup> If a seed of wheat is not planted in the ground it will remain as one. While planting that seed, it appears as dead. But from the ground that seed sprouts up, and having matured, it will give a full head of wheat seeds. In that way, only if I give my life, many people will get new life. Like that if anyone from among you loves his own life, will lose that life. But if anyone doesn't care for the worldly desires, he is able to save his own life in order to live forever. [Whoever] wants to serve me should walk in my way. Then where I will be there my serving-one will also be. My father will honour my service-doing one. This is true” he said to the disciples.

<sup>\*</sup> *Raising back to life:* Having died and coming back to life is called resurrection. Jesus raised several people to life after they had died. Like that, Jesus' believers will also be raised to an eternal spiritual body after dying. (1 Corinthians 15:12-34) <sup>\*</sup> **12:3** Oil from the tree called ‘acca jatamansi’. <sup>\*</sup> **12:5** The value of one silver coin was the same as one day's wage. <sup>\*</sup> **12:12-13 Hail!** In Greek it says “Hosanna”. This means “save now!” <sup>\*</sup> **12:12-13 with the authority of:** or it says, in the name of. <sup>\*</sup> **12:14-15** They also call them people of Zion. <sup>\*</sup> **12:14-15** In the Greek language it says on a young donkey. <sup>\*</sup> *Pharisees:* One of the groups of elders from the Jews were the Pharisees. They used to say with pride that they obeyed God's laws. And having made up many rules-and-regulations and rituals-and-customs of their own minds, they used to also force them on other people to follow. But they [read:the Pharisees] did not always follow them. (Matthew 12:2) <sup>\*</sup> **12:20 non-Jews:** it has Greek country people.



<sup>27</sup> “Now my heart is becoming completely anxious. What will I say? My father! Save me from this bad-incident coming on me. But even then, I came to bear this bad-incident. <sup>28</sup> Oh father! Cause honour come to your name”. Then from above,\* “Earlier I caused honour to come. And again I will cause honour to come” one voice was heard. <sup>29</sup> So having heard that some people who were standing there said, “It thundered”. Some other people said, “An angel of God spoke with him”. <sup>30</sup> Therefore Jesus said, “The sound of this voice did not come in order to help me. It came in order to help you. <sup>31</sup> The time has come for judging this world's people. The time has come for casting out the one in authority controlling this world. <sup>32</sup> When they lift me up from the earth, then I will draw everyone to my side”. <sup>33</sup> He spoke this matter about how his own death would happen.

<sup>34</sup> So the crowd of people said, “We heard from scripture that ‘Christ will be alive forever’. But how can you say that Heaven's Man will be lifted up from the earth to be killed? Who is this Heaven's Man?” they asked Jesus. <sup>35</sup> Then Jesus said, “[The] light will be among you for a little more time. Before the darkness spreads, walk in [the] light. Then you will not stumble. The one who walks in darkness does not know where he goes. <sup>36</sup> In order for you to become descendants of the light, put your faith in this light while it is there” Jesus told them. Having told them like that, he went off far from their sight.

### Many people did not put their faith in Jesus

<sup>37</sup> Jesus did many miraculous deeds in front of them but even then, they did not put their faith in him.

<sup>38</sup> “God! No one has put faith in the news we told.

God! No one recognized your power”<sup>a</sup>

like-that what the prophet Isaiah wrote to be fulfilled, it happened like this. <sup>39</sup> Because they were not able to put their faith, the prophet Isaiah wrote this in another place:

<sup>40</sup> “Due to closing their sight,

they are not able to see.

Due to closing their mind,

they are not able to understand.

Otherwise, they would turn towards me.

I would heal them”<sup>b</sup>

like-that it is. <sup>41</sup> Due to the prophet Isaiah having seen the future of Jesus' glory, he told these words about him.

<sup>42</sup> But even then, there were many people of authority among those who put their faith in Jesus. But fearing that the Pharisees may cast them out of the community, they did not openly admit it. <sup>43</sup> They loved the honour that people gave even more than the honour that God gave.

### Jesus words judging the people

<sup>44</sup> Then Jesus loudly said, “He who puts his faith in me is not only putting his faith in me but also on him who sent me. <sup>45</sup> He who sees me is seeing the one who sent me. <sup>46</sup> I have come like a light to this world, [so that] every one who puts his faith in me will not stand in darkness. <sup>47</sup> I will not judge anyone who having heard my words, is not following them. I did not come in order to judge this world's people. But I came to save [them]. <sup>48</sup> There is one other thing to judge he who does not accept me and my words. The word I told will judge him on the judgement doing day. <sup>49</sup> Because I have not spoken with my [own] desire, but the father who sent me commanded me what to speak about. <sup>50</sup> And due to me knowing that that command leads to eternal life, I am telling you I said everything just as my father also told me”.

### Jesus washing his disciples feet

**13** Before the Passover festival Jesus knew that the time for returning back from the world to [his] father was near. He really loved his own ones in the world. Until the end he showed them that love completely. <sup>2</sup> But even before the meal, Satan had put the thought into the heart of Simon's son, Judas of Iscariot village, that he should betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup> That the father had given all authority into his hands, that he came from God and was going back to God, Jesus also knew all these things. <sup>4</sup> Due to knowing that, having got up from among them, he put his shawl to one side and having taken a towel he tied it to his waist. <sup>5</sup> After he

\* 12:28 Meaning from heaven or from the sky.

<sup>a</sup> 12:38 Isaiah 53:1    <sup>b</sup> 12:40 Isaiah 6:10

tied [it], he poured water into a large plate and having washed his [disciples] feet, he started wiping their feet with the towel tied [at his] waist. <sup>6</sup> Doing like that Jesus came to Simon-Peter. Then he said, “Lord are you going to wash my feet?”. <sup>7</sup> So Jesus said, “[What] I am doing now you don't understand, but you will understand in the coming time”. <sup>8</sup> Then Peter said, “[I] don't want Lord! You will never wash my feet” he said. So Jesus said, “Without me washing you, you are not part with me” he told Peter. <sup>9</sup> So Simon Peter said, “Lord! Don't wash only my feet but also my hands and my head”. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said, “For he who has bathed, it is enough to wash the feet. He doesn't have to wash anything else. He is clean. You are also clean, but not everyone among you is clean”. <sup>11</sup> Due to him knowing who was going to betray him Jesus said, “not everyone among you is clean” he said.

<sup>12</sup> And having washed their feet, having put his own shawl on his neck, went and sat at the place where he was sitting before. Like that having sat he said, “Do you understand the meaning of the deed I just did?” he asked the disciples. <sup>13</sup> “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord’. Due to me being teacher and Lord, calling like this is right. <sup>14</sup> Even though I am Lord and I am teacher, due to [me] washing your feet, you also must wash one another's feet. <sup>15–16</sup> A slave is not greater than his master. Like that a [messenger]\* is not greater than one who sent him. I have shown you as an example that as I washed your feet you also should do. This is true. <sup>17</sup> Now due to you knowing all these things, if you walk according to them, God will give you blessing”.

### **Jesus telling about his own betrayal**

*(Matthew 26:20-25; Mark 14:17-21; Luke 22:21-23)*

<sup>18</sup> “I have not told [this] about all of you. I know about those I chose. But, ‘he who ate bread with me, having become my enemy, betrayed me’ in order to fulfil the matter [written] in the [scripture], it will happen like this. <sup>19</sup> After these [things] happen, you will believe that ‘I am Christ’ I am telling you in advance. <sup>20</sup> This is true. If anyone receives who I send, they also receive me. I am telling that the one receiving me also receives that father who sent me”.

<sup>21</sup> After saying these words Jesus, having become troubled in [his] spirit, “One from among you will hand me over to enemies. This testimony is true” he said.

<sup>22</sup> The disciples not knowing who he was talking about, looked at each other. <sup>23</sup> The one Jesus loved from among the disciples was sitting very near the right side of Jesus.

<sup>24</sup> So Simon-Peter said to that disciple, “Ask Jesus whom he told about” he motioned (with his hand). <sup>25</sup> Then the disciple near Jesus leaned a little closer, “Lord! Who is he?”. <sup>26</sup> So Jesus said, “Having dipped it in the bowl, whoever I give a piece of bread to, it is he”. Having told like that having dipped a piece of bread he gave it to Simon's son, Judas of Iscariot village. <sup>27–30</sup> Then after taking the bread piece, (Jesus said), “Quickly do the work you are about to do” Jesus told him. Why Jesus said like that to him, nobody knew from among those seated. Due to Judas having the money bag, some of them (people) thought perhaps Jesus told [him], ‘Buy the things needed for the festival’. Others thought perhaps he said ‘Give something to the poor people’. After he had taken the bread piece, Satan possessed him, and he went outside. By then it had become night.

### **Jesus giving a new command**

*(Matthew 26:31-35; Mark 14:27-31; Luke 22:31-34)*

<sup>31</sup> After Judas went Jesus said, “Now the time has come for Heaven's Man to be honoured. Through him praise will come to God. <sup>32</sup> If honour comes through the son to God, God will give honour to his son. He will immediately give that honour to his son. <sup>33</sup> You my sons! I will be with you for a little while more. After that you will search for me. But just as I said to the Jews I am also telling you that where I am going you cannot come now. <sup>34</sup> Now I am giving you a new command. Just as I loved you, you should love one another. <sup>35</sup> Through your loving one another, everyone will know you are my disciples” Jesus told.

<sup>36</sup> Simon-Peter said “Lord! Where will you go?”. So Jesus said, “You cannot come to the place I am now going. But afterwards you will come”. <sup>37</sup> Then Peter, “Lord! Why can't I come? I am even ready to give my life for you”. <sup>38</sup> Then Jesus said, “Ehe! You will give your life for me? Within this night, before the rooster crows,

\* Apostles: The twelve disciples that Jesus chose to help him were called Apostles. This means messengers. (Luke 6:13)

you will lie three times about me saying 'I don't know who he is'. This is true" he told Peter.

### Jesus is the way leading to the father

**14** "You don't let your hearts be troubled. Put your faith in God and also put your faith in me. <sup>2</sup> My father's house has many rooms. I am going ahead in order to keep them ready for you. I would not have told you if [it was] not so. <sup>3</sup> After having gone to prepare a place for you, in order for you to also be there where I am, having come back I will also take you. <sup>4</sup> You know the way to the place I am going" he told them. <sup>5</sup> Then Thomas said, "Lord! We don't know where you will go. So how should we know the way to come there?". <sup>6</sup> Then Jesus said, "I am the way, [I am] the truth, and [I am] the life. No one can come to the father without me. <sup>7</sup> If you recognized me, you would also recognize my father. Now you have seen him and you know him".

<sup>8</sup> Then Philip said, "Show us the father, Lord. That's enough for us". <sup>9</sup> So Jesus said to Philip, "Don't you recognize me even though I am with you until now? If [you] have seen me, it's as if [you] have seen the father. How are you asking 'Show us the father' like that? <sup>10</sup> Don't you believe that I am with the father and the father is with me? I am not telling you words with my wish. The father who is in me is causing to do his deeds. <sup>11</sup> You believe that I am with the father and the father is with me. If you don't believe according to what I said, then at least believe having seen the miracles I did. <sup>12</sup> By my going to the father, he who puts [his] faith in me will do the miracles [that] I did. He will do even greater works than I did. This matter is true. <sup>13</sup> What you ask in my name in order to bring honour to the father through the son I will do that which you request. <sup>14</sup> Whatever you request in my name I will do that.

### Jesus telling about the Holy Spirit

<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will walk according to my command. <sup>16</sup> I will request to the father that for helping you [he] sends one instead of me in order to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> That helper is the Holy Spirit. That [spirit] will tell you about the truth. Through that you know God's spirit. Now that spirit is with you and later [it] will be inside you. But the people of the world do not see it and do not know it. Therefore they do not accept that spirit.

<sup>18</sup> "I will not leave you like orphans. I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> In some more days the people of this world will not see me any more. But you will see me. Because as I live, you will also live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in the father, you are in me, and I am in you. <sup>21</sup> [He who] accepts my commands and, lives according to them loves me. [He who] loves me, the father loves [him]. I will love and reveal myself to him". <sup>22</sup> Then Judas (not Judas of Iscariot village) said, "Lord! Why do you say 'I will appear' only to us, not to the world?" he asked Jesus. <sup>23</sup> So Jesus said, "The one who loves me lives according to my message. My father loves that kind of person. Having come, we will live in him. <sup>24</sup> But he who does not love me, does not live according to my word. The words you hear are not mine, but they are my father's who sent me. <sup>25</sup> I told you these things while I was with you. <sup>26</sup> But the father is sending the [Holy Spirit]\* in my name to teach you everything. And it will also remind you of everything I told.

