

Wycliffe Associates

Bible Translation Reviewers' Guide

Doctrine of Jesus

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Doctrines: Jesus—Resurrection

Biblical Statement

Three days after Jesus died on the cross he was raised again to life. Jesus rising from the dead is called “resurrection.”

The resurrection of Christ confirmed that God approved Christ’s life and work.

The resurrection proclaims Christ’s victory over sin, death, and hell, and that Christ has finished all that was necessary for believers to be saved.

The resurrection of Christ promises to those who believe that they will also be resurrected from the dead, as Christ was resurrected. Those who are resurrected with Christ will be with God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) forever.

Matthew 28:5-7

Background: At the request of the Jewish leaders, the Roman leaders killed Jesus by hanging him on a cross. After Jesus died, Jesus' friends put his body in a tomb on Friday just before the Sabbath. This passage begins the morning after the Sabbath. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary go to Jesus' tomb to prepare his body for burial by putting oil and spices on his body. When they come to the tomb, they see that it has been opened, and an angel is standing there. In verse 5, the angel begins speaking to the women.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ An angel appeared to the women at the tomb.
- ☐ He told them to not be afraid.
- ☐ He told them Jesus was not there, but he had risen from the dead.
- ☐ He told the women to tell the disciples that Jesus is risen and that he is going to meet them in Galilee.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did the angel say about Jesus in verses 6 and 7?
He is risen (28:6). He is risen from the dead (28:7).
2. What did the angel tell the women to "come and see" in verse 6?
He told them to come and see where the Lord lay.
3. Why do you think the angel told them to come and see where the Lord lay? [28:6]
The angel wanted the women to see for themselves that Jesus was no longer lying in the tomb.
4. How do you understand the phrases in your language for "is risen" and "he is risen from the dead?" [28:6-7]
Both phrases mean that Jesus came back to life after he had died.

Comment Section:

Acts 2:22-32

Background: This account is from Luke's second book. It begins by telling how Jesus spent time with his disciples after he rose from the dead and then ascended to heaven with the promise to send the Holy Spirit.

Fifty days after the Jewish Passover, God sent the Holy Spirit to be with his people. The disciples were waiting in Jerusalem when a "mighty wind" came upon all those who had gathered together. After that, the Holy Spirit gave Peter the ability to stand before the large crowd who had gathered and gave him the words to speak when he addressed the people. This passage is a part of the message that Peter spoke to the people.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Peter said the Jews crucified Jesus with the help of lawless men, even though Jesus was accredited by God.
- ☐ Jesus was crucified according to God's predetermined plan.
- ☐ God raised Jesus to life.
- ☐ Peter quoted David who said, "I saw the Lord always before me...you will not abandon me to the grave."
- ☐ Peter said David was not talking about himself because David died and still is dead.
- ☐ David was talking about his descendant, the Christ.
- ☐ Jesus is David's descendant whom God raised to life.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What does the passage say in 2:24 that God did for Jesus?
He raised him from the dead.
2. How do you understand the phrase in your language for "raised him up?" [2:24]
The word or phrase means that God caused Jesus to come back to life after he had died.
3. What is said about the Christ in 2:31? (Reviewer: If the translation uses the pronoun "he" at the beginning of verse 31, you may need to clarify that it was David who saw what was to happen in the future.)
Peter (quoting from a Psalm of David) spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, namely, that he was not abandoned to the grave, and his flesh did not see decay.
4. In 2:32, what did Peter say that he and others witnessed concerning Jesus Christ?
That God raised this Jesus to life.
5. How do you understand the phrase in your language for "resurrection" and "raised him up?" [2:32-33]
The word or phrase for "raised him up" means that God caused Jesus to come back to life after he had died.

Comment Section:

Romans 6:8-10

Background: The Apostle Paul wrote this letter to the Christians living in Rome. Here Paul was teaching them that they should not continue sinning just because God is gracious to forgive them.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Those who have died with Christ will live together with him.
- ☐ Christ has been raised from the dead, never to die again.
- ☐ The death he died, he died to sin.
- ☐ The life he lives, he lives for God.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Paul say about Christ in verse 9?
Christ has been raised from the dead.
2. In verses 9-10, what did Paul say about death and Jesus?
Death no longer has authority over Jesus. Jesus cannot die again because he died to sin once and for all, and he lives his life for God the Father.
3. How do you understand “raised from the dead” in your language? [6:9]
It means a person had died and that God had brought him back to life.

Comment Section:

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Background: The Apostle Paul wrote this book to the Christians living in Corinth. In chapter 15 Paul continued a discussion about the meaning of “resurrection.”

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul asked how some people could claim there is no resurrection from the dead.
- ☐ If there is no resurrection then Christ was not raised, making the Gospel false, and people would still be in their sins.
- ☐ But Christ has been raised from the dead.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. In verses 12-13, what did Paul say would be the result if there were no resurrection from the dead?
If there were no resurrection, then Christ has not been raised from the dead.
2. In verses 14-19, if Christ did not rise from the dead, what else would be true about the apostles and those who believe in the resurrection?
 - The apostles’ preaching is in vain, and they are false witnesses about God, saying that God raised up Christ when he did not.
 - The faith of Christians is in vain, and they are still in their sins and they are without hope.
 - The Christians who have died are lost (they will remain dead forever).
3. In verse 20 what did Paul say about the Christ?
Christ has been raised from the dead.
4. How do you understand “Raised from the dead” [15: 12], “resurrection of the dead” [15:12, 13], “has been raised from the dead” [15:20] in your language?
They mean a person has died and that God has brought him back to life. (There are other references to resurrection in 1 Cor 15.)
5. “Resurrection” and “raised from the dead” are stated in different ways in this passage. Are all of them translated consistently in verses 12-21?
[Reviewer: the idea of resurrection is expressed in a rhetorical question [15:12] negative statements [15:12, 13, 14, 16, 17] and if/then statements [15:13, 14-15, 16, 17-18, 19]. Ensure that the idea of “resurrection” is not lost in these statements.

Comment Section:

Doctrine: Jesus—Deity of Christ

Biblical Statement

Scripture teaches that Jesus is fully God.

The deity of Jesus is affirmed by God the Father, Jesus himself, and his followers, by using names for God that apply to Yahweh in the Old Testament but are used to refer to Jesus in the New Testament.

The opponents of Jesus accused him of claiming to be God, and equal with God, and they charged him with blasphemy (claiming to be God).

Christ confirms his divinity by his actions and doing things that only God could do: acts of healing, exercising authority and power over the physical world and demons, calming storms and doing miracles, having power over death, and forgiving sins.

The divinity of the Christ was prophesied in the OT, and Christ was given the titles of God and was worshiped and praised as God.

John 1:1-4, 14-18

Background: John was one of the 12 disciples. He was with Jesus during his earthly ministry. He was an eyewitness to these events, and he wrote an account of what he saw Jesus do and he wrote about what he heard Jesus say. This section was John's introduction to his Gospel.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ In the beginning of everything, the Word existed.
- ☐ The Word was with God and the Word was God.
- ☐ All things were made through the Word.
- ☐ In the Word was life.
- ☐ The life was the light of men.
- ☐ In 1:14-18, the Word became flesh (a human being) and he lived among other human beings (people like us).
- ☐ We have seen the glory of the one and only who came from the Father
- ☐ The Word is full of grace and truth
- ☐ John the Baptist testified about The Word
- ☐ From him they received grace after grace
- ☐ Law came through Moses; Grace and truth through Jesus Christ
- ☐ No one has seen God
- ☐ The one and only God at side of the Father made him known

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Who is 1:1-4 about?
The Word is the subject of this section (the reader may understand that John is writing about Christ. This is made clear in 1:17).
2. How did you understand the phrase in your language for "the Word"? [1:1]
It should be clear in translation that when John is writing about "the Word" he is writing about Christ. "The Word" is a way of describing who Christ is and what he has done. The pronouns referring to the "The Word" should be the kinds of pronouns that refer to a male human being.
3. Why do you think John would refer to Christ as "the Word"? [1:1]
By referring to Christ as "the Word" means that Christ reveals who God is, because he is God himself. And he makes it so people can know God, by telling them about God and showing them who God is.
4. What did John say about the Word in relation to God? [1:1]
The Word was with God; the Word was God.
5. How did God make all things? [1:3]
God made all things through the Word. There was nothing created apart from him.
6. What did the Word become and do? [1:14]
The Word became flesh (a human being) and lived among people.

John 1:1-4, 14-18 continued

7. What did John say he and the other eyewitnesses saw concerning the Word? [1:14]
They saw the glory of the Word.
8. In verse 14, how did John describe the glory?
It is the glory as of the one and only who came from the Father, who is full of grace and truth.
9. In verse 18, who made God the Father known to people?
The one and only God (that is, the Son of God), who is at the side of the Father, made God the Father known.
10. Who is The Word, the one and only from the Father, and the one and only God? [1:14-18]
Jesus Christ (verse 17)
11. In 1:1-4, 14-18, John said the Word was with God and the Word was God. And, he talked about the one and only God who is at the side of the Father. What do you think this suggests about Jesus Christ?
Jesus Christ is divine, and he was at the side of the Father in glory.