<sup>27</sup> "Having given you peace, I will go. I am giving my peace\* to you. I am not giving as the world is giving you. Don't allow your hearts to be troubled and don't be afraid. <sup>28</sup> 'Having gone, I will come to you' you heard the message [I] said. Due the father being more honoured compared to me, if you love me, you will be very happy

\* *Holy Spirit*: The Holy Spirit is there since before creation and is working in the world even now. And it makes people realize that they need God. Like that in many ways it helps those who have put faith in Jesus. The Bible tells that there is only one true God. And he is one [God] in three ways. Meaning God the father, God the son, and God the holy spirit. While Jesus was taking baptism, we can see about these three. When God the son, who is Jesus, was coming out of the water, then God the holy spirit descended on him from heaven in the form of a dove, and God the Father spoke from heaven above. These three are separate but united in their characteristics, [so] we call him as one God. (Acts 1:8) \* **14:27** This is God's peace - see Ezekiel 37:24-28

saying that he is going to the father. <sup>29</sup>I am telling you these words before it happens, so that you will believe. <sup>30</sup>The ruler of this world, Satan, is coming. Therefore I will not speak with you much longer. He has no authority over me. <sup>31</sup>But, in order for the world's people to know that I am loving the father, I am doing like this\* according to the father's command. Let us get up! Let us go from here”.

### Jesus is the true vine

**15** While the disciples were going with Jesus said, “I am the true grape vine. My father is the master of that vineyard. <sup>2</sup>My father will cut and throw away those branches that having sprouted from me which are not bearing grapes. He will cut the tips of the fruit bearing branches a little so that they bear fruit even more. <sup>3</sup>Through the message I told you, having cut the tips of the branches, and having become pure, you are ready. <sup>4</sup>Remain united with me. I will be in you. Just as a grape branch does not bear fruit without being joined to the vine, like that you cannot do good works without remaining united with me.

<sup>5</sup>“I am the grape vine. You are the sprouted branches in me. Whoever stays in me and I stay in him, he will do even more good works. Having been broken from me you cannot do anything. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not stay in me, he will dry up just as a branch having been cut off and thrown dries up. Men gather up and throw those kinds of dried branches into the fire and those burn up. <sup>7</sup>If you are in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want. You will get that. <sup>8</sup>Glory will come to my father through your good works. Seeing these others will know that you are my [disciples]. <sup>9</sup>How the father loved me, like that I loved you. Remain in my love. <sup>10</sup>In the way that I live according to the father's commands, and remain in his love, in the same way if you live according to my commands, you will remain in my love. <sup>11</sup>I am telling you these words so that my happiness should be in you and that happiness should be full.

<sup>12</sup>“In the way that I have loved you, you should also love one another. This is my command. <sup>13</sup>There is no one who loves more than he who gives up his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup>If you live according to my command,

you will become my friends. <sup>15</sup>From now on I don't call you slaves, I call you friends. Because the slaves don't know the master's plan. But I told you all the words I heard from my father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me, but I, having chosen you, appointed you. It is my desire that you should do good works of [making] everlasting fruit. If you do that you will get whatever you request the father in my name. <sup>17</sup>I gave you this command, that you should love one another.

### The world's people will hate you

<sup>18</sup>“If the people of the world hate you, remember that before you, they hated me. <sup>19</sup>If you had been like the people of the world, they would like you. But you are not people of the world. Because I have chosen you from among the people of the world. For that reason the people of this world hate you. <sup>20</sup>Remember the matter I said [to you] just before this, ‘A slave is not greater than his master’. Due to people having persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they follow according to my word, they will also follow according to your word. <sup>21</sup>Due to them not knowing the father who sent me, because of me they will do all these [things] to you.

<sup>22</sup>“If I had not come to tell them the teaching, they would not remain under the guilt of sin. But, due to me coming, there is no chance for them to escape from their guilt. <sup>23</sup>He who hates me, also hates my father. <sup>24</sup>If I hadn't done those miraculous-signs that no one else can do, the guilt of sin would not remain in them. But they saw the miraculous-signs I did. But even then they hate my father and me. <sup>25</sup>‘Without even any reason they hate me’ it happened in order to fulfil the word of scripture. <sup>26</sup>From the father I will send the Holy Spirit to help you. After it comes, it will tell you the true testimony about me. <sup>27</sup>You also will testify about me. Because you were with me from the beginning.

**16** “I told you these things so you should not slide away from [the] faith. <sup>2</sup>They will cast you out from the community.\* The time is coming when each one will think they are serving their God by killing you all. <sup>3</sup>They will do like this due to them not knowing the father or me. <sup>4</sup>I am telling you that while it is happening like this, you will remember that I told you about these earlier.

\* **14:31** Meaning that I hand myself over so that Satan would cause to the people of the world to kill me. \* **16:2** from the community: In the Greek language it has ‘from the synagogues’.



### The deeds of the Holy Spirit

“Due to being with you until now, I did not tell about these things earlier. <sup>5</sup> But now I am going to the father who sent me. But even then, not even one from among you (asks), ‘Where will you go?’ is asking. <sup>6</sup> Due to me telling you these words, your hearts are filled with sadness. <sup>7</sup> [Only] If I go you will get the benefit. Without me going, the staying with you helping Holy Spirit will not come to you. If I go, I will send that spirit to you. This is true. <sup>8</sup> That Holy Spirit having come, will show the people of the world about sin, about righteousness and about judgement. <sup>9</sup> The Holy Spirit will show them they have sinned due to not putting faith on me. <sup>10</sup> Due to I going to the father\* and you not seeing me from now on, the Holy Spirit will show that I am righteous. <sup>11</sup> The authority of this world, Satan, has been judged. Therefore the Holy Spirit shows that God will also judge the people of this world. <sup>12</sup> There are many other things for me to tell you, but you cannot bear them. <sup>13</sup> That Holy Spirit having come will tell about the truth. It will lead you towards complete truth. It does not tell anything of its own. It tells those things it has heard. It will also tell about things to happen in the future. <sup>14</sup> Due to that Spirit having taken and told you of the things I spoke, honour will come to me. <sup>15</sup> Everything that is with the father is also mine. Therefore I said that, having taken from what I have told, the Holy Spirit will tell.

### Sadness gone and happiness coming

<sup>16</sup> “After a few days you will not see me. But a few days later you will see me” he told the disciples. <sup>17</sup> Having heard this message, some of the [disciples] said, “After a few days you will not see me. But a few days later you will see me. I will go to my father’ for what is he talking with us?” they spoke to each other. <sup>18</sup> “What is he telling about ‘after a few days’? We are not understanding the meaning of the matter he is telling”.

<sup>19</sup> Jesus having known the matter that they were about to ask said, “Are you yourselves talking about the matter that was said ‘After a few days you will not see me. But a few days later you will see me’?” he asked them back. <sup>20</sup> And he said, “You will cry with

sadness, but the world will be happy. You will cry, but your sadness will be turned to happiness. This is true.

<sup>21</sup> Due to the delivery time coming, a woman bears the labour pains. When she gives birth to a baby, then with the joy of giving birth to a life in this world, she forgets the labour pains she bore. <sup>22</sup> Like that you are now suffering. But I will see you once again. Then no one will be able to take away the happiness in your hearts. <sup>23</sup> During that time you won't need to ask me anything” he told them.

Then Jesus said, “If you request the father for anything in my name [he] will give it to you. This is true. <sup>24</sup> Until now you have not requested anything in my name. Keep on asking for your happiness to be complete. You will definitely be given. <sup>25</sup> I told you these things as examples. But I will no longer tell any more examples. The time is coming for me to tell clearly in order for you to understand about the father. <sup>26–28</sup> I came from the father to this world. Now having left the world I am going to the father. The father is loving you, due to you having loved me and put faith that I came from God. At that time I will not have to request the father for you. But you will request in my name. He will give to you” he told them.

<sup>29</sup> Then the disciples said, “Look! Now you are telling openly without examples. <sup>30</sup> It is not necessary for anyone to ask questions. Now we know that you know everything. Through this we believe that you have come from God”. <sup>31</sup> So Jesus said, “Are you now really believing in me? <sup>32</sup> Look! The time is coming [when] having left me alone, you will all run away. That time has now come, but even then I am not alone. The father is with me. <sup>33</sup> I am telling these things [so] that through me peace should come to you. Persecution will come to you in the world. But I have won-over all of these. Therefore be with courage”.

### Jesus praying

**17** Having said these things, Jesus looking up towards the sky prayed like this: “Father! You have given me authority over all the people in the world. Through this I am able to give eternal life to whoever you gave to me. Those who know you [are] the only true God and Jesus Christ [whom] you sent will get

\* **16:10** Having gone to the father God and sat on the right hand side of God, he rules. (Hebrews 8:1) Sitting in this way, shows that he is the righteous one (1 John 2:1-2).



eternal life. I brought glory to you having completed all the works you gave me to do on earth. That time has now come. Cause your glory come to me. In this way I will cause glory to come to you. <sup>5</sup> Oh Father! What kind of glory there was when I was with you before the creation of this world, let that kind of glory to come to me now.

### Jesus praying for his disciples

<sup>6</sup> “I have made you known to those people that you gave me from this world. Those people were yours, but you handed them over to me. They have lived according to your word. <sup>7-8</sup> I have told them the message you gave to me. Having accepted that, they believe that you sent me. They have come to know that I have truly come from you. So, they have now come to know that you gave me all the power to speak and do miraculous deeds. <sup>9</sup> I am praying for them. I am not praying for the people of the world. Due to those whom you gave to me being yours, I am praying for them. <sup>10</sup> All those who are with me are yours and you gave them to me. Through them putting faith on me, honour came to me. <sup>11</sup> I will not be in the world any more. But they are in the world. I am coming to you. Holy-one father God! Just as we are united now, they should also be united, so protect them with the power of your name [that] you gave me. <sup>12</sup> While I was here, I protected those you gave me with the power of your name. To fulfil the word of [scripture], whoever who was to be destroyed, he was destroyed. <sup>13</sup> Now I am coming to you. I am telling these things while I am in this world so that my joy should completely be with them. <sup>14</sup> I have told your word to them. I am not of this world. Like that, due to them also not being people of this world, the people of this world hate them. <sup>15</sup> I am not praying to you that you should take them from this world. But I am praying that you protect them from the evil one called Satan. <sup>16</sup> Just as I am not of the world, like that they also are not people of this world. <sup>17</sup> Your word is true. With that truth, set them apart to do your service. <sup>18</sup> In the way that you sent me into the world, in that way I sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> It is my desire that through the sacrifice

that I myself become, they should become truly holy and serve you.

### Jesus praying for all believers

<sup>20</sup> “I am praying not only for these disciples, but for whoever puts their faith in me having heard their message. <sup>21</sup> Oh father! I in you, you in me - how we are united, like that all the trusting ones should also be united, like that I am praying. Unite them in us so that the people of the world will know that you have sent me. <sup>22-23</sup> You are in me. I am in them. I gave them the glory that you gave to me. Just as we are united now, they are also be united. Then the people of the world will know that you sent me and that just as you loved me, you are loving them.

<sup>24</sup> “Father! I am requesting that those you gave to me, should, along with me, see the glory that you gave to me. Because, from before the creation of the world, you loved me. <sup>25</sup> Righteous father! The people of this world are not knowing you, but I know you. These disciples knew that you sent me. <sup>26</sup> I have been showing them who you are and I will show even more. You loved me. Like that it is my desire that I myself should be in their hearts, and they also should love me” he prayed.

### Capturing Jesus

(Matthew 26:47-56; Mark 14:43-50; Luke 22:47-53)

**18** After Jesus prayed, he crossed over the Kidron stream's valley with his disciples. There was a garden there. He and his [disciples] entered that garden. <sup>2</sup> Jesus and his disciples had gone there many times. Therefore Judas, the betraying and handing Jesus over to others one, also knew that garden. <sup>3</sup> The chief priests and [Pharisees] \*, having chosen some people sent [them] with Judas. Who these were, Judas, some soldiers and temple guards. They came with burning torches, lamps and weapons. <sup>4</sup> Due to Jesus knowing in advance what was to happen to himself, having gone to them said, “Who are you searching for?”. <sup>5-6</sup> Then they said, “For Jesus of Nazareth”. So Jesus said, “I am him”. Having heard that message, they moved back and fell

\* *Pharisees*: One of the groups of elders from the Jews were the Pharisees. They used to say with pride that they obeyed God's laws. And having made up many rules-and-regulations and rituals-and-customs of their own minds, they used to also force them on other people to follow. But they [read:the Pharisees] did not always follow them. (Matthew 12:2)

down along with Judas, the betrayer. <sup>7</sup> Once again Jesus said, “Who are you searching for?” he asked them. So they said, “For Jesus of Nazareth”. <sup>8</sup> So Jesus said, “I told you just before this that I am him. Due to you searching for me, allow the remaining ones to go”. <sup>9</sup> Because, ‘Not even one was lost from among those given to me’ like-that in order to fulfil the word he had told, he said like this. <sup>10</sup> There was a long knife with Simon-Peter. With that he cut off the right ear of the servant of the High Priest called Malchus. <sup>11</sup> Then Jesus said, “Put your knife in its sheath. Should I not bear the troubles that my father has given me to bear?” he said to Peter. <sup>12</sup> Then those soldiers and their officer, and the Jewish temple guards took Jesus first to the high priest called Annas. <sup>13</sup> That Annas was the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was doing the High Priest's service at that time. <sup>14</sup> ‘So that our tribe is not destroyed, one man dying for all the people is better’<sup>a</sup> like-that this Caiaphas was the one who had instructed the Jews.

**Peter lying that he does not know who Jesus is**

*(Matthew 26:69-70; Mark 14:66-68; Luke 22:55-57)*

<sup>15</sup> Like that while they were taking Jesus, Simon-Peter and another disciple followed them. Due to that disciple knowing the High Priest, he went inside the courtyard of the High Priest's house along with Jesus. <sup>16</sup> But Peter was standing outside at the gate of the High Priest's house. Therefore that disciple having turned back, and having spoken to the girl guarding the gate, brought Peter inside. <sup>17</sup> That gate guarding girl said, “You are one from among his disciples, aren't you?” she asked Peter. So Peter, said, “I am not”. <sup>18</sup> Due to it been cold at that time, the servants and temple guards having lit a fire were warming [themselves]. So Peter also having gone was warming [himself] along with them.

**The High Priest asking questions to Jesus**

*(Matthew 26:59-66; Mark 14:55-64; Luke 22:66-71)*

<sup>19</sup> At that time the High Priest Annas, asked Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. <sup>20</sup> So Jesus said, “I have openly taught in front of everyone in the synagogues and [temple] where the Jews gather. I have not taught anything secretly. <sup>21</sup> Why are you asking me this question? Ask those who heard what I taught.

<sup>a</sup> **18:14** John 11:49-50

Look! They know what I said”. <sup>22</sup> When Jesus answered like that, one of the temple guards who was standing nearby said, “Do you answer a High Priest like that?” he slapped [him] on the cheek. <sup>23</sup> Then Jesus said, “Tell if I have spoken anything wrong. If [I] having spoken properly, why did you hit me?” he asked the temple guard. <sup>24</sup> Then Annas, without untying the ropes that tied Jesus, sent [him] to the current High Priest called Caiaphas.

**The rooster crowing just when Peter lies**

*(Matthew 26:71-75; Mark 14:69-72; Luke 22:58-62)*

<sup>25</sup> Having seen Simon-Peter while he was warming himself at the fire, they said, “You really are one from among his disciples aren't you?”. So Peter, said, “I am not. I don't know him”. <sup>26</sup> But a relative of the one whose ear Peter had cut off was a servant of the High Priest. That servant said, “Didn't I see you while you were with Jesus in the garden?” he said to Peter. <sup>27</sup> Then Peter said, “I don't know” one more time he said. Just then a rooster crowed.

**Jesus before the Governor Pilate**

*(Matthew 27:1-2,11-31; Mark 15:1-20; Luke 23:1-25)*

<sup>28</sup> At daybreak, they took Jesus from Caiaphas to the Roman governor's palace. So that they would not defile themselves, they did not enter the palace, so they could eat the Passover feast. <sup>29</sup> So Pilate having come outside said, “What accusation are you putting on this man?”. <sup>30</sup> Then they said, “Why would we come to you if he hadn't done wrong?”. <sup>31-32</sup> So Pilate, said, “You having taken him, judge him according to your religious law”. Having heard that the Jews said, “None of us have the authority like you do to give someone else the death sentence”. Through that Jesus' word about what kind of death he would be getting was fulfilled.

<sup>33</sup> Then Pilate having gone inside the palace, called Jesus (and said), “Are you the king of the Jews?”. <sup>34</sup> So Jesus said, “Are you saying like this yourself? Or did some others tell you about me?” he asked back. <sup>35</sup> Therefore Pilate said, “Am I a Jew or what? Your people and the chiefs Priests sent you to me. What did you do?”. <sup>36</sup> Then Jesus said, “My kingdom is not about this world. If my kingdom was about this world my

servants would have fought to stop the Jews capturing me. But my kingdom is not of here”. <sup>37</sup> Having heard that Pilate said, “So, are you a king?”. So Jesus said, “You said to me ‘You are a king’. I was born to testify about the truth. It is for this reason that I came into the world. Those who love the truth listen to my message”. <sup>38</sup> So Pilate said, “What does truth mean?” he asked mockingly.

And having gone to the Jewish people outside, said, “To me there appears to be no wrong-doing in him. <sup>39</sup> But while your Passover festival is happening, there is a custom running that I release one from among those in prison. So would you like to release this king of the Jews?”. <sup>40</sup> Then they (shouted) loudly, “No, not him, but release Barabbas” they shouted. That Barabbas having looted had fallen into jail.

### Giving Jesus the death punishment

**19** Then Pilate caused Jesus to be beaten with whips. <sup>2</sup> The soldiers having wrapped thorns around [made] like a crown, and put it on Jesus' head. They put a purple cloak that kings wear on him. <sup>3</sup> Like that after putting it on, having come close to him they said, “King of the Jews! Hail to you”, like-that they slapped [him].

<sup>4</sup> Pilate having come outside once again said, “I will bring him before you. But, listen! I don't see any wrong in him deserving punishment”. <sup>5</sup> They brought Jesus outside wearing the crown of thorns and that purple cloak. Then Pilate said, “Look! Look at this man!”. <sup>6</sup> Having seen Jesus, those chief priests and temple guards said, “Having nailed him on the log, kill him! Kill him!” they shouted. So Pilate said, “To me there appears no wrong-doing in him. Therefore you nail him on the log and kill him”. <sup>7</sup> Having heard that, those Jews said, “There is one law for us. Due to him saying ‘I am God's son’, according to our law he must surely die”. <sup>8</sup> Having heard that, Pilate was very afraid.

<sup>9</sup> And having taken Jesus into the palace, Pilate asked, “Where have you come from?” he asked him. But Jesus did not answer. <sup>10</sup> So Pilate said, “Why don't you speak with me? I have the authority to set you free and also to cause you to be nailed to the log and killed” he said with

Jesus. <sup>11</sup> Then Jesus said, “You don't have any authority over me except for what is given from God who is above. Therefore the one who caused me to be handed over to you, will have very much sin attached”.

<sup>12</sup> From then on Pilate tried to cause Jesus to be released. But the Jews said, “Every man who calls himself saying I am king becomes opposed to the emperor. If you set him free, you are not the emperor's friend” they shouted. <sup>13</sup> So Pilate, having heard these words, brought Jesus outside. He sat on the judgement telling seat on the raised platform. In the Jews' language\* that place is called ‘Gabbatha’. <sup>14</sup> It was that Passover festival's day of doing preparation. At that time it was almost midday. So Pilate said, “Look! Your king” he told the Jews. <sup>15</sup> Then they said, “Kill him! Kill him! Nail him on the log and kill him” they shouted. So Pilate said, “Why do you say that your king should be nailed on the log and killed?”. So the chief priests said, “Except for the emperor, we have no other king”. <sup>16</sup> Then Pilate handed him over to the soldiers in order to nail him on a log and kill him. So they took Jesus.

### Killing Jesus having nailed him on a log

(Matthew 27:32-44; Mark 15:21-32; Luke 23:26-43)

<sup>17</sup> Then Jesus carried on shoulders his log and went to the place called the skull. In the Jews' language this is called ‘Golgotha’. <sup>18</sup> There they struck with nails and hung him on the middle log. On Jesus' right side one man, and on the left side one man they struck with nails and hung on logs. <sup>19</sup> Then Pilate, “Jesus of Nazareth is king of the Jews” on a board\* having caused to write, he caused them to nail it on the log that Jesus was hangin on. <sup>20</sup> The place they hung Jesus on the log was close to the city. Due to that board being written in languages\* called Hebrew, Latin and Greek, many Jews who came there for the festival were able to read it. <sup>21</sup> Then the chief priests said, “Not ‘King of the Jews’, but cause to write that ‘He said I am the king of the Jews’” having gone to Pilate they told. <sup>22</sup> Then Pilate said, “[What] I caused to write there, let it be like that [as] I caused to write”.

<sup>23</sup> After the soldiers nailed Jesus on the log, they divided his garments having given each one portion

\* **19:13** The Jews used to speak the Hebrew and Aramaic languages. take a log carrying it on the shoulders. Then in front of him will be wrong they are striking with nails and killing him. \* **19:20** Many

\* **19:19** If someone was caught doing wrong, the wrong-doer must written what wrong he did. Those who read that will know for what of the Jews would be able to read one of these languages.

of four portions. They also took his outer robe. That robe was long without stitching.\* <sup>24</sup> So the soldiers said, “Let’s not tear this. Whoever’s name comes should take it” they drew lots. This happened to fulfil the word written in the [scripture] “Having divided my clothes they will draw lots<sup>a</sup> to take my robe”. For that reason the soldiers did like this.

<sup>25</sup> Near the log on which they nailed Jesus, Jesus’ mother, his mother’s-younger-sister, Clopas’ wife Mary and Mary of Magdalene village were standing. <sup>26</sup> Jesus, having seen his mother and his loved-one [disciple]\* standing nearby, said, “Look, mother! Your son”. <sup>27</sup> And having looked towards that disciple said, “Look! Your mother”. From that time having taken her to his home, he looked after her as his own mother.

**Jesus' releasing his life**

(Matthew 27:45-56; Mark 15:33-41; Luke 23:44-49)

<sup>28</sup> After that happened, having known that all his came-for work was finished, in order for that written in scripture to happen, “**I am thirsty**”<sup>b</sup> like-that Jesus said. <sup>29</sup> There was a pot there filled with fermented grape juice. So having soaked cotton (wool) in it, they hung it on a branch of the Hyssop tree and extended it to Jesus’ mouth. <sup>30</sup> Then Jesus, having tasted that juice, said, “I have finished the work I came for” having lowered his head, he died.

<sup>31</sup> That was the day of preparation for the Passover festival. Due to the next day being a very auspicious Sabbath,\* the Jews did not like those bodies hanging on the logs. Therefore they said, “Having caused their legs to break,\* cause those bodies to be taken down” they asked Pilate. <sup>32</sup> So the soldiers having come, they broke the legs of the two people who were crucified along with Jesus. <sup>33</sup> But having come to Jesus, having seen that he had died before that, they did not break his legs. <sup>34</sup> But one of the soldiers from among them pierced Jesus’ side with a spear. Immediately blood along with

water flowed out. <sup>35</sup> He who saw this testified so that you may put faith. His testimony is true. He knows that he is telling the truth. <sup>36-37</sup> “Not even one bone from his bones will break”<sup>c</sup> and in another place “They will look to his side whom they pierced”<sup>d</sup> like-that in the scripture it was written, in order for those words to be fulfilled it happened like this.

**Putting Jesus body in a carved stone cave**

(Matthew 27:57-61; Mark 15:42-47; Luke 23:50-56)

<sup>38</sup> A man called Joseph of Arimathea town, with fear of the Jews, was secretly devoted to Jesus. But now, having gone to Pilate said, “Allow me to take Jesus’ dead-body”. So, due to Pilate agreeing, he took Jesus’ dead-body. <sup>39</sup> With this Joseph there was also Nicodemus [who] one night had come to Jesus. Nicodemus brought about thirty five kilos of sweet smelling things called bolam and agar to apply to the dead-body. <sup>40</sup> According to the Jew’s custom those two men together applied these things and wrapped Jesus’ dead-body with expensive new hand-woven cloth. <sup>41</sup> At the [same] place, where they had nailed and hung Jesus on the log, there was a garden. In that garden there was a carved, new rock cave-tomb. Until then no dead-body had been put in that. <sup>42</sup> Due to that rock cave being close and that day being the Jew’s Passover festival’s preparation day, they hurriedly put Jesus dead-body in that carved rock cave-tomb.\*

**Jesus having died, rising (to life)**

(Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12)

**20** On the first day of the week, Sunday, very early in the morning while it was dark, Mary of Magdalene village went to the carved rock cave-tomb where Jesus’ dead-body was put. So she saw that the rock blocking that cave-tomb had been rolled [aside]. <sup>2</sup> Therefore that Mary having run to Simon-Peter and

\* **19:23** Long ago they used to make these kinds of long robes without stitching. — \* *Disciples:* Disciples means those who are following a teacher and learn from him. During the time of Jesus many people became his disciples and walked according to his way. (Luke 6:20)  
\* **19:31 Sabbath:** according to the Jewish regulations it was not right for a body to be hanging on the cross on the Sabbath; and the work of removing the dead-body from the cross could not be done on the next day. Therefore this work had to be done before sunset.  
\* **19:31** A person nailed on a log is able to breathe by pressing [up] on his legs. But when they break their legs, then due to not being able to breathe, they would quickly die. — \* **19:42** The Jewish rest Sabbath starts at sunset on Friday and ends at sunset on Saturday. So according to their custom no person’s body should be left without being buried. Therefore that work had to be done quickly.  
<sup>a</sup> **19:24** Psalms 22:18    <sup>b</sup> **19:28** Psalms 69:21    <sup>c</sup> **19:36-37** Exodus 12:46; Numbers 9:12; Psalms 34:20    <sup>d</sup> **19:36-37** Zechariah 12:10



another [disciple]<sup>\*</sup> that Jesus loved, said, “Some people have taken the Lord's dead-body from that cave-tomb and we don't know where they put [it]”.<sup>3</sup> So Peter and the disciple with him left in order to see the cave-tomb.<sup>4</sup> While those two were running together, that disciple having run ahead of Peter, he reached the cave-tomb.<sup>5</sup> And from the outside he stooped and looked. So he only saw the wrapped-around cloths there. But he did not enter inside.<sup>6-7</sup> Then Simon-Peter, having reached there, entered inside that cave-tomb. The cloths that [had been] wrapped-around the dead-body were there. He saw the cloth that [had been] wrapped around Jesus head, having been folded, was separate from the remaining cloths.<sup>8</sup> Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first, having entered, having seen, he believed.<sup>9</sup> Even then they were yet to understand the matter in [scripture] that says, “Christ, having died, will surely rise [to life]”.<sup>10</sup> Then those two went back to their own people.

### **Jesus appearing to Mary of Magdalene village**

(Mark 16:9-11)

<sup>11</sup> But Mary of Magdalene village was standing outside the cave-tomb crying. While crying like that she stooped and looked in from the outside.<sup>12</sup> Then two of God's angels appeared wearing very white clothes. They were sitting where Jesus dead-body had been - one at the head end and one at the feet end.<sup>13</sup> They said, “Sister! Why do you cry?”. So she said, “Some people having taken the Lord's dead-body from the cave-tomb, I don't know where they put [it]” Mary said.<sup>14</sup> Having told like that, she turned around. Then she saw Jesus standing, but she did not recognize he was Jesus.<sup>15</sup> Then Jesus said, “Older sister, why do you cry? And for whom are you searching?”. So Mary having thought that he was the garden's servant said, “Brother! If you have taken the Lord's dead-body, tell me where you have put him. Having gone, I will take the dead-body”.<sup>16</sup> So Jesus

said, “Mary!” he called her. Then Mary turned towards him and called out “Rabboni!” in the Hebrew language. The meaning of this is ‘religious teacher’.<sup>17</sup> Jesus said with her said, “I must go to the father above. Don't stay holding me. But having gone to my younger-brothers, tell them, ‘My father is your father. My God is your God. I am going to the father above’” he said to her.<sup>18</sup> So Mary of Magdalene village having gone to the disciples said, “I have seen the Lord. The Lord told me to say these things to you” she told the disciples.

<sup>19</sup> On the evening of that day<sup>\*</sup> having fear of the Jewish authorities, having closed and bolted the doors of the house where they were gathered, they were inside. Then Jesus appeared in their midst said, “May peace come to you” he told them.<sup>20</sup> After saying like that, he showed his hands and side. So, having recognized the Lord, those disciples felt very happy.<sup>21</sup> Then Jesus once again said, “May peace come to you! As the father sent me to the world, I also will send you to the world” he told the disciples.<sup>22</sup> Having told like this, “You receive the [Holy Spirit]<sup>\*</sup>” he breathed out breath on them.<sup>a</sup> <sup>23</sup> And “Whoever's sins you forgive, they will get forgiveness. Whoever's sins [you] do not forgive, they will not get forgiveness” he told them.

### **Jesus appearing to Thomas**

(Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:14-18; Luke 24:36-49)

<sup>24</sup> When Jesus had come, one of them from among the twelve disciples, the twin called Thomas, was not there.<sup>25</sup> Therefore the disciples said, “We saw the Lord!” they told Thomas. But Thomas said, “Without having truly seen the holes from the nails hit into the Lord's hands and having touched them with my finger and without putting my hand in the side pierced with a spear, I will not believe at all”.

<sup>26</sup> One week after having said like that, the disciples were in a house. Then Thomas was with them. While the doors were closed and locked, Jesus appeared to them

<sup>\*</sup> *Disciples*: Disciples means those who are following a teacher and learn from him. During the time of Jesus many people became his disciples and walked according to his way. (Luke 6:20) <sup>\*</sup> **20:19** According to the Jewish custom, Saturday is called the rest day. For that week, that Saturday is the last day. Sunday becomes the first day of the new week. <sup>\*</sup> *Holy Spirit*: The Holy Spirit is there since before creation and is working in the world even now. And it makes people realize that they need God. Like that in many ways it helps those who have put faith in Jesus. The Bible tells that there is only one true God. And he is one [God] in three ways. Meaning God the father, God the son, and God the holy spirit. While Jesus was taking baptism, we can see about these three. When God the son, who is Jesus, was coming out of the water, then God the holy spirit descended on him from heaven in the form of a dove, and God the Father spoke from heaven above. These three are separate but united in their characteristics, [so] we call him as one God. (Acts 1:8)

<sup>a</sup> **20:22** Genesis 2:7



(and said), “May peace come to you!”. <sup>27</sup> After saying like that, to Thomas he said, “Touch with your fingers and see my hands. And having stretched out your hand, put [it] in my side and without being like a faithless one, be one with faith”. <sup>28</sup> Then Thomas said, “Yes, my God! My Lord!” he answered Jesus. <sup>29</sup> So Jesus said, “You believed having seen me. Those who believe without seeing will get many blessings” he told Thomas.

**The purpose of this book**

<sup>30</sup> Apart from these, Jesus did many other miraculous deeds in front of the disciples. Those are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these things have been written so that if you will believe that Jesus is the saving one Christ\* and he is God's son, you will get eternal life.

**Jesus appearing to seven disciples**

**21** After that happened, Jesus once again appeared to his [disciples] in this way on the shore of the sea of Galilee <sup>\*2</sup> Simon-Peter, the twin called Thomas, Nathaniel of Galilee area's town of Cana, Zebedee's sons and two other from among Jesus' disciples were gathered together. <sup>3</sup> Then Simon-Peter said, “I am going to catch fish” he said to them. So they said, “We will also come with you”. And having gone, they sat in the boat, but that night they did not catch anything.

<sup>4</sup> While the sun was rising, Jesus was standing on the shore, but those disciples did not recognize him. <sup>5</sup> Then Jesus said, “You brothers! Have you caught fish to eat?”. So they said, “Did not catch”. <sup>6</sup> So Jesus said, “You put your net on the boat's right side. Then fish will be caught”. So they threw the net as were told. Then very many fish were caught. So they were unable to lift that net onto the boat. <sup>7</sup> Then the disciple that Jesus loved said, “He is the Lord!” he told Peter. So Simon-Peter having heard that, due to being top-half-naked, immediately having put on his shirt, he jumped into the sea in order to go to the shore. <sup>8</sup> Due to the remaining disciples being two hundred cubits from the shore, they came by that boat pulling the net of caught fish.

<sup>9</sup> After the boat reached the shore, they got down. Then they saw some bread and fish on the burning-coals. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said, “Now you bring some from among the caught fish”. <sup>11</sup> So Simon-Peter having gone to the boat, and held the rope, pulled the net from the water to the shore. The net was full of one hundred and fifty three big fish. But even then that net did not rip. <sup>12</sup> Then Jesus said, “Come and eat!” he called the disciples. So due to [them] coming to know that he is the Lord, ‘Who are you?’ like-that no one asked him. <sup>13</sup> So Jesus shared bread and fish with them. <sup>14</sup> After Jesus' death and rising [to life], this was the third time he appeared to the disciples.

**Jesus Restoring Peter's backslidden faith**

<sup>15</sup> After their eating, Jesus said, “John's son Simon! Do you love me more than these [people] do?” he asked Simon-Peter. So he said, “Yes Lord! You know that I love” Peter said. So Jesus said, “Look after my sheep<sup>a</sup>”. <sup>16</sup> Once more Jesus said, “John's son Simon! Do you really love me?”. So he said, “Yes Lord! You know that I love” Peter said. So Jesus said, “Look after my sheep”. <sup>17</sup> The third time Jesus said, “John's son Simon! Do you really love me?”. Due to being asked ‘Do you love me?’ a third time, Peter said with sadness, “Yes Lord! You know everything. You also know that I love you”. So Jesus said, “Look after my sheep” he told Peter. <sup>18</sup> And, “This is true. While you are a young-man, having tied your [clothes at your] waist, you go wherever you like. But after you become an old-man, while your hands, are stretched out, someone else having tied, will take you where you don't like to go” Jesus told. <sup>19</sup> Jesus said like this in order to show what kind of death having happened [to him, by which he] would bring glory to God. After saying like that he said, “Follow according to my way”.

<sup>20</sup> While they were eating the Passover meal, the one who leaned even closer to the Lord, and asked ‘Lord! Who is it?’, the disciple Jesus loved, Peter saw [him] following behind. <sup>21</sup> Having seen him, Peter asked, “Lord! What will happen to him?” he asked Jesus. <sup>22</sup> So Jesus [told Peter], “If I want him to remain until

\* **20:31** the saving one Christ: In the Hebrew language, they say Messaijah. It's meaning is the king that God appointed and was sending in order to save the people. The Jews were looking for him. \* **21:1** They also call it the Sea of Tiberias.

<sup>a</sup> **21:15** John 10:1-15

I come once again, you don't need to know about that matter. You, just follow according to my way”.

<sup>23</sup> Through that, the message that that disciple won't die spread among the believers. But Jesus didn't say like that about the loved disciple. He just said, “If I want him to remain until I come once again, you don't need to know about that matter”.

### Final message

<sup>24</sup> This disciple, the one who Jesus loved, having seen all these events, in order to tell witness wrote all these things. We know that his testimony is true. <sup>25</sup> There are even more deeds that Jesus did on earth. I think that if each one from them were explained, there would be insufficient place to keep those books in this world.

# Hebrews

## *The letter written to the Hebrew people*

### **Important matter about this letter**

Jesus disciples proclaimed the good news about the saving-one Christ to all people all over the world. Through this many of the Jewish people became Christians. Other people caused many troubles and difficulties to come on them. Then those Christians were thinking about leaving their faith and returning to their old customs. It was for these Hebrew people who were thinking like this that one of Jesus's servants wrote this letter.

In this letter it is written about Jesus Christ who fulfilled God's desire which the old covenant was not able to fulfil. In this letter are three important points:

- (1) Jesus Christ is God's son. He prepared himself to bear the suffering in order to fulfil God's will. That Jesus Christ is the first from among all the angels, prophets and men that God sent.
- (2) God showed that Jesus is the forever living High Priest greater than all the High Priests living before Jesus Christ.
- (3) The Hebrew people used to think that giving animal sacrifices and walking according to customs-and-rituals would save them from their sins. But in this letter [it says] that only Jesus Christ alone can save from sin, fear and death.

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### Jesus Christ is God's son

**1** In ancient times, many times and in many ways,  
God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets.  
<sup>2</sup> But in these last days he spoke with us through his son. Through his son he created this creation. He chose that son to be like an inheritor of this creation. <sup>3-4</sup> That son is the exact appearance of God's character and he shines with his (God's) amazing light. That son by his own powerful word is ruling all of this creation. He cleansed us from all sins. Because of this, having gone to the all-powerful God who is in heaven he sat down at his right hand side.\* Having seen this we know that son's name and honour is much higher than God's angels.

<sup>5</sup> "You are my son.

Today I have fathered you"<sup>a</sup>

like-that God never told any angel as he said to (the) son. Like that and in another place God said,

"I will become his father.

He will become my son"<sup>b</sup>

like-that except for Jesus [he] never said to any angel.

<sup>6</sup> Not only this, [but] in another place, when he called his first-born son into this world then

"All of his [God's] angels should worship \*him"

he told like that.

<sup>7</sup> "God makes his angels like wind

and his servants like flames of fire" <sup>c</sup>

God told like that about his angels.

<sup>8</sup> But about his son,

"Oh God, your throne will stand forever.

You will rule with justice.

<sup>9</sup> You love justice

and hate injustice.

Because of this the Lord your God,

having chosen you, from among everyone

and given you honour, filled you with joy"<sup>d</sup>

he told like that.

<sup>10</sup> And [he] also said about his son,

"Lord, in the beginning you are the creator  
of the earth.

You even created the sky.

<sup>11</sup> They will be totally destroyed,

but you are the one who will stay forever.

They will become old like worn out clothes.

<sup>12</sup> Like old clothes you will fold

and throw the earth and the sky.

Instead of them you will exchange for  
[something] new.

But you are always staying the same.

You will never become a dying one"<sup>e</sup>

he told like that.

<sup>13</sup> And also,

"Until I have put your enemies like a foot-stool  
beneath your feet,

come and sit at my right-hand side"<sup>f</sup>

like-that God did not tell to any angel as he said to Jesus.

<sup>14</sup> Those angels are spiritual beings and servants of God. They are the ones sent to help those who will be saved.

### Telling (us) to stay alert

**2** Therefore having carefully listened to the true message, see that you don't slide away from God's truth. <sup>2</sup> Because, the news that was told by the angels was in force and whoever does not follow that news,\* his each and every unrighteous (deed) and bad works got what it deserved. <sup>3</sup> If we do not live by following such a great news of salvation then how can we escape from the coming punishment? The Lord first told us the news of this eternal life (salvation). Those who heard that news told us that truth (which was with them).

<sup>4</sup> At that time God demonstrated that the news is true by doing many wonders and miraculous works and by

\* **1:3-4** right hand side: means the place of honour and authority. is Moses' law.

\* **1:6** Prayer and praising having knelt down with devotion. \* **2:2** This

<sup>a</sup> **1:5** Psalms 2:7 <sup>b</sup> **1:5** 2 Samuel 7:14; 1 Chronicles 17:13

<sup>c</sup> **1:7** Psalms 104:4

<sup>d</sup> **1:9** Psalms 45:6,7

<sup>e</sup> **1:12** Psalms 102:25-27

<sup>f</sup> **1:13** Psalms 110:1

giving his devotees powerful gifts of his ᵐHoly Spiritᵐ\* as he wished.

### Jesus taking the form of a human

<sup>5</sup> We are speaking about the future age. God has not handed it over into angels' hands. <sup>6</sup> Instead of this someone has told witness like this in the holy scriptures:

“Oh God! In order for you to think and remember about mankind how worthless he is?

<sup>7</sup> For a little while, you gave mankind a lower status than even the angels, but in order to give (much) honour, you put a crown of glory on his head.

<sup>8</sup> and you put everything under his feet”<sup>a</sup>

it is written like that. ‘All things’ meaning, God has given him authority over everything, without exception. But now everything is not appearing to be under his authority. <sup>9</sup> But the truth is that for a little while Jesus was even lower status than the angels. By God's grace Jesus having borne the suffering (he) died for all the people of the world. Therefore God crowned him with glory and honour. <sup>10</sup> God created all these things and is sustaining all things for himself. Because of this, in order to take many people to the place of glory, God decided that it is right that the saviour Jesus having suffered becomes a perfect one.

### Jesus is not ashamed to call mankind his brothers

<sup>11</sup> The Jesus holy maker of sinners and the ones he made holy are all people who took birth from one father. Therefore Jesus is not ashamed to call them his brothers.

<sup>12</sup> “I will tell about your name to my brothers.

Praising you in front of all the gathered people, I will sing praise-songs”<sup>b</sup>

he said like that to God.

<sup>13</sup> In another place

“My trust is in God.”<sup>c</sup>

Not just this, and also,

“I and the children

God gave to me are here”<sup>d</sup>

like-that he is saying.

<sup>14</sup> Because those who are called children have a body, Jesus became like us in every way and came. He, by his death, Satan (who is) the one who has authority over death should be destroyed so saying like this he did. <sup>15</sup> Because of this he gave salvation to people who live their lifetime like slaves in fear of death. <sup>16</sup> Because Jesus did not come in order to help God's angels but he came to help Abraham's descendants. <sup>17</sup> Because of this, it was necessary for Jesus to be like us in every way. By that he could be our faithful and merciful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would pay the ransom for our sins. <sup>18</sup> Because he suffered troubles and overcame, now he can help those who are facing troubles of suffering.

### Jesus is greater than Moses

**3** Therefore you brothers-and-sisters who God has called in order to stay in heaven! You have accepted Jesus, the ᵐmessengerᵐ\* and high priest, who God sent. You remember and think about him. <sup>2</sup> Moses faithfully completed whatever God gave him to do. Like that Jesus also faithfully did whatever God gave him to do. <sup>3</sup> (People) respect the owner of the house more than the house (itself). Like that Jesus is more honoured than Moses like-that he earned a good name. <sup>4</sup> Because someone has built each and every house but it is God who created everything. <sup>5</sup> For all God's people Moses worked like a faithful servant. The things he (Moses) did were only true examples of what God would speak in the future. <sup>6</sup> But Christ having become the authority over God's people is God's faithful son. If we believe that

\* *Holy Spirit*: The Holy Spirit is there since before creation and is working in the world even now. And it makes people realize that they need God. Like that in many ways it helps those who have put faith in Jesus. The Bible tells that there is only one true God. And he is one [God] in three ways. Meaning God the father, God the son, and God the holy spirit. While Jesus was taking baptism, we can see about these three. When God the son, who is Jesus, was coming out of the water, then God the holy spirit descended on him from heaven in the form of a dove, and God the Father spoke from heaven above. These three are separate but united in their characteristics, [so] we call him as one God. (Acts 1:8) — \* *Apostles*: The twelve disciples that Jesus chose to help him were called Apostles. This means messengers. (Luke 6:13)

<sup>a</sup> 2:8 Psalms 8:4-6    <sup>b</sup> 2:12 Psalms 22:22    <sup>c</sup> 2:13 Isaiah 8:17    <sup>d</sup> 2:13 Isaiah 8:18



we will surely get salvation and if we remain strong in our faith (then) we will continue to be his household\* members.

### Giving warning to those whose hearts are sliding away

<sup>7-8</sup> For that reason God's [Holy Spirit]\* said like this:

“Your ancestors rose up against me in the wilderness and having become opposed were testing me.

If you hear my message today (emp), just as your ancestors made their hearts stubborn, don't do like them.

<sup>9</sup> Having seen the miraculous deeds I did for forty years, they tested my patience in the wilderness”

<sup>10</sup> “Due to that reason, I became angry with those people. ‘Their hearts slid away from me.

They did not accept the way in which I said they should go’.

<sup>11</sup> For that reason ‘I will never allow them to come to my resting place’ like-that in anger I took an oath”<sup>a</sup>

God said like that.

<sup>12</sup> Be careful! My brothers-and-sisters! Make sure that no one from among you has an evil heart (which) slides away and stops trusting in the living God. <sup>13</sup> And also, whenever you hear the scriptures saying ‘today's day (emp)’ in God's word, keep on encouraging one another each day to live in a good way. Then your you will not be trapped in sin and your hearts will not change to be (hard) like stones. <sup>14</sup> Because if we remain strong in that faith from when we first believed until we die, then we will be one in Christ. <sup>15</sup> Just as was said before:

“If you hear God's message today (emp), just as your ancestors having become opposed made their hearts stubborn, don't do like them.”<sup>b</sup>

<sup>16</sup> Who were the ones who even having heard God's word opposed? Were they not the ones that Moses brought (out) from Egypt? <sup>17</sup> On whom was God's anger for forty years? Was it not on the ones having sinned and died in the wilderness? <sup>18</sup> About those who having knowingly slid away, “I will never allow them to come to my resting place” did he not make an oath? Yes he made [an oath]! <sup>19</sup> Having seen all this, we know that without believing they could not enter that place of rest.

### The promised rest for God's people

**4** The vow about going to God's resting place is unchanged. Because of this let us stay with fear and concentration so that no one from among you should leave the chance of going there. <sup>2</sup> Just as we heard about the good news, those ancestors heard about the message of rest. But they did not put their trust in it. Therefore that message was useless for them. <sup>3</sup> We (who) put our trust in the good news will surely be able to go to God's resting place. But those who don't believe,

“‘I will never allow them to come to my resting place’ like-that in anger I took an oath”<sup>c</sup>

God said like that.

But we know that this resting place that is there now was there ever since creating the world. <sup>4</sup> But about the rest day, “After God finished creating creation, he took rest on the seventh day”<sup>d</sup> it is written like that. <sup>5</sup> And another time, “I will never allow them to come to my resting place”.

<sup>6</sup> Before this our ancestors who have gone without believing in the good news did not get a chance in order to go to that resting place. But there is a chance for some people to go to that resting place. <sup>7</sup> For this reason God has chosen another day. That he calls ‘today's day’. Just as I wrote to you before, after many years,

“If you hear my message today (emp), don't let your hearts to become stubborn”<sup>e</sup>

\* **3:6** or it says God's house. \* *Holy Spirit*: The Holy Spirit is there since before creation and is working in the world even now. And it makes people realize that they need God. Like that in many ways it helps those who have put faith in Jesus. The Bible tells that there is only one true God. And he is one [God] in three ways. Meaning God the father, God the son, and God the holy spirit. While Jesus was taking baptism, we can see about these three. When God the son, who is Jesus, was coming out of the water, then God the holy spirit descended on him from heaven in the form of a dove, and God the Father spoke from heaven above. These three are separate but united in their characteristics, [so] we call him as one God. (Acts 1:8)

<sup>a</sup> **3:11** Psalms 95:7-11    <sup>b</sup> **3:15** Psalms 95:7-8    <sup>c</sup> **4:3** Psalms 95:11    <sup>d</sup> **4:4** Genesis 2:2    <sup>e</sup> **4:7** Psalms 95:7,8

like-that he caused him to speak through David.  
<sup>8</sup> If Joshua had given rest to them God would not have told them about another day of rest. <sup>9</sup> Therefore just as God took rest on the seventh day, that “rest day” remains for his believers. <sup>10</sup> Just as God rested from his work his believers after having gone to the rest place their work will stop. <sup>11</sup> He who does not follow as God says, he will be disobedient like (his) ancestors - the people of Israel. Therefore let us all try diligently to go to that resting place.

<sup>12</sup> Because God's word is living and powerful. That word is even more sharp than a two-sided sword. Just as that sword separates joints and bone-marrow, like that having also exposed the inner thoughts of a person's spirit and soul, it judges [them]. <sup>13</sup> There is nothing in this world that can be hidden from God's sight. He can see everything clearly like it is spread out in front of his eyes. We will have to tell about ourselves to God who sees like that.

### Jesus is the high priest

<sup>14</sup> Jesus who has gone to heaven is God's son. He is the high priest of us all. Therefore let us stay firmly without leaving the faith that we accepted before everyone. <sup>15</sup> Having understood our weaknesses (without strength), our high priest will sympathize with us. Because Jesus suffered all kinds of tests like us, but he did not do any sin. <sup>16</sup> Therefore having got courage let us go near\* to God. If we go like that then we will receive God's compassion and grace just at the right time.

### No one can take the position of the high priest

**5** The people chose a high priest from (among) them. He gives offerings and sacrifices for sin in God's presence on behalf of the people. <sup>2</sup> Even this high priest himself is weak in many ways. Therefore, on those who have sinned without knowing, he will deal gently. <sup>3</sup> For this reason that high priest having made a sacrifice for his own sins, must also give a sacrifice for the people's sins.

<sup>4</sup> No man can take on himself the position of being a high priest. Just as God called and chose Aaron for the first high priest, like that he calls and chooses other high priests. <sup>5</sup> Even Christ did not take for himself the high priest's priesthood. But God said to him,

“You are my son.

Today I have fathered you”<sup>a</sup>

he said like that. <sup>6</sup> And in another place,

“Having become like Melchizedek

you will be a priest forever!”<sup>b</sup>

like-that he chose.

<sup>7</sup> While Jesus was living on earth he prayed and requested crying out with tears to God who was able to save him from death. Having taking (into account) his inner devotion, God heard his prayer. <sup>8</sup> Even having become God's son he learned his father's discipline and how to suffer troubles. <sup>9</sup> In this way God, accepted him in as a high priest being perfect in all ways. He stands as the foundation to give eternal life to everyone who obeys (holds onto) his word. <sup>10</sup> God chose Jesus as a high priest like Melchizedek.

### Once again you have become infants

<sup>11</sup> There is so much more to be told about this. But it is difficult to explain in detail about them. Because you have become lazy to learn about God's message. <sup>12</sup> By this time you should have become the religious-teaching teachers. But someone else has to teach you God's first teachings. Those teachings are like milk but the advanced teachings are like solid food. You cannot eat solid food but you have to still drink milk like newborn girls and newborn boys. <sup>13</sup> Those who just drink milk are still infants. Therefore they don't know (the difference) between good and bad. <sup>14</sup> Solid food is for only those who are mature and are walking having learned (what is) good and bad through training.

**6** So, without telling the first told teachings about Christ again and again, let us leave them and go forward and become as mature people. Repenting from sinful activities leading towards death and putting trust in God, <sup>2</sup> the teaching about baptism, putting hands on the head, and in the future [resurrection]\* and God

\* **4:16** Near to God's throne of grace. \* *Raising back to life:* Having died and coming back to life is called resurrection. Jesus raised several people to life after they had died. Like that, Jesus' believers will also be raised to an eternal spiritual body after dying. (1 Corinthians 15:12-34)

<sup>a</sup> **5:5** Psalms 2:7    <sup>b</sup> **5:6** Psalms 110:4

finally judging them, there is no need to tell you again and again about these kinds of first important teachings of Christ. <sup>3</sup> Instead of this if God gives us a chance to go forward, let us go.

without letting go of the salvation-giving hope, in order to get God's promises.

### About those who are sliding away from faith in God

<sup>4-5</sup> Having caused those people, who have slid away from faith in God, to turn back, how can we make them feel sorry? Having earlier known God's truth, they have experienced God's blessings, having partaken of the [Holy Spirit]\*, having experienced the goodness of God's message, they know about the powerful deeds which God will do in the future. <sup>6</sup> Even having taken all these experiences, we cannot cause those who have slid away from trust in God to turn back and feel sorry. Because of this, having nailed God's son on the log\* once again, they are shaming that son in front of people.

<sup>7</sup> Those people are like bad soil. As the soil of any field having soaked in the water from the rains, gives a good crop to the farmer, that soil gets God's blessing. <sup>8</sup> But instead of this if the soil of that field sprouts thorny plants and grasses and creepers, the farmer\* will soon curse and burn it saying that land is useless.

### God will never forget you

<sup>9</sup> My dear brothers! You are doing good works, because God saved you already. Therefore these warnings are not about you. <sup>10</sup> As you have done good works and now you are doing works of service with love for God's devotees in the name of God, God will not forget you. Because He is righteous one. <sup>11-12</sup> Don't be lazy. But like hard workers, you should continue doing these works, with patient faith until the end,

### God's vow

<sup>13-14</sup> Then because there is no one greater than God he took an oath on his own name and said to Abraham "Truly, I will bless you and increase your descendants"<sup>a</sup> like that he promised. <sup>15</sup> Abraham was patiently looking for that. So God fulfilled that promise.

<sup>16</sup> When there is an argument coming between two parties, in order to settle (the matter) one of the parties will make an oath in someone's name who is greater than them. Then, having understood the truth of that oath, the argument ends. <sup>17</sup> In order to say to those receiving that promise "I will never change the promise that I gave", God took an oath in his own name. <sup>18</sup> God's promise and oath, these two will not change. God cannot lie about these things. God's desire is that those people who are going toward eternal life should go with even more encouragement. <sup>19</sup> This hope of eternal life having made us strong people, keeps our spirit from sliding away like a ship's 'anchor',\* enabling us to go inside God's dwelling place of heaven. <sup>20</sup> Because ahead of us Jesus our high priest has entered inside that heaven on our behalf. Like Melchizedek Jesus has become an eternal high priest.

### God's priest Melchizedek

**7** That Melchizedek, king of Salem, was the priest of the most high God. While Abraham was coming back\* having won the fight over other kings, Melchizedek met and blessed him. <sup>2</sup> Abraham gave Melchizedek one tenth from what he himself won and brought. 'Melchizedek' means righteous king and

\* *Holy Spirit*: The Holy Spirit is there since before creation and is working in the world even now. And it makes people realize that they need God. Like that in many ways it helps those who have put faith in Jesus. The Bible tells that there is only one true God. And he is one [God] in three ways. Meaning God the father, God the son, and God the holy spirit. While Jesus was taking baptism, we can see about these three. When God the son, who is Jesus, was coming out of the water, then God the holy spirit descended on him from heaven in the form of a dove, and God the Father spoke from heaven above. These three are separate but united in their characteristics, [so] we call him as one God. (Acts 1:8) \* **6:6** A log on which to hang people to take their life. \* **6:8** here it means God. \* **6:19** A ship's anchor is made out of iron. In order to stop the ship they let that go (drop) it into the water. Then, that [anchor] having either got stuck in the rocks or in some hard ground, the ship stays in one place without being tossed here and there. \* **7:1** Abraham rescued and brought his older brother's son Lot from the hand of King of Elam. (Genesis 14:17-24)

<sup>a</sup> **6:13-14** Genesis 22:17

'Salem's king' also means king of peace. <sup>3</sup> No one knows who his forefathers and mother and father are. No one even knows about his birth and death. He is like God's son being a priest forever.

<sup>4</sup> You should know how great that Melchizedek is. Because even our ancestor Abraham, gave Melchizedek one tenth from what he won at war. <sup>5</sup> It is in Moses' law\* that Levi's descendants should run the priesthood and those who are born as Abraham's descendants, even though they are brothers, should give the priests of the descendants of Levi one tenth. <sup>6</sup> Melchizedek is not Levi's descendant. But even then, he took promises from God. Melchizedek took one tenth from Abraham and blessed Abraham. <sup>7</sup> There is no doubt, the person giving the blessing is greater than the person taking the blessing. <sup>8</sup> The descendants of Levi who were living and will die are taking one tenth. But it is said that even Melchizedek who lives forever took one tenth. <sup>9</sup> One way of seeing this is that, even the one tenth receiving person Levi, we can say he gave one tenth to Melchizedek through Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Because when Abraham met Melchizedek, Levi was not yet even born\* into Abraham's descendants.

### Jesus is a priest like Melchizedek

<sup>11</sup> In Moses' law it says Levi's descendants should run the priesthood. But the works of those priests are not able to be perfect. If their works were perfect then God would have sent a priest like Aaron.\* But why is it necessary for another priest like Melchizedek\* to come? <sup>12</sup> If the priesthood changes then the law should also change. <sup>13</sup> These words are telling about the different tribe-person Jesus. The people of this tribe have never worked as priests at the sacrifice giving place of God's temple. <sup>14</sup> Our Lord Jesus came from the tribe of Judah and we know that Moses did not say anywhere that this tribe should become priests.

<sup>15</sup> The saying that he will become a priest like Melchizedek the Lord has fulfilled. <sup>16</sup> He did not become a priest from the tribe of Levi as prescribed by the law but he was able to become a priest because of the power of his everlasting life. <sup>17</sup> because,

“Having become like Melchizedek

\* 7:5 The commands that God caused Moses to write. \* 7:10 Levi was not yet even born: That Levi was in the loins of his ancestor Abraham.

\* 7:11 Aaron was of the clan of Levi. \* 7:11 Melchizedek was not of the clan of Levi. \* 8:2 God

a 7:17 Psalms 110:4 b 7:20-21 Psalms 110:4

you will be a priest forever!”<sup>a</sup>

like-that the scripture is saying. <sup>18-19</sup> Moses law could not make anything perfect. Saying that that law is weak and is worthless God put it aside. Instead of this, the Lord gave a better hope than that. By following this (hope) we can go near to God. <sup>20-21</sup> Not only that, God took an oath, but he did not take an oath for any other priest. In the holy scriptures,

“The Lord God took an oath  
and he will not change his mind.

You will remain a priest forever!”<sup>b</sup>

God said like that to him. <sup>22</sup> By this oath Jesus became the guarantee that the new covenant is better than the old covenant.

<sup>23</sup> And one more difference is that many people become priests but death stops them from becoming priests forever. <sup>24</sup> But because Jesus is without death he will be a high priest forever. <sup>25</sup> Therefore Jesus always saves whoever comes to God's presence through him. This Jesus will always be alive in order to plead to God on their behalf.

<sup>26</sup> This kind of high priest is the holy one, the one without sin, the blameless one, (who does) not associate with sinners, (he) is the one honoured in heaven. <sup>27</sup> This Jesus neither has to give daily sacrifices for his own sins nor for the people's sins like the other high priests. Because he gave himself as a sacrifice only once for the sins of all people. <sup>28</sup> Moses' law chose high priests that were powerless. But the oath that came after the law chose God's son as a high priest. Not only that, he became and remains forever a perfect high priest.

### The new covenant: Jesus is our high priest

**8** From what we told, the important message is that Jesus is sitting as a high priest for us at the right hand side of the great and all-powerful God's throne in heaven. <sup>2</sup> He is serving inside the true worshipping tent at the Most Holy Place. Men did not make this worshipping tent but the Lord\* made it.

<sup>3</sup> Each and every high priest after being chosen needs to offer offerings and sacrifices for the forgiveness of sin. Like that it was also necessary for our high priest Jesus to give something to be offered. <sup>4</sup> If he

was in this world now he would not even have become an ordinary priest. Because there are offering-giving priests according to Moses' law. <sup>5</sup> Those priests are serving at a place which is only a duplicate image\* of the Most Holy Place in heaven. Before Moses put up the worshipping tent (God said) "Carefully make everything just as I showed in the example when you were on the mountain"<sup>a</sup> like-that God warned him.

<sup>6</sup> But now even more than the service of those priests, Jesus is at the Most Holy Place doing [the work of] service given (by God). Not only that, Jesus has become the mediator of a new covenant which is better than the old covenant. This covenant stands on better promises than the old covenant.

<sup>7</sup> If that old covenant was without any fault\* then there is no need for a new covenant. <sup>8</sup> But God while pointing out the faults of his people said,

"Look! In the future with the people of Israel and the people of Judah I will put a new covenant.

<sup>9</sup> Having carefully led their ancestors,

I brought them from Egypt.

This new covenant will not be like the covenant

I made with them at that time.

Because they were not following the covenant that I put.

Therefore I ignored them.

<sup>10</sup> But after those days have passed, this is the new covenant

I have decided with the people of Israel.

I will make their minds

remember the commands of my law.

I will put them [the commands] in their heart.

I will be [remain] their God.

They will be [remain] my people.

<sup>11</sup> At that time, it will not be necessary to say 'know about God'

to any neighbours or relatives.

Everyone, without any difference, will know about me.

<sup>12</sup> with mercy I will never again remember their sins and those wicked deeds"<sup>b</sup>

like-that he caused to write.

<sup>13</sup> God called this 'the new covenant' because the first covenant has become old. Whatever becomes old is ready to disappear.

### The old rules for worshipping

**9** The first covenant that God gave the Israelite people had rules about the worshipping tent made by human hands and about rules (for worship).<sup>\*</sup> <sup>2</sup> In the middle of that worshipping tent they hung a curtain and made two parts. In the front part was the lampstand and the table for putting the offering bread. They used to call this part the holy place.<sup>3</sup> They used to call that part behind the curtain the Most [Holy]<sup>\*</sup> Place.<sup>4</sup> In that part there was an incense burning altar made of gold and the covenant box. That box was completely covered with gold. Inside that box there used to be a gold pot with mana<sup>\*</sup> in it, Aaron's sprouted stick\*, and two slate-like carved rocks on which the commands were written.<sup>5</sup> The top part of that box's lid [is] called the place for forgiving sins.\* The guarding figures\* which show God's glorious light covered that place with their wings. There is no time now in order to tell in detail about all these things.

<sup>6</sup> After preparing everything like this the priests used to go into the front portion of the worshipping tent and do their daily rituals.<sup>7</sup> But only the high priest used to go once each year to the Most Holy Place behind the curtain holding the blood in order to give an offering for his (own) sins and for the sins the

\* **8:5** Like a shadow. \* **8:7** This means: There was nothing wrong with that old covenant, but that covenant was just not able to fulfil that which it was supposed to do. \* **9:1** Refer to the last section of this book to see how the Jewish people used to worship God.

\* **Holy**: Being set apart for God. Holy means that in words, in sight, and in deeds nothing should be wrong. (1 Peter 1:15) \* **9:4** The food called manna that God miraculously sent to the Israelite people to eat in the wilderness while coming from Egypt. (Exodus 16:32-34)

\* **9:4** The meaning of this stick was to remind the people that Aaron was God's chosen priest. (Numbers 16-17) \* **9:5** the mercy seat.

\* **9:5** called Cherubim (which are) like angels.

<sup>a</sup> **8:5** Exodus 25:40    <sup>b</sup> **8:12** Jeremiah 31:31-34



people did without knowing.<sup>a</sup> <sup>8</sup> Considering all these things, the [Holy Spirit]\* was showing that as long as there is this kind of worshipping tent place, the way to heaven's Most Holy Place will not open. <sup>9</sup> All that is just an example of what is happening at this present time. Those offerings and sacrifices are not able to free the conscience of the worshipping ones from guilt at all. <sup>10</sup> Meaning, food and drink offerings and deeds for becoming ritually clean are only useful for the body. These deeds are only useful until God's new covenant has come.

### Jesus' offering of blood

<sup>11</sup> Christ having become a high priest brought us good blessings. He went to the place of the very great and perfect worshipping tent in heaven in order to serve. That place is not made by man meaning that it is not of this world. <sup>12</sup> Christ did not go there taking either the blood of goats nor the blood of calves. But having given his own blood, one time only, he went to that Most Holy Place. Through that we got eternal salvation. <sup>13</sup> According to Moses' law, if the blood of goats and bulls and ashes of calves are sprinkled on an unclean person only their outer body is made ritually clean. <sup>14</sup> But how much more ritually clean Christ's blood makes our fully sinful consciences. Meaning that, through the power of the eternal Holy Spirit, sinless Jesus sacrificed his own forever-living spirit for God. In order that we worship the living God, Christ did like this.

<sup>15</sup> For this reason Christ became and stands as a mediator of this new covenant. And for those who are called, he makes them partakers in the everlasting blessings that God promised. For this reason he gave up his life to pay for the sins of sinners according to the first covenant.

<sup>16–17</sup> If someone writes their will, that will is useless until his death. Only after he dies that will is useful. <sup>18</sup> Because of this the first covenant is useless without

giving the blood of animals. <sup>19</sup> Moses after telling all the people the commands of the religious law, having mixed the blood of calves and goats in water, and having tied red wool to the stalk of a plant,\* he sprinkled it on the book of religious law and on all of the people. <sup>20</sup> He said “This is the blood of the covenant that God has given you to follow”.<sup>b</sup> <sup>21</sup> In that same way he sprinkled that blood at the worshipping tent and (ceremonial) things used while performing service. <sup>22</sup> According to Moses' law, almost everything should be made ritually clean with blood. Without shedding of blood sins will not get forgiveness.

<sup>23</sup> Through this, in order for the man-made duplicate images of heaven to become ritually clean, it was necessary to offer animal sacrifices. But in order to make ritually clean those things in heaven, even better sacrifices than the blood of animals are needed. <sup>24</sup> On earth the Most Holy Place is only a mask of the true Most Holy Place in heaven. Christ did not go inside the man-made holy place, but now on our behalf having gone to heaven he stood in front of God. <sup>25</sup> Just as the high priest every year goes with the blood of animals to the Most Holy Place that Jesus did not enter heaven in order to offer himself as a sacrifice again and again. <sup>26</sup> If Christ had to give a sacrifice like that how many times would he have given his life since the creation of the universe until now. But now he came at this end time in order to give himself as an offering for everyone's sin only once to remain for ever. <sup>27</sup> Each and everyone must die once. After that God will judge them. <sup>28</sup> Therefore Christ only once gave himself as a sacrificial offering for everyone's sins. He will come back once again. Not in order to take away sin on himself, but he will come in order to save those people who are eagerly waiting for him.

**10** Moses' law is only like a shadow of the good blessings to happen in future, but it is not the true image of that. Therefore offering the same kinds of sacrifices each year according to that law, can never make those devotees completely pure. <sup>2</sup> If those

\* *Holy Spirit*: The Holy Spirit is there since before creation and is working in the world even now. And it makes people realize that they need God. Like that in many ways it helps those who have put faith in Jesus. The Bible tells that there is only one true God. And he is one [God] in three ways. Meaning God the father, God the son, and God the holy spirit. While Jesus was taking baptism, we can see about these three. When God the son, who is Jesus, was coming out of the water, then God the holy spirit descended on him from heaven in the form of a dove, and God the Father spoke from heaven above. These three are separate but united in their characteristics, [so] we call him as one God. (Acts 1:8) \* **9:19** The stick of a plant called hyssop.

<sup>a</sup> **9:7** Exodus 30:10; Leviticus 16:2,14,15,29,34 <sup>b</sup> **9:20** Exodus 24:8

made the devotees truly pure, they would not have had guilty feelings in their consciences and they would have stopped giving the sacrificial offerings. <sup>3</sup> But instead of that, those sacrifices given cause them to remember their sins every year. <sup>4</sup> Because neither the blood of bulls nor the blood of goats can ever pay off for sins. <sup>5</sup> For that reason when Christ was coming into this world [he] said to God like this:

“You did not request  
for sacrifices or offerings  
but you created a body  
for me to give (as an) offering for you.

<sup>6</sup> Giving burnt sacrifices or,  
the sacrifices that are payment for sin  
did not give you happiness.

<sup>7</sup> then I said, ‘God, look!  
I came here in order to fulfil your wish.  
They wrote about me in the scriptures”<sup>a</sup>

like-that I said.

<sup>8</sup> Even though it is written in Moses' law that you should give sacrifices, [grain] offerings, offerings of burnt animals and other sacrifices as payment for sin, Christ said “These did not give you happiness”. <sup>9</sup> After saying like that “God, look! I came here in order to fulfil your wish”. In order to start the second covenant he stopped the first covenant. <sup>10</sup> Because Jesus Christ, in order to fulfil God's wish, gave his body as a sacrificial offering only once to remain for ever and made us ritually clean.

<sup>11</sup> Every priest must stand in order to do religious service every day. He goes on giving again and again those sacrifices but these sacrifices cannot wash-away sins. <sup>12</sup> But the high priest Jesus, having given a sacrifice for our sins, only once to remain for ever, sat down at God's right-hand side. <sup>13</sup> Since then Christ is watching for God to suppress his enemies and put them like a footstool for his feet. <sup>14</sup> Having given a sacrificial offering only once he made us, who are being made ritually clean, perfect forever. <sup>15–16</sup> About being perfect:

“After that I will establish

a new covenant with them.

I will make their minds

remember the commands of my law.

I will make them [the people] follow them  
[the commands]’

like-that God will say”<sup>b</sup>

having said the [Holy Spirit] <sup>\*</sup> gave us witness.

<sup>17</sup> And afterwards, “I will never remember their sins and those wicked deeds”<sup>c</sup> like-that God tells” having said the Holy Spirit told. <sup>18</sup> Due to God having forgiven all those sins, it is no longer ever necessary to offer sacrifices for them.

### Without leaving the faith let's go near to God

<sup>19</sup> Brothers-and-sisters! Jesus gave his blood as a sacrifice. Through this we are able to go without fear to heaven's Most Holy Place. <sup>20</sup> Because at the time of Jesus death, God tore (in two) the curtain that was there at the most holy place in that temple. Now through Jesus' body, with the new life we got, we can go without fear to where God is. <sup>21</sup> And not only that, (he) our high priest is ruling over God's people. <sup>22</sup> He has made our consciences ritually clean with his blood and he washed our bodies with fresh water. Therefore let us go in God's presence with sincere hearts.

<sup>23</sup> He who has promised to us is trustworthy. Therefore let us stay courageously without leaving the faithful hope that we have told to others. <sup>24</sup> Let us think about how we can love each other and cause (each other to) do good works. <sup>25</sup> Some people are in the habit of not coming in order to worship God. The main thing is that the day of the Lord Jesus' second coming is getting nearer. Therefore having all come together let us keep on telling ourselves and each other to go forward in a good way.

<sup>26</sup> Even after knowing the truth, if we intentionally go on sinning, we can't give any sacrifices for forgiving those sins. <sup>27</sup> Instead of this, for those who have become God's enemies, [they] will fear that he will judge them

<sup>\*</sup> *Holy Spirit*: The Holy Spirit is there since before creation and is working in the world even now. And it makes people realize that they need God. Like that in many ways it helps those who have put faith in Jesus. The Bible tells that there is only one true God. And he is one [God] in three ways. Meaning God the father, God the son, and God the holy spirit. While Jesus was taking baptism, we can see about these three. When God the son, who is Jesus, was coming out of the water, then God the holy spirit descended on him from heaven in the form of a dove, and God the Father spoke from heaven above. These three are separate but united in their characteristics, [so] we call him as one God. (Acts 1:8)

<sup>a</sup> 10:7 Psalms 40:6-8    <sup>b</sup> 10:15-16 Jeremiah 31:33    <sup>c</sup> 10:17 Jeremiah 31:34

and destroy them with raging fire. <sup>28</sup> With just two or three witnesses they used to put the punishment of death on [anyone] who opposed Moses' law, without showing any mercy on them. <sup>29</sup> So now abusing God's son, calling as unholy that covenant of blood which made [us] holy, and on the one who shames the grace-showing spirit of God, you think how much more severe the punishment should be put.

<sup>30</sup> Like that, God "The work of taking revenge is mine. I am the one who repays that"

he said like that. And again,

"The Lord will judge over his own people"<sup>a</sup> like-that we also know he told.

<sup>31</sup> The punishment is very frightening for people who are caught with sin by the living God.

<sup>32</sup> Remember the first days that you followed God's way. During those days how many difficulties you bore. But even then you accepted them. <sup>33</sup> Sometimes you bore shame and persecution in front of everyone. And sometimes you stood close to people suffering those difficulties. <sup>34</sup> Not only that you treated with mercy those who suffered in jail and even when your possessions were plundered you joyfully accepted it. Because you knew that the things God has given are much better and last forever compared to what was plundered from you.

<sup>35</sup> Therefore whatever happens don't lose your faith. Through this a good reward will be found. <sup>36</sup> You must stay with a firm grip. You should walk according to God's wish. After that God will give you that which he has promised. Because, in the holy scriptures,

<sup>37</sup> "He is coming soon,

he will come without delay.

<sup>38</sup> Whoever God accepts as a righteous person through faith,

he will live.

But if anyone from among them

turns back it makes me sad"<sup>b</sup>

it is written like that.

<sup>39</sup> Even then we are not like those who having slid away will be destroyed. Instead of this we are like those who are being saved by faith.

## Faith

**11** Trusting that we will surely get what we hoped for and trusting that things we cannot see are truly there, faith is. <sup>2</sup> Our ancestors had this kind of faith. For that reason only God was proud of with them.

<sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that, God created the universe with his word. (This) means the visible was created from the invisible.<sup>c</sup>

<sup>4</sup> By faith Abel, gave a better offering to God than Cain. God having been pleased with Abel's given sacrifice more than Cain's given sacrifice, he accepted Abel as a righteous person. How faith should be, Abel, even after his death, his faith teaches us.

<sup>5</sup> By Enoch's faith God took him to heaven while alive. For that reason no one found his dead-body.<sup>d</sup> Before being taken to heaven Enoch pleased God, it is written like that in scripture. <sup>6</sup> No one can please God without faith. Someone who wants to be God's devotee must believe [that] God is present and [that] he [God] will reward he who seeks [him].

<sup>7</sup> By faith Noah, made a big boat in order to save his family from the flood water. Noah obeyed according to what God had warned would happen in the future. The faith that he had, proved that all the people of the world had done wrong. Through that faith he became a righteous person.<sup>e</sup>

<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham, obeyed God's word and having left his country he went, without even knowing where he was going, in order to take the country that God said he would give like an inheritance.<sup>f</sup> <sup>9</sup> By faith Abraham lived in the promised land that God gave and the inheritors Isaac and Jacob, they all lived in tents.<sup>g</sup> He lived like that

<sup>a</sup> 10:30 Deuteronomy 32:35,36; Psalms 135:14   <sup>b</sup> 10:38 Habakkuk 2:3,4   <sup>c</sup> 11:3 Genesis 1:1; Psalms 33:6,9; John 1:3   <sup>d</sup> 11:5 Genesis 5:24  
<sup>e</sup> 11:7 Genesis 6:13-22   <sup>f</sup> 11:8 Genesis 12:1-5   <sup>g</sup> 11:9 Genesis 35:27

as a foreigner in a tent. <sup>10</sup> Because Abraham was looking forward with faith to the forever staying heavenly city with foundations built by God.

<sup>11</sup> By faith Abraham's wife Sarah, even though she was old and barren, by putting faith on the promise that God gave, she was able to become a mother. <sup>12</sup> When Abraham was too old to give birth to children, countless descendants were born, like the stars in the sky and like the grains of sand on the shore of the sea, just as God promised.

<sup>13</sup> All these people, having kept their faith in the promise that God gave, died without the promise being fulfilled in their lifetime. But, having received an experience themselves, they accepted that promise. They agreed that on this earth they would be living like foreigners. <sup>14</sup> If we see their way of talking we know that they were searching for their own country. <sup>15</sup> If they were to think about the country that they had left they [might have gone back there] had a chance to go back there. <sup>16</sup> Instead of [thinking like] this they hoped for an even better country, meaning to go to heaven. Therefore calling [him] their God, it pleased God. Not only this, God built a city for his people.

<sup>17–18</sup> By faith Abraham, while he was being tested by God, even became ready to sacrifice Isaac (as an offering). But before that God had given a promise to Abraham saying “Your descendants will be counted through Isaac's lineage”.<sup>a</sup> But even then he was ready to even sacrifice his only living son. <sup>19</sup> Abraham knew that God can cause the dead to become alive. God gave Isaac back to Abraham, as if he was dead and [raised]<sup>\*</sup> to life.

<sup>20</sup> By faith Isaac, blessed Jacob and Esau regarding their future.

<sup>21</sup> By faith Jacob, before his death, while he was blessing both of Joseph's sons, he leaned on his stick<sup>\*</sup> and worshipped God.

<sup>22</sup> By faith Joseph, before his death, was able to tell regarding the people of Israel going out from Egypt. Not only this, he also commanded them what (they) should do with his bones.

<sup>23</sup> By faith Moses' parents, after his birth, hid him for three months. Having known that he was not a ordinary baby-boy they protected him without paying attention to the command the king gave.

<sup>24</sup> By faith Moses, after maturing, did not accept to be called a son of King Pharaoh's daughter. <sup>25</sup> On this earth for a short time instead of getting the pleasure from sin, he came forward in order to suffer troubles along with God's people. <sup>26</sup> Looking forward to the reward of it (the suffering), he understood that, compared to Egypt's wealth, it was better to suffer for Christ.

<sup>27</sup> By faith Moses, left the country of Egypt without fearing whether the king would be angry. He did not go back having strengthened his grip on faith because he understood that it was as if he had seen the invisible God. <sup>28</sup> By faith Moses, in order that the angel of death should not kill the first-born sons of the people of Israel, having commanded to put blood above the doorways, established the Passover<sup>\*</sup> festival.

<sup>29</sup> By faith the people of Israel, crossed between the water of the Red Sea walking on land that was made dry. But the Egyptians, wanting to go like them, drowned in that sea.

<sup>30</sup> By faith the people of Israel, walked around the city of Jericho for seven days. Then the walls of that city fell.

<sup>31</sup> By faith even Rahab the prostitute, having called (them) into her house gave hospitality to those messengers that Joshua had sent. Because of this she did not die along with God's enemies.

<sup>32</sup> And who else should I tell you about? I don't have time to talk about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets. <sup>33</sup> All of them by putting their trust in God were able to defeat other kingdoms. They ruled with justice. They were able to receive the promises given by God. They were able to close the mouths of lions. <sup>34</sup> They were able to extinguish scary fires. They were able to escape from striking swords. Those without strength changed to be like strong people. In battle they showed their great power and defeated other countries' soldiers.

<sup>35</sup> Because of putting their faith in God some women

<sup>\*</sup> *Raising back to life:* Having died and coming back to life is called resurrection. Jesus raised several people to life after they had died. Like that, Jesus' believers will also be raised to an eternal spiritual body after dying. (1 Corinthians 15:12–34) <sup>\*</sup> **11:21** *he leaned on his stick:* In the Hebrew language the word for bed and the word for stick are much alike (Genesis 47:30–31). <sup>\*</sup> **11:28** This festival, which runs for seven days, was to remember God's work of having delivered and brought the Israelite people from slavery in the country of Egypt.

<sup>a</sup> **11:17–18** Genesis 21:12

were able to see the [resurrection]<sup>\*</sup> of their close relatives.

But others, because of their faith in God, bore many difficulties and troubles. Suffering like that they died holding onto the hope that, after their resurrection they would have a good life in heaven. <sup>36</sup>From among them their enemies having teased them beat them with whips. And having caught others they caused them to be thrown into jail. <sup>37</sup>Some people were killed - by stoning, by cutting into two pieces with saws. By striking with swords. And other believers, being poor, wandered around wearing goat and sheep skins. Others oppressed and gave trouble to them. <sup>38</sup>They lived in barren place, in the mountains, in gaps in the rocks and in caves. This world is not good enough for people like them.

<sup>39</sup>God was pleased with all of their faith. But no one received the promise that God gave them at that time. <sup>40</sup>God, having earlier prepared and kept something for us better than everything else, has done this so that having gathered us together along with them he will fulfil that promise.

### God is our father

**12** There are so many of God's devotees around us giving witness. Therefore let us go forward overcoming the hurdles that come in the way. Leaving behind our sins that strongly cling to us, let us run forward with strong persistence (determination) in this running race. <sup>2</sup>Let us put our eyes on Jesus. He only is the initiator and fulfilling one of the faith in us. In order for himself to get happiness in the future, he even accepted to give his life on that log. At that time he did not count the shame that came on himself. Now he is sitting at the right hand side of God's throne. <sup>3</sup>Think carefully [about] how Jesus patiently bore that grief which was given to him by sinners in anger. Only then will you be able to stay tirelessly and without leaving your faith. <sup>4</sup>Until now you have not needed to shed your blood in the war against sin.

<sup>5</sup>Have you completely forgotten the encouraging message that God said considering everyone as his sons?

“My son, don't neglect  
the teachings [referring to discipline]  
told by the Lord.

If the Lord should correct your sin,  
don't feel sad in your mind.

<sup>6</sup>Because whoever God loves  
he will give punishment to him.  
Not only that, whoever he accepts as a son,  
he will give punishment to him”<sup>a</sup>

it is written like that.

<sup>7</sup>Considering that these are the difficulties of disciplining, you should walk while bearing the troubles. God considers you like his sons. In order to discipline his son, every father gives punishments.

<sup>8</sup>You should learn that if whoever from among you does not learn discipline from God, (then) he is not your father and you are not his true sons. <sup>9</sup>Our fathers who gave us birth give us training in discipline. Because of that we respect them much. So in order to live forever, think how much more we should respect our spiritual father God. <sup>10</sup>For a few years our parents will teach us discipline in the way that they understand. But for our own good in the future, in order to make us holy like himself God teaches us discipline. <sup>11</sup>While taking these punishment it is sad. It won't be happy. But after that those who learn through those trials will get fruits called peace and righteousness.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore strengthen your weak hands and trembling knees. <sup>13</sup>You make the walking way of faith straight. Then those with less faith will see your faith and they will become strong in their faith.<sup>b</sup>

### Warnings to God's enemies

<sup>14</sup>Showing peace to everyone try to live a holy life. Without having this holiness no one can see the Lord.

<sup>15</sup>See to it that not even one slides away from God's grace. If there is a trouble-maker among you he will make everyone unclean. You be careful about this.

<sup>16</sup>You see that no one among you is sexually immoral. You don't live like Esau who, without regard for God, for one single meal sold to his younger brother Jacob his own bigger position. <sup>17</sup>You know the story that

<sup>\*</sup> *Raising back to life:* Having died and coming back to life is called resurrection. Jesus raised several people to life after they had died. Like that, Jesus' believers will also be raised to an eternal spiritual body after dying. (1 Corinthians 15:12-34)

<sup>a</sup> 12:6 Proverbs 3:11,12    <sup>b</sup> 12:13 Proverbs 4:26



afterwards his father did not accept him when Esau went to take his blessing. He cried saying I should get that blessing. But the time had already passed to repent and receive the blessing.

<sup>18</sup>The people of Israel came to the touchable and visible mountain of Sinai. That mountain was burning with fire and smoke was coming out, with darkness and completely stormy. But you have not come to a mountain like that. <sup>19</sup>Having heard the sound of the horn and terrifying voice coming from that mountain, they were afraid and pleaded not to hear that voice. <sup>20</sup>Then God gave the command that if any animal even touches this mountain that the animal should be killed by stoning. They could not bear that command.<sup>a</sup> <sup>21</sup>About that which was seen Moses said, “I am trembling with fear”.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>22</sup>But you have come to the mountain of Zion. This is the living God's heavenly city of Jerusalem. You have come to the joyful gathering of thousands upon thousands of God's angels. <sup>23</sup>You have been counted as the first-born church-people whose names are written in heaven. You have come to the God who judges over everything with authority. You have come to heaven to the spirits of people who have become righteous in all ways. <sup>24</sup>You have come near to Jesus who has become the only mediator of the new covenant between God and people. His blood which makes holy, is not taking revenge like Abel's blood but tells about forgiveness.\*

<sup>25</sup>Stay alert! Don't reject the speaker (who is speaking) with you. The [Jewish] people of that time didn't care (about) the message Moses told in this world. Because of that they could not escape from punishment. So, now, if we don't care about the messages from heaven's speakers, we will certainly not be able to escape from punishment. <sup>26</sup>At that time his voice caused an earthquake to come. But now he (promised), “Once again I will shake not only the earth but also the sky”<sup>c</sup> like-that he promised. <sup>27</sup>“Once again” means that everything that has been created in the world will be destroyed. But eternal things will not change.

<sup>28</sup>No one is able to shake the kingdom which we are receiving. Therefore having given thanks to God, let us

worship that God with reverence and in the way that he desires. <sup>29</sup>Because we know that “Our God is like a burning consuming destroying fire.”<sup>d</sup>

### How we should give happiness to God

**13** Brothers-and-sisters! keep looking after the Lord's believers with love. <sup>2</sup>Some of them unknowingly were hospitable towards God's angels. Therefore don't forget to be hospitable to unknown believers of the Lord. <sup>3</sup>Remember those who (because of their faith) have fallen into prison as if you yourselves were suffering in prison. In the same way remember those who are suffering with troubles as if you are suffering along with them.

<sup>4</sup>All should respect the system of marriage. A husband and wife should trust each other. God will judge those who, after marriage, have sexually intercourse with someone else apart from their partner, and also [judge] those who have sexual intercourse before marriage. <sup>5</sup>Live your life without desiring wealth. Be happy with whatever you have. because,

“I will never leave you.

I will never make you like someone all alone”<sup>e</sup>  
God said like that.

<sup>6</sup>Therefore having courage,

“God is my helper.

I will not fear anything.

No-one can do anything to me”<sup>f</sup>  
like-that we can say.

<sup>7</sup>Remember those church-people elders who first taught God's message. And having learned their good way of life, live like them holding the faith.

<sup>8</sup>In ancient times, now and forever Jesus Christ will be the same without changing. <sup>9</sup>Therefore you must be alert about different different teachings that cause sliding away. Rules about food will not strengthen our hearts. But only God's grace will give strength to our hearts. Those who follow those rules do not get any benefit.

<sup>10</sup>The Jewish priests of the worshipping tent do not have the right to eat the offerings from our place of

\* **12:24** It says in the Greek, “You have come to the blood that speaks even better than Abel's blood”. Its meaning is written above.

\* **12:29** *Our God is like a burning consuming destroying fire*: If we do not do like that “Our God will destroy us in burning fire” we know.

<sup>a</sup> **12:20** Exodus 19:12-13    <sup>b</sup> **12:21** Deuteronomy 9:19    <sup>c</sup> **12:26** Haggai 2:6    <sup>d</sup> **12:29** Deuteronomy 4:24    <sup>e</sup> **13:5** Deuteronomy 31:6

<sup>f</sup> **13:6** Psalms 118:6,7

sacrifice. <sup>11</sup> The High priest used to take the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place in order to pay for sins. They used to burn the bodies of those animals outside of the Israelite's campsite<sup>a</sup>. <sup>12</sup> So in the same way Jesus also having bore the sufferings outside the gates of Jerusalem city gave up his life in order to cleanse mankind from sin with his own blood. <sup>13</sup> Therefore having gone to Jesus who is outside, let us share in his shame. <sup>14</sup> This world is not a permanent city for us, but we are looking for a future city.\*

<sup>15</sup> Therefore instead of animal sacrifices let us continue to offer God a sacrifice of worship through what Jesus has done. A sacrifice of worship means [going on] confessing that Jesus is my Lord. <sup>16</sup> Don't forget to look after others and to share what you have with them. These kinds of offerings give God much happiness.

<sup>17</sup> You follow the instructions of the church-people leaders. It is their work to guard your spirits. They will have to give an account to God about you. If you follow as they have instructed, then they can do their work joyfully. If you don't follow as they have instructed, they will do their work with sadness. Then you will not get any benefit.

<sup>18</sup> Pray for us. We are living respectfully in all ways, believing that there is no sin in our consciences. <sup>19</sup> I am

pleading with you that you pray for me until I have come to meet you again.

### Ending prayer

<sup>20</sup> Now, may our peace-giving God, who raised the Lord from death, help you. Jesus, like a good shepherd protecting all believers, through his own blood, fulfilled God's eternal covenant with us. <sup>21</sup> I request that God would fulfil each and every good thing in you that he desires. I am also requesting that all of God's desires would be fulfilled among you through Jesus' hands. I am requesting that Jesus should get glorious honour generation after generation. Amen\*!

### Closing words

<sup>22</sup> My brothers-and-sisters! I am pleading that you carefully read these few words in this letter telling you to increase your faith. <sup>23</sup> Our brother Timothy came out of prison. If he comes to me quickly, I will bring him with me to come and see you. <sup>24</sup> Convey my wishes to the leaders and all God's devotees among you. The believers of the country of Italy are conveying their wishes to you. <sup>25</sup> I am requesting that God's grace will be with you all.

\* **13:14** An eternal home for us in heaven. \* **13:21** Means: let it happen as requested.

<sup>a</sup> **13:11** Leviticus 16:27

# The meaning of new or difficult words

**Apostles** The twelve disciples that Jesus chose to help him were called Apostles. This means messengers. (Luke 6:13)

**Disciples** Disciples means those who are following a teacher and learn from him. During the time of Jesus many people became his disciples and walked according to his way. (Luke 6:20)

**Evil-spirit** A bad spirit under Satan's authority. (Luke 9:42)

**Holy** Being set apart for God. Holy means that in words, in sight, and in deeds nothing should be wrong. (1 Peter 1:15)

**Holy Spirit** The Holy Spirit is there since before creation and is working in the world even now. And it makes people realize that they need God. Like that in many ways it helps those who have put faith in Jesus. The Bible tells that there is only one true God. And he is one [God] in three ways. Meaning God the father, God the son, and God the holy spirit. While Jesus was taking baptism, we can see about these three. When God the son, who is Jesus, was coming out of the water, then God the holy spirit descended on him from heaven in the form of a dove, and God the Father spoke from heaven above. These three are separate but united in their characteristics, [so] we call him as one God. (Acts 1:8)

**Pharisees** One of the groups of elders from the Jews were the Pharisees. They used to say with pride that they obeyed God's laws. And having made up many rules-and-regulations and rituals-and-customs of their own minds, they used to also force them on other people to follow. But they [read:the Pharisees] did not always follow them. (Matthew 12:2)

**Raising back to life** Having died and coming back to life is called resurrection. Jesus raised several people to life after they had died. Like that, Jesus' believers will also be raised to an eternal spiritual body after dying. (1 Corinthians 15:12-34)

**Scripture** Due to God causing the books to be written long ago by Moses and other prophets this is called Scripture. The books written in the first century were also added to this. (2 Timothy 3:16)

**Temple** In ancient times in the country of Israel, in order for the Jews to worship God and to give sacrifices, there was a huge temple. Surrounding the temple was also a large courtyard. This temple was only in Jerusalem. (John 2:20)

**Circumcision** Cutting the foreskin of the penis. Normally this deed is done to baby boys. This was a sign of the Jews. It show they are God's chosen people. Abraham's descendents do this deed according to God's command. (Acts 7:8)