Comment Section:

John 20:26-29

Background: This is an account of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. Soldiers put Jesus on a cross and put nails in his hands and feet to hold him on the cross. Then when he died, a soldier pierced Jesus' side with a spear. Jesus' friends put his body in a tomb, and a few days later some of his friends went to his tomb and saw that his body was not in the tomb. Then Jesus came to some of his disciples and spoke with them. But one of his disciples, Thomas, was not with them. When they told Thomas that they had seen the Lord, he did not believe them. He said he would only believe if he could see the wounds in Jesus' hands and side.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Jesus appeared to Thomas and the other disciples (a week after the resurrection).
- ☐ Jesus told Thomas to touch the wounds in his hands and side and to believe.
- ☐ Thomas answered "My Lord and my God."
- ☐ Jesus said, "blessed are those who believe without seeing" (those who believe but have not seen are very happy).

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. When Jesus came, what did he say to Thomas? [20:26-27]
He said that Thomas should touch his wounds (in his hands and his side) and stop doubting.
2. What did Thomas say after Jesus spoke to him? [20:28]
My Lord and my God!
3. Why do you think Thomas said, "My Lord and my God"? [20:28]
He realized that Jesus was raised from the dead and that he must be the Lord God.
4. How did Jesus respond to Thomas? [20:29]
He said, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen, and believed"(those who believe but have not seen are very happy).

Comment Section:

Philippians 2:5-8

Background: This is in a letter that the Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Philippi. In this passage, he tells the Philippians how important it is to know and understand who Jesus is.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Believers should have the same attitude as Christ Jesus.
- ☐ Christ existed in the form of God.
- ☐ Christ did not consider equality with God something to hold on to (he was willing to no longer have equality with God).
- ☐ He took on the form of a servant and was born in the likeness of men.
- ☐ He humbled himself and obeyed even to the point of dying on a cross.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. In the first part of 2:6, what did Paul say about Christ?
He existed in the form of God.
2. How did you understand the phrase in your language for “existed in form of God”? [2:6]
Christ Jesus had the same nature as God. He had the same character as God. [It does not mean that he had the shape of God.]
3. What did Christ think about his equality with God? [2:6]
He did not consider his equality with God as something to hold on to.
4. What does “his equality with God” mean? [2:6]
It means that he and God had the same status or rank.
5. What does it mean that Christ did not consider his equality with God as something to hold on to? [2:6]
He possessed all the status, rank, or rights as God the Father. But he was willing to lay aside his rights and glory, so he could become the Savior of the world.
6. So what did Christ do? [2:7]
He emptied himself and took the form of a servant, and was born in the likeness of men.
7. What does it mean that Christ emptied himself? [2:7]
It means that he set aside his status, rank, or rights. He let people think he was less than God. He did not do everything he had the right to do or demand that people give him the worship that he had the right to receive.
8. What does it mean that Christ took the form of a servant? [2:7]
He had all the power and authority of God, but he chose to become the same as a servant. He had the low rank or status of a servant.
9. What does it mean that Christ was born in the likeness of men? [2:7]
He became a human being and he was born to Mary.

Philippians 2:5-8 continued

10. What do you think? After Christ took the form of a servant and was born in the likeness of men, was he still God? [2:7]
If they answer “no, Jesus was not still God,” ask them if there is anything in the passage that indicates that.
11. What else did Christ do? [2:8]
He humbled himself and became obedient, and his obedience led him to die on a cross.
12. What does it mean that Christ became obedient to the point of death? [2:8]
He obeyed God the Father completely. He obeyed God even though he knew that it would result in dying.
13. What do you think? Why did Paul write “even death on a cross”? [2:8]
This meant that people killed Christ by hanging him on a cross. This was a very painful way to die. It was also a very shameful way to die. This shows how completely he obeyed God.

Comment Section:

Colossians 1:15-20

Background: This is a letter that Paul wrote to the Christians living in the ancient city of Colossae.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The Son is the image of the invisible God.
- ☐ The Son is the firstborn of creation.
- ☐ All things were created by him.
- ☐ He is before all things.
- ☐ He holds all things together.
- ☐ He is head of the body/Church.
- ☐ He is the beginning, firstborn from the dead.
- ☐ He has first place among all things.
- ☐ Fullness of God lives in the Son.
- ☐ God reconciled all things to himself by the death of his Son.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Paul first tell about the Son? [1:15]
He is the image of the invisible God.
2. How did you understand the phrase in your language for “the image of the invisible God”? [1:15]
No one can see God the Father. But the Father perfectly revealed his character in his Son. So when someone sees the Son it is the same as seeing the Father.
3. What else did Paul say about the Son in 1:15?
He is the firstborn of all creation.
4. Why do you think Paul called the Son the “firstborn of all creation”? [1:15]
This means the Son is superior to all created things. Here “firstborn” means he is most important. It could also refer to Him as the primary heir--the Father has given everything to him. However, it does not mean he was the first created thing. Nor does it refer to Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem.
5. What was created by or through the Son? [1:16]
All things in the heavens and on the earth, visible and invisible, and all the powers and rulers.
6. What came before or existed before the Son? [1:17]
Nothing. He is before all things.
7. How does the Son continue to affect all things? [1:17]
In him all things hold together.
8. What was pleasing to God? [1:19]
It pleased God to have his fullness live in the Son and to reconcile through the Son all things to himself.

Colossians 1:15-20 continued

9. How did you understand the phrase in your language for “his [God’s] fullness should live in him [the Son]”? [1:19]
- The entire essence, nature, and power of God are in the Son.
 - This passage teaches the following things about the Son. He is the image of God, he existed before all things, all things were created by him, all things hold together in him, and God's fullness lives in him.
What do you think all of these things suggest about the Son?
 - He is deity. He has all the power and authority of divinity along with God the Father and God the Spirit.
10. Who is the Son? What is his name? (His name is not mentioned in 1:15-20.)
Jesus

Comment Section:

Doctrine: Jesus—the Savior

Biblical Statement

Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah that God sent to the world to save his people from their sins.

All people have sinned against God and need God to save them from his wrath.

Jesus offered himself as a sacrifice for people's sins by dying on the cross and being punished for their sins.

Because Jesus died for sinners, God forgives and restores any person who believes in His Son, Jesus.

There is no other way to be forgiven and be saved except by trusting Jesus as the Savior of sinners.

Luke 2:8-14

Background: Luke 2 is about the birth of Jesus. Mary had become pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. She and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem. There she gave birth to Jesus. In 2:8-14, the angels appeared and announced to shepherds nearby that Jesus had been born. The angel told them about who the child is and the place where the shepherds would find him.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ An angel of the Lord appeared to shepherds.
- ☐ An angel told them that a savior, Christ the Lord, was born in the city of David.
- ☐ An angel told them they would find the baby in a manger wrapped in strips of cloth.
- ☐ Many angels appeared and sang praises to God.
- ☐ Shepherds went to Bethlehem and saw the baby.
- ☐ Shepherds told others about what had happened. People were amazed.
- ☐ Mary treasured in her heart all the things she heard.
- ☐ Shepherds praised God for what they saw.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. In verse 10 who did the angel say would receive great joy from the message he was announcing?
All people.
2. In verse 11, how did the angel describe the person who was born in the city of David?
A savior, who is Christ and Lord.
3. How do you understand the phrase in your language for “savior”? [2:11]
The word “savior” means a person who rescues someone else from trouble or danger.

Comment Section:

1 Timothy 1:15-16

Background: Paul wrote this letter to Timothy. Paul advised and encouraged Timothy because he was having trouble leading the Ephesian church. In chapter 1, Paul warned Timothy about false teachers and reminded him about the message that is true and should be believed.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Christ Jesus came to the world to save sinners.
- ☐ This is a true message to be accepted.
- ☐ Paul called himself the worst of sinners.
- ☐ But through Paul, Christ could show his mercy and patience.
- ☐ This was an example to all those who trust in him for eternal life.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What message did Paul say is reliable and worthy of acceptance? [1:15]
The message is that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.
2. How do you understand the phrase in your language for “to save sinners”? [1:15]
To rescue those who have sinned from trouble, danger, or punishment.

Comment Section:

1 John 4:14-15

Background: This is a letter written by the apostle John. In verses 14-15 John taught about how Christians know for certain that God remains in them. In these verses, “we” refers to John and the other apostles.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ We (the apostles) testify that the Father sent the Son to be savior of the world.
- ☐ Jesus is the Son of God
- ☐ Whoever acknowledges this remains in God and God in him.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What does John say that he and the other apostles have seen and testify to? [4:14]
God sent his Son to be the savior of the world.
2. Who is the Son? [4: 14-15]
Jesus
3. How do you understand the phrase in your language for “savior”? [4:14]
A person who rescues someone else from trouble or danger.

Comment Section: