
Holy Bible

Majority Standard Bible

New Testament

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Preface

*Now the Bereans were more noble-minded than the Thessalonians,
for they received the message with great eagerness
and examined the Scriptures every day
to see if these teachings were true.*

– Acts 17:11

The Majority Standard Bible (MSB) is the Majority Text version of the BSB, including the BSB Old Testament plus the NT translated according to the Byzantine Majority Text. This modern English translation of the Holy Bible is effective for public reading, study, memorization, and evangelism. Each word is connected back to the Greek or Hebrew text to produce a transparent text that can be studied for its root meanings.

The Berean Bible Translation Committee has employed an open process where translation tables are freely available and all comments are welcomed and considered. These sources may also be downloaded and shared freely. Please see the Berean Bible website for a full description of the translation committee and process.

We pray that this text will enable readers to connect with God's Word to study it, memorize it, share it, and proclaim it. We are inspired by the model of the early Christian church:

*After this letter has been read among you,
make sure that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans,
and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea.*

– Colossians 4:16

The Scriptures belonged to the churches and were meant to be examined, copied, and distributed. The committee hopes to follow this example by sharing all the resources with which we have been entrusted. Just as Paul encouraged the churches to pass on his letters, the Berean Bible is intended to be offered freely in websites, apps, software, and various text and audio formats.

Greek, Hebrew, and Aramaic Sources

NA	Nestle Aland, Novum Testamentum Graece
SBL	Society of Biblical Literature, Greek New Testament
ECM	Editio Critica Maior, Novum Testamentum Graecum
NE	Eberhard Nestle, Novum Testamentum Graece
WH	Westcott and Hort, New Testament in the Original Greek
TH	The Greek New Testament, Produced at Tyndale House, Cambridge
CT	Critical Text, a generalization used when the above sources agree
HF	Hodges and Farstad, The Greek New Testament According to the Majority Text
F35	The Greek New Testament According to Family 35
BYZ	The New Testament in the Original Greek: Byzantine Textform, Robinson, Pierpont
ALT	Robinson and Pierpont, Alternate Byzantine Readings
GOC	Greek Orthodox Church, New Testament (Patriarchal Text)
TR	Scrivener Textus Receptus Stephanus Textus Receptus
DSS	Dead Sea Scrolls
MT	Hebrew Masoretic Text: Westminster Leningrad Codex Hebrew Masoretic Text: Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia
LXX	Greek OT Septuagint: Rahlfs-Hanhart Septuaginta Greek OT Septuagint: Swete's Septuagint
SP	Samaritan Pentateuch

Matthew

The Genealogy of Jesus

(Ruth 4:18–22; Luke 3:23–38)

1 This is the record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham:

²Abraham was the father of Isaac,
Isaac the father of Jacob,
and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers.

³Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah by
Tamar,

Perez the father of Hezron,
and Hezron the father of Ram.^a

⁴Ram was the father of Amminadab,
Amminadab the father of Nahshon,
and Nahshon the father of Salmon.

⁵Salmon was the father of Boaz by Rahab,
Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth,
Obed the father of Jesse,

⁶and Jesse the father of David the king.

Next:

David the king^b was the father of Solomon
by Uriah's wife,

⁷Solomon the father of Rehoboam,
Rehoboam the father of Abijah,
and Abijah the father of Asa.^c

⁸Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat,
Jehoshaphat the father of Joram,
and Joram the father of Uzziah.

⁹Uzziah was the father of Jotham,
Jotham the father of Ahaz,
and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah.

¹⁰Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh,
Manasseh the father of Amon,^d
Amon the father of Josiah,

¹¹and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and
his brothers
at the time of the exile to Babylon.

¹²After the exile to Babylon:

Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel,
Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,

¹³Zerubbabel the father of Abiud,
Abiud the father of Eliakim,
and Eliakim the father of Azor.

¹⁴Azor was the father of Zadok,
Zadok the father of Achim,
and Achim the father of Eliud.

¹⁵Eliud was the father of Eleazar,
Eleazar the father of Matthan,
Matthan the father of Jacob,

¹⁶and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband
of Mary,
of whom was born Jesus, who is called
Christ.

¹⁷In all, then, there were fourteen generations
from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to
the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile
to the Christ.

The Birth of Jesus (Isaiah 7:10–16; Luke 2:1–7)

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came
about: His mother Mary was pledged in marriage
to Joseph, but before they came together, she was
found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.
¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was a righteous
man and was unwilling to disgrace her publicly,
he resolved to divorce her quietly.

²⁰But after he had pondered these things, an
angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and
said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid
to embrace Mary as your wife, for the One
conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She
will give birth to a Son, and you are to give Him
the name Jesus,^e because He will save His people
from their sins."

²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had
said through the prophet:

²³"Behold, the virgin will be with child
and will give birth to a son,
and they will call Him Immanuel"^f
(which means, "God with us"^g).

^a **3** Greek *Aram*, a variant of *Ram*; also in verse 4; see 1 Chronicles 2:9–10. ^b **6** CT *David* ^c **7** CT *Asaph*, a variant of *Asa*; also in verse 8; see 1 Chronicles 3:10. ^d **10** CT *Amōs*, a variant spelling of *Amon*; twice in this verse; see 1 Chronicles 3:14. ^e **21** *Jesus* means *The LORD saves*. ^f **23** Literally *they will call His name Immanuel*; Isaiah 7:14 (see also DSS)

^g **23** See Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 8:8, and Isaiah 8:10.

²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and embraced Mary as his wife. ²⁵But he had no union with her^a until she gave birth to her firstborn Son.^b And he gave Him the name Jesus.

The Pilgrimage of the Magi (*Micah 5:1-6*)

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the One who has been born King of the Jews? We saw His star in the east^c and have come to worship Him."

³When Herod the king^d heard this, he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴And when he had assembled all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he asked them where the Christ was to be born.

⁵"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of
Judah,

for out of you will come a ruler
who will be the shepherd of My people
Israel.'^e"

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and learned from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸And sending them to Bethlehem, he said: "Go and search carefully for the Child, and when you find Him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship Him."

⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the Child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced with great delight. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw^f the Child with His mother Mary, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh.

¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they withdrew to their country by another route.

The Flight to Egypt (*Hosea 11:1-7*)

¹³When the Magi had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up!" he said.

"Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the Child to kill Him."

¹⁴So he got up, took the Child and His mother by night, and withdrew to Egypt, ¹⁵where he stayed until the death of Herod. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called My Son."^g

Weeping and Great Mourning (*Jer. 31:1-25*)

¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was filled with rage. Sending orders, he put to death all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, according to the time he had learned from the Magi. ¹⁷Then what was spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸"A voice is heard in Ramah,
lamentation and^h weeping and great
mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more."ⁱ

The Return to Nazareth (*Luke 2:39-40*)

¹⁹After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. ²⁰"Get up!" he said. "Take the Child and His mother and go to the land of Israel, for those seeking the Child's life are now dead."

²¹So Joseph got up, took the Child and His mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he learned that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, ²³and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophets: "He will be called a Nazarene."

The Mission of John the Baptist (*Isa. 40:1-5; Mark 1:1-8; Luke 3:1-20; John 1:19-28*)

3 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ²and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."³ This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for Him.'"^j

^a ²⁵ Literally *he did not know her* ^b ²⁵ CT *to a Son* ^c ² Or *as it rose* ^d ³ CT *King Herod* ^e ⁶ Micah 5:2; see also

² Samuel 5:2. ^f ¹¹ Stephanus TR *they found* ^g ¹⁵ Hosea 11:1 ^h ¹⁸ CT does not include *lamentation and*.

ⁱ ¹⁸ Jeremiah 31:15 ^j ³ Isaiah 40:3 (see also LXX)

⁴John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region around the Jordan. ⁶Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan.^a

⁷But when John saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his place of baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Produce fruit,^b then, in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰The axe lies ready at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹I baptize you with water^c for repentance, but after me will come One more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.^d ¹²His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will clear His threshing floor and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

The Baptism of Jesus

(Mark 1:9–11; Luke 3:21–22; John 1:29–34)

¹³At that time Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴But John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?"

¹⁵"Let it be so now," Jesus replied. "It is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness in this way." Then John permitted Him.

¹⁶As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water. Suddenly the heavens were opened to Him,^e and He saw^f the Spirit of God descending like a dove and resting on Him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased!"

The Temptation of Jesus

(Mark 1:12–13; Luke 4:1–13)

4 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²After fasting forty days and forty nights, He was hungry.

³The tempter came to Him and said,^g "If You are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

⁴But Jesus answered, "It is written:

'Man shall not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the
mouth of God.'^h"

⁵Then the devil took Him to the holy city and set Him on the pinnacle of the temple. ⁶"If You are the Son of God," he said, "throw Yourself down. For it is written:

'He will command His angels concerning You,
and they will lift You up in their hands,
so that You will not strike Your foot
against a stone.'ⁱ"

⁷Jesus replied, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'^j"

⁸Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹"All this I will give You," he said, "if You will fall down and worship me."

¹⁰"Get behind Me,^k Satan!" Jesus told him. "For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.'^l"

¹¹Then the devil left Him, and angels came and ministered to Him.

Jesus Begins His Ministry

(Isaiah 9:1–7; Mark 1:14–15; Luke 4:14–15)

¹²When Jesus heard that John had been imprisoned, He withdrew to Galilee. ¹³Leaving Nazareth, He went and lived in Capernaum, which is by the sea in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

¹⁵"Land of Zebulun
and land of Naphtali,
the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles—
¹⁶the people living in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow
of death,
a light has dawned."^m

¹⁷From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

^a 6 CT in the Jordan River ^b 8 TR fruits ^c 11 Or in water ^d 11 Or in the Holy Spirit; CT, GOC, and TR include and with fire or and in fire. ^e 16 Or to him; NA, MT, and TR; SBL and WH do not include to Him. ^f 16 Or and he saw; see John 1:32–33. ^g 3 CT literal The tempter came and said to Him ^h 4 Deuteronomy 8:3 ⁱ 6 Psalm 91:11–12 ^j 7 Deuteronomy 6:16 ^k 10 CT Go away or Be gone ^l 10 Deuteronomy 6:13 ^m 16 Isaiah 9:1–2

The First Disciples (*Mark 1:16–20; Luke 5:1–11; John 1:35–42*)

¹⁸As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹“Come, follow Me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” ²⁰And at once they left their nets and followed Him.

²¹Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. Jesus called them, ²²and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed Him.

Jesus Heals the Multitudes
(*Mark 3:7–12; Luke 6:17–19*)

²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. ²⁴News about Him spread all over Syria, and people brought to Him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering acute pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and He healed them.

²⁵Large crowds followed Him, having come from Galilee, the Decapolis,^a Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.

The Sermon on the Mount

5 When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain and sat down. His disciples came to Him, ²and He began to teach them, saying:

The Beatitudes (*Psalms 1:1–6; Luke 6:20–23*)

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.^b

⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

⁸Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called sons of God.

¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted
because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say every evil thing^c against you because of Me. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets before you.

Salt and Light (*Mark 9:49–50; Luke 14:34–35; Philippians 2:12–18*)

¹³You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its savor, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city on a hill^d cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they set it on a stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

The Fulfillment of the Law

¹⁷Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have not come to abolish them, but to fulfill them. ¹⁸For I tell you truly, until heaven and earth pass away, not a single jot, not a stroke of a pen, will disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

¹⁹So then, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do likewise will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever practices and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you that unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Anger and Reconciliation (*Luke 12:57–59*)

²¹You have heard that it was said to the ancients, ‘Do not murder’^e and ‘Anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ ²²But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother without cause^f will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, ‘Raca,’^g will be subject to the Sanhedrin.^h But anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be subject to the fire of hell.ⁱ

^a 25 That is, the Ten Cities ^b 5 Or *Blessed are those who exercise strength under control, for they will inherit the land*; see Psalm 37:11. ^c 11 CT *all kinds of evil* ^d 14 Literally *A city lying on a hill* ^e 21 Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17
^f 22 CT does not include *without cause*. ^g 22 *Raca* is an Aramaic expression of contempt. ^h 22 Or *the Council*
ⁱ 22 Or *the hell of fire*; Greek *the Gehenna of fire*

23 So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

25 Reconcile quickly with your adversary, while you are still on the way to court. Otherwise, he may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer,^a and you may be thrown into prison. 26 Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.^b

Adultery (*Leviticus 18:1–30*)

27 You have heard that it was said,^c ‘Do not commit adultery.’^d 28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman to lust after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.^e 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be cast^f into hell.

Divorce (*Deuteronomy 24:1–5; Luke 16:18*)

31 It has also been said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’^g 32 But I tell you that whoever^h divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, brings adultery upon her.ⁱ And he who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Oaths and Vows (*Numbers 30:1–16*)

33 Again, you have heard that it was said to the ancients, ‘Do not break your oath, but fulfill your vows to the Lord.’^j 34 But I tell you not to swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; 35 or by the earth, for it is His footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 Nor should you swear by your head, for you cannot make a single hair white or black. 37 Simply let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ Anything more comes from the evil one.^k

Love Your Enemies (*Lv. 24:17–23; Lk. 6:27–36*)

38 You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye and tooth for tooth.’^l 39 But I tell you not to resist an evil person. If someone slaps you on the^m right

cheek, turn to him the other also; 40 if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well; 41 and if someone forces you to go one mile,ⁿ go with him two miles.^o 42 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

43 You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor’^p and ‘Hate your enemy.’ 44 But I tell you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who mistreat you and persecute you,^q 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Do not even tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet only your friends,^r what are you doing more than others? Do not even the tax collectors^s do the same?

48 Be perfect, therefore, as your Father in heaven^t is perfect.

Giving to the Needy (*Deuteronomy 15:7–11*)

6 “Be careful not to perform your acts of charity^u before men to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

2 So when you give to the needy, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. Truly I tell you, they already have their full reward. 3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will Himself reward you openly.^v

The Lord’s Prayer (*Luke 11:1–4*)

5 And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. Truly I tell you, they already have their full reward. 6 But when you pray, go into your inner room, shut your door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen. And your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you openly.^w

^a 25 CT lit. and the judge to the officer ^b 26 Greek *kodrantên*; that is, a Roman copper coin worth about 1/64 of a denarius
^c 27 GOC and TR include to the ancients. ^d 27 Ex. 20:14; De. 5:18 ^e 29 Greek *Gehenna*; also in verse 30 ^f 30 CT to go
^g 31 De. 24:1 ^h 32 CT anyone who ⁱ 32 Or causes her to commit adultery ^j 33 Numbers 30:2 ^k 37 Or from evil
^l 38 Exodus 21:24; Lev. 24:20; De. 19:21 ^m 39 ALT, HF, NA, TR, WH your ⁿ 41 Greek one million; that is, a Roman mile,
approximately 4,855 feet or 1,480 meters ^o 41 Literally go with him two. ^p 43 Lev. 19:18 ^q 44 CT love your enemies
and pray for those who persecute you; see Luke 6:27–28. ^r 47 CT and TR brothers ^s 47 CT Gentiles ^t 48 CT heavenly
Father ^u 1 Or alms; CT righteous acts ^v 4 CT and GOC will reward you ^w 6 CT will reward you

7And when you pray, do not babble on like pagans, for they think that by their many words they will be heard. 8Do not be like them, for your Father^a knows what you need before you ask Him.

9So then, this is how you should pray:

‘Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be Your name.

10Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

11Give us this day our daily bread.

12And forgive us our debts,
as we also forgive^b our debtors.

13And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.^c
For Yours is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.^d

14For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15But if you do not forgive men their trespasses,^e neither will your Father forgive yours.^f

Proper Fasting

16When you fast, do not be somber like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they already have their full reward. 17But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, 18so that your fasting will not be obvious to men, but only to your Father, who is unseen. And your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.^g

Treasures in Heaven (Luke 12:32–34)

19Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust^h destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The Lamp of the Body (Luke 11:33–36)

22The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good,ⁱ your whole body will be full of light. 23But if your eyes are bad,^j your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

24No one can serve two masters: Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Do Not Worry (Luke 12:22–31)

25Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat and^k drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26Look at the birds of the air: They do not sow or reap or gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?^l

28And why do you worry about clothes? Consider how the lilies of the field grow: They do not labor or spin. 29Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his glory was adorned like one of these. 30If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

31Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32For the Gentiles strive after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33But seek first the kingdom of God^m and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you.

34Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about the things of itself.ⁿ Today has enough trouble of its own.

Judging Others (Luke 6:37–42; Rom. 14:1–12)

7 “Do not judge, or you will be judged. 2For with the same judgment you pronounce, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured^o to you.

3Why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye but fail to notice the beam in your own eye?

4How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ while there is still a beam in your own eye? 5You hypocrite! First take the beam out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

^a 8 WH *God your Father* ^b 12 CT *have forgiven* ^c 13 Or *from evil* ^d 13 CT does not include *For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.* ^e 15 NA and SBL *if you do not forgive men* ^f 15 Literally *your trespasses*

^g 18 GOC and TR include *openly.* ^h 19 Or *worm*; also in verse 20 ⁱ 22 Literally *If your eye is sound*; see Proverbs 22:9.

^j 23 Literally *if your eye is evil*; see Proverbs 23:6 and Proverbs 28:22. ^k 25 NA, TH, and WH or ^l 27 Or *a single cubit to his height*; a cubit was approximately 18 inches or 45 centimeters. ^m 33 SBL, WH, and NE *seek first His kingdom*; see also Luke 12:31. ⁿ 34 CT *worry about itself* ^o 2 TR *measured again*

⁶Do not give dogs what is holy; do not throw your pearls before swine. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces.

Ask, Seek, Knock (Luke 11:5–13)

⁷Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

⁹Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰And^a if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ¹¹So if you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

¹²In everything, then, do to others as you would have them do to you. For this is the essence of the Law and the Prophets.

The Narrow Gate (Luke 13:22–30)

¹³Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate^b and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴But small^c is the gate and narrow the way that leads to life, and only a few find it.

A Tree and Its Fruit (Luke 6:43–45)

¹⁵Beware of false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶By their fruit you will recognize them. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree^d that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰So then, by their fruit you will recognize them.

²¹Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²²Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?'

²³Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you workers of lawlessness!'

The House on the Rock (Luke 6:46–49)

²⁴Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them I will liken to^e a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵The rain fell, the torrents raged, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because its foundation was on the rock.

²⁶But everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷The rain fell, the torrents raged, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its collapse!"

The Authority of Jesus

²⁸When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astonished at His teaching, ²⁹because He taught as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.^f

The Leper's Prayer (Leviticus 14:1–32; Mark 1:40–45; Luke 5:12–16)

8 When Jesus came down from the mountain, large crowds followed Him. ²Suddenly a leper^g came and knelt before Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."

³Jesus reached out His hand and touched the man. "I am willing," He said. "Be clean!" And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

⁴Then Jesus instructed him, "See that you don't tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift prescribed by Moses, as a testimony to them."^h

The Faith of the Centurion (Luke 7:1–10; John 4:43–54)

⁵When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came and pleaded with Him, ⁶"Lord, my servantⁱ lies at home, paralyzed and in terrible agony."

⁷"I will go and heal him," Jesus replied.

⁸The centurion answered, "Lord, I am not worthy to have You come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹For I myself am a man under^j authority, with soldiers under me. I tell one to go, and he goes, and another to come, and he comes. I tell my servant to do something, and he does it."

^a 10 CT Or ^b 13 WH does not include *is the gate*. ^c 14 Literally *How small* ^d 19 F35 *Every tree, then*, ^e 24 CT *is like*
^f 29 CT *their scribes* ^g 2 A leper was one afflicted with a skin disease. See Leviticus 13. ^h 4 See Leviticus 14:1–32.
ⁱ 6 Or *child*; also in verses 8 and 13 ^j 9 WH *set under*

10When Jesus heard this, He marveled and said to those following Him, “Truly I tell you, I have not found even in Israel such great faith.^a **11**I say to you that many will come from the east and the west to share the banquet with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. **12**But the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

13Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go! As you have believed, so will it be done for you.” And his^b servant was healed at that very hour.

Jesus Heals at Peter's House

(Mark 1:29–34; Luke 4:38–41)

14When Jesus arrived at Peter's house, He saw Peter's mother-in-law sick in bed with a fever. **15**So He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she got up and began to serve Him.^c

16When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to Jesus, and He drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. **17**This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

“He took up our infirmities
and carried our diseases.”^d

The Cost of Discipleship (Luke 9:57–62;

Luke 14:25–33; John 6:59–66)

18When Jesus saw large crowds^e around Him, He gave orders to cross to the other side of the sea.^f

19And one of the scribes came to Him and said, “Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.”

20Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head.”

21Another of His disciples^g requested, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”

22But Jesus told him, “Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”

Jesus Calms the Storm (Psalm 107:1–43;

Mark 4:35–41; Luke 8:22–25)

23When He got into the boat, His disciples followed Him. **24**Suddenly a violent storm came up on the sea, so that the boat was engulfed by the waves. But Jesus was sleeping. **25**Then the disciples went^h and woke Him, saying, “Lord, save us! We are perishing!”

26“You of little faith,” Jesus replied, “why are you so afraid?” Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it was perfectly calm.

27The men were amazed and asked, “What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the sea obey Him!”

The Demons and the Pigs

(Mark 5:1–20; Luke 8:26–39)

28When Jesus arrived on the other side in the region of the Gergesenes,ⁱ He was met by two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs. They were so violent that no one could pass that way.

29“What do You want with us, Jesus,^j Son of God?” they shouted. “Have You come here to torture us before the appointed time?”

30In the distance a large herd of pigs was feeding.

31So the demons begged Jesus, “If You drive us out, permit us to go off into^k the herd of pigs.”

32“Go!” He told them. So they came out and went into the herd of pigs,^l and the whole herd of pigs^m rushed down the steep bank into the sea and died in the waters.

33Those tending the pigs ran off into the town and reported all this, including the account of the demon-possessed men. **34**Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to leave their region.

Jesus Heals a Paralytic

(Mark 2:1–12; Luke 5:17–26)

9 Jesus got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own town. **2**Just then some men broughtⁿ to Him a paralytic lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven you.”

3On seeing this, some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming!”

4But Jesus knew^p what they were thinking and said, “Why do you harbor evil in your hearts?

5Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’^q or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? **6**But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...” Then He said to the paralytic, “Get up, pick up your mat, and go home.” **7**And the man got up and went home.

^a 10 CT I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith ^b 13 SBL, TH, WH the ^c 15 TR them ^d 17 Isaiah 53:4
^e 18 NA and WH a large crowd ^f 18 That is, the Sea of Galilee; Greek to the other side ^g 21 F35, SBL, TH, WH the disciples
^h 25 CT they went; GOC and TR His disciples went ⁱ 28 CT Gadarenes; some manuscripts Gerasenes ^j 29 CT does not
include Jesus. ^k 31 CT send us into ^l 32 CT into the pigs ^m 32 CT the whole herd ⁿ 2 Literally And behold, they brought
^o 2 CT your sins are forgiven ^p 4 Or saw ^q 5 ALT and TR forgiven you

⁸When the crowds saw this, they marveled^a and glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

Jesus Calls Matthew

(Mark 2:13–17; Luke 5:27–32)

⁹As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax booth. “Follow Me,” He told him, and Matthew got up and followed Him.

¹⁰Later, as Jesus was dining at Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with Him and His disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they asked His disciples, “Why does your Teacher eat^b with tax collectors and sinners?”

¹²On hearing this, Jesus said to them,^c “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’^d For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”^e

Questions about Fasting

(Mark 2:18–20; Luke 5:33–35)

¹⁴Then John’s disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Why is it that we and the Pharisees fast so often,^f but Your disciples do not fast?”

¹⁵Jesus replied, “How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while He is with them? But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast.

The Patches and the Wineskins

(Mark 2:21–22; Luke 5:36–39)

¹⁶No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. For the patch will pull away from the garment, and a worse tear will result.

¹⁷Neither do men pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will spill, and the wineskins will be ruined. Instead, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.”

The Healing Touch of Jesus

(Mark 5:21–43; Luke 8:40–56)

¹⁸While Jesus was saying these things, a synagogue leader came and knelt before Him. “My daughter has just died,” he said. “But come and place Your hand on her, and she will live.”

¹⁹So Jesus got up and went with him, along with His disciples. ²⁰Suddenly a woman who had

suffered from bleeding for twelve years came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His cloak. ²¹She said to herself, “If only I touch His cloak, I will be healed.”

²²Jesus turned around^g and saw her. “Take courage, daughter,” He said, “your faith has healed you.” And the woman was healed from that very hour.

²³When Jesus entered the house of the synagogue leader, He saw the flute players and the noisy crowd. ²⁴“Go away,” He told them. “The girl is not dead, but asleep.” And they laughed at Him.

²⁵After the crowd had been put outside, Jesus went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. ²⁶And the news about this spread throughout that region.

Jesus Heals the Blind and Mute (Mk. 7:31–37)

²⁷As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!”

²⁸After Jesus had entered the house, the blind men came to Him. “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” He asked.

“Yes, Lord,” they answered.

²⁹Then He touched their eyes and said, “According to your faith will it be done to you.” ³⁰And their eyes were opened. Jesus warned them sternly, “See that no one finds out about this!”

³¹But they went out and spread the news about Him throughout the land.

³²As they were leaving, a demon-possessed man who was mute was brought to Jesus. ³³And when the demon had been driven out, the man began to speak. The crowds were amazed and said, “Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel!”

³⁴But the Pharisees said, “It is by the prince of demons that He drives out demons.”

The Lord of the Harvest (Luke 10:1–12)

³⁵Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.^h ³⁶When He saw the crowds, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were harassedⁱ and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

³⁷Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. ³⁸Ask the

^a ⁸ CT they were filled with awe or they were afraid ^b ¹¹ F35 eat and drink ^c ¹² CT On hearing this, He said ^d ¹³ Hos. 6:6 ^e ¹³ CT does not include to repentance; see Luke 5:32. ^f ¹⁴ NE and WH do not include so often. ^g ²² CT turned

^h ³⁵ CT does not include among the people. ⁱ ³⁶ GOC and TR faint

Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest.”

The Twelve Apostles

(Mark 3:13–19; Luke 6:12–16)

10 And calling His twelve disciples to Him, Jesus gave them authority over unclean spirits, so that they could drive them out and heal every disease and sickness.

²These are the names of the twelve apostles: first Simon, called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus called Thaddaeus;^a ⁴Simon the Zealot,^b and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus.^c

The Ministry of the Twelve

(Mark 6:7–13; Luke 9:1–6)

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not go onto the road of the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. ⁶Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. ⁷As you go, preach this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven is near.’ ⁸Heal the sick,^d cleanse the lepers,^e drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

⁹Do not take along any gold or silver or copper in your belts. ¹⁰Take no bag for the road, or second tunic, or sandals, or staffs;^f for the worker is worthy of his provisions.

¹¹Whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy there and stay at his house^g until you move on. ¹²As you enter the home, greet its occupants.^h ¹³If the home is worthy, let your peace rest on it, but if it is not, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴And if anyone will not welcome you or heed your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

Sheep among Wolves (2 Timothy 1:3–12)

¹⁶Behold, I am sending you out like sheep among wolves; therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. ¹⁷But beware of men, for they will hand you over to their councils and flog you in their synagogues. ¹⁸On My account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses

to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹But when they hand you over, do not worry about how to respond or what to say. In that hour you will be given what to say. ²⁰For it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

²¹Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rise against their parents and have them put to death. ²²You will be hated by everyone because of My name, but the one who perseveres to the end will be saved.

²³When they persecute you in one town, flee to another.ⁱ Truly I tell you, you will not reach all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

²⁴A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵It is enough for a disciple to be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebub,^j how much more the members of his household!

Fear God Alone (Luke 12:4–7)

²⁶So do not be afraid of them. For there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, and nothing hidden that will not be made known. ²⁷What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the housetops.

²⁸Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Instead, fear the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.^k

²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?^l Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. ³⁰And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Confessing Christ (Luke 12:8–12)

³²Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father in heaven. ³³But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father in heaven.

Not Peace but a Sword

(Micah 7:1–6; Luke 12:49–53)

³⁴Do not assume that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to turn

^a 3 CT does not include *Lebbaeus called*. ^b 4 Literally *Simon the Cananite*; CT *Simon the Cananean* ^c 4 Literally *the one also having betrayed Him*. ^d 8 CT includes *raise the dead*; TR includes *raise the dead after cleanse the lepers*. ^e 8 A leper was one afflicted with a skin disease. See Leviticus 13. ^f 10 GOC, CT, Stephanus TR staff ^g 11 Literally *stay there* ^h 12 Literally *greet it* ⁱ 23 CT *flee to the next* ^j 25 WH *Beezebul*; Scrivener TR *Beelzebub* ^k 28 Greek *Gehenna* ^l 29 Greek *an assarion*; that is, a Roman copper coin worth about 1/16 of a denarius

'a man against his father,
a daughter against her mother,
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.

³⁶A man's enemies will be the members
of his own household.'^a

³⁷Anyone who loves his father or mother more
than Me is not worthy of Me; anyone who loves
his son or daughter more than Me is not worthy
of Me; ³⁸and anyone who does not take up his
cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁹Who-
ever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses
his life for My sake will find it.

The Reward of Service (2 Kings 4:8–17)

⁴⁰He who receives you receives Me, and he who
receives Me receives the One who sent Me.
⁴¹Whoever receives a prophet because he is a
prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and
whoever receives a righteous man because he is
a righteous man will receive a righteous man's
reward. ⁴²And if anyone gives even a cup of cold
water to one of these little ones because he is
My disciple, truly I tell you, he will never lose his
reward."

John's Inquiry (Luke 7:18–23)

11 After Jesus had finished instructing His
twelve disciples, He went on from there
to teach and preach in their cities.^b

²Meanwhile John heard in prison about the
works of Christ, and he sent two of his disciples^c
³to ask Him, "Are You the One who was to come,
or should we look for someone else?"

⁴Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what
you hear and see: ⁵The blind receive sight, the
lame walk, the lepers^d are cleansed, the deaf
hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is
preached to the poor. ⁶Blessed is the one who
does not fall away on account of Me.^e"

Jesus Testifies about John (Malachi 3:1–5; Luke 7:24–35)

⁷As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to
speak to the crowds about John: "What did you
go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying
in the wind? ⁸Otherwise, what did you go out to
see? A man dressed in fine clothes? Look, those

who wear fine clothing are found in kings'
palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see?
A prophet?^f Yes, I tell you, and more than a
prophet. ¹⁰For this^g is the one about whom it is
written:

'Behold, I will send My messenger ahead of
You,
who will prepare Your way before You.'^h

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women
there has risen no one greater than John the Bap-
tist. Yet even the least in the kingdom of heaven
is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the
Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has
been subject to violence,ⁱ and the violent lay
claim to it. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law
prophesied until John. ¹⁴And if you are willing to
accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come.^j

¹⁵He who has ears to hear,^k let him hear.

¹⁶To what can I compare this generation? They
are like children^l sitting in the marketplaces^m
and calling out to one another:"

¹⁷'We played the flute for you,
and you did not dance;
we sang a dirge for you,^o
and you did not mourn.'

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and
they say, 'He has a demon!' ¹⁹The Son of Man
came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look at
this glutton and drunkard, a friend of tax collec-
tors and sinners!' But wisdom is vindicated by
her children.^p"

Woe to the Unrepentant (Luke 10:13–16)

²⁰Then Jesus began to denounce the cities in
which most of His miracles had been performed,
because they did not repent. ²¹"Woe to you, Cho-
razin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles
that were performed in you had been performed
in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented
long ago in^q sackcloth and ashes. ²²But I tell you,
it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the
day of judgment than for you.

²³And you, Capernaum, which is lifted up to
heaven, will be brought down to Hades!^r For if
the miracles that were performed in you had
been performed in Sodom, it would have

^a 36 Mic. 7:6 ^b 1 That is, in the towns of Galilee ^c 2 CT he sent his disciples ^d 5 A leper was one afflicted with a skin dis-
ease. See Lev. 13. ^e 6 Or who is not offended by Me ^f 9 SBL and WH Why did you go out? To see a prophet? ^g 10 CT This
^h 10 Mal. 3:1 ⁱ 12 Or has been forcefully advancing ^j 14 See Mal. 4:5. ^k 15 NA, SBL, WH does not include to hear. ^l 16 TR lit-
tle children ^m 16 ALT, F35 marketplace ⁿ 16 CT to others ^o 17 CT does not include for you. ^p 19 CT by her actions
^q 21 GOC sitting in ^r 23 CT And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to Hades

remained to this day. ²⁴But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you.”

Rest for the Weary (Luke 10:21-24)

²⁵At that time Jesus declared, “I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because You have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. ²⁶Yes, Father, for this was well-pleasing in Your sight.

²⁷All things have been entrusted to Me by My Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him.

²⁸Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

The Lord of the Sabbath

(1 Samuel 21:1-7; Mark 2:23-28; Luke 6:1-5)

12 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick the heads of grain and eat them. ²When the Pharisees saw this, they said to Him, “Look, Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath.”

³Jesus replied, “Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry?

⁴He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread,^a which was not lawful for them to eat, but only for the priests.

⁵Or haven’t you read in the Law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple break the Sabbath and yet are innocent? ⁶But I tell you that One greater than the temple is here.

⁷If only you had known the meaning of ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice,’^b you would not have condemned the innocent. ⁸For the Son of Man is Lord of the^c Sabbath.”

Jesus Heals on the Sabbath

(Mark 3:1-6; Luke 6:6-11)

⁹Moving on from there, Jesus entered their synagogue, ¹⁰and a man with a withered hand was there. In order to accuse Jesus, they asked Him, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”

¹¹He replied, “If one of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will he not take hold of it and lift it out? ¹²How much more valuable is a man than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.”

¹³Then Jesus said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” So he stretched it out, and it was restored to full use, just like the other. ¹⁴But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus.

God’s Chosen Servant (Isaiah 42:1-9)

¹⁵Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. Large crowds followed^d Him, and He healed them all, ¹⁶warning them not to make Him known. ¹⁷This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

¹⁸“Here is My Servant,
whom I have chosen,
My beloved,
in whom My soul delights.
I will put My Spirit on Him,
and He will proclaim justice to the nations.
¹⁹He will not quarrel or cry out;
no one will hear His voice in the streets.
²⁰A bruised reed He will not break,
and a smoldering wick He will not
extinguish,
till He leads justice to victory.
²¹In His name the nations will put their
hope.”^e

A House Divided

(Mark 3:20-27; Luke 11:14-23)

²²Then a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute was brought to Jesus, and He healed the man so that the blind and mute man^f could both speak and see. ²³The crowds were astounded and asked, “Could this be the Son^g of David?”

²⁴But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, “Only by Beelzebul,^h the prince of demons, does this man drive out demons.”

²⁵Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself will be laid waste, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. ²⁶If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand? ²⁷And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom doⁱ your sons drive them out? So then, they will be your judges.

^a 4 Or the Bread of the Presence ^b 7 Hosea 6:6 ^c 8 GOC and TR even of the ^d 15 SBL and WH Many followed ^e 21 Isaiah 42:1-4 (see also LXX) ^f 22 CT so that the mute man ^g 23 GOC and F35 the Christ, the Son ^h 24 WH Beezebul; Vulgate Beelzebub; also in verse 27 ⁱ 27 GOC will

28 But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

29 Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man's house and steal his possessions, unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can plunder^a his house.

30 He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters.

The Unpardonable Sin (Mark 3:28–30)

31 Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men.^b **32** Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in the present^c age or in the one to come.

Good and Bad Fruit (Luke 6:43–45)

33 Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is known by its fruit. **34** You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. **35** The good man brings good things out of his good store of treasure,^d and the evil man brings evil things out of his evil store of treasure. **36** But I tell you that men will give an account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. **37** For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

The Sign of Jonah

(Jonah 3:1–10; Luke 11:29–32)

38 Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said,^e "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You."

39 Jesus replied, "A wicked and adulterous generation demands a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. **40** For as Jonah^f was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

41 The men of Nineveh will stand at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now One greater than Jonah is here. **42** The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends

of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and now One greater than Solomon is here.

An Unclean Spirit Returns (Luke 11:24–26)

43 When an unclean spirit comes out of a man, it passes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. **44** Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' On its return, it finds the house vacant, swept clean, and put in order. **45** Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and dwell there. And the final plight of that man is worse than the first. So will it be with this wicked generation."

Jesus' Mother and Brothers

(Mark 3:31–35; Luke 8:19–21)

46 While Jesus was still speaking to the crowds, His mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to Him. **47** Someone told Him, "Look, Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to You."^g

48 But Jesus replied, "Who is My mother, and who are My brothers?" **49** Pointing to His disciples, He said, "Here are My mother and My brothers. **50** For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother."

The Parable of the Sower

(Mark 4:1–9; Luke 8:4–8)

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea. ²Such large crowds gathered around Him that He got into the boat^h and sat down, while all the people stood on the shore.

3 And He told them many things in parables, saying, "A farmer went out to sow his seed. **4** And as he was sowing, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it.

5 Some fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly because the soil was shallow. **6** But when the sun rose, the seedlings were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.

7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the seedlings.

8 Still other seed fell on good soil and produced a crop—a hundredfold, sixtyfold, or thirtyfold.

9 He who has ears to hear,ⁱ let him hear."

^a **29** Literally will plunder; F35 can plunder ^b **31** CT will not be forgiven ^c **32** CT and TR this ^d **35** TR includes of the heart. ^e **38** CT said to Him ^f **40** GOC Jonah the prophet ^g **47** GOC to see You; WH does not include verse 47. ^h **2** GOC, CT, F35 into a boat ⁱ **9** CT does not include to hear; also in verse 43.

The Purpose of Jesus' Parables*(Isaiah 6:1–13; Mark 4:10–12; Luke 8:9–10)*

10 Then the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Why do You speak to the people in parables?”

11 He replied, “The knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. 12 Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. 13 This is why I speak to them in parables:

‘Though seeing, they do not see;
though hearing, they do not hear or
understand.’^a

14 In them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled:

‘You will be ever hearing but never
understanding;
you will be ever seeing but never
perceiving.

15 For this people’s heart has grown callous;
they hardly hear with their ears,
and they have closed their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their hearts,
and turn, and I would heal them.’^b

16 But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. 17 For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

The Parable of the Sower Explained*(Mark 4:13–20; Luke 8:11–15)*

18 Consider, then, the parable of the sower: 19 When anyone hears the message of the kingdom but does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown^c along the path.

20 The seed sown on rocky ground is the one who hears the word and at once receives^d it with joy. 21 But since he has no root, he remains for only a season. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away.

22 The seed sown among the thorns is the one who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

23 But the seed sown on good soil is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and produces a crop—a hundredfold, sixtyfold, or thirtyfold.”

The Parable of the Weeds *(Ezekiel 17:1–10)*

24 Jesus put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. 25 But while everyone was asleep, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and slipped away. 26 When the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the weeds also appeared.

27 The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’

28 ‘An enemy did this,’ he replied.

So the servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’

29 ‘No,’ he said, ‘if you pull the weeds now, you might uproot the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat into my barn.’”

The Parable of the Mustard Seed*(Mark 4:30–34; Luke 13:18–19)*

31 He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a man took and planted in his field. 32 Although it is the smallest of all seeds, yet it grows into the largest of garden plants^e and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.”

The Parable of the Leaven *(Luke 13:20–21)*

33 He told them still another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and mixed into three measures of flour, until all of it was leavened.”

I Will Open My Mouth in Parables *(Psalm 78)*

34 Jesus spoke all these things to the crowds in parables. He did not tell them anything without using a parable. 35 So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet:

“I will open My mouth in parables;
I will utter things hidden since the
foundation of the world.”^f

^a 13 See Deuteronomy 29:4, Isaiah 42:20, Jeremiah 5:21, and Ezekiel 12:2. ^b 15 Isaiah 6:9–10 (see also LXX)

^c 19 Literally *the one sown*; also in verses 20, 22, and 23 ^d 20 GOC *accepts and receives* ^e 32 GOC and F35 *of all garden plants* ^f 35 Psalm 78:2 (see also LXX); SBL, NE, and WH do not include *of the world*.

The Parable of the Weeds Explained

(Zephaniah 1:1–6)

³⁶Then Jesus dismissed the crowds and went into the^a house. His disciples came to Him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.”

³⁷He replied, “The One who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed represents the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

⁴⁰As the weeds are collected and burned in the fire, so will it be at the end of this age.^b ⁴¹The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will weed out of His kingdom every cause of sin and all who practice lawlessness. ⁴²And they will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.^c

He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

The Parables of the Treasure and the Pearl

⁴⁴Again,^d the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and in his joy he went and sold all he had and bought that field.

⁴⁵Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls. ⁴⁶When he found one very precious pearl, he went away and sold all he had and bought it.

The Parable of the Net

⁴⁷Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was cast into the sea and caught all kinds of fish. ⁴⁸When it was full, the men pulled it ashore. Then they sat down and sorted the good fish into containers, but threw the bad away.

⁴⁹So will it be at the end of the age: The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked them.^e

“Yes, Lord,^f” they answered.

⁵²Then He told them, “For this reason, every scribe who has been discipled in the kingdom of heaven is like a homeowner who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”

The Rejection at Nazareth

(Mark 6:1–6; Luke 4:16–30)

⁵³When Jesus had finished these parables, He withdrew from that place. ⁵⁴Coming to His hometown, He taught the people in their synagogue, and they were astonished. “Where did this man get such wisdom and miraculous powers?” they asked. ⁵⁵“Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t His mother’s name Mary, and aren’t His brothers James, Joses,^g Simon, and Judas? ⁵⁶Aren’t all His sisters with us as well? Where then did this man get all these things?” ⁵⁷And they took offense at Him.

But Jesus said to them, “Only in his hometown and in his own household is a prophet without honor.” ⁵⁸And He did not do many miracles there, because of their unbelief.

The Beheading of John

(Mark 6:14–29; Luke 9:7–9)

14 At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the reports about Jesus ²and said to his servants, “This is John the Baptist; he has risen from the dead! That is why miraculous powers are at work in him.”

³Now Herod had arrested John and bound him and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, ⁴because John had been telling him, “It is not lawful for you to have her.” ⁵Although Herod wanted to kill John, he was afraid of the people, because they regarded John as a prophet.

⁶When Herod’s birthday was being celebrated,^h however, the daughter of Herodias danced before them and pleased Herod ⁷so much that he promised with an oath to give to her whatever she asked.

⁸Prompted by her mother, she said, “Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist.”

⁹The king was grieved, but because of his oaths and his guests, he ordered that her wish be granted ¹⁰and sent to have John beheaded in the prison.

^a 36 GOC His ^b 40 CT of the age ^c 43 See Daniel 12:3. ^d 44 CT does not include *Again*. ^e 51 CT does not include *Jesus asked them*. ^f 51 CT does not include *Lord*. ^g 55 CT *Joseph*; see Mark 6:3. ^h 6 CT *When Herod's birthday had come*

11John's head was brought in on a platter and presented to the girl, who carried it to her mother.

12Then John's disciples came and took his body and buried it. And they went and informed Jesus.

The Feeding of the Five Thousand

(Mark 6:30–44; Luke 9:10–17; John 6:1–15)

13When Jesus heard about John, He withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. But the crowds found out about it and followed Him on foot from the towns. 14When Jesus^a stepped ashore and saw a large crowd, He had compassion on them and healed their sick.

15When evening came, His disciples^b came to Him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the hour is already late. Dismiss the crowds so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food."

16"They do not need to go away," Jesus replied. "You give them something to eat."

17"We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.

18"Bring them here to Me," Jesus said. 19And He directed the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, He spoke a blessing. Then He broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people.

20They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. 21About five thousand men were fed, besides women and children.

Jesus Walks on Water

(Mark 6:45–52; John 6:16–21)

22Immediately Jesus made the disciples^c get into the boat and go on ahead of Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds. 23After He had dismissed them, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone, 24but the boat was already in the middle of the sea,^d buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

25During the fourth watch of the night,^e Jesus went out to them, walking on the sea. 26When

the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified. "It's a ghost!" they said, and cried out in fear.

27But Jesus spoke up at once: "Take courage! It is I. Do not be afraid."

28"Lord, if it is You," Peter replied, "command me to come to You on the water."

29"Come," said Jesus.

Then Peter got down out of the boat and walked on the water to go toward Jesus.^f 30But when he saw the strength of the wind,^g he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

31Immediately Jesus reached out His hand and took hold of Peter. "You of little faith," He said, "why did you doubt?"

32And when they had climbed back into the boat, the wind died down. 33Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped^h Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God!"

Jesus Heals at Gennesaret (Mark 6:53–56)

34When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret.ⁱ 35And when the men of that place recognized Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding region. People brought all the sick to Him 36and begged Him just to let them touch the fringe of His cloak. And all who touched Him were healed.

The Tradition of the Elders (Mark 7:1–13)

15 Then some scribes and Pharisees^j came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked, 2"Why do Your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They do not wash their hands before they eat."

3Jesus replied, "And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? 4For God commanded, saying,^k 'Honor your father and mother'^l and 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.'^m 5But you say that if anyone says to his father or mother, 'Whatever you would have received from me is a gift devoted to God,' 6thenⁿ he need not honor his father or mother with it.^o Thus you nullify the commandment^p of God for the sake of your tradition.

^a 14 CT He ^b 15 CT the disciples ^c 22 GOC, F35, TR His disciples ^d 24 NA, SBL, WH many stadia from land; a stadion was about 607 feet or 185 meters ^e 25 That is, between three and six in the morning ^f 29 CT boat, walked on the water, and came toward Jesus ^g 30 Lit. when he saw the strong wind; NE and WH do not include strong. ^h 33 CT those who were in the boat worshiped ⁱ 34 CT they came to land at Gennesaret or they landed at Gennesaret ^j 1 CT Pharisees and scribes ^k 4 CT For God said ^l 4 Ex. 20:12; De. 5:16 ^m 4 Ex. 21:17; Lev. 20:9 ⁿ 6 CT does not include then. ^o 6 NE, MT, and TR (see also Mark 7:12); literally he need not honor his father or mother; most CT do not include or mother. ^p 6 CT the word

7You hypocrites! Isaiah prophesied correctly about you:

8“These people draw near to Me with their mouths,
and they^a honor Me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from Me.

9They worship Me in vain;
they teach as doctrine the precepts of
men.^b”

What Defiles a Man (Mark 7:14–23)

10Jesus called the crowd to Him and said, “Listen and understand. 11A man is not defiled by what enters his mouth, but by what comes out of it.”

12Then His disciples^c came to Him and said, “Are You aware that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?”

13But Jesus replied, “Every plant that My heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by its roots. 14Disregard them! They are blind guides.^d If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit.”

15Peter said to Him, “Explain this^e parable to us.”

16“Do you still not understand?” Jesus asked.

17“Do you not yet^f realize that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then is eliminated? 18But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these things defile a man. 19For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, and slander. 20These are what defile a man, but eating with unwashed hands does not defile him.”

The Faith of the Canaanite Woman (Mark 7:24–30)

21Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. 22And a Canaanite woman from that region came to Him,^g crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is miserably possessed by a demon.”

23But Jesus did not answer a word. So His disciples came and urged Him, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.”

24He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

25The woman came and knelt before Him. “Lord, help me!” she said.

26But Jesus replied, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.”

27“Yes, Lord,” she said, “even the dogs^h eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.”

28“O woman,” Jesus answered, “your faith is great! Let it be done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

The Feeding of the Four Thousand

(2 Kings 4:42–44; Mark 8:1–10)

29Moving on from there, Jesus went along the Sea of Galilee. Then He went up on a mountain and sat down. 30Large crowds came to Him, bringing the lame, the blind, the mute, the crippled,ⁱ and many others, and laid them at Jesus’ feet,^j and He healed them. 31The crowds were amazed^k when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled restored, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they glorified the God of Israel.

32Then Jesus called His disciples to Him and said, “I have compassion for this crowd, because they have already been with Me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may faint along the way.”

33His disciples replied, “Where in this desolate place could we find enough bread to feed such a large crowd?”

34“How many loaves do you have?” Jesus asked.

“Seven,” they replied, “and a few small fish.”

35And He commanded^l the crowd to sit down on the ground. 36Taking the seven loaves and the fish, He gave thanks and broke them. Then He gave them to His disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people.

37They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. 38A total of four thousand men were fed, besides women and children.

39After Jesus had dismissed the crowds, He got into the boat and went to the region of Magdala.^m

The Demand for a Sign

(Mark 8:11–13; Luke 12:54–56)

16 Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came and tested Jesus by asking Him to show them a sign from heaven.

^a 8 CT does not include *draw near to Me with their mouths, and they.* ^b 9 Isaiah 29:13 (see also LXX) ^c 12 CT *the disciples*; similarly in verses 33 and 36 ^d 14 Literally *blind guides of the blind* ^e 15 TH and WH *the* ^f 17 CT *Do you not* ^g 22 CT does not include *to Him.* ^h 27 Or *puppies* ⁱ 30 NA *the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute*; other CT vary in order. ^j 30 CT *His feet* ^k 31 CT *crowd was amazed* ^l 35 CT *instructed* ^m 39 CT *Magadan*

²But He replied, "When evening comes, you say, 'The weather will be fair, for the sky is red,' ³and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' You hypocrites!^a You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but not the signs of the times.^b ⁴A wicked and adulterous generation demands a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of the prophet^c Jonah." Then He left them and went away.

The Leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees

(Mark 8:14–21; Luke 12:1–3)

⁵When they crossed to the other side, His disciples^d forgot to take bread. ⁶"Watch out!" Jesus told them. "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

⁷They discussed this among themselves and concluded, "It is because we did not bring any bread."

⁸Aware of their conversation, Jesus said to them,^e "You of little faith, why are you debating among yourselves about having brought^f no bread? ⁹Do you still not understand? Do you not remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? ¹⁰Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? ¹¹How do you not understand that I was not telling you about bread, but to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees?^g"

¹²Then they understood that He was not telling them to beware of the leaven used in bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Peter's Confession of Christ

(Mark 8:27–30; Luke 9:18–20; John 6:67–71)

¹³When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, He questioned His disciples: "Who do people pronounce Me, the Son of Man, to be?^h"

¹⁴They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

¹⁵"But what about you?" Jesus asked. "Who do you say I am?"

¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

¹⁷Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah!ⁱ For this was not revealed to you by flesh

and blood, but by My Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

²⁰Then He commanded^j His disciples not to tell anyone that He was Jesus^k the Christ.

Christ's Passion Foretold

(Mark 8:31–33; Luke 9:21–22)

²¹From that time on Jesus^l began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and that He must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

²²Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. "Far be it from You, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to You!"

²³But Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me. For you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

Take Up Your Cross

(Mark 8:34–38; Luke 9:23–27)

²⁴Then Jesus told His disciples, "If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. ²⁵For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. ²⁶What does it profit^m a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? ²⁷For the Son of Man will come in His Father's glory with His angels, and then He will repay each one according to what he has done.

²⁸Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom."

The Transfiguration

(Mark 9:1–13; Luke 9:28–36; 2 Peter 1:16–21)

17 After six days Jesus took with Him Peter, James, and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ²There He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.

^a 3 CT does not include *You hypocrites*. ^b 3 Several manuscripts do not include *When evening comes... of the times*. from verses 2 and 3. ^c 4 CT does not include *the prophet*. ^d 5 CT *the disciples*; similarly in verse 20 ^e 8 CT does not include *to them*. ^f 8 CT does not include *brought*. ^g 11 CT *bread? But beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees*.

^h 13 CT *Who do people say the Son of Man is?* ⁱ 17 Greek *Simon Bar-Jonah* ^j 20 CT *admonished* ^k 20 CT does not include *Jesus*. ^l 21 NE and WH *Jesus Christ* ^m 26 CT *will it profit*

3 Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared before them, talking with Jesus. 4 Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If You wish, we will put up^a three shelters^b—one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

5 While Peter was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.^c Listen to Him!" 6 When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown in terror.

7 Then Jesus came over and touched them. "Get up," He said. "Do not be afraid." 8 And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Do not tell anyone about this vision until the Son of Man has risen^d from the dead."

10 His disciples^e asked Him, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"

11 Jesus replied, "Elijah does indeed come first,^f and he will restore all things. 12 But I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but have done to him whatever they wished. In the same way, the Son of Man will suffer at their hands."

13 Then the disciples understood that He was speaking to them about John the Baptist.

The Boy with a Demon

(Mark 9:14–29; Luke 9:37–42)

14 When they came to the crowd, a man came up to Jesus and knelt before Him. 15 "Lord, have mercy on my son," he said. "He has seizures and is suffering terribly.^g He often falls into the fire or into the water. 16 I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not heal him."

17 "O unbelieving and perverse generation!" Jesus replied. "How long must I remain with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring the boy here to Me." 18 Then Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, and he was healed from that moment.

The Power of Faith (Luke 17:5–10)

19 Afterward the disciples came to Jesus privately and asked, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"

20 "Because of your unbelief,^h" Jesus answered.ⁱ "For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you. 21 But this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."^j

The Second Prediction of the Passion

(Mark 9:30–32; Luke 9:43–45)

22 While they were staying together^k in Galilee, Jesus told them, "The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men. 23 They will kill Him, and on the third day He will be raised to life." And the disciples were deeply grieved.

The Temple Tax

24 After they had arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax^l came to Peter and asked, "Does your Teacher pay the two drachmas?"

25 "Yes," he answered.

When Peter entered^m the house, Jesus preempted him. "What do you think, Simon?" He asked. "From whom do the kings of the earth collect customs and taxes: from their own sons, or from others?"

26 "From others," Peter answered.

"Then the sons are exempt," Jesus said to him. 27 "But so that we may not offend them, go to the sea, cast a hook, and take the first fish you catch. When you open its mouth, you will find a four-drachma coin.ⁿ Take it and give it to them for My tax and yours."

The Greatest in the Kingdom

(Mark 9:33–41; Luke 9:46–50)

18 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who then is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

2 Jesus invited a little child to stand among them. 3 "Truly I tell you," He said, "unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 And whoever welcomes a little child like this in My name welcomes Me.

^a 4 CT I will put up ^b 4 Or three tabernacles ^c 5 Cited in 2 Peter 1:17 ^d 9 NA, SBL, WH has been raised ^e 10 CT The disciples ^f 11 CT does not include first. ^g 15 TH and WH and is sick ^h 20 CT Because you have so little faith ⁱ 20 CT He answered ^j 21 CT does not include verse 21; see Mark 9:29. ^k 22 CT were gathered together ^l 24 Greek the didrachma; twice in this verse ^m 25 Literally When he entered; F35 When they entered ⁿ 27 Greek a stater; that is, a silver coin worth approximately one shekel

Temptations and Trespasses*(Mark 9:42–48; Luke 17:1–4)*

⁶But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

⁷Woe to the world for the causes of sin. These stumbling blocks must come, but woe to that^a man through whom they come!

⁸If your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life lame or crippled^b than to have two hands and two feet and be thrown into the eternal fire.

⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.^c

The Parable of the Lost Sheep *(Luke 15:1–7)*

¹⁰See that you do not look down on any of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of My Father in heaven. ¹¹For the Son of Man came to save the lost.^d

¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them goes astray, does he not^e leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go out to search for the one that is lost? ¹³And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices more over that one sheep than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray. ¹⁴In the same way, your^f Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.

A Brother Who Sins *(Deuteronomy 19:15–21)*

¹⁵If your brother sins against you,^g go and confront him privately. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. ¹⁶But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.'^h ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, regard him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

Ask in My Name *(John 16:23–33)*

¹⁹Again, I tell you trulyⁱ that if two of you on the earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by My Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three gather together in My name, there am I with them."

The Unforgiving Servant *(Romans 12:14–21)*

²¹Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother who sins against me? Up to seven times?"

²²Jesus answered, "I tell you, not just seven times, but seventy-seven times!^j

²³Because of this, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴As he began the settlements, a debtor owing ten thousand talents^k was brought to him. ²⁵Since the man was unable to pay, the master ordered that he be sold to pay his debt, along with his wife and children and everything he owned.

²⁶Then the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Master,^l have patience with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.'

²⁷His master had compassion on him, forgave his debt, and released him.

²⁸But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii.^m He grabbed him and began to choke him, saying, 'Pay back what you owe me!ⁿ

²⁹So his fellow servant fell down at his feet^o and begged him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you back.^p

³⁰But he refused. Instead, he went and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay his debt.

³¹When his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and recounted all of this to their master.

³²Then the master summoned him and said, 'You wicked servant! I forgave all your debt because you begged me. ³³Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had on you?' ³⁴In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should repay all that was owed him.^q

^a 7 CT the ^b 8 NA, SBL, WH crippled or lame ^c 9 Or the hell of fire; Greek the Gehenna of fire ^d 11 CT does not include v. 11; see Luke 19:10. ^e 12 CT will he not ^f 14 WH My ^g 15 NE and WH do not include against you. ^h 16 De. 19:15 ⁱ 19 TR does not include truly. ^j 22 Or seventy times seven; see Genesis 4:24 LXX. ^k 24 A talent was worth about twenty years' wages for a laborer. ^l 26 NA, SBL, and WH do not include Master. ^m 28 A denarius was customarily a day's wage for a laborer; see Matt. 20:2. ⁿ 28 CT does not include me. ^o 29 CT does not include at his feet. ^p 29 TR I will pay you everything ^q 34 NA, SBL, and WH all that he owed

35 That is how My heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother his trespasses^a from your heart.”

Teachings about Divorce (Mark 10:1–12)

19 When Jesus had finished saying these things, He left Galilee and went into the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. ²Large crowds followed Him, and He healed them there.

³Then the Pharisees^b came and tested Him by asking, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason?”

⁴Jesus answered, “Have you not read that from the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’^c ⁵and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to^d his wife, and the two will become one flesh’^e? ⁶So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.”

⁷“Why then,” they asked, “did Moses order a man to give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?^f”

⁸Jesus replied, “Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because of your hardness of heart. But it was not this way from the beginning. ⁹Now I tell you that whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery. And he who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.^g”

¹⁰His disciples^h said to Him, “If this is the case between a man and his wife, it is better not to marry.”

¹¹“Not everyone can accept this word,” He replied, “but only those to whom it has been given.

¹²For there are eunuchs who were born that way; others were made that way by men; and still others live like eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it.”

Jesus Blesses the Children

(Mark 10:13–16; Luke 18:15–17)

¹³Then little children were brought to Jesus for Him to place His hands on them and pray for them. And the disciples rebuked those who brought them. ¹⁴But Jesus said, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them!

For the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” ¹⁵And after He had placed His hands on them, He went on from there.

The Rich Young Man

(Mark 10:17–31; Luke 18:18–30)

¹⁶Just then a man came up to Jesus and inquired, “Goodⁱ Teacher, what good thing must I do to obtain eternal life?”

¹⁷“Why do you call Me good?”^j Jesus replied. “There is no one who is good but God.^k If you want to enter life, keep the commandments.”

¹⁸“Which ones?” the man asked.

Jesus answered, “‘Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not bear false witness, ¹⁹honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself.’^l”

²⁰“All these I have kept from my youth,^m” said the young man. “What do I still lack?”

²¹Jesus told him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me.”

²²When the young man heard this, he went away in sorrow, because he had great wealth.

²³Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Truly I tell you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to pass throughⁿ the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

²⁵When His disciples^o heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, “Who then can be saved?”

²⁶Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

²⁷“Look,” Peter replied, “we have left everything to follow You. What then will there be for us?”

²⁸Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, in the renewal of all things,^p when the Son of Man sits on His glorious throne, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife^q or children or fields for the sake of My

^a 35 CT does not include *his trespasses*. ^b 3 CT *some Pharisees* ^c 4 Gen. 1:27; Gen. 5:2 ^d 5 CT *be united to* ^e 5 Gen. 2:24 (see also LXX) ^f 7 See Deuteronomy 24:1. ^g 9 Some CT do not include *And he who marries a divorced woman commits adultery*; see Matthew 5:32. ^h 10 SBL and WH *The disciples* ⁱ 16 CT does not include *Good*. ^j 17 CT “Why do you ask Me about what is good?” See Mark 10:18 and Luke 18:19. ^k 17 CT “There is only One who is good. See Mark 10:18 and Luke 18:19. ^l 19 Exodus 20:12–16; Leviticus 19:18; Deuteronomy 5:16–20 ^m 20 CT does not include *from my youth*. ⁿ 24 SBL and WH *to enter* ^o 25 CT *the disciples* ^p 28 Or *in the regeneration* ^q 29 NE, WH, and NA do not include *or wife*.

name will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life.³⁰ But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

The Parable of the Workers

20 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. ²He agreed to pay them a denarius^a for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

³About the third hour^b he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. ⁴‘You also go into my vineyard,’ he said, ‘and I will pay you whatever is right.’ ⁵So they went.

He went out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour^c and did the same thing.

⁶About the eleventh hour^d he went out and found still others standing idle.^e ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’ he asked.

⁷‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered.

So he told them, ‘You also go into my vineyard, and you will receive whatever is right.’^f

⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last ones hired and moving on to the first.’

⁹The workers who were hired about the eleventh hour came and each received a denarius. ¹⁰So when the original workers came, they assumed they would receive more. But each of them also received a denarius.

¹¹On receiving their pay, they began to grumble against the landowner. ¹²‘These men who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the scorching heat of the day.’

¹³But he answered one of them, ‘Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Did you not agree with me on one denarius? ¹⁴Take your pay and go. I want to give this last man the same as I gave you. ¹⁵Do I not have the right to do as I please with what is mine? Or are you envious^g because I am generous?’

¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last. For many are called, but few are chosen.^h”

The Third Prediction of the Passion

(Mark 10:32–34; Luke 18:31–34)

¹⁷As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, He took the twelve disciples aside and said,ⁱ ¹⁸“Look, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes. They will condemn Him to death ¹⁹and will deliver Him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. And on the third day He will rise again.^j”

A Mother's Request (Mark 10:35–45)

²⁰Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and knelt down to make a request of Him.

²¹“What do you want?” He inquired.

She answered, “Declare that in Your kingdom one of these two sons of mine may sit at Your right hand, and the other at Your left.”

²²“You do not know what you are asking,” Jesus replied. “Can you drink the cup I am going to drink or be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?^k”

“We can,” the brothers answered.

²³“You will indeed drink My cup and be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized,”^l Jesus said. “But to sit at My right or left is not Mine to grant. These seats belong to those for whom My Father has prepared them.”

²⁴When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. ²⁵But Jesus called them aside and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their superiors exercise authority over them. ²⁶But^m it shall not be this way among you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷and whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave— ²⁸just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

a 2 A denarius was customarily a day's wage for a laborer; similarly in verses 9, 10, and 13. **b** 3 That is, about nine in the morning **c** 5 That is, about noon and again about three in the afternoon **d** 6 That is, about five in the afternoon; also in verse 9 **e** 6 CT does not include *idle*. **f** 7 CT does not include *and you will receive whatever is right*. **g** 15 Literally *Or is your eye evil* **h** 16 CT does not include *For many are called, but few are chosen*. **i** 17 Literally *He took the twelve disciples aside privately on the way and said to them* **j** 19 CT *He will be raised (to life)* **k** 22 CT does not include *or be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized*. **l** 23 CT does not include *and be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized*. **m** 26 CT does not include *But*.

The Blind Men by the Road*(Mark 10:46–52; Luke 18:35–43)*

²⁹As they were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed Him. ³⁰And there were two blind men sitting beside the road. When they heard that Jesus was passing by, they cried out, “Have mercy on us, Lord,^a Son of David!”

³¹The crowd admonished them to be silent, but they cried out all the louder, “Have mercy on us, Lord,^b Son of David!”

³²Jesus stopped and called them. “What do you want Me to do for you?” He asked.

³³“Lord,” they answered, “let our eyes be opened.”

³⁴Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes, and at once they received their sight and followed Him.^c

The Triumphal Entry *(Zechariah 9:9–13;**Mark 11:1–11; Luke 19:28–40; John 12:12–19)*

21 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage^d on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent out two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go into the village opposite you,^e and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt beside her. Untie them and bring them to Me. ³If anyone questions you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

⁴All this^f took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

⁵“Say to the Daughter of Zion,
‘See, your King comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”^g

⁶So the disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and laid their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat^h on them.

⁸A massive crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

⁹The crowds that went ahead of Him and those that followed were shouting:

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”ⁱ

“Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!”^j

“Hosanna in the highest!”^k

¹⁰When Jesus had entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

¹¹The crowds replied, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Jesus Cleanses the Temple*(Mark 11:15–19; Luke 19:45–48; John 2:12–25)*

¹²Then Jesus entered the temple of God^l and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those selling doves. ¹³And He declared to them, “It is written: ‘My house will be called a house of prayer.’”^m But you have madeⁿ it ‘a den of robbers.’^o

¹⁴The lame and the blind^p came to Him at the temple, and He healed them. ¹⁵But the chief priests and scribes were indignant when they saw the wonders He performed and the children shouting in the temple courts,^q “Hosanna to the Son of David!”

¹⁶“Do You hear what these children are saying?” they asked.

“Yes,” Jesus answered. “Have you never read:

‘From the mouths of children and infants
You have ordained praise’?^r”

¹⁷Then He left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where He spent the night.

The Barren Fig Tree*(Mark 11:12–14; Mark 11:20–25)*

¹⁸In the morning, as Jesus was returning to the city, He was hungry. ¹⁹Seeing a fig tree by the road, He went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. “May you never bear fruit again!” He said. And immediately the tree withered.

²⁰When the disciples saw this, they marveled and asked, “How did the fig tree wither so quickly?”

^a 30 SBL and WH *Lord, have mercy on us*; TH *Have mercy on us, Jesus* ^b 31 SBL, TH, and WH *Lord, have mercy on us*

^c 34 Literally *they eyes received sight, and they followed Him* ^d 1 ALT, CT, and TR *Bethphage* ^e 2 CT *ahead of you* ^f 4 CT *This* ^g 5 Zechariah 9:9 ^h 7 Scrivener TR and they set Jesus ⁱ 9 *Hosanna* is a transliteration of the Hebrew *Hosia-na*, meaning *Save, we pray or Save now*, which became a shout of praise; see Psalm 118:25; twice in this verse; also in verse 15. ^j 9 Psalm 118:26 ^k 9 Or “*Hosanna in the highest heaven!*” See Psalm 118:25 and Psalm 148:1.

^l 12 CT does not include of God. ^m 13 Isaiah 56:7 ⁿ 13 CT are making ^o 13 Jeremiah 7:11 ^p 14 CT *The blind and the lame* ^q 15 Literally *the temple*; also in verse 23 ^r 16 Psalm 8:2 (see also LXX)

21 “Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “if you have faith and do not doubt, not only will you do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, ‘Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ it will happen. 22 If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”

Jesus' Authority Challenged

(Mark 11:27–33; Luke 20:1–8)

23 When Jesus returned to the temple courts and began to teach, the chief priests and elders of the people came up to Him. “By what authority are You doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave You this authority?”

24 “I will also ask you one question,” Jesus replied, “and if you answer Me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. 25 What was the source of John’s baptism? Was it from heaven or from men?”

They deliberated among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will ask, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ 26 But if we say, ‘From men,’ we are afraid of the people, for they all regard John as a prophet.” 27 So they answered, “We do not know.”

And Jesus replied, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

The Parable of the Two Sons

28 But what do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first one and said, ‘Son, go and work today in my vineyard.’^a

29 ‘I will not,’ he replied. But later he changed his mind and went.^b

30 Then the man went to the second son^c and told him the same thing.

‘I will, sir,’ he said. But he did not go.

31 Which of the two did the will of his father?”

“The first,^d” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you. 32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

The Parable of the Wicked Tenants

(Mark 12:1–12; Luke 20:9–18)

33 Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a tower. Then he rented it out to some tenants and went away on a journey.

34 When the harvest time drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his share of the fruit. 35 But the tenants seized his servants. They beat one, killed another, and stoned a third.

36 Again, he sent other servants, more than the first group. But the tenants did the same to them.

37 Finally, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said.

38 But when the tenants saw the son, they said to one another, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and take his inheritance.’ 39 So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

40 Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard returns, what will he do to those tenants?”

41 “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,” they replied, “and will rent out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him his share of the fruit at harvest time.”

42 Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

‘The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

This is from the Lord,
and it is marvelous in our eyes’^e?

43 Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. 44 He who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed.^f”

45 When the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they knew that Jesus was speaking about them. 46 Although they wanted to arrest Him, they were afraid of the crowds, because the people regarded Him as a prophet.

The Parable of the Banquet (Luke 14:15–24)

22 Once again, Jesus spoke to them in parables: 2 “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. 3 He sent his servants to call those he had invited to the banquet, but they refused to come.

^a 28 CT in the vineyard ^b 29 NE and WH But he went. ^c 30 ALT, HF, NA, and F35 other (son) ^d 31 NE and WH The latter ^e 42 Psalm 118:22–23 ^f 44 Tischendorf and some early manuscripts do not include verse 44; see also Luke 20:18.

⁴Again, he sent other servants and said, “Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner. My oxen and fattened cattle have been killed, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.”

⁵But they paid no attention and went away, one to his field, another to his business. ⁶The rest seized his servants, mistreated them, and killed them.

⁷When he heard this,^a the king was enraged, and he sent his troops to destroy those murderers and burn their city. ⁸Then he said to his servants, “The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore to the crossroads and invite to the banquet as many as you can find.”

¹⁰So the servants went out into the streets and gathered everyone they could find, both evil and good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹But when the king came in to see the guests, he spotted a man who was not dressed in wedding clothes. ¹²“Friend,” he asked, “how did you get in here without wedding clothes?”

But the man was speechless.

¹³Then the king told the servants, “Tie him hand and foot,^b take him away,^c and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Paying Taxes to Caesar

(Mark 12:13–17; Luke 20:19–26)

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went out and conspired to trap Jesus in His words. ¹⁶They sent their disciples to Him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know that You are honest and that You teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You seek favor from no one, because You pay no attention to external appearance. ¹⁷So tell us what You think: Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?”

¹⁸But Jesus knew their evil intent and said, “You hypocrites, why are you testing Me? ¹⁹Show Me the coin used for the tax.”

And they brought Him a denarius.^d

²⁰“Whose image is this,” He asked, “and whose inscription?”

²¹“Caesar’s,” they answered.

So Jesus told them, “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”

²²And when they heard this, they were amazed. So they left Him and went away.

The Sadducees and the Resurrection

(Mark 12:18–27; Luke 20:27–40)

²³That same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus and questioned Him. ²⁴“Teacher,” they said, “Moses declared that if a man dies without having children, his brother is to marry the widow and raise up offspring for him.^e ²⁵Now there were seven brothers among us. The first one married and died without having children. So he left his wife to his brother. ²⁶The same thing happened to the second and third brothers, down to the seventh. ²⁷And last of all, the woman also^f died. ²⁸In the resurrection, then, whose wife will she be of the seven? For all of them were married to her.”

²⁹Jesus answered, “You are mistaken because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God. ³⁰In the resurrection, people will neither marry nor be given in marriage. Instead, they will be like the angels of God^g in heaven. ³¹But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what God said to you: ³²‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’^h? He is not the God of the dead, but of the living.”

³³When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at His teaching.

The Greatest Commandment

(Deuteronomy 6:1–19; Mark 12:28–34)

³⁴And when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they themselves gathered together. ³⁵One of them, an expert in the law, tested Him with a question: ³⁶“Teacher, which commandment is the greatest in the Law?”

³⁷Jesus declared, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ⁱ ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’^j ⁴⁰All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

^a ⁷ CT does not include *When he heard this*. ^b ¹³ Literally *feet and hands* ^c ¹³ CT does not include *take him away*.

^d ¹⁹ A denarius was customarily a day’s wage for a laborer; see Matthew 20:2. ^e ²⁴ Deuteronomy 25:5 ^f ²⁷ CT does not include *also*. ^g ³⁰ Most CT do not include *of God*. ^h ³² Exodus 3:6 ⁱ ³⁷ Deuteronomy 6:5 ^j ³⁹ Leviticus 19:18

Whose Son Is the Christ?*(Mark 12:35–37; Luke 20:41–44)*

41 While the Pharisees were assembled, Jesus questioned them: **42** “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is He?”

“David’s,” they answered.

43 Jesus said to them, “How then does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord’? For he says:

44 “The Lord said to my Lord,

“Sit at My right hand

until I make Your enemies

a footstool for Your feet.”^a

45 So if David calls Him ‘Lord,’ how can He be David’s son?”

46 No one was able to answer a word, and from that day on no one dared to question Him any further.

Woes to Scribes and Pharisees *(Lk. 11:37–54)*

23 Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to His disciples: **2** “The scribes and Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. **3** So observe and practice everything they tell you to observe.^b But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. **4** They tie up heavy, burdensome loads^c and lay them on men’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.

5 All their deeds are done for men to see. They broaden their phylacteries and lengthen the tassels of their garments.^d **6** They love the places of honor at banquets, the chief seats in the synagogues, **7** the greetings in the marketplaces, and the title of ‘Rabbi, Rabbi’^e by which they are addressed.^f

8 But you are not to be called ‘Rabbi,’ for you have one Teacher, the Christ,^g and you are all brothers. **9** And do not call anyone on earth your father, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. **10** Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one Instructor, the Christ. **11** The greatest among you shall be your servant. **12** For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

13 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You defraud widows of their houses, and for a show make lengthy prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation.^h **14** Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven in men’s faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let in those who wish to enter.ⁱ

15 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You traverse land and sea to win a single convert, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell^j as you are.

16 Woe to you, blind guides! You say, ‘If anyone swears by the temple, it means nothing; but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.’ **17** You blind fools! Which is greater: the gold, or the temple that makes it sacred? **18** And you say, ‘If anyone swears by the altar, it means nothing; but if anyone swears by the gift on it, he is bound by his oath.’ **19** You are foolish and blind!^k Which is greater: the gift, or the altar that makes it sacred? **20** So then, he who swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. **21** And he who swears by the temple swears by it and by the One who dwells in it. **22** And he who swears by heaven swears by God’s throne and by the One who sits on it.

23 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You pay tithes of mint, dill, and cumin. But you have disregarded the weightier matters of the law: justice, mercy, and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. **24** You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.^l

25 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and unrighteousness.^m **26** Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish,ⁿ so that the outside may become clean as well.

27 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men’s bones and every kind of

^a **44** Psalm 110:1; CT *until I put Your enemies under Your feet* ^b **3** CT *So practice and observe everything they tell you* ^c **4** SBL, NE, and WH *They tie up heavy loads* ^d **5** CT *lengthen their tassels* ^e **7** CT *the title of ‘Rabbi’* ^f **7** *Literally and to be called ‘Rabbi’ by men* ^g **8** CT does not include *the Christ*. ^h **13** CT does not include *You defraud widows of their houses, and for a show make lengthy prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation*. TR includes this statement with verse 14. See Mark 12:40 and Luke 20:47. ⁱ **14** CT and TR include this statement with verse 13. Thus for CT there is a single woe listed, and verse 14 is not included. ^j **15** Greek *Gehenna*; also in verse 33 ^k **19** CT *You blind men!* ^l **24** See Leviticus 11:4 and Leviticus 11:23, where camels and gnats are both forbidden as food. ^m **25** CT *greed and self-indulgence* ⁿ **26** NA does not include *and dish*.

impurity. ²⁸In the same way, on the outside you appear to be righteous, but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

²⁹Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You build tombs for the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous. ³⁰And you say, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partners with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.' ³¹So you testify against yourselves that you are the sons of those who murdered the prophets. ³²Fill up, then,^a the measure of the sin of your fathers. ³³You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape the sentence of hell?

³⁴Because of this, I am sending you prophets and wise men and teachers. Some of them you will kill and crucify, and others you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town. ³⁵And so upon you will come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. ³⁶Truly I tell you, all these things will come upon this generation.

Lament over Jerusalem (Luke 13:31–35)

³⁷O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those sent to her, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were unwilling! ³⁸Look, your house is left to you desolate.^b ³⁹For I tell you that you will not see Me again until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.'^c

Temple Destruction and Other Signs

(Mark 13:1–8; Luke 21:5–9)

24 As Jesus left the temple and was walking away, His disciples came up to Him to point out its buildings.

²"Do you see all these things?" Jesus replied.^d "Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."

³While Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age?"

⁴Jesus answered, "See to it that no one deceives you. ⁵For many will come in My name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. ⁶You will hear^e of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. All these things^f must happen, but the end is still to come. ⁷Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines, pestilences,^g and earthquakes in various places. ⁸All these are the beginning of birth pains.

Witnessing to All Nations

(Mark 13:9–13; Luke 21:10–19)

⁹Then they will deliver you over to be persecuted and killed, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. ¹⁰At that time many will fall away and will betray and hate one another, ¹¹and many false prophets will arise and deceive many.

¹²Because of the multiplication of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold. ¹³But the one who perseveres to the end will be saved.

¹⁴And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

The Abomination of Desolation

(Mark 13:14–23; Luke 21:20–24)

¹⁵So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination of desolation,'^h spoken of by the prophet Daniel (let the reader understand), ¹⁶then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷Let no one on the housetop come down to retrieve anything from his house. ¹⁸And let no one in the field return for his garments.ⁱ

¹⁹How miserable those days will be for pregnant and nursing mothers! ²⁰Pray that your flight will not occur in the winter or on the Sabbath. ²¹For at that time there will be great tribulation, unmatched from the beginning of the world until now, and never to be seen again. ²²If those days had not been cut short, nobody would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, those days will be cut short.

²³At that time, if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There He is!' do not believe it. ²⁴For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive even the elect, if that were possible. ²⁵See, I have told you in advance.

^a 32 Or *Go ahead, then, and complete* ^b 38 NE and WH do not include *desolate*. ^c 39 Psalm 118:26 ^d 2 CT *He replied*
^e 6 F35 *You will be concerned when you hear* ^f 6 CT *These things* ^g 7 CT does not include *pestilences*. ^h 15 See Daniel
 9:27, Daniel 11:31, and Daniel 12:11. ⁱ 18 F35 and CT *garment or cloak*

The Return of the Son of Man*(Mark 13:24–27; Luke 21:25–28)*

26 So if they tell you, ‘There He is in the wilderness,’ do not go out, or, ‘Here He is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. 27 For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 28 For wherever^a there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.

29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days:

‘The sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light;
the stars will fall from the sky,
and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.’^b

30 At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven,^c and all the tribes of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.^d 31 And He will send out His angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

The Lesson of the Fig Tree*(Mark 13:28–31; Luke 21:29–33)*

32 Now learn this lesson^e from the fig tree: As soon as its branches become tender and sprout leaves, you know that summer is near. 33 So also, when you see all these things, you will know that He is near,^f right at the door. 34 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have happened. 35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.

Readiness at Any Hour*(Genesis 6:1–7; Mark 13:32–37; Luke 12:35–48)*

36 No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven,^g but only My Father.^h 37 As it was in the days of Noah, so will it be at the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For in theⁱ days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark. 39 And they were oblivious until the flood came and swept them all away. So will it be at the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left.

42 Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the hour^j in which your Lord will come. 43 But understand this: If the homeowner had known in which watch of the night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 For this reason, you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour you do not expect.

45 Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master^k has put in charge of his household, to give the others their food at the proper time? 46 Blessed is that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. 47 Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

48 But suppose that servant is wicked and says in his heart, ‘My master will be a long time in coming.’^l 49 And he begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. 50 The master of that servant will come on a day he does not expect and at an hour he does not anticipate. 51 Then he will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

The Parable of the Ten Virgins

25 “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were wise, and five were foolish.^m 3 Those who were foolishⁿ took their lamps but did not take along any extra oil. 4 But the wise ones took oil in flasks along with their lamps. 5 When the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

6 At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming!’^o Come out to meet him!’

7 Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

9 ‘No,’ said the wise ones, ‘or there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

10 But while they were on their way to buy it, the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet, and the door was shut.

^a 28 CT *Wherever* ^b 29 Or *and the celestial bodies will be shaken*; see Isaiah 13:10, Isaiah 34:4, and Joel 2:10. ^c 30 Or *the sky*; twice in this verse ^d 30 See Daniel 7:13–14. ^e 32 Or *this parable* ^f 33 Or *it is near* ^g 36 CT includes *nor the Son*.

^h 36 CT *the Father* ⁱ 38 NA and WH *those* ^j 42 CT *the day* ^k 45 CT *the master* ^l 48 CT *literal will be a long time*

^m 2 CT *Five of them were foolish, and five were wise* ⁿ 3 CT *The foolish (ones)* ^o 6 CT *does not include is coming*.

11 Later the other virgins arrived and said, 'Lord, lord, open the door for us!'

12 But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.'

13 Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour when the Son of Man comes.^a

The Parable of the Talents (Luke 19:11–27)

14 For it is just like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted them with his possessions. 15 To one he gave five talents,^b to another two talents, and to another one talent—each according to his own ability. And he went on his journey.

16 The servant who had received the five talents went at once and put them to work^c and made five more talents.^d 17 Likewise, the one with the two talents also^e gained two more. 18 But the servant who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master's money.

19 After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20 The servant who had received the five talents came and presented five more. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more besides them.'^f

21 His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master!'

22 The servant who had received the two talents also came and said, 'Master, you entrusted me with two talents. See, I have gained two more besides them.'

23 His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master!'

24 Finally, the servant who had received the one talent came and said, 'Master, I knew that you are a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what belongs to you.'

26 'You wicked, lazy servant!' replied his master. 'You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed. 27 Then you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received it back with interest.'

28 Therefore take the talent from him and give it to the one who has ten talents. 29 For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. But the one who does not have, even what he has^g will be taken away from him. 30 And throw that worthless servant into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

The Sheep and the Goats

31 When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy^h angels with Him, He will sit on His glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate the people one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will place the sheep on His right and the goats on His left.

34 Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you took Me in, 36 I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me, I was in prison and you visited Me.'

37 Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You something to drink? 38 When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 39 When did we see You sick or in prison and visit You?'

40 And the King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.'

41 Then He will say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave Me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, I was

^a 13 CT does not include *when the Son of Man comes*. ^b 15 A talent was worth about twenty years' wages for a laborer. ^c 16 Or 15 ... And he went on his journey at once. 16 ... went and put them to work; translators vary as to the placement of the Greek adverb *eutheōs* (at once) at the end of verse 15 or at the beginning of verse 16. ^d 16 CT *gained five more* ^e 17 CT does not include *also*. ^f 20 CT does not include *besides them*; also in verse 22. ^g 29 F35 *thinks he has* ^h 31 CT does not include *holy*.

naked and you did not clothe Me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after Me.’

⁴⁴And they too will reply, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’

⁴⁵Then the King will answer, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for Me.’

⁴⁶And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

The Plot to Kill Jesus

(Mark 14:1–2; Luke 22:1–2; John 11:45–57)

26 When Jesus had finished saying all^a these things, He told His disciples, ²“You know that the Passover is two days away, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.”

³At that time the chief priests, scribes,^b and elders of the people assembled in the courtyard of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, ⁴and they conspired to arrest Jesus covertly and kill Him. ⁵“But not during the feast,” they said, “or there may be a riot among the people.”

Jesus Anointed at Bethany

(Mark 14:3–9; Luke 7:36–50; John 12:1–8)

⁶While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon the Leper,^c ⁷a woman came to Him with an alabaster jar of expensive perfume, which she poured on His head as He reclined at the table.

⁸When His disciples^d saw this, they were indignant and asked, “Why this waste? ⁹This perfume^e could have been sold at a high price, and the money given to the poor.”

¹⁰Aware of this, Jesus asked, “Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful deed to Me. ¹¹The poor you will always have with you,^f but you will not always have Me. ¹²By pouring this perfume on Me, she has prepared My body for burial. ¹³Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached in all the world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her.”

Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus (Mk. 14; Lk. 22)

¹⁴Then one of the Twelve, the one called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I hand Him over to you?” And they set out for him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶So from then on Judas looked for an opportunity to betray Jesus.

Preparing the Passover

(Mark 14:12–16; Luke 22:7–13)

¹⁷On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread,^g the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?”

¹⁸He answered, “Go into the city to a certain man and tell him that the Teacher says, ‘My time is near. I will keep the Passover with My disciples at your house.’” ¹⁹So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.

The Last Supper (Mark 14:17–26;

Luke 22:14–23; 1 Corinthians 11:17–34)

²⁰When evening came, Jesus was reclining with the Twelve.^h ²¹And while they were eating, He said to them, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray Me.”

²²They were deeply grieved and began to ask Him one after another, “Surely not I, Lord?”

²³Jesus answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with Me will betray Me. ²⁴The Son of Man will go just as it is written about Him, but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed. It would be better for him if he had not been born.”

²⁵Then Judas, who would betray Him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?”

Jesus answered, “You have said it yourself.”

²⁶While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanksⁱ and broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is My body.”

²⁷Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸This is My blood of the new covenant,^j which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in My Father’s kingdom.”

³⁰And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Jesus Predicts Peter’s Denial (Zech. 13:7–9;

Mark 14:27–31; Luke 22:31–38; John 13:36–38)

³¹Then Jesus said to them, “This very night you will all fall away on account of Me. For it is written:

‘I will strike the Shepherd,
and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’^k

^a 1 F35 does not include all. ^b 3 CT does not include scribes. ^c 6 Aramaic *Simon the Potter* or *Simon the Jar Maker* ^d 8 CT the disciples; also v. 45 ^e 9 CT literal does not include perfume. ^f 11 See De. 15:11. ^g 17 Lit. *On the first of the Unleavened*; see Ex. 12:14–20. ^h 20 Most CT with the twelve disciples. ⁱ 26 F35 and CT spoke a blessing ^j 28 CT of the covenant ^k 31 Zech. 13:7

32 But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."

33 Peter said to Him, "Even if all fall away on account of You, I never will."

34 "Truly I tell you," Jesus declared, "this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."

35 Peter replied, "Even if I have to die with You, I will never deny You." And all the other disciples said the same thing.

Jesus Prays at Gethsemane

(Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46)

36 Then Jesus went with His disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and He told them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

37 He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. 38 Then Jesus said^a to them, "My soul is consumed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with Me."

39 Going a little farther, He fell facedown and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me. Yet not as I will, but as You will."

40 Then Jesus returned to the disciples and found them sleeping. "Were you not able to keep watch with Me for one hour?" He asked Peter. 41 "Watch and pray so that you will not enter into temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

42 A second time He went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cup cannot pass from Me^b unless I drink it, may Your will be done." 43 And Jesus returned and found them sleeping again,^c for their eyes were heavy.

44 So He left them and went away once more and prayed a third time, saying the same thing.^d

45 Then He returned to His disciples and said, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 46 Rise, let us go! See, My betrayer is approaching!^e"

The Betrayal of Jesus (Mark 14:43-52;

Luke 22:47-53; John 18:1-14)

47 While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a large

crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and elders of the people.

48 Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The One I kiss is the man; arrest Him."

49 Going directly to Jesus, he said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed Him.

50 "Friend," Jesus replied, "why have you come?"^f

Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus, and arrested Him. 51 At this, one of Jesus' companions drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

52 "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him. "For all who draw the sword will perish^g by the sword. 53 Are you not aware that I can call on My Father right now,^h and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels? 54 But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen this way?"

55 At that time Jesus said to the crowd, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest Me as you would an outlaw? Every day I sat with youⁱ teaching in the temple courts,^j and you did not arrest Me. 56 But this has all happened so that the writings of the prophets would be fulfilled."

Then all the disciples deserted Him and fled.

Jesus before the Sanhedrin

(Mark 14:53-65; Luke 22:66-71; John 18:19-24)

57 Those who had arrested Jesus led Him away to the house of Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and elders had gathered. 58 But Peter followed Him at a distance, right up to the courtyard of the high priest. And he went in and sat down with the guards to see the outcome.

59 Now the chief priests, the elders,^k and the whole Sanhedrin^l were seeking false testimony against Jesus in order to put Him to death. 60 But they did not find any. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none.^m

Finally two false witnesses came forwardⁿ 61 and declared, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'"

62 So the high priest stood up and asked Him, "Have You no answer? What are these men testifying against You?"

^a 38 CT Then He said ^b 42 CT if this cannot pass ^c 43 CT again and found them sleeping ^d 44 NA, SBL, WH lit. the same thing again ^e 46 Or has drawn near; F35 is here ^f 50 CT "Friend," Jesus replied, "do what you came for."

^g 52 CT will die ^h 53 CT does not include right now. ⁱ 55 CT does not include with you. ^j 55 Lit. the temple ^k 59 CT does not include the elders. ^l 59 Or the whole Council ^m 60 CT But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward. ⁿ 60 Some sources include Finally two false witnesses came forward with verse 61; CT Finally two came forward

63 But Jesus remained silent.

Then the high priest said to Him, "I charge You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God."

64 "You have said it yourself," Jesus answered. "But I say to all of you, from now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power^a and coming on the clouds of heaven."^b

65 At this, the high priest tore his clothes and declared, "He has blasphemed! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy.^c 66 What do you think?"

"He deserves to die," they answered.

67 Then they spit in His face and struck Him. Others slapped Him 68 and said, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who hit You?"

Peter Denies Jesus

(Mark 14:66–72; Luke 22:54–62; John 18:15–18)

69 Meanwhile, Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came up to him. "You also were with Jesus the Galilean," she said.

70 But he denied it before them all: "I do not know what you are talking about."

71 When Peter had gone out to the gateway, another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, "This man was also^d with Jesus of Nazareth."

72 And again he denied it with an oath: "I do not know the man!"

73 After a little while, those standing nearby came up to Peter. "Surely you are one of them," they said, "for your accent gives you away."

74 At that he began to curse and swear to them, "I do not know the man!"

And immediately a rooster crowed.

75 Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had spoken to him:^e "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Jesus Delivered to Pilate (Mk. 15:1–5)

27 When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people^f conspired against Jesus to put Him to death. 2 They bound Him, led Him away, and handed Him over to Pontius Pilate^g the governor.

Judas Hangs Himself (Zechariah 11:10–17)

3 When Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was filled with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders. 4 "I have sinned by betraying innocent^h blood," he said.

"What is that to us?" they replied. "You bear the responsibility."

5 So Judas threw the silver into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

6 The chief priests picked up the pieces of silver and said, "It is unlawful to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money." 7 After conferring together, they used the money to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners. 8 That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day. 9 Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

"They took the thirty pieces of silver,
the price set on Him by the people of
Israel,

10 and they gave them for the potter's field,
as the Lord had commanded me."ⁱ

Jesus before Pilate (Lk. 23:1–5; John 18:28–40)

11 Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, who questioned Him: "Are You the King of the Jews?"

"You have said so," Jesus replied.

12 And when He was accused by the chief priests and elders, He gave no answer.

13 Then Pilate asked Him, "Do You not hear how many charges they are bringing against You?"

14 But Jesus gave no answer, not even to a single charge, much to the governor's amazement.

The Crowd Chooses Barabbas

(Mark 15:6–11; Luke 23:13–25)

15 Now it was the governor's custom at the feast to release to the crowd a prisoner of their choosing. 16 At that time they were holding a notorious prisoner named Barabbas.^j 17 So when the crowd had assembled, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" 18 For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him.

^a 64 Or the right hand of the Mighty One ^b 64 See Ps. 110:1 and Dan. 7:13. ^c 65 CT the blasphemy ^d 71 CT does not incl. also. ^e 75 CT does not incl. to him. ^f 1 F35 does not incl. of the people. ^g 2 CT to Pilate ^h 4 WH righteous ⁱ 10 See Jer. 19:1–15, Jer. 32:6–9, and Zech. 11:12–13. ^j 16 SBL and NA Jesus Barabbas; also in v. 17, but universally Barabbas in vv. 20, 21, 26

19 While Pilate was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent him this message: "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered terribly in a dream today because of Him."

20 But the chief priests and elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus put to death.

21 "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor.

"Barabbas," they replied.

22 "What then should I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" Pilate asked.

They all answered, "Crucify Him!"

23 "Why?" asked the governor.^a "What evil has He done?"

But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify Him!"

Pilate Washes His Hands (*Mark 15:12-15*)

24 When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, but that instead a riot was breaking out, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd. "I am innocent of this righteous man's blood,"^b he said. "You bear the responsibility."

25 All the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!"

26 So Pilate released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed Him over to be crucified.

The Soldiers Mock Jesus (*Isaiah 50:4-11; Mark 15:16-20; Luke 22:63-65; John 19:1-15*)

27 Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company around Him. **28** They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. **29** And they twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on His head. They put a staff in His right hand, knelt down before Him, and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" **30** Then they spit on Him and took the staff and struck Him on the head repeatedly.

31 After they had mocked Him, they removed the robe and put His own clothes back on Him. Then they led Him away to crucify Him.

The Crucifixion (*Ps. 22; Mk. 15; Lk. 23; Jn 19*)

32 Along the way they found a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross of Jesus.

33 And when they came to a place called Golgotha, which means The Place of the Skull, **34** they offered Him sour wine^c to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, He refused to drink it.

35 When they had crucified Him, they divided up His garments by casting lots.^d **36** And sitting down, they kept watch over Him there.

37 Above His head they posted the written charge against Him:

THIS IS JESUS,
THE KING OF THE JEWS.

38 Two robbers^e were crucified with Him, one on His right and the other on His left.

39 And those who passed by heaped abuse on Him, shaking their heads **40** and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross!"

41 In the same way, the chief priests, scribes, elders, and Pharisees^f mocked Him, saying,

42 "He saved others, but He cannot save Himself. If^g He is the King of Israel, let Him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in Him."^h

43 He trusts in God. Let God deliver Him now if He wants Him.ⁱ For He said, 'I am the Son of God.'"

44 In the same way, even the robbers who were crucified with Him berated Him.

The Death of Jesus (*Psalms 22:1-31; Mark 15:33-41; Luke 23:44-49; John 19:28-30*)

45 From the sixth hour until the ninth hour^j darkness came over all the land. **46** About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli,^k lima^l sabachthani?" which means, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"^m

47 When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He is calling Elijah." **48** One of them quickly ran and brought a sponge. He filled it with sour wine,ⁿ put it on a reed, and held it up for Jesus to drink.^o

49 But the others said, "Leave Him alone. Let us see if Elijah comes to save Him."^p

50 When Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, He yielded up His spirit. **51** At that moment the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth quaked, and the rocks were

^a 23 CT he asked ^b 24 Literally this righteous blood; most CT this blood ^c 34 CT offered Him wine ^d 35 See Psalm 22:18; TR includes to fulfill what was said through the prophet: "They divided My garments among them, and cast lots for My clothing." ^e 38 Or insurrectionists; also in verse 44 ^f 41 CT the chief priests, scribes, and elders ^g 42 CT does not include If. ^h 42 TR we will believe Him. ⁱ 43 Psalm 22:8 ^j 45 That is, from noon until three in the afternoon ^k 46 NE and WH Eloi, Eloi ^l 46 CT lema; TR lama ^m 46 Psalm 22:1 ⁿ 48 Or filled it with wine vinegar ^o 48 See Psalm 69:21. ^p 49 WH includes And another took a spear and pierced His side, and water and blood flowed out; see John 19:34.

split.⁵² The tombs broke open, and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised.⁵³ After Jesus' resurrection, when they had come out of the tombs, they entered the holy city and appeared to many people.

⁵⁴When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified and said, "Truly this was the Son of God."

⁵⁵And many women were^a there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to minister to Him. ⁵⁶Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph,^b and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

The Burial of Jesus (*Isaiah 53:9–12; Mark 15:42–47; Luke 23:50–56; John 19:38–42*)

⁵⁷When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who himself was a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸He went to Pilate to ask for the body of Jesus, and Pilate ordered that the body be given to him.^c ⁵⁹So Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, ⁶⁰and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut into the rock. Then he rolled a great stone across the entrance to the tomb and went away. ⁶¹Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb.

The Guards at the Tomb

⁶²The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and Pharisees assembled before Pilate. ⁶³"Sir," they said, "we remember that while He was alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' ⁶⁴So give the order that the tomb be secured until the third day. Otherwise, His disciples may come by night^d and steal Him away and tell the people He has risen from the dead. And this last deception would be worse than the first."

⁶⁵"You have a guard," Pilate said. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." ⁶⁶So they went and secured the tomb by sealing the stone and posting the guard.

The Resurrection

(*Mark 16:1–8; Luke 24:1–12; John 20:1–9*)

28 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week,^e Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.

²Suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, rolled away the stone from the entrance,^f and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴The guards trembled in fear of him and became like dead men.

⁵But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; He has risen, just as He said! Come, see the place where the Lord lay.^g ⁷Then go quickly and tell His disciples, 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see Him.' See, I have told you."

⁸So they hurried out^h from the tomb in fear and great joy, and ran to tell His disciples. ⁹And as they were going to tell His disciples,ⁱ suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" They came to Him, grasped His feet, and worshiped Him. ¹⁰"Do not be afraid," said Jesus. "Go and tell My brothers to go to Galilee. There they will see Me."

The Report of the Guards

¹¹While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests all that had happened. ¹²And after the chief priests had met with the elders and formed a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money ¹³and instructed them: "You are to say, 'His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.' ¹⁴If this report reaches the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble."

¹⁵So the guards took the money and did as they were instructed. And this account has been circulated among the Jews to this very day.

The Great Commission

 (*Mark 16:14–18*)

¹⁶Meanwhile, the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain Jesus had designated. ¹⁷When they saw Him, they worshiped Him, but some doubted.

¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples^j of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.^k"

^a 55 F35 and GOC were also ^b 56 CT Joseph ^c 58 CT that it be given to him ^d 64 CT does not include by night.

^e 1 Lit. Now after the Sabbaths, it being dawn toward the first of the Sabbaths, ^f 2 CT does not include from the entrance.

^g 6 CT the place where He lay ^h 8 CT they hurried away ⁱ 9 CT does not include And as they were going to tell His disciples.

^j 19 Lit. Having gone, make disciples; CT and TR Having gone, therefore, make disciples ^k 20 CT does not include Amen.

Mark

The Mission of John the Baptist (*Isa. 40:1–5; Matthew 3:1–17; Luke 3:1–22; John 1:19–34*)

1 This is the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.^a ²As it is written in the prophets:^b

“Behold, I will send My messenger ahead of You,

who will prepare Your way before You.”^c

³“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for Him.’”^d

⁴John came baptizing^e in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵People went out to him from all of Jerusalem and the countryside of Judea. Confessing their sins, they were all baptized^f by him in the Jordan River.

⁶John was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he proclaimed: “After me will come One more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I indeed^g baptize you with water,^h but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”ⁱ

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰As soon as Jesus came up out of the water, He saw^j the heavens breaking open and the Spirit descending on Him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven: “You are My beloved Son, in whom^k I am well pleased.”

The Temptation and Preaching of Jesus
(*Matthew 4:1–17; Luke 4:1–15*)

¹²At once the Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness, ¹³and He was there^l in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and the angels ministered to Him.

^a 1 ECM, NE, MT, and TR; SBL and WH *the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ* ^b 2 CT in *Isaiah the prophet:* ^c 2 Malachi 3:1; CT does not include *before You.* ^d 3 *Isaiah 40:3* (see also LXX) ^e 4 CT *John the Baptist appeared* ^f 5 CT *they were baptized* ^g 8 CT does not include *indeed.* ^h 8 Or *in water* ⁱ 8 Or *in the Holy Spirit* ^j 10 Or *he saw*; see John 1:32–33. ^k 11 CT in *You* ^l 13 CT does not include *there.* ^m 14 CT does not include *of the kingdom.* ⁿ 19 CT does not include *from there.* ^o 23 CT *Immediately or Suddenly* ^p 24 CT does not include *Let us alone!* ^q 27 CT *What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him!*

¹⁴After the arrest of John, Jesus went into Galilee and proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom^m of God. ¹⁵“The time is fulfilled,” He said, “and the kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe in the gospel!”

The First Disciples

(*Matthew 4:18–22; Luke 5:1–11; John 1:35–42*)

¹⁶As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷“Come, follow Me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” ¹⁸And at once they left their nets and followed Him.

¹⁹Going on a little farther from there,ⁿ He saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat, mending their nets. ²⁰Immediately Jesus called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed Him.

Jesus Expels an Unclean Spirit (*Luke 4:31–37*)

²¹Then Jesus and His companions went to Capernaum, and right away Jesus entered the synagogue on the Sabbath and began to teach. ²²The people were astonished at His teaching, because He taught as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.

²³Now^o a man with an unclean spirit cried out in the synagogue: ²⁴“Let us alone!^p What do You want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!”

²⁵But Jesus rebuked the spirit. “Be silent!” He said. “Come out of him!” ²⁶At this, the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and came out with a loud shriek.

²⁷All the people were amazed and began to ask one another, “What is this? What new teaching is this that with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him?”^q ²⁸And the

news about Jesus spread quickly through the whole region of Galilee.

Jesus Heals at Peter's House (*Matthew 8:14–17; Luke 4:38–41*)

²⁹As soon as Jesus and His companions had left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. ³⁰Simon's mother-in-law was sick in bed with a fever, and they promptly told Jesus about her. ³¹So He went to her, took her by the hand, and helped her up. Immediately^a the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, after sunset, people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed, ³³and the whole town gathered at the door. ³⁴And He healed many who were ill with various diseases and drove out many demons. But He would not allow the demons to speak, because they knew who He was.^b

Jesus Prays and Preaches (*Luke 4:42–44*)

³⁵Early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up and went out to a solitary place to pray. ³⁶Simon and his companions went to look for Him, ³⁷and when they found Him, they said, "Everyone is looking for You!"

³⁸But Jesus answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns so I can preach there as well, for that is why I have come." ³⁹So He went throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

The Leper's Prayer (*Leviticus 14:1–32; Matthew 8:1–4; Luke 5:12–16*)

⁴⁰Then a leper^c came to Jesus, begging and kneeling before Him^d and saying to Him: "If You are willing, You can make me clean."

⁴¹Moved with compassion,^e Jesus reached out His hand and touched the man. "I am willing," He said. "Be clean!" ⁴²And when He had said this,^f immediately the leprosy left him, and the man was cleansed.

⁴³Jesus promptly sent him away with a stern warning: ⁴⁴"See that you don't tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and present the offering Moses prescribed for your cleansing, as a testimony to them."^g

⁴⁵But the man went out and openly began to proclaim and spread the news.

Consequently, Jesus could no longer enter a town in plain view, but He stayed out in solitary places. Yet people came to Him from every quarter.

Jesus Heals a Paralytic (*Matthew 9:1–8; Luke 5:17–26*)

2 A few days later Jesus went back to Capernaum. And when the people heard that He was home, ²immediately^h they gathered in such large numbers that there was no more room, not even outside the door, as Jesus spoke the word to them.

³Then a paralytic was brought to Him, carried by four men. ⁴Since they were unable to get to Jesus through the crowd, they uncovered the roof above Him, made an opening, and lowered the paralytic on his mat.

⁵When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."ⁱ

⁶But some of the scribes were sitting there and thinking in their hearts, ⁷"Why does this man speak such blasphemies?^j Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

⁸At once Jesus knew in His spirit that they were thinking this way within themselves. "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts?" He asked. ⁹"Which is easier: to say to a paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,'^k or to say, 'Get up, pick up your mat, and walk?' ¹⁰But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins..." He said to the paralytic, ¹¹"I tell you, get up, pick up your mat, and go home."

¹²And immediately the man got up, picked up his mat, and walked out in front of them all. As a result, they were all astounded and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Jesus Calls Levi (*Matt. 9:9–13; Luke 5:27–32*)

¹³Once again Jesus went out beside the sea. All the people came to Him, and He taught them there.

¹⁴As He was walking along, He saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth. "Follow Me," He told him, and Levi got up and followed Him.

^a ³¹ CT does not include *Immediately*. ^b ³⁴ GOC, ALT, F35, WH *they knew that He was the Christ* ^c ⁴⁰ A leper was one afflicted with a skin disease. See Leviticus 13. ^d ⁴⁰ CT *begging on his knees* ^e ⁴¹ SBL *Moved with indignation* ^f ⁴² CT does not include *when He had said this*. ^g ⁴⁴ See Leviticus 14:1–32. ^h ² CT does not include *immediately*. ⁱ ⁵ CT does not include *you*. ^j ⁷ CT *Why does this man speak like this? He is blaspheming!* ^k ⁹ TR *forgiven you*

15 While Jesus was dining at Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with Him and His disciples—for there were many who followed Him. 16 When the scribes and Pharisees^a saw Jesus eating with these people,^b they asked His disciples, "Why does He eat and drink^c with tax collectors and sinners?"

17 On hearing this, Jesus told them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."^d

Questions about Fasting

(Matthew 9:14–15; Luke 5:33–35)

18 Now the disciples of John and of the Pharisees^e were often fasting. So people came to Jesus and asked, "Why don't Your disciples fast like John's disciples and those of the Pharisees?"

19 Jesus replied, "How can the guests of the bridegroom fast while He is with them? As long as He is with them, they cannot fast. 20 But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then^f they will fast.

The Patches and the Wineskins

(Matthew 9:16–17; Luke 5:36–39)

21 No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the new piece will pull away from the old, and a worse tear will result.

22 And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will spill out, and the wineskins will be ruined.^g Instead, new wine is poured into new wineskins."^h

The Lord of the Sabbath

(1 Samuel 21:1–7; Matthew 12:1–8; Luke 6:1–5)

23 One Sabbath Jesus was passing through the grainfields, and His disciples began to pick the heads of grain as they walked along. 24 So the Pharisees said to Him, "Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?"

25 Jesus replied, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? 26 During the high priesthood of Abiathar, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread,ⁱ which was lawful only for the priests. And he gave some to his companions as well."

27 Then Jesus declared, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. 28 Therefore, the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

Jesus Heals on the Sabbath

(Matthew 12:9–14; Luke 6:6–11)

3 Once again Jesus entered the synagogue,^j and a man with a withered hand was there. 2 In order to accuse Jesus, they were watching to see if He would heal on the Sabbath.

3 Then Jesus said to the man with the withered hand, "Stand up among us." 4 And He asked them, "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?" But they were silent.

5 Jesus looked around at them with anger and sorrow at their hardness of heart. Then He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." So he stretched it out, and it was restored, as sound as the other.^k

6 At this, the Pharisees went out and began plotting with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.

Jesus Heals the Multitudes

(Matthew 4:23–25; Luke 6:17–19)

7 So Jesus withdrew with His disciples to the sea, accompanied by a large crowd from Galilee, Judea, 8 Jerusalem, Idumea, the region beyond the Jordan, and the vicinity of Tyre and Sidon. The large crowd came to Him when they heard what great things He was doing.

9 Jesus asked His disciples to have a boat ready for Him so that the crowd would not crush Him. 10 For He had healed so many that all who had diseases were pressing forward to touch Him. 11 And when the unclean spirits saw Him, they fell down before Him and cried out, "You are the Son of God!" 12 But He warned them sternly not to make Him known.

The Twelve Apostles

(Matthew 10:1–4; Luke 6:12–16)

13 Then Jesus went up on the mountain and called for those He wanted, and they came to Him. 14 He appointed twelve of them^l to accompany Him, to be sent out to preach, 15 and to have authority to heal sicknesses and^m to drive out demons:

^a 16 CT the scribes who were Pharisees or the scribes of the Pharisees ^b 16 Literally with tax collectors and sinners; CT with sinners and tax collectors ^c 16 CT does not include and drink. ^d 17 CT does not include to repentance. ^e 18 CT John's disciples and the Pharisees ^f 20 Literally in those days; CT in that day ^g 22 CT If he does, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. ^h 22 Tischendorf does not include Instead, new wine is poured into new wineskins. ⁱ 26 Or the Bread of the Presence ^j 1 SBL and WH a synagogue ^k 5 CT does not include as sound as the other. ^l 14 SBL and WH include whom He designated as apostles. ^m 15 CT does not include to heal sicknesses and.

16Simon^a (whom He named Peter), 17James son of Zebedee and his brother John (whom He named Boanerges, meaning “Sons of Thunder”), 18Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot,^b 19and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus.^c

A House Divided

(Matthew 12:22–30; Luke 11:14–23)

20Then they went into a house,^d and once again a crowd gathered, so that they could not even eat. 21When His family heard about this, they went out to take custody of Him, saying, “He is out of His mind.”

22And the scribes who had come down from Jerusalem were saying, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,^e” and, “By the prince of the demons He drives out demons.”

23So Jesus called them together and began to speak to them in parables: “How can Satan drive out Satan? 24If a kingdom is divided against itself, it cannot stand. 25If a house is divided against itself, it cannot stand. 26And if Satan is divided and rises against himself, he cannot stand; his end has come. 27No one^f can enter a strong man’s house to steal his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can plunder his house.

The Unpardonable Sin (Matthew 12:31–32)

28Truly I tell you, the sons of men will be forgiven all sins and blasphemies, as many as they utter. 29But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is subject to eternal judgment.^g”

30Jesus made this statement because they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.”

Jesus’ Mother and Brothers

(Matthew 12:46–50; Luke 8:19–21)

31Then Jesus’ brothers and mother^h came and stood outside. They sent someone in to summon Him, 32and a crowd was sitting around Him. “Look,” He was told, “Your mother and brothers and sistersⁱ are outside, asking for You.”

33But Jesus replied, “Who is My mother, or who are My brothers?^j” 34Looking at those seated in a circle around Him, He said, “Here are My mother and My brothers! 35For whoever does the will of God is My brother and sister^k and mother.^l”

The Parable of the Sower

(Matthew 13:1–9; Luke 8:4–8)

4 Once again Jesus began to teach beside the sea, and such a large crowd gathered around Him that He got into the boat^m and sat in it, while all the people crowded along the shore.

2And He taught them many things in parables, and in His teaching He said, 3“Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4And as he was sowing, some seed fell along the path, and the birdsⁿ came and devoured it.

5Some fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly because the soil was shallow. 6But when the sun rose, the seedlings were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.

7Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the seedlings, and they yielded no crop.

8Still other seed fell on good soil, where it sprouted, grew up, and produced a crop—one bearing thirtyfold, another sixtyfold, and another a hundredfold.”

9Then Jesus said,^o “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

The Purpose of Jesus’ Parables

(Isa. 6:1–13; Matthew 13:10–17; Luke 8:9–10)

10As soon as Jesus was alone with the Twelve and those around Him, they asked Him about the parable.^p

11He replied, “To know^q the mystery of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to those on the outside everything is expressed in parables, 12so that,

‘they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven their sins.’^r”

^a 16 SBL, NE, and WH *These are the twelve He appointed: Simon* ^b 18 Literally *Simon the Canaanite*; CT *Simon the Cananean* ^c 19 Literally *who also betrayed Him* ^d 20 CT *Then He went into a house or Then He went home* ^e 22 WH *Beezeboul*; Vulgate *Beelzebub* ^f 27 CT *But no one or Indeed, no one* ^g 29 *Or he is in danger of eternal damnation*; CT *he is guilty of eternal sin* ^h 31 CT *mother and brothers* ⁱ 32 ECM, SBL, WH, and TR do not include *and sisters*. ^j 33 CT *Who are My mother and My brothers?* ^k 35 Literally *and My sister* ^l 35 F35 *and My mother* ^m 1 CT *a boat* ⁿ 4 TR *the birds of the air* ^o 9 GOC and TR *said to them* ^p 10 CT *literal parables* ^q 11 CT does not include *To know*. ^r 12 Isaiah 6:9–10 (see also LXX); CT does not include *their sins*.

The Parable of the Sower Explained

(Matthew 13:18–23; Luke 8:11–15)

¹³Then Jesus said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand any of the parables?

¹⁴The farmer sows the word. ¹⁵Some are like the seeds^a along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts.^b

¹⁶Some are like the seeds sown on rocky ground. They hear the word and at once receive it with joy. ¹⁷But they themselves have no root, and they remain for only a season. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.

¹⁸Others are like the seeds sown among the thorns. They hear the word, ¹⁹but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

²⁰Still others are like the seeds sown on good soil. They hear the word, receive it, and produce a crop—thirtyfold, sixtyfold, or a hundredfold.”

The Lesson of the Lamp (Luke 8:16–18)

²¹Jesus also said to them, “Does anyone bring in a lamp to put it under a basket or under a bed? Doesn’t he set it on a stand? ²²For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be brought to light.

²³If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.”

²⁴He went on to say, “Pay attention to what you hear. With the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and even more will be added to you who hear. ^c ²⁵For whoever has will be given more. But whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.”

The Seed Growing Secretly

²⁶Jesus also said, “The kingdom of God is like a man who scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷Night and day he sleeps and wakes, and the seed sprouts and grows, though he knows not how. ²⁸For^d all by itself the earth produces a crop—first the stalk, then the head, then grain that ripens within. ²⁹And as soon as the grain is ripe, he swings the sickle, because the harvest has come.”^e

^a ¹⁵ Or *the word*; similarly in verses 16, 18, and 20; literally *Now these are the ones* ^b ¹⁵ CT *sown in them* ^c ²⁴ CT does not include *who hear*. ^d ²⁸ CT does not include *For*. ^e ²⁹ See Joel 3:13, including LXX. ^f ³⁰ CT *shall we present* ^g ³⁶ CT and GOC *other boats* ^h ³⁷ GOC *it was already beginning to sink* ⁱ ⁴⁰ CT does not include *How*. ^j ⁴¹ CT does not include *then*. ^k ¹ CT *Gerasenes*; GOC *Gergesenes* ^l ³ CT *could no longer be restrained*

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

(Matthew 13:31–32; Luke 13:18–19)

³⁰Then He asked, “To what can we compare the kingdom of God? With what parable shall we illustrate^f it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds sown upon the earth. ³²But after it is planted, it grows to be the largest of all garden plants and puts forth great branches, so that the birds of the air nest in its shade.”

³³With many such parables Jesus spoke the word to them, to the extent that they could understand. ³⁴He did not tell them anything without using a parable. But privately He explained everything to His own disciples.

Jesus Calms the Storm

(Psalm 107:1–43; Matthew 8:23–27; Luke 8:22–25)

³⁵When that evening came, He said to His disciples, “Let us cross to the other side.” ³⁶After they had dismissed the crowd, they took Jesus with them, since He was already in the boat. And there were other little boats^g with Him.

³⁷Soon a violent windstorm came up, and the waves were breaking over the boat, so that it was being swamped.^h ³⁸But Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on the cushion. So they woke Him and said, “Teacher, don’t You care that we are perishing?”

³⁹Then Jesus got up and rebuked the wind and the sea. “Silence!” He commanded. “Be still!” And the wind died down, and it was perfectly calm.

⁴⁰“Why are you so afraid?” He asked. “Howⁱ do you still have no faith?”

⁴¹Overwhelmed with fear, they asked one another, “Who then^j is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?”

The Demons and the Pigs

(Matthew 8:28–34; Luke 8:26–39)

5 On the other side of the sea, they arrived in the region of the Gadarenes.^k ²As soon as Jesus got out of the boat, He was met by a man with an unclean spirit, who was coming from the tombs. ³This man had been living in the tombs and could not be restrained,^l even with chains. ⁴Though he was often bound with chains and

shackles, he had broken the chains and shattered the shackles. Now there was no one with the strength to subdue him. ⁵Night and day in the mountains and in the tombs^a he kept crying out and cutting himself with stones.

⁶When the man saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees before Him. ⁷And he shouted in a loud voice, "What do You want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You before God not to torture me!" ⁸For Jesus had already declared, "Come out of this man, you unclean spirit!"

⁹"What is your name?" Jesus asked.

"My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." ¹⁰And he begged Jesus repeatedly not to send them out of that region.

¹¹There on the nearby hillside a large herd of pigs was feeding. ¹²So all the demons begged^b Jesus, "Send us to the pigs, so that we may enter them."

¹³So Jesus immediately gave them permission,^c and the unclean spirits came out and went into the pigs, and the herd of about two thousand rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the water.^d

¹⁴Those tending the pigs^e ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. ¹⁵When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons sitting there, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid.

¹⁶Those who had seen it described what had happened to the demon-possessed man and also to the pigs. ¹⁷And the people began to beg Jesus to leave their region.

¹⁸As He was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed by the demons begged to go with Him. ¹⁹But Jesus would not allow him. "Go home to your own people," He said, "and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy He has shown you."

²⁰So the man went away and began to proclaim throughout the Decapolis^f how much Jesus had done for him. And everyone was amazed.

The Healing Touch of Jesus

(Matthew 9:18–26; Luke 8:40–56)

²¹When Jesus had again crossed by boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered around Him beside the sea. ²²And behold,^g a synagogue leader named Jairus arrived, and seeing Jesus, he fell at His feet ²³and pleaded with Him urgently, "My little daughter is near death. Please come and place Your hands on her so that she will be healed, and she will live."^h

²⁴So Jesus went with him, and a large crowd followed and pressed around Him. ²⁵And a woman was there who had suffered from bleeding for twelve years. ²⁶She had borne much agony under the care of many physicians and had spent all she had, but to no avail. Instead, her condition had only grown worse.

²⁷When the woman heard about Jesus, she came up through the crowd behind Him and touched His cloak. ²⁸For she kept saying, "If only I touch His garments, I will be healed." ²⁹Immediately her bleeding stopped, and she sensed in her body that she was healed of her affliction.

³⁰At once Jesus was aware that power had gone out from Him. Turning to the crowd, He asked, "Who touched My garments?"

³¹His disciples answered, "You can see the crowd pressing in on You, and yet You ask, 'Who touched Me?'"

³²But He kept looking around to see who had done this. ³³Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him trembling in fear, and she told Him the whole truth.

³⁴"Daughter," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be free of your affliction."

³⁵While He was still speaking, messengers from the house of Jairus arrived and said, "Your daughter is dead; why bother the Teacher anymore?"

³⁶But Jesus overheardⁱ their conversation and immediately^j said to Jairus, "Do not be afraid; just believe." ³⁷And He did not allow anyone to accompany Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James.

^a 5 CT in the tombs and in the mountains ^b 12 CT they begged ^c 13 CT So He gave them permission ^d 13 Literally and were drowned in the sea ^e 14 CT Those tending them ^f 20 That is, the Ten Cities ^g 22 CT does not include behold.

^h 23 ECM, NA, SBL, TH, and WH healed and live ⁱ 36 Or ignored ^j 36 CT does not include immediately.

38When He arrived^a at the house of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw the commotion and the people weeping and wailing loudly. **39**He went inside and asked, “Why all this commotion and weeping? The child is not dead, but asleep.” **40**And they laughed at Him.

After He had put them all outside, He took the child’s father and mother and His own companions, and went in where the child was lying.^b **41**Taking her by the hand, Jesus said, “Talitha koumi!^c” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, get up!” **42**Immediately the girl got up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). And^d they were utterly astounded. **43**Then Jesus gave strict orders that no one should know about this, and He told them to give her something to eat.

The Rejection at Nazareth

(Matthew 13:53–58; Luke 4:16–30)

6 Jesus went on from there and came to His hometown, accompanied by His disciples. **2**When the Sabbath came, He began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard Him were astonished. “Where did this man get these ideas?” they asked. “What is this wisdom He has been given? And how can He perform such miracles? **3**Isn’t this the carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James, *Joses*,^e Judas, and Simon? Aren’t His sisters here with us as well?” And they took offense at Him.

4Then Jesus said to them, “Only in his hometown, among his relatives, and in his own household is a prophet without honor.” **5**So He could not perform any miracles there, except to lay His hands on a few of the sick and heal them. **6**And He was amazed at their unbelief.

And He went around from village to village, teaching the people.

The Ministry of the Twelve

(Matthew 10:5–15; Luke 9:1–6)

7Then Jesus called the Twelve to Him and began to send them out two by two, giving them authority over unclean spirits. **8**He instructed them to take nothing but a staff for the journey—no bag, no bread,^f no money^g in their belts— **9**and to wear sandals, but not a second tunic.

10And He told them, “When you enter a house, stay there until you leave that area. **11**If anyone will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that place, as a testimony against them. Truly I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.^h”

12So they set out and preached that the people should repent. **13**They also drove out many demons and healed many of the sick, anointing them with oil.

The Beheading of John

(Matthew 14:1–12; Luke 9:7–9)

14Now King Herod heard about this (for Jesus’ name had become well known) and he said,ⁱ “John the Baptist has risen from the dead! That is why miraculous powers are at work in him.” **15**Others were saying, “He is Elijah,” and still others, “He is a prophet, like^j one of the prophets of old.”

16But when Herod heard this, he said, “This is John, whom I beheaded; he has risen from the dead!”^k **17**For Herod himself had ordered that John be arrested and bound and imprisoned, on account of his brother Philip’s wife Herodias, whom Herod had married. **18**For John had been telling Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife!”

19So Herodias held a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she had been unable, **20**because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man. When he heard John’s words, he did much of what he said;^l and he listened to him gladly.

21On Herod’s birthday, her opportunity arose. Herod held a banquet for his nobles and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. **22**When the daughter of Herodias^m came and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests, and the king said to the girl, “Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it to you.” **23**And he sworeⁿ to her, “Whatever you ask of me, I will give you, up to half my kingdom!”

24Then she went out and asked her mother, “What should I request?”

^a **38** CT they arrived ^b **40** CT does not include *lying*. ^c **41** CT Talitha koumi! ^d **42** CT And at once or And at this ^e **3** *Joses* is a variant of *Joseph*; see Matthew 13:55. ^f **8** CT no bread, no bag ^g **8** Or copper coins ^h **11** CT does not include *Truly I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town*; see Matthew 10:15. ⁱ **14** ECM, NA, SBL, WH they were saying ^j **15** TR or like ^k **16** CT “John, whom I beheaded, has risen from the dead!” ^l **20** Literally he did many (things); CT he was greatly perplexed ^m **22** Some early manuscripts *When his daughter Herodias* ⁿ **23** NA solemnly swore

And her mother answered, “The head of John the Baptist.”

²⁵At once the girl hurried back to the king with her request: “I want you to give me the head of John the Baptist on a platter immediately.”

²⁶The king was consumed with sorrow, but because of his oaths and his guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷So without delay, the king commanded that John’s head be brought in. He sent an executioner, who went and beheaded him in the prison. ²⁸The man brought John’s head on a platter and presented it to the girl, who gave it to her mother.

²⁹When John’s disciples heard about this, they came and took his body and placed it in a tomb.

The Feeding of the Five Thousand

(Matthew 14:13–21; Luke 9:10–17; John 6:1–15)

³⁰Meanwhile, the apostles gathered around Jesus and brought Him news of all they had done and taught. ³¹And He said to them, “Come with Me privately to a solitary place, and let us rest for a while.” For many people were coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.

³²So they went away in the boat^a by themselves to a solitary place. ³³But many people saw them leaving and recognized Him.^b They ran together on foot from all the towns and arrived before them. ³⁴When Jesus stepped ashore and saw a large crowd, He had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And He began to teach them many things.

³⁵By now the hour was already late. So the disciples came to Jesus and said, “This is a desolate place, and the hour is already late. ³⁶Dismiss the crowd so they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves food, for they have nothing to eat.^c”

³⁷But Jesus told them, “You give them something to eat.”

They asked Him, “Should we go out and spend two hundred denarii^d to give all of them bread to eat?”

³⁸“Go and see how many loaves you have,” He told them.

And after checking, they said, “Five—and two fish.”

³⁹Then Jesus directed them to have the people sit in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties.

⁴¹Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, Jesus spoke a blessing and broke the loaves. Then He gave them to His disciples to set before the people. And He divided the two fish among them all.

⁴²They all ate and were satisfied, ⁴³and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. ⁴⁴And there were five thousand^e men who had eaten the loaves.

Jesus Walks on Water

(Matthew 14:22–33; John 6:16–21)

⁴⁵Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of Him to Bethsaida, while He dismissed the crowd. ⁴⁶After bidding them farewell, He went up on the mountain to pray.

⁴⁷When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea, and Jesus was alone on land. ⁴⁸He could see that the disciples were straining to row, because the wind was against them. About the fourth watch of the night,^f Jesus went out to them, walking on the sea. He intended to pass by them, ⁴⁹but when they saw Him walking on the sea, they cried out, thinking He was a ghost—⁵⁰for they all saw Him and were terrified.

But Jesus spoke up at once: “Take courage! It is I. Do not be afraid.” ⁵¹Then He climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. And the disciples were utterly astounded beyond measure, and were marveling.^g ⁵²For they had not understood about the loaves because^h their hearts had been hardened.

Jesus Heals at Gennesaret (Matt. 14:34–36)

⁵³When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaretⁱ and moored the boat. ⁵⁴As soon as they got out of the boat, the people recognized Jesus ⁵⁵and ran through that whole surrounding region,^j carrying the sick on mats to wherever they heard He was. ⁵⁶And wherever He went—villages and towns and countryside—they laid the sick in the marketplaces and begged Him just to let them touch the fringe of His cloak. And all who touched Him were healed.

^a 32 GOC, ECM, NA, SBL, WH *a boat* ^b 33 CT *recognized them* ^c 36 CT *and buy themselves something to eat* ^d 37 A denarius was customarily a day’s wage for a laborer; see Matthew 20:2. ^e 44 TR *about five thousand* ^f 48 That is, between three and six in the morning ^g 51 CT does not include *beyond measure, and were marveling.* ^h 52 CT and GOC *but* ⁱ 53 CT *they came to land at Gennesaret or they landed at Gennesaret* ^j 55 CT *the whole region*

The Tradition of the Elders

(Matthew 15:1–9)

7 Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus. **2** And seeing some of His disciples eating with hands that were defiled (that is, unwashed), they found fault.^a

3 Now in holding to the tradition of the elders, the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat until they wash their hands ceremonially.^b **4** And on returning from the market, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions for them to observe, including the washing of cups, pitchers, kettles, and couches for dining.^c

5 So the Pharisees and scribes questioned Jesus: “Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders? Instead, they eat with unwashed^d hands.”

6 Jesus answered them, “Isaiah prophesied correctly about you hypocrites, as it is written:

“These people honor Me with their lips,

but their hearts are far from Me.

7 They worship Me in vain;
they teach as doctrine the precepts
of men.”^e

8 You have disregarded the commandment of God to keep the tradition of men—the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other similar things you do.^f

9 He went on to say, “You neatly set aside the command of God to maintain^g your own tradition. **10** For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’^h and ‘Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.’ⁱ **11** But you say that if a man says to his father or mother, ‘Whatever you would have received from me is Corban’ (that is, a gift devoted to God), **12** he is no longer permitted to do anything for his father or mother. **13** Thus you nullify the word of God by the tradition you have handed down. And you do so in many such matters.”

What Defiles a Man (Matthew 15:10–20)

14 Once again Jesus called the whole crowd^j to Him and said, “All of you, listen to Me and understand: **15** Nothing that enters a man from the outside can defile him; but the things that come out of a man, these are what defile him. **16** If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.”^k

17 After Jesus had left the crowd and gone into the house, His disciples inquired about the parable.

18 “Are you still so dull?” He asked. “Do you not understand? Nothing that enters a man from the outside can defile him, **19** because it does not enter his heart, but it goes into the stomach and then is eliminated, thus purifying all foods.”^l

20 He continued: “What comes out of a man, that is what defiles him. **21** For from within the hearts of men come evil thoughts, adultery, sexual immorality, murder, theft,^m **22** greed, wickedness, deceit, debauchery, envy, slander, arrogance, and foolishness. **23** All these evils come from within, and these are what defile a man.”

The Faith of the Gentile Woman

(Matthew 15:21–28)

24 Jesus left that place and went to the region of Tyre and Sidon.ⁿ Not wanting anyone to know He was there, He entered a house, but was unable to escape their notice. **25** For^o a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard^p about Jesus, and she came and fell at His feet. **26** Now she was a Greek woman of Syrophenician origin, and she kept asking Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter.

27 “First let the children have their fill,” Jesus said.^q “For it is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.”

28 “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “for^r even the dogs^s under the table eat the children’s crumbs.”

29 Then Jesus told her, “Because of this answer, you may go. The demon has left your daughter.”

30 And she went home and found the demon was gone, and her daughter was lying on the bed.^t

^a 2 CT And they saw some of His disciples eating with hands that were defiled—that is, unwashed. ^b 3 Literally until they have washed their hands to the fist. ^c 4 NE and WH cups, pitchers, and kettles. ^d 5 CT defiled. ^e 7 Isaiah 29:13 (see also LXX). ^f 8 CT does not include —the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other similar things you do. ^g 9 NA establish. ^h 10 Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16. ⁱ 10 Exodus 21:17; Leviticus 20:9. ^j 14 CT the crowd. ^k 16 CT does not include verse 16. ^l 19 CT and then is eliminated, thereby expelling all foods.” or and then is eliminated.” (Thus all foods are clean.) ^m 21 Some texts list these in a different order; some move adultery to verse 22. ⁿ 24 Most CT do not include and Sidon; see Matthew 15:21. ^o 25 CT Instead. ^p 25 CT soon heard. ^q 27 CT He said. ^r 28 CT does not include for. ^s 28 Or puppies. ^t 30 CT found her child lying on the bed, and the demon was gone.

The Deaf and Mute Man (*Matthew 9:27–34*)

³¹Then Jesus left the region of Tyre and Sidon and went toward the Sea of Galilee^a and into the region of the Decapolis.^b ³²Some people brought to Him a man who was deaf and hardly able to speak, and they begged Jesus to place His hand on him.

³³So Jesus took him aside privately, away from the crowd, and put His fingers into the man's ears. Then He spit and touched the man's tongue.

³⁴And looking up to heaven, He sighed deeply and said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means, "Be opened!"). ³⁵Immediately^c the man's ears were opened and his tongue was released, and he began to speak plainly.

³⁶Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone. But the more He ordered them, the more widely they proclaimed it. ³⁷The people were utterly astonished and said, "He has done all things well! He makes even the deaf hear and the mute speak!"

The Feeding of the Four Thousand

(*2 Kings 4:42–44; Matthew 15:29–39*)

8 In those days the crowd^d became very large, and they had nothing to eat. Jesus called His disciples^e to Him and said, ²"I have compassion for this crowd, because they have already been with Me three days and have nothing to eat. ³If I send them home hungry, they will faint along the way. For^f some of them have come a great distance."

⁴His disciples replied, "Where in this desolate place could anyone find enough bread to feed all these people?"

⁵"How many loaves do you have?" Jesus asked.

"Seven," they replied.

⁶And He instructed the crowd to sit down on the ground. Then He took the seven loaves, gave thanks and broke them, and gave them to His disciples to set before the people. And they distributed them to the crowd. ⁷They also had a few small fish, and Jesus blessed them and ordered that these be set before them as well.

⁸The people ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken

pieces that were left over. ⁹And about four thousand men^g who had eaten^h were present.

And when Jesus had dismissed the crowd, ¹⁰He immediately got into the boat with His disciples and went to the district of Dalmanutha.

The Demand for a Sign

(*Matthew 16:1–4; Luke 12:54–56*)

¹¹Then the Pharisees came and began to argue with Jesus, testing Him by demanding from Him a sign from heaven.

¹²Jesus sighed deeply in His spirit and said, "Why does this generation seek afterⁱ a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to this generation."

¹³And He left them, got back into the boat, and crossed to the other side.

The Leaven of the Pharisees and of Herod

(*Matthew 16:5–12; Luke 12:1–3*)

¹⁴Now the disciples had forgotten to take bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat. ¹⁵"Watch out!" He cautioned them. "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of Herod."

¹⁶So they began to discuss this with one another, saying, "It is because we have no bread."^j

¹⁷Aware of their conversation, Jesus asked them, "Why are you debating about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Do you still^k have such hard hearts? ¹⁸'Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear?'^l And do you not remember? ¹⁹When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of broken pieces did you collect?"

"Twelve," they answered.

²⁰"And when I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of broken pieces did you collect?"

"Seven," they said.

²¹Then He asked them, "How^m do you still not understand?"

The Blind Man at Bethsaida

²²When He arrivedⁿ at Bethsaida, some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch

a ³¹ CT of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee **b** ³¹ That is, the Ten Cities **c** ³⁵ ECM, WH, TH, and SBL do not include *Immediately*. **d** ¹ GOC and CT include *once again*. **e** ¹ CT the disciples **f** ³ CT literal *And* **g** ⁹ Men is implied here, that is, in addition to women and children; see Matthew 15:38. **h** ⁹ CT and GOC do not include *who had eaten*. **i** ¹² CT demand **j** ¹⁶ CT So they began to discuss with one another the fact that they had no bread. **k** ¹⁷ CT does not include *still*. **l** ¹⁸ See Deuteronomy 29:4, Isaiah 42:20, Jeremiah 5:21, and Ezekiel 12:2. **m** ²¹ CT does not include *How*. **n** ²² CT they arrived

him.²³ So He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village. Then He spit on the man's eyes and placed His hands on him, asking if he could see anything.^a

²⁴ The man looked up and said, "I can see the people, but they look like trees walking around."

²⁵ Once again Jesus placed His hands on the man's eyes and made him look up, and his sight was restored,^b and he could see everything clearly. ²⁶ Jesus sent him home and said, "Do not go back or tell anyone in the village."^c

Peter's Confession of Christ

(Matt. 16:13–20; Luke 9:18–20; John 6:67–71)

²⁷ Then Jesus and His disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way, He questioned His disciples: "Who do people say I am?"

²⁸ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."

²⁹ "But what about you?" Jesus asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Peter answered, "You are the Christ."

³⁰ And Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about Him.

Christ's Passion Foretold

(Matthew 16:21–23; Luke 9:21–22)

³¹ Then He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and that He must be killed and after three days rise again.

³² He spoke this message quite frankly, and Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him.

³³ But Jesus, turning and looking at His disciples, rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind Me, Satan! For you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

Take Up Your Cross (Mt. 16:24–28; Lk. 9:23–27)

³⁴ Then Jesus called the crowd to Him along with His disciples, and He told them, "If anyone wants to follow after^d Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever

loses his life for My sake and for the gospel will save it.

³⁶ What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world yet forfeits his soul?^e ³⁷ Or^f what can a man give in exchange for his soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in His Father's glory with the holy angels."

The Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1–13; Luke 9:28–36; 2 Peter 1:16–21)

9 Then Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God arrive with power."

² After six days Jesus took with Him Peter, James, and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There He was transfigured before them. ³ His clothes became radiantly white as snow,^g brighter than any launderer on earth could bleach them. ⁴ And Elijah and Moses appeared before them, talking with Jesus.

⁵ Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters^h—one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶ For they were all so terrified that Peter did not know what else to say.

⁷ Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud:ⁱ "This is My beloved Son. Listen to Him!" ⁸ Suddenly, when they looked around, they saw no one with them except Jesus.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus admonished them not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. ¹⁰ So they kept this matter to themselves, discussing what it meant to rise from the dead. ¹¹ And they asked Jesus, "Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"

¹² He replied, "Elijah does indeed come first, and he restores all things. Why then is it written that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected? ¹³ But I tell you that Elijah has indeed come, and they have done to him whatever they wished, just as it is written about him."

^a 23 CT placed His hands on him. "Can you see anything?" He asked. ^b 25 CT eyes, and when he opened them, his sight was restored ^c 26 CT "Do not go back into the village." ^d 34 SBL, TR, and WH come after ^e 36 CT What does it profit a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? ^f 37 CT literal For ^g 3 CT does not include as snow. ^h 5 Or three tabernacles ⁱ 7 TR and GOC include saying.

The Boy with an Evil Spirit*(Matthew 17:14–18; Luke 9:37–42)*

14 When Jesus returned to the other disciples, He saw^a a large crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. 15 As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were filled with awe and ran to greet Him.

16 “What are you disputing with them?” He asked the scribes.^b

17 Someone in the crowd replied, “Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a spirit that makes him mute. 18 Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid.^c I asked Your disciples to drive it out, but they were unable.”

19 “O unbelieving generation!” Jesus replied. “How long must I remain with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring the boy to Me.”

20 So they brought him, and seeing Jesus, the spirit immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

21 Jesus asked the boy’s father, “How long has this been with him?”

“From childhood,” he said. 22 “It often throws him into the fire or into the water, trying to kill him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”

23 “If you can believe!” said Jesus.^d “All things are possible to him who believes!”

24 Immediately the boy’s father cried out with tears, “Lord, I do believe;^e help my unbelief!”

25 When Jesus saw that a crowd had come running, He rebuked the unclean spirit. “You mute and deaf^f spirit,” He said, “I command you to come out and never enter him again.”

26 After shrieking and convulsing him violently, the spirit came out. The boy became like a corpse, so that many said, “He is dead.” 27 But Jesus took him by the hand and helped him to his feet, and he stood up.

28 After Jesus had gone into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?”

29 Jesus answered, “This kind cannot come out, except by prayer and fasting.^g”

The Second Prediction of the Passion*(Matthew 17:22–23; Luke 9:43–45)*

30 Going on from there, they passed through Galilee. But Jesus did not want anyone to know, 31 because He was teaching His disciples. He told them, “The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill Him, and on the third day^h He will rise.” 32 But they did not understand this statement, and they were afraid to ask Him about it.

The Greatest in the Kingdom*(Matthew 18:1–5; Luke 9:46–50)*

33 Then Jesus came to Capernaum.ⁱ While He was in the house, He asked them, “What were you discussing among yourselves^j on the way?” 34 But they were silent, for on the way they had been arguing about which of them was the greatest.

35 Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “If anyone wants to be first, he must be the last of all and the servant of all.”

36 Then He had a little child stand among them. Taking the child in His arms, He said to them, 37 “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in My name welcomes Me, and whoever welcomes Me welcomes not only Me, but the One who sent Me.”

38 John said to Him, “Teacher, we saw someone who does not follow us^k driving out demons in Your name, and we forbade him,^l because he does not accompany us.”

39 “Do not stop him,” Jesus replied. “For no one who performs a miracle in My name can turn around and speak evil of Me. 40 For whoever is not against you is for you.^m 41 Indeed, if anyone gives you even a cup of water in My name because you are Christ’s,ⁿ truly I tell you, he will never lose his reward.

Temptations and Trespasses*(Matthew 18:6–9; Luke 17:1–4)*

42 But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a millstone^o hung around his neck and to be thrown into the sea.

^a 14 CT When they returned to the other disciples, they saw ^b 16 CT He asked them ^c 18 Or and is withering away ^d 23 CT “If You can?” echoed Jesus ^e 24 CT cried out, “I do believe; ^f 25 Some translators deaf and mute ^g 29 CT does not incl. and fasting. ^h 31 CT after three days ⁱ 33 Lit. Then He came to Capernaum; CT Then they came to Capernaum ^j 33 CT does not incl. among yourselves. ^k 38 Or does not accompany us ^l 38 CT we tried to hinder him ^m 40 CT and Scrivener TR not against us is for us ⁿ 41 CT a cup of water because you bear the name of Christ ^o 42 CT a large millstone

43If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two hands and go into hell,^a into the unquenchable fire, 44where 'their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.'^b 45If your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and be thrown into hell, into the unquenchable fire,^c 46where 'their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.'^d 47And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown^e into the fire of hell,^f 48where 'their worm^g never dies, and the fire is never quenched.'^h

Good Salt (Matthew 5:13–16; Luke 14:34–35)

49For everyone will be salted with fire, and every sacrifice will be salted with salt.ⁱ

50Salt is good, but if the salt loses its saltiness, with what will you season it? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

Teachings about Divorce (Matthew 19:1–12)

10 Then Jesus left that place and went into the region of Judea, beyond the Jordan. Again the crowds came to Him and He taught them, as was His custom.

2Some Pharisees came to test Him. "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" they inquired.

3"What did Moses command you?" He replied.

4They answered, "Moses permitted a man to write his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away."^j

5But Jesus told them, "Moses wrote this commandment for you because of your hardness of heart. 6However, from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.'^k 7'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife,^l 8and the two will become one flesh.'^m So they are no longer two, but one flesh. 9Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

10When they were back inside the house, His disciplesⁿ asked Jesus about this matter. 11So He

told them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. 12And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery."

Jesus Blesses the Children

(Matthew 19:13–15; Luke 18:15–17)

13Now people were bringing the little children to Jesus for Him to place His hands on them, and the disciples rebuked those who brought them.^o

14But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and told them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them! For the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 15Truly I tell you, anyone who does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." 16And He took the children in His arms, placed His hands on them, and blessed them.

The Rich Young Man

(Matthew 19:16–30; Luke 18:18–30)

17As Jesus started on His way, a man^p ran up and knelt before Him. "Good Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

18"Why do you call Me good?" Jesus replied. "No one is good except God alone. 19You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, do not murder,^q do not steal, do not bear false witness, do not cheat others, honor your father and mother.'^r"

20"Teacher," he replied, "all these I have kept from my youth."

21Jesus looked at him, loved him, and said to him, "There is one thing you lack: Go,^s sell everything you own and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, take up the cross,^t and follow Me."

22But the man was saddened by these words and went away in sorrow, because he had great wealth.

23Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"

24And the disciples were amazed at His words.

^a 43 Greek *Gehenna*; also in vv. 45, 47 ^b 44 Isaiah 66:24; CT does not include verse 44. ^c 45 CT does not include *into the unquenchable fire*. ^d 46 Isaiah 66:24; CT does not include verse 46. ^e 47 GOC *and go away* ^f 47 Literally *into the hell of fire*; CT *into hell* ^g 48 F35 *the worm* ^h 48 Isaiah 66:24 ⁱ 49 CT does not include *and every sacrifice will be salted with salt*. ^j 4 See Deuteronomy 24:1. ^k 6 Genesis 1:27; Genesis 5:2 ^l 7 NE and WH do not include *and be united to his wife*. ^m 8 Genesis 2:24 (see also LXX) ⁿ 10 CT and GOC *the disciples* ^o 13 CT literal *rebuked them* ^p 17 F35 *someone* ^q 19 CT *Do not murder, do not commit adultery* ^r 19 Exodus 20:12–16; Deuteronomy 5:16–20 ^s 21 GOC *If you wish to be perfect, go* ^t 21 CT does not include *take up the cross*.

But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches^a to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is^b easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

²⁶They were even more astonished and said to one another,^c “Who then can be saved?”

²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.”

²⁸Peter began to say to Him, “Look, we have left everything and followed You.”

²⁹“Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or wife^d or children or fields for My sake and for the gospel ³⁰will fail to receive a hundredfold in the present age—houses and brothers and sisters^e and mothers and children and fields, along with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

The Third Prediction of the Passion

(Matthew 20:17–19; Luke 18:31–34)

³²As they were going up the road to Jerusalem, Jesus was walking ahead of them. The disciples were amazed, but as they followed, they were afraid.^f Again Jesus took the Twelve aside and began to tell them what was going to happen to Him: ³³“Look, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes. They will condemn Him to death and will deliver Him over to the Gentiles, ³⁴who will mock Him and flog Him and spit on Him^g and kill Him. And on the third day^h He will rise again.”

The Request of James and John

(Matthew 20:20–28)

³⁵Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus and declared, “Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask.”

³⁶“What do you want Me to do for you?” He inquired.

³⁷They answered, “Grant that one of us may sit at Your right hand and the other at Your left in Your glory.”

³⁸“You do not know what you are asking,” Jesus replied. “Can you drink the cup I will drink, andⁱ be baptized with the baptism I will undergo?”

³⁹“We can,” the brothers answered.

“You will indeed drink^j the cup that I drink,” Jesus said, “and you will be baptized with the baptism that I undergo. ⁴⁰But to sit at My right and^k left is not Mine to grant. These seats belong to those for whom^l they have been prepared.”

⁴¹When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. ⁴²So Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their superiors exercise authority over them. ⁴³But it shall not be^m this way among you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever wants to be first must be the slave of all. ⁴⁵For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

Jesus Heals Bartimaeus

(Matthew 20:29–34; Luke 18:35–43)

⁴⁶Next, they came to Jericho. And as Jesus and His disciples were leaving Jericho with a large crowd, a blind man named Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, was sitting beside the road begging.ⁿ

⁴⁷When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

⁴⁸Many people admonished him to be silent, but he cried out all the louder, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

⁴⁹Jesus stopped and asked for him to be called over.^o So they called the blind man. “Take courage!” they said. “Get up! He is calling for you.”

⁵⁰Throwing off his cloak, Bartimaeus rose up^p and came to Jesus.

⁵¹“What do you want Me to do for you?” Jesus asked.

“Rabboni,” said the blind man, “let me see again.”

⁵²“Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

^a 24 CT does not include for those who trust in riches. ^b 25 F35 For it is ^c 26 WH said to Him ^d 29 CT does not include or wife. ^e 30 GOC and F35 include and fathers. ^f 32 CT those who followed were afraid ^g 34 CT and spit on Him and flog Him ^h 34 CT after three days ⁱ 38 CT or ^j 39 CT You will drink ^k 40 CT or ^l 40 Literally Mine to grant, but for whom ^m 43 CT literal it is not ⁿ 46 CT a blind beggar named Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, was sitting beside the road ^o 49 CT Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” ^p 50 CT jumped up

The Triumphal Entry (*Zechariah 9:9–13; Matt. 21:1–11; Luke 19:28–40; John 12:12–19*)

11 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethsphage^a and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent out two of His disciples² and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and as soon as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, on which no one has sat.^b Untie it and bring it here. ³If anyone asks, ‘Why are you doing this?’ tell him, ‘The Lord needs it,’ and he will send it here immediately.^c”

⁴So they went and found a colt^d outside in the street, tied at a doorway. They untied it, ⁵and some who were standing there asked, “Why are you untying the colt?”

⁶The disciples answered as Jesus had commanded them,^e and the people gave them permission. ⁷Then they led the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, and He sat on it.

⁸Many in the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.^f ⁹The ones who went ahead and those who followed were shouting:

“Hosanna!”^g

“Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!”^h

¹⁰“Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is coming in the name of the Lord!”ⁱ

“Hosanna in the highest!”^j

¹¹Then Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple courts.^k He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, He went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

Jesus Curses the Fig Tree
(*Matthew 21:18–22; Mark 11:20–25*)

¹²The next day, when they had left Bethany, Jesus was hungry. ¹³Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, He went to see if there was any fruit on it. But when He reached it, He found nothing

on it except leaves, since it was not the season for figs. ¹⁴Then Jesus^l said to the tree, “May no one ever eat of your fruit again.” And His disciples heard this statement.

Jesus Cleanses the Temple
(*Matt. 21:12–17; Luke 19:45–48; John 2:12–25*)

¹⁵When they arrived in Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple courts and began to drive out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those selling doves. ¹⁶And He would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. ¹⁷Then Jesus began to teach them, and He declared, “Is it not written: ‘My house will be called a house of prayer for all the nations’^m? But you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’ⁿ”

¹⁸When the scribes and chief priests^o heard this, they looked for a way to kill Him. For they were afraid of Him, because the whole crowd was astonished at His teaching.

¹⁹And when evening came, Jesus went^p out of the city.

The Withered Fig Tree
(*Matthew 21:18–22; Mark 11:12–14*)

²⁰As they were walking back in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered from its roots. ²¹Peter remembered it and said, “Look, Rabbi! The fig tree You cursed has withered.”

²²“Have faith in God,” Jesus said to them. ²³“For truly^q I tell you that if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ and has no doubt in his heart but believes that it will happen, whatever he says will be done for him.” ²⁴Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it,^s and it will be yours.

²⁵And when you stand to pray, if you hold anything against another, forgive it, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your trespasses as well. ²⁶But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.”^t

a 1 ALT, CT, and TR *Bethphage* **b** 2 CT *has ever sat* **c** 3 GOC, NA, SBL, TH, and WH *‘The Lord needs it and will return it shortly.’* **d** 4 GOC, ALT, F35, and TR *the colt* **e** 6 CT *had instructed* **f** 8 CT *while others spread branches they had cut from the fields* **g** 9 *Hosanna* is a transliteration of the Hebrew *Hosia-na*, meaning *Save, we pray* or *Save now*, which became a shout of praise; also in verse 10; see Psalm 118:25. **h** 9 Psalm 118:26 **i** 10 CT does not include *in the name of the Lord*. **j** 10 Or *‘Hosanna in the highest heaven!’* See Psalm 118:25 and Psalm 148:1. **k** 11 Literally *the temple*; also in verses 15, 16, and 27 **l** 14 CT *He* **m** 17 Isaiah 56:7 **n** 17 Jeremiah 7:11 **o** 18 CT *chief priests and scribes*; GOC *scribes, Pharisees, and chief priests* **p** 19 Literally *He went*; CT *they went* **q** 23 CT *Truly* **r** 23 CT *it will be done for him* **s** 24 Literally *you are receiving*; CT *you have received* **t** 26 CT does not include verse 26; see Matthew 6:15.

Jesus' Authority Challenged*(Matthew 21:23–27; Luke 20:1–8)*

²⁷After their return to Jerusalem, Jesus was walking in the temple courts, and the chief priests, scribes, and elders came up to Him. ²⁸"By what authority are You doing these things?" they asked. "And^a who gave You the authority to do them?"

²⁹"I will also ask^b you one question," Jesus replied, "and if you answer Me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ³⁰John's baptism—was it from heaven or from men? Answer Me!^c"

³¹They deliberated among themselves:^d "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will ask, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ³²But if we say, 'From men'..." they were afraid of the people, for they all held that John truly was a prophet. ³³So they answered, "We do not know."

And Jesus replied, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things."

The Parable of the Wicked Tenants*(Matthew 21:33–46; Luke 20:9–18)*

12 Then Jesus began to speak to them in parables: "A man planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a wine vat, and built a watchtower. Then he rented it out to some tenants and went away on a journey.

²At harvest time, he sent a servant to the tenants to collect his share of the fruit of the vineyard. ³But they seized the servant, beat him, and sent him away empty-handed.

⁴Then he sent them another servant, and casting stones^e they struck him over the head and sent him away,^f treating him shamefully.

⁵He sent still another, and this one they killed.

He sent many others; some they beat and others they killed.

⁶Finally, having his^g one beloved son, he sent him to them last.^h "They will respect my son," he said.

⁷But the tenants saidⁱ to one another, "This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance

will be ours.' ⁸So they seized the son, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard.

⁹What then^j will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and kill those tenants, and will give the vineyard to others. ¹⁰Have you never read this Scripture:

"The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

¹¹This is from the Lord,
and it is marvelous in our eyes^k?"

¹²At this, the leaders sought^l to arrest Jesus, for they knew that He had spoken this parable against them. But fearing the crowd, they left Him and went away.

Paying Taxes to Caesar*(Matthew 22:15–22; Luke 20:19–26)*

¹³Later, they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to catch Jesus in His words. ¹⁴"Teacher," they said, "we know that You are honest and seek favor from no one. Indeed, You are impartial and teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it lawful^m to pay taxes to Caesar or not? Should we pay them or not?"

¹⁵But Jesus saw through their hypocrisy and said, "Why are you testing Me? Bring Me a denariusⁿ to inspect." ¹⁶So they brought it, and He asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?"

"Caesar's," they answered.

¹⁷In response^o Jesus told them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

And they marveled at Him.

The Sadducees and the Resurrection*(Matthew 22:23–33; Luke 20:27–40)*

¹⁸Then the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus and questioned Him: ¹⁹"Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, the man is to marry his brother's widow and raise up offspring for him.^p ²⁰Now there were seven brothers. The first one married and died, leaving no children. ²¹Then the second one married the widow, but he also died and left no children. And the third did likewise. ²²In this way,

^a 28 GOC Or ^b 29 CT I will ask ^c 30 F35 does not include Answer Me! ^d 31 CT They deliberated among themselves what they should answer: ^e 4 CT does not include casting stones. ^f 4 CT does not include and sent him away. ^g 6 CT does not include his. ^h 6 Or finally. ⁱ 7 GOC But when the tenants saw him coming, they said ^j 9 SBL and WH do not include then. ^k 11 Psalm 118:22–23 ^l 12 Literally they sought ^m 14 GOC Tell us then, is it lawful ⁿ 15 A denarius was customarily a day's wage for a laborer; see Matthew 20:2. ^o 17 ECM, NA, SBL, and TH do not include In response. ^p 19 Deuteronomy 25:5

none of the seven who had her^a left any children. And last of all, the woman died. ²³In the resurrection, then,^b whose wife will she be? For all seven were married to her.”

²⁴Jesus answered them,^c “Aren’t you mistaken, because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God? ²⁵When the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage. Instead, they will be like the angels in heaven.

²⁶But concerning the dead rising, have you not read about the burning bush in the Book of Moses, how God told him, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’^d? ²⁷He is not the God of the dead, but the God^e of the living. Therefore^f you are badly mistaken!”

The Greatest Commandment

(Deuteronomy 6:1–19; Matthew 22:34–40)

²⁸Now one of the scribes had come up and heard their debate. Noticing how well Jesus had answered them, he asked Him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?”

²⁹Jesus replied, “This is the most important of all the commandments:^g ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One. ³⁰Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’^h This is the first commandment.ⁱ ³¹The second, like it,^j is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’^k No other commandment is greater than these.”

³²“Right, Teacher,” the scribe replied. “You have stated correctly that God is One and there is no other but Him, ³³and to love Him with all your heart and with all your understanding and with all your soul^l and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself. This is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

³⁴When Jesus saw that the man had answered wisely, He said, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.”

And no one dared to question Him any further.

Whose Son Is the Christ?

(Matthew 22:41–46; Luke 20:41–44)

³⁵While Jesus was teaching in the temple courts,^m He asked, “How can the scribes say that

the Christ is the Son of David? ³⁶Speaking by the Holy Spirit, David himself declared:

“The Lord said to my Lord,

“Sit at My right hand

until I make Your enemies

a footstool for Your feet.”ⁿ

³⁷Therefore^o David himself calls Him ‘Lord.’ So how can He be David’s son?”

And the large crowd listened to Him with delight.

Beware of the Scribes (Luke 20:45–47)

³⁸In His teaching Jesus also said to them,^p “Watch out for the scribes. They like to walk around in long robes, to receive greetings in the marketplaces, ³⁹and to have the chief seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. ⁴⁰They defraud widows of their houses,^q and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will receive greater condemnation.”

The Widow’s Offering (Luke 21:1–4)

⁴¹As Jesus was sitting opposite the treasury, He watched the crowd putting money into it. And many rich people put in large amounts. ⁴²Then one poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which amounted to a small fraction of a denarius.^r

⁴³Jesus called His disciples to Him and said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more than all the others into the treasury. ⁴⁴For they all contributed out of their surplus, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on.”

Temple Destruction and Other Signs

(Matthew 24:1–8; Luke 21:5–9)

13 As Jesus was leaving the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, “Teacher, look at the magnificent stones and buildings!”

²“Do you see all these great buildings?” Jesus replied. “Not one stone^s will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.”

³While Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked Him privately, ⁴“Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to be fulfilled?”

^a 22 CT does not include *who had her*. ^b 23 Literally *In the resurrection, when they rise*. ^c 24 CT *Jesus said to them*. ^d 26 Exodus 3:6 ^e 27 CT and GOC does not include *the God*. ^f 27 CT does not include *Therefore*. ^g 29 CT does not include *of all the commandments*. ^h 30 Deuteronomy 6:4–5 ⁱ 30 CT does not include *This is the first commandment*. ^j 31 CT does not include *like it*. ^k 31 Leviticus 19:18 ^l 33 CT does not include *and with all your soul*. ^m 35 Literally *the temple* ⁿ 36 Psalm 110:1; CT *until I put Your enemies under Your feet* ^o 37 CT does not include *Therefore*. ^p 38 CT does not include *to them*. ^q 40 Literally *They devour widows’ houses* ^r 42 Greek *put in two lepta*, which is a *kodrantēs*; a *lepton* was a Jewish coin of bronze or copper worth about 1/128 of a denarius. ^s 2 CT *Not one stone here*

5In response,^a Jesus began by telling them, “See to it that no one deceives you. 6For^b many will come in My name, claiming, ‘I am He,’ and will deceive many. 7When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. For these things must happen, but the end is still to come. 8Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, as well as famines and riots.^c These are the beginning of birth pains.

Witnessing to All Nations

(Matthew 24:9–14; Luke 21:10–19)

9So be on your guard. For you will be delivered over to the councils and beaten in the synagogues. On My account you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them. 10And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all the nations. 11But when they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand or premeditate^d what to say. Instead, speak whatever you are given at that time, for it will not be you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

12Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rise against their parents and have them put to death. 13You will be hated by everyone because of My name, but the one who perseveres to the end will be saved.

The Abomination of Desolation

(Matthew 24:15–25; Luke 21:20–24)

14So when you see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet,^e standing where it should not be^f (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 15Let no one on the housetop go back inside the house^g to retrieve anything from his house. 16And let no one in the field return for his cloak.

17How miserable those days will be for pregnant and nursing mothers! 18Pray that your flight^h will not occur in the winter. 19For those will be days of tribulation unmatched from the beginning of God’s creation until now, and never to be seen again. 20If the Lord had not cut short those days, nobody would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom He has chosen, He has cut them short.

21At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There He is!’ do not believe it. 22For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform signs and wonders that would deceive evenⁱ the elect, if that were possible. 23So be on your guard; see,^j I have told you everything in advance.

The Return of the Son of Man

(Matthew 24:26–31; Luke 21:25–28)

24But in those days, after that tribulation:

‘The sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light;

25the stars will fall from the sky,
and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.’^k

26At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.^l 27And He will send out His angels^m to gather His elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

(Matthew 24:32–35; Luke 21:29–33)

28Now learn this lessonⁿ from the fig tree: As soon as its branches become tender and sprout leaves, you know^o that summer is near. 29So also, when you see these things happening, know that He is near,^p right at the door. 30Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have happened. 31Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.

Readiness at Any Hour

(Matthew 24:36–51; Luke 12:35–48)

32No one knows about that day or^q hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33Be on your guard, stay alert, and pray!^r For you do not know when the appointed time will come.

34It is like a man going on a journey who left his house, put each servant in charge of his own task, and instructed the doorkeeper to keep watch. 35Therefore keep watch, because you do not know when the master of the house will return—whether in the evening, at midnight, when the rooster crows, or in the morning. 36Otherwise, he may arrive without notice and find you sleeping. 37And what I say to you, I say to everyone: Keep watch!”

^a 5 CT does not include *In response*. ^b 6 CT does not include *For*; similarly in verses 7 and 9. ^c 8 CT does not include *and riots*. ^d 11 CT does not include *or premeditate*. ^e 14 See Daniel 9:27, Daniel 11:31, and Daniel 12:11; CT does not include *spoken of by Daniel the prophet*. ^f 14 Or *where he should not be* ^g 15 CT does not include *the house*. ^h 18 CT *Pray that this* ⁱ 22 CT literal does not include *even*. ^j 23 CT does not include *see*. ^k 25 Or *and the celestial bodies will be shaken*; see Isaiah 13:10, Isaiah 34:4, and Joel 2:10. ^l 26 See Daniel 7:13–14. ^m 27 CT the angels ⁿ 28 Or *this parable* ^o 28 F35 *one knows* ^p 29 Or *it is near* ^q 32 TR and ^r 33 CT *Be on your guard (and) stay alert!*

The Plot to Kill Jesus

(Matthew 26:1–5; Luke 22:1–2; John 11:45–57)

14 Now the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread^a were two days away, and the chief priests and scribes were looking for a covert way to arrest Jesus and kill Him. ²“But not during the feast,” they said, “or there may be a riot among the people.”

Jesus Anointed at Bethany

(Matthew 26:6–13; Luke 7:36–50; John 12:1–8)

³While Jesus was in Bethany reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper,^b a woman came with an alabaster jar of expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke open the jar and poured it on Jesus’ head.

⁴Some of those present, however, expressed their indignation to one another and said,^c “Why this waste of perfume? ⁵It could have been sold for over three hundred denarii^d and the money given to the poor.” And they scolded her.

⁶But Jesus said, “Leave her alone; why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful deed to Me. ⁷The poor you will always have with you,^e and you can help them whenever you want. But you will not always have Me. ⁸She has done what she could to anoint My body in advance of My burial. ⁹And truly I tell you, wherever this gospel^f is preached in all the world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her.”

Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

(Matthew 26:14–16; Luke 22:3–6)

¹⁰Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. ¹¹They were delighted to hear this, and they promised to give him money.

So Judas began to look for an opportunity to betray Jesus.

Preparing the Passover

(Matthew 26:17–19; Luke 22:7–13)

¹²On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread,^g when the Passover lamb was to be sacrificed, Jesus’ disciples asked Him, “Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?”

^a 1 Literally and the Unleavened; see Exodus 12:14–20. ^b 3 Aramaic *Simon the Potter or Simon the Jar Maker*

^c 4 CT does not include and said. ^d 5 A denarius was customarily a day’s wage for a laborer; see Matthew 20:2.

^e 7 See Deuteronomy 15:11. ^f 9 CT the gospel ^g 12 Literally *On the first day of the Unleavened*; see Exodus 12:14–20.

^h 14 CT and GOC My ⁱ 16 CT the disciples ^j 19 CT does not include And another said, “Is it I?” ^k 20 Literally the one who is dipping ^l 22 CT Take it ^m 24 CT does not include new. ⁿ 27 CT does not include on account of Me this night; see Matthew 26:31. ^o 27 Zechariah 13:7

¹³So He sent two of His disciples and told them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jug of water will meet you. Follow him, ¹⁴and whichever house he enters, say to the owner, “The Teacher asks: Where is the^h guest room, where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?” ¹⁵And he will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.”

¹⁶So His disciplesⁱ left and went into the city, where they found everything as Jesus had described. And they prepared the Passover.

The Last Supper (Matthew 26:20–30;

Luke 22:14–23; 1 Corinthians 11:17–34)

¹⁷When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. ¹⁸And while they were reclining and eating, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, one of you who is eating with Me will betray Me.”

¹⁹They began to be grieved and to ask Him one after another, “Surely not I?” And another said, “Is it I?”^j

²⁰He answered, “It is one of the Twelve—the one who is dipping his hand^k into the bowl with Me. ²¹The Son of Man will go just as it is written about Him, but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed! It would be better for him if he had not been born.”

²²While they were eating, Jesus took bread, spoke a blessing and broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying, “Take and eat;^l this is My body.”

²³Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. ²⁴He said to them, “This is My blood of the new^m covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵Truly I tell you, I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God.”

²⁶And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Jesus Predicts Peter’s Denial (Zech. 13:7–9;

Matt. 26:31–35; Luke 22:31–38; John 13:36–38)

²⁷Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away on account of Me this night,ⁿ for it is written:

‘I will strike the Shepherd,
and the sheep will be scattered.’^o

28But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."

29Peter declared, "Even if all fall away, I never will."

30"Truly I tell you," Jesus replied, "this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times."

31But Peter kept insisting all the more,^a "Even if I have to die with You, I will never deny You." And all the others said the same thing.

Jesus Prays at Gethsemane

(Matthew 26:36–46; Luke 22:39–46)

32Then they came to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus told His disciples, "Sit here while I pray."

33He took with Him Peter, James, and John, and began to be deeply troubled and distressed.

34Then He said to them, "My soul is consumed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch."

35Going a little farther, He fell to the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour would pass from Him. 36"Abba, Father," He said, "all things are possible for You. Take this cup from Me. Yet not what I will, but what You will."

37Then Jesus returned and found them sleeping. "Simon, are you asleep?" He asked. "Were you not able to keep watch for one hour? 38Watch and pray so that you will not enter into temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

39Again He went away and prayed, saying the same thing. 40And again Jesus returned and found them sleeping—for their eyes were heavy. And they did not know what to answer Him.

41When Jesus returned the third time, He said, "Are you still sleeping and resting? That is enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 42Rise, let us go. See, My betrayer is approaching!"

The Betrayal of Jesus (Matthew 26:47–56;

Luke 22:47–53; John 18:1–14)

43While Jesus was still speaking, Judas,^b one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a large^c crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, scribes, and elders.

44Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The One I kiss is the man; arrest Him and lead Him away securely." 45Going directly to Jesus, he said, "Rabbi, Rabbi!"^d and kissed Him.

46Then the men seized Jesus and arrested Him.

47And one of the bystanders drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

48Jesus asked the crowd, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest Me as you would an outlaw? 49Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts,^e and you did not arrest Me. But this has happened that the Scriptures would be fulfilled."

50Then everyone deserted Him and fled. 51One young man who had been following Jesus was wearing a linen cloth around his body. The young men^f caught hold of him, 52but he pulled free of the linen cloth and ran away from them^g naked.

Jesus before the Sanhedrin

(Matt. 26:57–68; Luke 22:66–71; John 18:19–24)

53They led Jesus away to the high priest, and all the chief priests, elders, and scribes assembled with him.^h 54Peter followed Him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he sat with the officers and warmed himself by the fire.

55Now the chief priests and the whole Sanhedrinⁱ were seeking testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, but they did not find any. 56For many bore false witness against Jesus, but their testimony was inconsistent.

57Then some men stood up and testified falsely against Him: 58"We heard Him say, 'I will destroy this man-made temple, and in three days I will build another that is made without hands.'" 59But even their testimony was inconsistent.

60So the high priest stood up before them and questioned Jesus, "Have You no answer? What are these men testifying against You?"

61But Jesus remained silent and made no reply.

Again the high priest questioned Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?"

62"I am," said Jesus, "and you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power^j and coming with the clouds of heaven."^k

^a 31 CT does not include *all the more*. ^b 43 GOC Judas Iscariot ^c 43 CT does not include *large*. ^d 45 CT "Rabbi!"; GOC "Greetings, Rabbi!" ^e 49 Literally *the temple* ^f 51 CT They ^g 52 CT does not include *from them*. ^h 53 ECM, NA, SBL, and WH do not include *with him*. ⁱ 55 Or *the whole Council* ^j 62 Or *the right hand of the Mighty One* ^k 62 See Psalm 110:1 and Daniel 7:13.

⁶³At this, the high priest tore his clothes and declared, "Why do we need any more witnesses?"
⁶⁴You have heard the blasphemy. What is your verdict?"

And they all condemned Him as deserving of death.

⁶⁵Then some of them began to spit on Him. They blindfolded Him, struck Him with their fists, and said to Him, "Prophecy!"^a And the officers kept striking Him with the palms of their hands.^b

Peter Denies Jesus (*Matthew 26:69–75; Luke 22:54–62; John 18:15–18*)

⁶⁶While Peter was in the courtyard below, one of the servant girls of the high priest came down ⁶⁷and saw him warming himself there. She looked at Peter and said, "You also were with Jesus the Nazarene."

⁶⁸But he denied it. "I do not know or even understand what you are talking about," he said. Then he went out to the gateway, and the rooster crowed.^c

⁶⁹There the servant girl saw him again and^d said to those standing nearby, "This man is one of them."

⁷⁰But he denied it again.

After a little while, those standing nearby said once more to Peter, "Surely you are one of them, for you too are a Galilean and your speech is similar."^e

⁷¹But he began to curse and swear, "I do not know this man of whom you speak!" ⁷²And^f the rooster crowed a second time.

Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times." And he broke down and wept.

Jesus Delivered to Pilate
(Matthew 27:1–2)

15 Early in the morning, the chief priests, elders, scribes, and the whole Sanhedrin^g devised a plan. They bound Jesus, led Him away, and handed Him over to Pilate.

²So Pilate questioned Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?"

"You have said so," Jesus replied.

³And the chief priests began to accuse Him of many things.^h

⁴Then Pilate questioned Him again, "Have You no answer? Look how many charges they are testifying against You!"ⁱ

⁵But to Pilate's amazement, Jesus made no further reply.

The Crowd Chooses Barabbas
(Matthew 27:15–23; Luke 23:13–25)

⁶Now it was Pilate's custom at the feast to release to the people^j a prisoner of their choosing.

⁷And a man named Barabbas was imprisoned with his fellow rebels^k who had committed murder during the insurrection. ⁸So the crowd cried out^l and began asking Pilate to keep his custom.

⁹"Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" Pilate asked. ¹⁰For he knew it was out of envy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over.

¹¹But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas to them instead.

Pilate Delivers Up Jesus (*Matthew 27:24–26*)

¹²So Pilate asked them again, "What then do you want me to do^m with the One you call the King of the Jews?"

¹³And they shouted back, "Crucify Him!"

¹⁴"Why?" asked Pilate. "What evil has He done?" But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify Him!"

¹⁵And wishing to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed Him over to be crucified.

The Soldiers Mock Jesus (*Isaiah 50:4–11; Matt. 27:27–31; Luke 22:63–65; John 19:1–15*)

¹⁶Then the soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called the whole company together. ¹⁷They dressed Him in a purple robe, twisted together a crown of thorns, and set it on His head. ¹⁸And they began to salute Him:ⁿ "Hail, King of the Jews!"

^a 65 GOC "Prophecy to us! Who hit You?" ^b 65 CT received Him with slaps in His face ^c 68 NE and WH do not include and the rooster crowed. ^d 69 CT and again ^e 70 CT does not include and your speech is similar. ^f 72 CT And immediately ^g 1 Or the whole Council ^h 3 GOC and Scrivener TR include but He gave no answer. ⁱ 4 CT bringing against You ^j 6 Literally Now at the feast he would release to them ^k 7 CT the rebels ^l 8 CT went up ^m 12 ECM, TH, and WH What then should I do ⁿ 18 F35 includes saying.

¹⁹They kept striking His head with a staff and spitting on Him. And they knelt down and bowed before Him. ²⁰After they had mocked Him, they removed the purple robe and put His own clothes back on Him. Then they led Him out to crucify Him.

The Crucifixion (*Psalm 22:1–31; Matthew 27:32–44; Luke 23:26–43; John 19:16–27*)

²¹Now Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and the soldiers forced him to carry the cross of Jesus.

²²They brought Jesus to a place called Golgotha, which means The Place of the Skull. ²³There they offered Him wine to drink^a mixed with myrrh, but He did not take it.

²⁴And they crucified Him.

They also divided His garments by casting lots to decide what each of them would take.^b

²⁵It was the third hour^c when they crucified Him. ²⁶And the charge inscribed against Him read:

THE KING OF THE JEWS.

²⁷Along with Jesus, they crucified two robbers,^d one on His right and one on His left. ²⁸So the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “And He was numbered with the transgressors.”^e

²⁹And those who passed by heaped abuse on Him, shaking their heads and saying, “Aha! You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, ³⁰come down from the cross and save Yourself!”

³¹In the same way, the chief priests and scribes mocked Him among themselves, saying, “He saved others, but He cannot save Himself! ³²Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross, so that we may see and believe Him!” And even those who were crucified with Him berated Him.

The Death of Jesus (*Psalm 22:1–31; Matthew 27:45–56; Luke 23:44–49; John 19:28–30*)

³³From the sixth hour until the ninth hour^g darkness came over all the land. ³⁴At the ninth hour,

Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lima^h sabachthani?” which means, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”ⁱ

³⁵When some of those standing nearby heard this, they said, “Behold, He is calling Elijah.”

³⁶And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine.^j He put it on a reed and held it up for Jesus to drink,^k saying, “Leave Him alone. Let us see if Elijah comes to take Him down.”

³⁷But Jesus let out a loud cry and breathed His last. ³⁸And the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

³⁹When the centurion standing there in front of Jesus saw how He had cried out and^l breathed His last, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!”

⁴⁰And there were also women watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph,^m and Salome. ⁴¹These women had followed Jesus and ministered to Him while He was in Galilee, and there were many other women who had come up to Jerusalem with Him.

The Burial of Jesus

(*Isaiah 53:9–12; Matthew 27:57–61; Luke 23:50–56; John 19:38–42*)

⁴²Now it was already evening. Since it was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath), ⁴³Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent Council member who himself was waiting for the kingdom of God, boldly went to Pilate to ask for the body of Jesus.

⁴⁴Pilate was surprised to hear that Jesus was already dead,ⁿ so he summoned the centurion to ask if this was so. ⁴⁵When Pilate had confirmed it with the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph.

⁴⁶So Joseph bought a linen cloth, took down the body of Jesus, wrapped it in the cloth, and placed it in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb. ⁴⁷Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph^o saw where His body was placed.

^a ²³ CT does not include *to drink*. ^b ²⁴ See Psalm 22:18. ^c ²⁵ That is, nine in the morning ^d ²⁷ Or *insurrectionists* ^e ²⁸ CT does not include verse 28; see Isaiah 53:12 and Luke 22:37. ^f ³² ALT, CT, and TR do not include *Him*. ^g ³³ That is, from noon until three in the afternoon ^h ³⁴ ECM, NA, and SBL *lema*; TR, TH, and WH *lamma* ⁱ ³⁴ Psalm 22:1 ^j ³⁶ Or *a sponge with wine vinegar* ^k ³⁶ See Psalm 69:21. ^l ³⁹ CT does not include *cried out and*. ^m ⁴⁰ *Joses* is a variant of *Joseph*; see Matthew 27:56. ⁿ ⁴⁴ Or *had been dead for some time* ^o ⁴⁷ Or *Joseph*

The Resurrection

(Matthew 28:1–10; Luke 24:1–12; John 20:1–9)

16 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so they could go and anoint the body of Jesus. ²Very early on the first day of the week,^a just after sunrise, they went to the tomb. ³They were asking one another, “Who will roll away the stone from the entrance of the tomb?” ⁴But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away, even though it was extremely large.

⁵When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here! See the place where they put Him. ⁷But go, tell His disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see Him, just as He told you.’”

⁸So the women left the tomb and ran away,^b trembling and bewildered. And in their fear they did not say a word to anyone.^c

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

(John 20:10–18)

⁹Early on the first day of the week, after Jesus had risen,^d He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had driven out seven demons. ¹⁰She went and told those who had been with Him, who were mourning and weeping. ¹¹And when they heard that Jesus was alive and she had seen Him, they did not believe it.

Jesus Appears to Two Disciples

(Luke 24:13–35)

¹²After this, Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them as they walked along in the country.

¹³And they went back and reported it to the rest, but they did not believe them either.

The Great Commission

(Matthew 28:16–20)

¹⁴Later, as they were eating, Jesus appeared to the Eleven and rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.^e

¹⁵And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷And these signs will accompany^f those who believe: In My name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues;^g ¹⁸they will pick up snakes,^h and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not harm them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will be made well.”

The Ascension

(Luke 24:50–53; Acts 1:6–11)

¹⁹After the Lordⁱ had spoken to them, He was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.

²⁰And they went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked through them, confirming His word by the signs that accompanied it. Amen.^j

^a 2 Literally *And very early on the first of the Sabbaths*, ^b 8 TR *ran away quickly* ^c 8 Some manuscripts end the Gospel of Mark after verse 8. Other manuscripts contain only a short ending, a version of the following: ⁹*But they quickly reported all these instructions to Peter’s companions. Afterward, Jesus Himself, through them, sent out from east to west the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation. Amen.* ^d 9 Or *After Jesus had risen early on the first day of the week* ^e 14 WH *risen from the dead* ^f 17 TH and WH *will follow* ^g 17 TH and WH *in tongues* ^h 18 CT includes *with their hands*. ⁱ 19 Most CT *After the Lord Jesus* ^j 20 CT does not include *Amen*.

Luke

Dedication to Theophilus (*Acts 1:1–3*)

1 Many have undertaken to compose an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, **2** just as they were handed down to us by the initial eyewitnesses and servants of the word. **3** Therefore, having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, **4** so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

Gabriel Foretells John's Birth

5 In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah, and whose wife Elizabeth was a descendant of Aaron. **6** Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and decrees of the Lord. **7** But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well along in years.

8 One day while Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, **9** he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. **10** And at the hour of the incense offering, the whole congregation was praying outside.

11 Just then an angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. **12** When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and gripped with fear.

13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. **14** He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice at his birth, **15** for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He shall never take wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb. **16** Many of the sons of Israel he will turn back to the Lord their God.

17 And he will go on before the Lord in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children^a and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

18 "How can I be sure of this?" Zechariah asked the angel. "I am an old man, and my wife is well along in years."

19 "I am Gabriel," replied the angel. "I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. **20** And now you will be silent and unable to speak until the day this comes to pass, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled at their proper time."

21 Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he took so long in the temple. **22** When he came out and was unable to speak to them, they realized he had seen a vision in the temple. He kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak. **23** And when the days of his service were complete, he returned home.

24 After these days, his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. She declared, **25** "The Lord has done this for me. In these days He has shown me favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."

Gabriel Foretells Jesus' Birth

26 In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, **27** to a virgin pledged in marriage to a man named Joseph, who was of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. **28** The angel appeared to her and said, "Greetings,^b you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women!^c"

29 When she saw this,^d Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. **30** So the angel told her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31** Behold, you will conceive and give

^a 17 Malachi 4:5–6 ^b 28 Or *Rejoice* ^c 28 CT does not include *Blessed are you among women!* ^d 29 CT does not include *When she saw this*.

birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, ³³and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever. His kingdom will never end!"

³⁴"How can this be,^a" Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the Holy One to be born^b will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Look, even Elizabeth your relative has conceived a son in her old age, and she who was called barren is in her sixth month. ³⁷For no word from God will ever fail.^c"

³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it happen to me according to your word." Then the angel left her.

Mary Visits Elizabeth

³⁹In those days Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judah, ⁴⁰where she entered the home of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²In a loud voice she exclaimed, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why am I so honored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord's word to her will be fulfilled."

Mary's Song

(1 Samuel 2:1–11)

⁴⁶Then Mary said:

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!

⁴⁸For He has looked with favor on the humble state of His servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed.

⁴⁹For the Mighty One has done great things for me.

Holy is His name.

⁵⁰His mercy extends to those who fear Him, from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has performed mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered those who are proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down rulers from their thrones, but has exalted the humble.

⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things, but has sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped His servant Israel, remembering to be merciful,

⁵⁵as He promised to our fathers, to Abraham and his descendants forever.^d"

⁵⁶Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

The Birth of John the Baptist

⁵⁷When the time came for Elizabeth to have her child, she gave birth to a son. ⁵⁸Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they rejoiced with her.

⁵⁹On the eighth day, when they came to circumcise the child, they were going to name him after his father Zechariah. ⁶⁰But his mother replied, "No! He shall be called John."

⁶¹They said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who bears this name." ⁶²So they made signs to his father to find out what he wanted to name the child.

⁶³Zechariah asked for a tablet and wrote, "His name is^e John." And they were all amazed. ⁶⁴Immediately Zechariah's mouth was opened and his tongue was released, and he began to speak, praising God.

⁶⁵All their neighbors were filled with awe, and people throughout the hill country of Judea were talking about these events. ⁶⁶And all who heard this wondered in their hearts and asked, "What then will this child become?" And^f the Lord's hand was with him.

Zechariah's Song

⁶⁷Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

⁶⁸"Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, because He has visited and redeemed His people.

⁶⁹He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David,

^a ³⁴ Or *How can this happen to me* ^b ³⁵ Scrivener TR includes *of you*. ^c ³⁷ Or *For nothing will be impossible with God*.
^d ⁵⁵ F35 *until eternity* ^e ⁶³ F35 *shall be* ^f ⁶⁶ CT *For*

70as He spoke through His holy prophets,
 those of ages past,
 71salvation from our enemies
 and from the hand of all who hate us,
 72to show mercy to our fathers
 and to remember His holy covenant,
 73the oath He swore to our father Abraham,
 to grant us 74deliverance from the hands
 of our^a enemies,
 that we may serve Him without fear,
 75in holiness and righteousness before Him
 all the days of our lives.^b
 76And you, child, will be called
 a prophet of the Most High;
 for you will go on before the presence of
 the Lord^c
 to prepare the way for Him,
 77to give to His people the knowledge of
 salvation
 through the forgiveness of their sins,
 78because of the tender mercy of our God,
 by which the Dawn^d has visited^e us from
 on high,
 79to shine on those who live in darkness
 and in the shadow of death,
 to guide our feet
 into the path of peace.”

80And the child grew and became strong in spirit;^f and he lived in the wilderness until the time of his public appearance to Israel.

The Birth of Jesus (Matthew 1:18–25)

2 Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that a census should be taken of the whole empire.^g 2This was the first census to take place while^h Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3And everyone went to his own town to register.

4So Joseph also went up from Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, since he was from the house and line of David. 5He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to him in marriageⁱ and was expecting a child.

6While they were there, the time came for her Child to be born. 7And she gave birth to her

firstborn, a Son. She wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in the manger,^j because there was no room for them in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

8And there were shepherds residing in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks by night. 9And behold,^k an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid! For behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: 11Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord! 12And this will be the sign^l to you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.^m”

13And suddenly there appeared with the angel a great multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying:

14“Glory to God in the highest,
 and on earth peace, good will toward
 men!ⁿ”

15When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

16So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the Baby, who was lying in the manger. 17After they had seen the Child, they spread widely^o the message they had received about Him. 18And all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

20The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, which was just as the angel had told them.

Jesus Presented at the Temple

21When the eight days before His^p circumcision had passed, He was named Jesus, the name the angel had given Him before He was conceived.

22And when the time of their purification^q according to the Law of Moses was complete, His parents brought Him to Jerusalem to present

^a 74 CT does not include *our*. ^b 75 CT literal *all our days*. ^c 76 CT *before the Lord* ^d 78 Or *the Morning Light or the Sunrise* ^e 78 CT *will visit* ^f 80 Or *in the Spirit* ^g 1 Or *of the whole land or of the whole world* ^h 2 Or *This was the census before* ⁱ 5 Literally *his betrothed wife*; CT literal *his betrothed* ^j 7 CT *a manger* ^k 9 CT does not include *behold*. ^l 12 WH *a sign* ^m 12 TR *the manger* ⁿ 14 Or *peace, good will among men*; CT *peace to men on whom His favor rests or peace to men with whom He is pleased* ^o 17 CT *they spread* ^p 21 GOC and TR *the Child's* ^q 22 Scrivener TR *her purification*

Him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord: “Every firstborn male shall be consecrated to the Lord”^a), ²⁴and to offer the sacrifice specified in the Law of the Lord: “A pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.”^b

The Prophecy of Simeon

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶The Holy Spirit had revealed to him that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷Led by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts.^c And when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for Him what was customary under the Law, ²⁸Simeon took Him in his arms and blessed God, saying:

²⁹“Sovereign Lord, as You have promised,
You now dismiss Your servant in peace.
³⁰For my eyes have seen Your salvation,
³¹which You have prepared in the sight of
all people,
³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to Your people Israel.”
³³And Joseph^d and the Child’s mother were amazed at what was spoken about Him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to His mother Mary:

“Behold, this Child is appointed to cause
the rise and fall of many in Israel,
and to be a sign that will be spoken
against,
³⁵so that the thoughts of many hearts will be
revealed—
and a sword will pierce your soul as well.”^e

The Prophecy of Anna

³⁶There was also a prophetess named Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher, who was well along in years. She had been married for seven years, ³⁷and then was a widow to the age of eighty-four.^f She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.

³⁸Coming forward at that moment, she gave thanks to the Lord^g and spoke about the Child to all who were waiting for redemption in Jerusalem.^h

The Return to Nazareth (*Matthew 2:19–23*)

³⁹When Jesus’ parents had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

⁴⁰And the Child grew and became strong in spirit.ⁱ He was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon Him.

The Boy Jesus at the Temple

⁴¹Every year His parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem^j according to the custom of the Feast.

⁴³When those days were over and they were returning home, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but Joseph and His mother^k were unaware He had stayed. ⁴⁴Assuming He was in their company, they traveled on for a day before they began to look for Him among their relatives and friends.

⁴⁵When they could not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for Him. ⁴⁶Finally, after three days they found Him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard Him were astounded at His understanding and His answers.

⁴⁸When His parents saw Him, they were astonished. “Child, why have You done this to us?” His mother asked. “Your father and I have been anxiously searching for You.”

⁴⁹“Why were you looking for Me?” He asked. “Did you not know that I had to be in My Father’s house?”^l ⁵⁰But they did not understand the statement He was making to them.

⁵¹Then He went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But His mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

The Mission of John the Baptist (*Isa. 40:1–5; Matthew 3:1–12; Mark 1:1–8; John 1:19–28*)

3 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and

^a 23 Exodus 13:2 ^b 24 Leviticus 12:8 ^c 27 Literally *the temple*; also in verse 46 ^d 33 CT *the father* ^e 35 WH does not include *as well*. ^f 37 Or *was a widow for eighty-four years* ^g 38 CT *to God* ^h 38 CT *for the redemption of Jerusalem* ⁱ 40 Or *in the Spirit*; CT does not include *in spirit*. ^j 42 CT does not include *to Jerusalem*. ^k 43 CT *but His parents* ^l 49 Or *I had to be about My Father’s business*

Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas,^a the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

³He went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for Him.

⁵Every valley shall be filled in,
and every mountain and hill made low.
The crooked ways shall be made straight,
and the rough ways smooth.

⁶And all humanity will see God’s salvation.’”^b

⁷Then John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Produce fruit, then, in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹The axe lies ready at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰The crowds asked him, “What then should we do?”

¹¹John replied, “Whoever has two tunics should share with him who has none, and whoever has food should do the same.”

¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized.^c “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”

¹³“Collect no more than you are authorized,” he answered.

¹⁴Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”

“Do not take money by force or false accusation,^d” he said. “Be content with your wages.”

¹⁵The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John could be the Christ. ¹⁶John answered all of them: “I baptize you with water;^e but One more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not

worthy to untie.^f He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.^g ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will clear^h His threshing floor and gather the wheat into His barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸With these and many other exhortations, John proclaimed the good news to the people. ¹⁹But when he rebuked Herod the tetrarch regarding his brother’sⁱ wife Herodias and all the evils he had done, ²⁰Herod added this to them all: He locked John up in prison.

The Baptism of Jesus (*Matthew 3:13–17; Mark 1:9–11; John 1:29–34*)

²¹When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as He was praying, heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended on Him in a bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, saying,^j “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.”

The Genealogy of Jesus
(*Ruth 4:18–22; Matthew 1:1–17*)

²³Jesus Himself was about thirty years old when He began His ministry.

He was regarded as the son of Joseph,
the son of Heli,^k

²⁴the son of Matthat,^l the son of Levi, the son of Melchi,

the son of Janna,^m the son of Joseph,

²⁵the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum,

the son of Esli,ⁿ the son of Naggai,

²⁶the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semei,^o

the son of Josech, the son of Judah,^p

²⁷the son of Joanan,^q the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel,

the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri,

²⁸the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam,

the son of Elmodam,^r the son of Er,

²⁹the son of Jose,^s the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim,

the son of Matthat, the son of Levi,

³⁰the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph,

the son of Jonan,^t the son of Eliakim,

^a 2 TR *being the high priests Annas and Caiaphas* ^b 6 Literally *And all flesh will see God’s salvation*; Isaiah 40:3–5 (see also LXX) ^c 12 F35 *baptized by him* ^d 14 GOC *false accusation or force* ^e 16 Or *in water* ^f 16 Cited in Acts 13:25 ^g 16 Or *in the Holy Spirit and in fire* ^h 17 CT *hand to clear* ⁱ 19 TR *his brother Philip’s* ^j 22 CT *came from heaven*: ^k 23 NA, F35, SBL, Stephanus TR, TH *Eli* ^l 24 F35 and GOC *Matthan*; NA and SBL *Matthat* ^m 24 CT *Jannai*; GOC *Joanna* ⁿ 25 GOC *Esli* ^o 26 NA and SBL *Semein*; TH and WH *Semein*; ALT and HF *Semei*; GOC *Semeu* ^p 26 CT *Joda* ^q 27 ALT and TR *Joanna*; F35 and GOC *Joannan* ^r 28 CT *Elmadam* ^s 29 CT *Joshua* ^t 30 CT and F35 *Jonam*; GOC *Jona*

³¹the son of Melea, the son of Mainan,^a the son of Mattatha,
the son of Nathan, the son of David,
³²the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz,
the son of Salmon,^b the son of Nahshon,
³³the son of Amminadab, the son of Aram,^c
the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah,
³⁴the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham,
the son of Terah, the son of Nahor,
³⁵the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg,
the son of Eber, the son of Shelah,
³⁶the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem,
the son of Noah, the son of Lamech,
³⁷the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared,
the son of Mahalalel, the son of Cainan,
³⁸the son of Enosh,^d the son of Seth, the son of Adam,
the son of God.

The Temptation of Jesus

(Matthew 4:1–11; Mark 1:12–13)

4 Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,^e ²where for forty days He was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and afterward,^f when they had ended, He was hungry.

³The devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.”

⁴But Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word of God.’^g”

⁵Then the devil led Him up to a high mountain^h and showed Him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶“I will give You authority over all these kingdoms and all their glory,” he said. “For it has been relinquished to me, and I can give it to anyone I wish. ⁷So if You worship me, it will all be Yours.”

⁸But Jesus answered, “Get behind Me, Satan!ⁱ It is written:^j ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.’^k”

⁹Then the devil led Him to Jerusalem and set Him on the pinnacle of the temple. “If You are the Son of God,” he said, “throw Yourself down from here. ¹⁰For it is written:

‘He will command His angels concerning You to guard You carefully,
¹¹and they will lift You up in their hands, so that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.’^l”

¹²But Jesus answered, “It also says, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’^m”

¹³When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time.

Jesus Begins His Ministry (Isaiah 9:1–7; Matthew 4:12–17; Mark 1:14–15)

¹⁴Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and the news about Him spread throughout the surrounding region. ¹⁵He taught in their synagogues and was glorified by everyone.

The Rejection at Nazareth (Isaiah 61:1–11; Matthew 13:53–58; Mark 6:1–6)

¹⁶Then Jesus came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. As was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath. And when He stood up to read, ¹⁷the scroll of Isaiah the prophetⁿ was handed to Him. Unrolling it, He found the place where it was written:

¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is on Me,
because He has anointed Me
to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,^o
to proclaim liberty to the captives and
recovery of sight to the blind,
to release the oppressed,
¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”^p

²⁰Then He rolled up the scroll, returned it to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fixed on Him, ²¹and He began by saying, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

^a 31 CT *Menna*; Scrivener TR *Menam* ^b 32 See Ruth 4:20–21 and Matthew 1:4–5; CT *Sala* ^c 33 CT *Admin*; others *Ram*; see Ruth 4:19 and Matthew 1:3–4; most CT also include *the son of Arni*; GOC, ALT, HF, and F35 include *the son of Joram*.
^d 38 Greek *Enōs*, a variant spelling of Enosh; see Genesis 5:6. ^e 1 Or *in the wilderness* ^f 2 CT does not include *afterward*.
^g 4 Deuteronomy 8:3; CT does not include *but on every word of God*; GOC *but on every word that comes from the mouth of God*. ^h 5 CT *led Him up to a high place* ⁱ 8 CT does not include *Get behind Me, Satan!* ^j 8 TR and GOC *For it is written* ^k 8 Deuteronomy 6:13 ^l 11 Psalm 91:11–12 ^m 12 Deuteronomy 6:16 ⁿ 17 CT *the prophet Isaiah* ^o 18 CT does not include *to heal the brokenhearted*. ^p 19 Or *to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord*; Isaiah 61:1–2 (see also LXX)

²²All spoke well of Him and marveled at the gracious words that came from His lips. “Isn’t this the son of Joseph?” they asked.

²³Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to Me: ‘Physician, heal yourself! Do here in Your hometown what we have heard that You did in Capernaum.’”

²⁴Then He added, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵But I tell you truthfully that there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and great famine swept over all the land. ²⁶Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to the widow of Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷And there were many lepers^a in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet. Yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian.”

²⁸On hearing this, all the people in the synagogue were enraged. ²⁹They got up, drove Him out of the town, and led Him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw Him over the cliff. ³⁰But Jesus passed through the crowd and went on His way.

Jesus Expels an Unclean Spirit (Mk. 1:21–28)

³¹Then He went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath He began to teach the people. ³²They were astonished at His teaching, because His message had authority.

³³In the synagogue there was a man possessed by the spirit of an unclean demon. He cried out in a loud voice, ³⁴“Ha! What do You want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!”

³⁵But Jesus rebuked the demon. “Be silent!” He said. “Come out of him!” At this, the demon threw the man down before them all^b and came out without harming him.

³⁶All the people were overcome with amazement and asked one another, “What is this message? With authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!” ³⁷And the news about Jesus spread throughout the surrounding region.

Jesus Heals at Peter’s House

(Matthew 8:14–17; Mark 1:29–34)

³⁸After Jesus had left the synagogue, He went to the home of Simon, whose mother-in-law was

suffering from a high fever. So they appealed to Jesus on her behalf,³⁹ and He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. And she got up at once and began to serve them.

⁴⁰At sunset, all who were ill with various diseases were brought to Jesus, and laying His hands on each one, He healed them. ⁴¹Demons also came out of many people, crying out,^c “You are the Christ,^d the Son of God!” But He rebuked the demons and would not allow them to speak, because they knew He was the Christ.

Jesus Preaches in Judea (Mark 1:35–39)

⁴²At daybreak, Jesus went out to a solitary place, and the crowds were looking for Him. They came to Him and tried to keep Him from leaving. ⁴³But Jesus told them, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well, because that is why I was sent.”

⁴⁴And He continued to preach in the synagogues of Galilee.^e

The First Disciples

(Matthew 4:18–22; Mark 1:16–20; John 1:35–42)

5 On one occasion, while Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret^f with the crowd pressing in on Him to hear the word of God, ²He saw two boats at the edge of the lake. The fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. ³Jesus got into the boat belonging to Simon and asked him to put out a little from shore. And sitting down, He taught the people from the boat.

⁴When Jesus had finished speaking, He said to Simon, “Put out into deep water and let down your nets for a catch.”

⁵“Master,” Simon replied, “we have worked hard all night without catching anything. But because You say so, I will let down the net.^g” ⁶When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their net^h began to tear. ⁷So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

⁸When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees. “Go away from me, Lord,” he said, “for I am a sinful man.” ⁹For he and his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰and so were his partners James and John, the sons of Zebedee.

^a ²⁷ A leper was one afflicted with a skin disease. See Leviticus 13. ^b ³⁵ Or in their midst ^c ⁴¹ CT shouting ^d ⁴¹ CT does not include the Christ. ^e ⁴⁴ See Mark 1:39; CT of Judea ^f ¹ That is, the Sea of Galilee ^g ⁵ CT the nets ^h ⁶ CT their nets

"Do not be afraid," Jesus said to Simon. "From now on you will catch men." ¹¹And when they had brought their boats ashore, they left everything and followed Him.

The Leper's Prayer (*Leviticus 14:1-32; Matthew 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-45*)

¹²While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy.^a When he saw Jesus, he fell facedown and begged Him, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."

¹³Jesus reached out His hand and touched the man. "I am willing," He said. "Be clean!" And immediately the leprosy left him.

¹⁴"Do not tell anyone," Jesus instructed him. "But go, show yourself to the priest and present the offering Moses prescribed for your cleansing, as a testimony to them."^b

¹⁵But the news about Jesus spread all the more, and great crowds came to hear Him and to be healed by Him^c of their sicknesses. ¹⁶Yet He frequently withdrew to the wilderness to pray.

Jesus Heals a Paralytic (*Mt. 9:1-8; Mk. 2:1-12*)

¹⁷One day Jesus was teaching, and the Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. People had come from Jerusalem and from every village of Galilee and Judea, and the power of the Lord was present for Him to heal the sick.

¹⁸Just then some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. They tried to bring him inside to set him before Jesus, ¹⁹but they could not find a way through the crowd. So they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

²⁰When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the man,^d "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

²¹But the scribes and Pharisees began thinking to themselves, "Who is this man who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

²²Knowing what they were thinking, Jesus replied, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? ²³Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? ²⁴But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on the earth to forgive sins ..." He said

to the paralytic, "I tell you, get up, pick up your mat, and go home."

²⁵And immediately the man stood up before them, took what he had been lying on, and went home glorifying God. ²⁶Everyone was taken with amazement and glorified God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."

Jesus Calls Levi (*Mt. 9:9-13; Mk. 2:13-17*)

²⁷After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at the tax booth. "Follow Me," He told him, ²⁸and Levi got up, left everything, and followed Him.

²⁹Then Levi hosted a great banquet for Jesus at his house. A large crowd of tax collectors was there, along with others who were eating with them. ³⁰But their scribes and the Pharisees^e complained to Jesus' disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

³¹Jesus answered, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ³²I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

Questions about Fasting

(*Matthew 9:14-15; Mark 2:18-20*)

³³Then they said to Him, "Why do ^f John's disciples and those of the Pharisees frequently fast and pray, but Yours keep on eating and drinking?"

³⁴Jesus replied, "Can you make the guests of the bridegroom fast while He is with them? ³⁵But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast."

The Patches and the Wineskins

(*Matthew 9:16-17; Mark 2:21-22*)

³⁶He also told them a parable: "No one sews a piece of cloth from a new garment^g onto an old one. If he does, he will tear the new garment as well, and the patch from the new will not match the old.

³⁷And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the wineskins,^h the wine will spill, and the wineskins will be ruined. ³⁸Instead, new wine is poured into new wineskins, and both are preserved.ⁱ ³⁹And no one after drinking old wine immediately^j wants new, for he says, 'The old is better.'"

^a ¹² Leprosy was a term used for various skin diseases. See Leviticus 13. ^b ¹⁴ See Leviticus 14:1-32. ^c ¹⁵ CT does not include *by Him*. ^d ²⁰ Literally *He said to him*; CT *He said*. ^e ³⁰ CT *the Pharisees and their scribes*. ^f ³³ CT does not include *Why do*. ^g ³⁶ CT *No one tears a piece of cloth from a new garment and sews it*. ^h ³⁷ CT *the skins*. ⁱ ³⁸ See Matthew 9:17; CT does not include *and both are preserved*. ^j ³⁹ CT does not include *immediately*.

The Lord of the Sabbath (1 Samuel 21:1–7; Matthew 12:1–8; Mark 2:23–28)

6 On the second chief Sabbath,^a Jesus was passing through the grainfields, and His disciples began to pick the heads of grain, rub them in their hands, and eat them.² But some of the Pharisees asked, “Why are you doing what is unlawful to do^b on the Sabbath?”

³ Jesus replied, “Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry?

⁴ He entered the house of God, took the consecrated bread^c and also^d gave it to his companions, and ate what is lawful only for the priests to eat.”

⁵ Then Jesus declared, “The Son of Man is Lord even^e of the Sabbath.”

Jesus Heals on the Sabbath (Matthew 12:9–14; Mark 3:1–6)

⁶ On another Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was withered.⁷ Looking for an accusation against^f Jesus, the scribes and Pharisees were watching Him closely to see if He would heal on the Sabbath.

⁸ But Jesus knew their thoughts and said to the man with the withered hand, “Get up and stand among us.” So he got up and stood there.

⁹ Then Jesus said to them, “I ask you one thing: Is it lawful^g on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?” ¹⁰ And after looking around at all of them, He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He did so, and it was restored as sound as the other.^h

¹¹ But the scribes and Pharisees were filled with rage and began to discuss with one another what they might do to Jesus.

The Twelve Apostles (Matthew 10:1–4; Mark 3:13–19)

¹² In those days Jesus went out to the mountain to pray, and He spent the night in prayer to God. ¹³ When daylight came, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them, whom He also designated as apostles: ¹⁴ Simon, whom He named Peter, and his brother Andrew; James and John; Philip and Bartholomew; ¹⁵ Matthew and Thomas; James son of Alphaeus and Simon called

the Zealot; ¹⁶ Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

Jesus Heals the Multitudes (Matthew 4:23–25; Mark 3:7–12)

¹⁷ Then Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place. A crowdⁱ of His disciples was there, along with a great number of people from all over Judea, Jerusalem, and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear Him and to be healed of their diseases, along with those troubled by unclean spirits. And they were healed.^j ¹⁹ The entire crowd was trying to touch Him, because power was coming from Him and healing them all.

The Beatitudes (Psalm 1:1–6; Matthew 5:3–12)

²⁰ Looking up at His disciples, Jesus said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ Blessed are you who hunger now,
for you will be filled.

Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil because of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For their fathers treated the prophets in the same way.

Woes to the Satisfied (Amos 6:1–7)

²⁴ But woe to you who are rich,
for you have already received your
comfort.

²⁵ Woe to you who are well fed,^k
for you will hunger.

Woe to you who laugh now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ Woe to you when men^l speak well of you,
for their fathers treated the false prophets
in the same way.

Love Your Enemies (Matthew 5:38–48)

²⁷ But to those of you who will listen, I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. And if someone takes your cloak, do not withhold your tunic as

^a 1 CT *On a Sabbath or One Sabbath* ^b 2 CT does not include *to do*. ^c 4 Or *the Bread of the Presence* ^d 4 CT does not include *also*. ^e 5 CT does not include *even*. ^f 7 CT *for a reason to accuse* ^g 9 CT *I ask you, which is lawful* ^h 10 CT does not include *as sound as the other*. ⁱ 17 CT *A large crowd* ^j 18 CT *of their diseases, and those troubled by unclean spirits were healed* ^k 25 CT includes *now*. ^l 26 CT, TR, ALT, F35, and GOC *all men*

well. ³⁰Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what is yours, do not demand it back. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³²If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For^a even sinners do the same. ³⁴And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? For^b even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full.

³⁵But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them, expecting nothing in return. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶Therefore^c be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Judging Others (Matt. 7:1–6; Rom. 14:1–12)

³⁷Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be poured into your lap. For with the same^d measure you use, it will be measured back to you.”

³⁹Jesus also told them a parable: “Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? ⁴⁰A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.

⁴¹Why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye but fail to notice the beam in your own eye? ⁴²Or^e how can you say, ‘Brother,^f let me take the speck out of your eye,’ while you yourself fail to see the beam in your own eye? You hypocrite! First take the beam out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

A Tree and Its Fruit

(Matthew 7:15–23; 12:33–37)

⁴³No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. ⁴⁴For each tree is known by its own fruit. Indeed, figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor grapes from brambles. ⁴⁵The good man brings good things out of the good treasure of his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil treasure of his heart. For out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks.

^a ³³ CT does not include *For*. ^b ³⁴ CT does not include *For*. ^c ³⁶ CT does not include *Therefore*. ^d ³⁸ CT does not include *same*. ^e ⁴² CT does not include *Or*. ^f ⁴² Lit. *How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother’* ^g ⁴⁸ CT because it was well built; see Matthew 7:25. ^h ⁴⁹ Lit. *a house*; F35 *his house* ⁱ ¹⁰ CT does not include *ailing*. ^j ¹¹ CT does not include *Many of*.

The House on the Rock (Matthew 7:24–27)

⁴⁶Why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ but do not do what I say? ⁴⁷I will show you what he is like who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them: ⁴⁸He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid his foundation on the rock. When the flood came, the torrent crashed against that house but could not shake it, because its foundation was on the rock.^g

⁴⁹But the one who hears My words and does not act on them is like a man who built his house^h on ground without a foundation. The torrent crashed against that house, and immediately it fell—and great was its destruction!”

The Faith of the Centurion

(Matthew 8:5–13; John 4:43–54)

7 When Jesus had concluded His discourse in the hearing of the people, He went to Capernaum. ²There a highly valued servant of a centurion was sick and about to die. ³When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to ask Him to come and heal his servant. ⁴They came to Jesus and pleaded with Him earnestly, “This man is worthy to have You grant this, ⁵for he loves our nation and has built our synagogue.”

⁶So Jesus went with them. But when He was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends with the message: “Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy to have You come under my roof. ⁷That is why I did not consider myself worthy to come to You. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁸For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell one to go, and he goes, and another to come, and he comes. I tell my servant to do something, and he does it.”

⁹When Jesus heard this, He marveled at the centurion. Turning to the crowd following Him, He said, “I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such great faith.” ¹⁰And when the messengers returned to the house, they found the ailingⁱ servant in good health.

Jesus Raises a Widow’s Son

¹¹Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain. Many of^j His disciples went with Him, accompanied by a large crowd. ¹²As He approached the town gate, He saw a dead man

being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her.

¹³When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said, “Do not weep.” ¹⁴Then He went up and touched the coffin,^a and those carrying it stood still. “Young man,” He said, “I tell you, get up!” ¹⁵And the dead man sat up and began to speak! Then Jesus gave him back to his mother.

¹⁶A sense of awe swept over all of them, and they glorified God. “A great prophet has appeared among us!” they said. “God has visited His people!” ¹⁷And the news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding region.

John's Inquiry (*Matthew 11:1–6*)

¹⁸Then John's disciples informed him about all these things. ¹⁹So John called two of his disciples and sent them to ask Jesus,^b “Are You the One who was to come, or should we look for someone else?”

²⁰When the men came to Jesus, they said, “John the Baptist sent us to ask, ‘Are You the One who was to come, or should we look for someone else?’”

²¹Now^c at that very hour Jesus healed many people of their diseases, afflictions, and evil spirits, and He gave sight to many who were blind. ²²So Jesus replied,^d “Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, the lepers^e are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. ²³Blessed is the one who does not fall away on account of Me.^f”

Jesus Testifies about John

(*Malachi 3:1–5; Matthew 11:7–19*)

²⁴After John's messengers^g had left, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the wind? ²⁵Otherwise, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? Look, those who wear elegant clothing and live in luxury are found in palaces.

²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is the one about whom it is written:

‘Behold, I will send My messenger ahead of You,
who will prepare Your way before You.’^h

²⁸For I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater prophet than John the Baptist,ⁱ yet even the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

²⁹All the people who heard this, even the tax collectors, acknowledged God's justice. For they had received the baptism of John. ³⁰But the Pharisees and experts in the law rejected God's purpose for themselves, because they had not been baptized by John.

³¹“To what,^j then, can I compare the men of this generation? What are they like? ³²They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling out to one another:

‘We played the flute for you,
and you did not dance;
we sang a dirge for you,^k
and you did not weep.’

³³For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon!’

³⁴The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look at this glutton and drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ ³⁵But wisdom is vindicated by all her children.”

A Sinful Woman Anoints Jesus

(*Matthew 26:6–13; Mark 14:3–9; John 12:1–8*)

³⁶Then one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to eat with him, and He entered the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. ³⁷When a sinful woman from that town learned that Jesus was dining there, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume. ³⁸As she stood behind Him at His feet weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears and wipe them with her hair. Then she kissed His feet and anointed them with the perfume.

³⁹When the Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet,^l He would know who this is and what kind of woman is touching Him—for she is a sinner!”

⁴⁰But Jesus answered him, “Simon, I have something to tell you.”

^a ¹⁴ Literally *bier*, probably a wooden plank or open coffin ^b ¹⁹ CT the Lord ^c ²¹ CT does not include *Now*. ^d ²² CT So He replied ^e ²² A leper was one afflicted with a skin disease. See Leviticus 13. ^f ²³ Or who is not offended by Me ^g ²⁴ GOC disciples ^h ²⁷ Mal. 3:1 ⁱ ²⁸ CT I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John ^j ³¹ TR And the Lord said, “To what ^k ³² CT does not include for you. ^l ³⁹ WH the prophet

"Tell me, Teacher," he said.

41"Two men were debtors to a certain money-lender. One owed him five hundred denarii,^a and the other fifty. **42**When they were unable to repay him, he forgave both of them. Tell Me,^b which one, then, will love him more?"

43"I suppose the one who was forgiven more," Simon replied.

"You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

44And turning toward the woman, He said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? When I entered your house, you did not give Me water for My feet, but she wet My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head.^c **45**You did not greet Me with a kiss, but she has not stopped kissing My feet since I arrived.^d **46**You did not anoint My head with oil, but she has anointed My feet with perfume. **47**Therefore I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven, for she has loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little."

48Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

49But those at the table began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

50And Jesus told the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Women Minister to Jesus

8 Soon afterward, Jesus traveled from one town and village to another, preaching and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with Him, ²as well as some women who had been healed of evil spirits^e and infirmities: Mary called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, ³Joanna the wife of Herod's household manager Chuza, Susanna, and many others. These women were ministering to them^f out of their own means.

The Parable of the Sower

(Matthew 13:1–23; Mark 4:1–20)

4While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, He told them this parable: **5**"A farmer went out to sow his seed. And as he was sowing, some seed fell along the path, where it was trampled, and the birds of the air devoured it.

6Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the seedlings withered because they had no moisture.

7Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the seedlings.

8Still other seed fell on^g good soil, where it sprang up and produced a crop—a hundredfold."

As Jesus said this, He called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

9Then His disciples asked Him what this parable meant.

10He replied, "The knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that,

‘though seeing, they may not see;
though hearing, they may not
understand.’^h

11Now this is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. **12**The seedsⁱ along the path are those who hear, but the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.

13The seeds on rocky ground are those who hear the word and receive it with joy, but they have no root. They believe for a season, but in the time of testing, they fall away.

14The seeds that fell among the thorns are those who hear, but as they go on their way, they are choked by the worries, riches, and pleasures of this life, and their fruit does not mature.

15But the seeds on good soil are those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, cling to it, and by persevering produce a crop.

The Lesson of the Lamp (Mark 4:21–25)

16No one^j lights a lamp and covers it with a jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, he sets it on a stand, so those who enter can see the light. **17**For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be made known and brought to light.

18Pay attention, therefore, to how you listen. Whoever has will be given more, but whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has will be taken away from him."

^a **41** A denarius was customarily a day's wage for a laborer; see Matthew 20:2. ^b **42** CT does not include *Tell Me*.

^c **44** CT with *her hair* ^d **45** GOC *she arrived* ^e **2** GOC *healed of diseases, afflictions, evil spirits*, ^f **3** F35, TR, and GOC *to Him* ^g **8** Literally *into*; TR literal *on* ^h **10** Isaiah 6:9 (see also LXX) ⁱ **12** Literally *The ones*; similarly in verses 13, 14, and 15 ^j **16** F35 *As He said this He called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear. No one*

Jesus' Mother and Brothers*(Matthew 12:46–50; Mark 3:31–35)*

19 Then Jesus' mother and brothers came to see Him, but they were unable to reach Him because of the crowd. 20 He was told, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to see You."

21 But He replied, "My mother and brothers are those who hear the word of God and carry it out."

Jesus Calms the Storm *(Psalm 107:1–43;**Matthew 8:23–27; Mark 4:35–41)*

22 One day Jesus said to His disciples, "Let us cross to the other side of the lake." So He got into a boat with them and set out.

23 As they sailed, He fell asleep, and a windstorm came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger.

24 The disciples went and woke Him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!"

Then Jesus arose^a and rebuked the wind and the raging waters, and they subsided, and all was calm. 25 "Where is your faith?" He asked.

Frightened and amazed, they asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey Him!"

The Demons and the Pigs*(Matthew 8:28–34; Mark 5:1–20)*

26 Then they sailed^b to the region of the Gadarenes,^c across the lake from Galilee. 27 When Jesus stepped ashore, He was met by a man from the town who had been demon-possessed for a long time. This man had not worn^d clothing or lived in a house, but he stayed in the tombs.

28 When the man saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before Him, shouting in a loud voice, "What do You want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You not to torture me!" 29 For Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was bound with chains and shackles, he had broken the chains and been driven by the demon into solitary places.

30 "What is your name?" Jesus asked.

"Legion," he replied, because many demons had gone into him. 31 And he kept begging^e Jesus not to order them to go into the Abyss.

32 There on the hillside a large herd of pigs was feeding. So the demons begged Jesus to let them enter the pigs, and He gave them permission.

33 Then the demons came out of the man and went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

34 When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off^f and reported this in the town and countryside. 35 So the people went out to see what had happened. They came to Jesus and found the man whom the demons had left, sitting at Jesus' feet, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. 36 Meanwhile, those who had seen it reported how the demon-possessed man had been healed.

37 Then all the people of the region of the Gadarenes asked Jesus to depart from them, because great fear had taken hold of them. So He got into the boat and started back.

38 The man whom the demons had left begged to go with Jesus. But Jesus^g sent him away, saying, 39 "Return home and describe how much God has done for you." So the man went away and proclaimed all over the town how much Jesus had done for him.

The Healing Touch of Jesus*(Matthew 9:18–26; Mark 5:21–43)*

40 When Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed Him, for they had all been waiting for Him. 41 Just then a synagogue leader named Jairus came and fell at Jesus' feet. He begged Him to come to his house, 42 because his only daughter, who was about twelve, was dying.

As Jesus went with him, the crowds pressed around Him, 43 including a woman who had suffered from bleeding for twelve years. She had spent all her money on physicians,^h but no one was able to heal her. 44 She came up behind Jesus and touched the fringe of His cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped.

45 "Who touched Me?" Jesus asked.

But they all denied it. "Master," said Peter and those with him,ⁱ "the people are crowding and pressing against You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'"^j

^a 24 CT got up ^b 26 GOC He sailed ^c 26 CT Gerasenes; Tischendorf Gergesenes; also in verse 37 ^d 27 CT met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn ^e 31 CT and Scrivener TR they kept begging ^f 34 TR they ran off, went away, ^g 38 CT But He ^h 43 NE and WH do not include She had spent all her money on physicians. ⁱ 45 CT does not include and those with him. ^j 45 CT does not include and You say, 'Who touched Me?'

46 But Jesus declared, "Someone touched Me, for I know that power has gone out from Me."

47 Then the woman, seeing that she could not escape notice, came trembling and fell down before Him. In the presence of all the people, she explained why she had touched Him and how she had immediately been healed.

48 "Take courage,^a daughter," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you. Go in peace."

49 While He was still speaking, someone arrived from the house of the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," he told Jairus. "Do not bother the Teacher.^b"

50 But Jesus overheard them and said to Jairus, "Do not be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed."

51 When He entered the house, He did not allow anyone to go in^c except Peter, John, James,^d and the child's father and mother. **52** Meanwhile, everyone was weeping and mourning for her. But Jesus said, "Stop weeping; she is not dead but asleep." **53** And they laughed at Him, knowing that she was dead.

54 But Jesus sent them all outside,^e took her by the hand, and called out, "Child, get up!" **55** Her spirit returned, and at once she got up. And He directed that she be given something to eat. **56** Her parents were astounded, but Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened.

The Ministry of the Twelve (Matthew 10:5-15; Mark 6:7-13)

9 Then Jesus called the Twelve^f together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and power to cure diseases. **2** And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. **3** "Take nothing for the journey," He told them, "no staffs,^g no bag, no bread, no money,^h no secondⁱ tunic. **4** Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that area. **5** If anyone does not welcome you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that town, as a testimony against them."

6 So they set out and went from village to village, preaching the gospel and healing people everywhere.

Herod Tries to See Jesus (Matthew 14:1-12; Mark 6:14-29)

7 When Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was being done by Him,^j he was perplexed. For some were saying that John had risen from the dead, **8** others that Elijah had appeared, and still others that a prophet of old had arisen.

9 "I beheaded John," Herod said, "but who is this man I hear such things about?" And he kept trying to see Jesus.

The Feeding of the Five Thousand (Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; John 6:1-15)

10 Then the apostles returned and reported to Jesus all that they had done. Taking them away privately, He withdrew to a deserted place of the city^k called Bethsaida. **11** But the crowds found out and followed Him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and He healed those who needed healing.

12 As the day neared its end, the Twelve came to Jesus and said, "Dismiss the crowd so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside for lodging and provisions. For we are in a desolate place here."

13 But Jesus told them, "You give them something to eat."

"We have only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered, "unless we go and buy food for all these people." **14** (There were about five thousand men.)

He told His disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of^l fifty each." **15** They did so, and everyone was seated.

16 Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, Jesus spoke a blessing and broke them. Then He gave them to the disciples to set before the people.

17 They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

Peter's Confession of Christ (Matt. 16:13-20; Mark 8:27-30; John 6:67-71)

18 One day as Jesus was praying in private and the disciples were with Him, He questioned them: "Who do the crowds say I am?"

^a **48** CT does not include *Take courage*. ^b **49** CT includes *anymore*. ^c **51** CT includes *with Him*. ^d **51** TR *Peter, James, John* ^e **54** CT does not include *sent them all outside*. ^f **1** TR *His twelve disciples* ^g **3** CT *staff* ^h **3** Or *silver coins* ⁱ **3** TH and WH *extra* ^j **7** CT does not include *by Him*. ^k **10** CT *to a town* ^l **14** CT *of about*

¹⁹They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that a prophet of old has arisen.”

²⁰“But what about you?” Jesus asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Peter answered, “The Christ of God.”

Christ's Passion Foretold

(Matthew 16:21–23; Mark 8:31–33)

²¹Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. ²²“The Son of Man must suffer many things,” He said. “He must be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and He must be killed and on the third day rise again.”^a

Take Up Your Cross

(Matthew 16:24–28; Mark 8:34–38)

²³Then Jesus said to all of them, “If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross^b and follow Me. ²⁴For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.

²⁵What does it profit a man to gain the whole world, yet lose or forfeit his very self? ²⁶If anyone is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. ²⁷But I tell you truly, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God.”

The Transfiguration

(Matt. 17:1–13; Mark 9:1–13; 2 Peter 1:16–21)

²⁸About eight days after Jesus had said these things, He took with Him Peter, John, and James, and went up on a mountain to pray. ²⁹And as He was praying, the appearance of His face changed, and His clothes became radiantly white. ³⁰Suddenly two men, Moses and Elijah, began talking with Jesus. ³¹They appeared in glory and spoke about His departure, which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

³²Meanwhile Peter and his companions were overcome by sleep, but when they awoke, they saw Jesus' glory and the two men standing with Him. ³³As Moses and Elijah were leaving, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters^c—one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” (He did not know what he was saying.)

³⁴While Peter was speaking, a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. ³⁵And a voice came from the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son.^d Listen to Him!”

³⁶After the voice had spoken, only Jesus was present with them. The disciples kept this to themselves, and in those days they did not tell anyone what they had seen.

The Boy with an Evil Spirit

(Matthew 17:14–18; Mark 9:14–29)

³⁷The next day, when they came down from the mountain, Jesus was met by a large crowd. ³⁸Suddenly a man in the crowd cried out, “Teacher, I beg You to look at my son, for he is my only child. ³⁹A spirit keeps seizing him, and he screams abruptly. It throws him into convulsions so that he foams at the mouth. It keeps mauling him and rarely departs from him. ⁴⁰I begged Your disciples to drive it out, but they were unable.”

⁴¹“O unbelieving and perverse generation!” Jesus replied. “How long must I remain with you and put up with you? Bring your son here.”

⁴²Even while the boy was approaching, the demon slammed him to the ground in a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father.

The Second Prediction of the Passion

(Matthew 17:22–23; Mark 9:30–32)

⁴³And they were all astonished at the greatness of God.

While everyone was marveling at all that Jesus had done,^e He said to His disciples, ⁴⁴“Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men.”

⁴⁵But they did not understand this statement. It was veiled from them so that they could not comprehend it, and they were afraid to ask Him about it.

The Greatest in the Kingdom

(Matthew 18:1–5; Mark 9:33–41)

⁴⁶Then an argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest. ⁴⁷But Jesus, seeing^f the thoughts of their hearts, had a little child stand beside Him. ⁴⁸And He said to them, “Whoever welcomes this little child in My

^a 22 CT, GOC, ALT, HF, F35, and TR *be raised (to life)* ^b 23 CT, GOC, and TR include *daily*. ^c 33 Or *three tabernacles*
^d 35 CT *This is My Son, whom I have chosen*; see Matthew 17:5. ^e 43 CT *was doing* ^f 47 CT *knowing*

name welcomes Me, and whoever welcomes Me welcomes the One who sent Me. For whoever is the least among all of you, he will be^a the greatest.”

49 “Master,” said John, “we saw someone driving out demons in Your name, and we tried to stop him, because he does not accompany us.”

50 “Do not stop him,” Jesus replied, “for whoever is not against us is for us.”^b

The Samaritans Reject Jesus

51 As the day of His ascension approached, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. 52 He sent messengers on ahead, who went into a village of the Samaritans to make arrangements for Him. 53 But the people there refused to welcome Him, because He was heading for Jerusalem.

54 When His disciples^c James and John saw this, they asked, “Lord, do You want us to call down fire from heaven to consume them, just as Elijah did?”^d

55 But Jesus turned and rebuked them and said, “You do not know what kind of spirit you are.”^e

56 For the Son of Man did not come to destroy the lives of men, but to save them.”^f And He and His disciples went on to another village.

The Cost of Discipleship (Matthew 8:18–22; Luke 14:25–33; John 6:59–66)

57 As they were walking along the road, someone said to Jesus, “Lord,^g I will follow You wherever You go.”

58 Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head.”

59 Then He said to another man, “Follow Me.”

The man replied, “Lord,^h first let me go and bury my father.”

60 But Jesus told him, “Let the dead bury their own dead. You, however, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”

61 Still another said, “I will follow You, Lord; but first let me bid farewell to my family.”

62 Then Jesus declared, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and then looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

^a 48 CT and GOC he is ^b 50 CT and GOC not against you is for you ^c 54 CT the disciples ^d 54 CT does not include just as Elijah did. ^e 55 CT does not include and said, “You do not know what kind of spirit you are.” ^f 56 CT does not include For the Son of Man did not come to destroy the lives of men, but to save them. ^g 57 CT does not include Lord. ^h 59 WH does not include Lord. ⁱ 1 Most CT seventy-two; also in verse 17 ^j 2 CT And ^k 7 See Leviticus 19:13 and Deuteronomy 24:14–15; cited in 1 Timothy 5:18. ^l 11 CT and GOC to our feet ^m 11 CT does not include to you. ⁿ 15 CT will you be lifted up to heaven? No, you will be brought down

Jesus Sends the Seventy (Matthew 9:35–38)

10 After this, the Lord appointed seventyⁱ others and sent them two by two ahead of Him to every town and place He was about to visit. 2 Therefore^j He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest.

3 Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. 4 Carry no purse or bag or sandals. Do not greet anyone along the road.

5 Whatever house you enter, begin by saying, ‘Peace to this house.’ 6 If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you. 7 Stay at the same house, eating and drinking whatever you are offered. For the worker is worthy of his wages.^k Do not move around from house to house.

8 If you enter a town and they welcome you, eat whatever is set before you. 9 Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God is near you.’

10 But if you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go into the streets and declare, 11 ‘Even the dust of your town that clings to us,^l we wipe off as a testimony against you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God is near to you.’^m 12 I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

Woe to the Unrepentant (Matthew 11:20–24)

13 Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. 14 But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you.

15 And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought downⁿ to Hades!

16 Whoever listens to you listens to Me; whoever rejects you rejects Me; and whoever rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me.”

The Joyful Return

17 The seventy returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in Your name.”

18 So He told them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 Behold, I am giving^a you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy. Nothing will harm you. 20 Nevertheless, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but^b rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

Jesus' Prayer of Thanksgiving

(Matthew 11:25–30)

21 At that time Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit^c and declared, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because You have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was well-pleasing in Your sight."

22 And turning to the disciples, He said,^d "All things have been entrusted to Me by My Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him."

23 Then Jesus turned to the disciples and said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. 24 For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

25 One day an expert in the law stood up to test Him. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

26 "What is written in the Law?" Jesus replied. "How do you read it?"

27 He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'^e and 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'^f"

28 "You have answered correctly," Jesus said. "Do this and you will live."

29 But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

30 Jesus took up this question and said, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead.^g

31 Now by chance a priest was going down the same road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

32 So too, when a Levite came to that spot and saw him, he passed by on the other side.

33 But a Samaritan on a journey came upon him, and when he saw him, he had compassion. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

35 The next day when he departed^h he took out two denariiⁱ and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Take care of him,' he said, 'and on my return I will repay you for any additional expense.'

36 So^j which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

37 "The one who showed him mercy," replied the expert in the law.

Then Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Martha and Mary

38 As they traveled along, Jesus entered a village where a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. 39 She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus' feet^k listening to His message. 40 But Martha was distracted by all the preparations to be made. She came to Jesus and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her to help me!"

41 "Martha, Martha," Jesus^l replied, "you are worried and troubled^m about many things. 42 But only one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, and it will not be taken away from her."

The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:5–15)

11 One day in a place where Jesus had just finished praying, one of His disciples requested, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

2 So Jesus told them, "When you pray, say:

'Our Father in heaven,'

hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come,

Your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.ⁿ

^a 19 CT have given ^b 20 TR but rather ^c 21 CT in the Holy Spirit ^d 22 CT and TR do not include *And turning to the disciples, He said.* ^e 27 Deuteronomy 6:5 ^f 27 Leviticus 19:18 ^g 30 Lit. *half dead, as he was*; CT literal does not include *as he was.* ^h 35 CT does not include *when he departed.* ⁱ 35 A denarius was customarily a day's wage for a laborer; see Matthew 20:2. ^j 36 CT does not include *So.* ^k 39 CT at the Lord's feet ^l 41 CT the Lord ^m 41 CT worried and upset ⁿ 2 CT 'Father'; see Matthew 6:9. ^o 2 CT does not include *Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven*; see Matthew 6:10.

³Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴And forgive us our sins,
for we also forgive everyone who sins
against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.^a”

Ask, Seek, Knock (*Matthew 7:7–12*)

⁵Then Jesus said to them, “Suppose one of you goes to his friend at midnight and says, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,⁶ because a friend^b has come to me on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him.’

⁷And suppose the one inside answers, ‘Do not bother me. My door is already shut, and my children and I are in bed. I cannot get up to give you anything.’

⁸I tell you, even though he will not get up to provide for him because of his friendship, yet because of the man’s persistence, he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

⁹So I tell you: Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

¹¹What father among you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead?^c ¹²Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³So if you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit^d to those who ask Him!”

A House Divided (*Mat. 12:22–30; Mk. 3:20–27*)

¹⁴One day Jesus was driving out a demon that was mute. And when the demon was gone, the man who had been mute spoke. The crowds were amazed, ¹⁵but some of them said, “It is by Beelzebul,^e the prince of the demons, that He drives out demons.” ¹⁶And others tested Him by demanding a sign from heaven.

¹⁷Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself will be laid waste, and a house divided against a house will fall. ¹⁸If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand? After all, you say that I drive

out demons by Beelzebul. ¹⁹And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your^f sons drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. ²⁰But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

²¹When a strong man, fully armed, guards his house, his possessions are secure. ²²But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted, and then he divides up his plunder.

²³He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters.

An Unclean Spirit Returns (*Matt. 12:43–45*)

²⁴When an unclean spirit comes out of a man, it passes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left.’ ²⁵On its return, it finds the house swept clean^g and put in order. ²⁶Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go^h and dwell there. And the final plight of that man is worse than the first.”

True Blessedness

²⁷As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said, “Blessed is the womb that bore You, and blessed are the breasts that nursed You!”

²⁸But He replied, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.”

The Sign of Jonah

(*Jonah 3:1–10; Matthew 12:38–42*)

²⁹As the crowds were increasing, Jesus said, “This is a wicked generation. It seeksⁱ a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah the prophet.^j ³⁰For as Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites, so the Son of Man will be a sign^k to this generation.

³¹The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them; for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and now One greater than Solomon is here. ³²The men of Nineveh will stand at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now One greater than Jonah is here.

^a 4 Or from evil; CT does not include but deliver us from the evil one; see Matthew 6:13. ^b 6 GOC, CT, and TR a friend of mine ^c 11 CT What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? ^d 13 GOC a good spirit ^e 15 WH Bezebul; Vulgate Beelzebub; also in verses 18 and 19 ^f 19 GOC will your ^g 25 WH unoccupied, swept clean, ^h 26 GOC, CT, and TR go in ⁱ 29 CT It demands ^j 29 CT does not include the prophet. ^k 30 Literally will be; GOC will be a sign

The Lamp of the Body (*Matthew 6:22–24*)

³³No one lights a lamp and puts it in a cellar or under a basket.^a Instead, he sets it on a stand, so those who enter can see the light.

³⁴The eye is the lamp of the body.^b So when your eyes are good,^c your whole body also is full of light. But when they are bad,^d your body is full of darkness. ³⁵Be careful, then, that the light within you is not darkness. ³⁶So if your whole body is full of light, with no part of it in darkness, you will be radiant, as though a lamp were shining on you.”

Woes to Pharisees and Experts in the Law (*Matthew 23:1–36*)

³⁷As Jesus was speaking, a Pharisee invited Him to dine with him; so He went in and reclined at the table. ³⁸But the Pharisee was surprised to see that Jesus did not first wash before the meal.

³⁹Then the Lord said, “Now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. ⁴⁰You fools! Did not the One who made the outside make the inside as well? ⁴¹But give as alms the things that are within you, and behold, everything will be clean for you.

⁴²Woe to you Pharisees! For you pay tithes of mint, rue, and every herb, but you disregard justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without neglecting the former.

⁴³Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the chief seats in the synagogues and the greetings in the marketplaces. ⁴⁴Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites!^e For you are like unmarked graves, which men walk over without even noticing.”

⁴⁵One of the experts in the law told Him, “Teacher, when You say these things, You insult us as well.”

⁴⁶“Woe to you as well, experts in the law!” He replied. “For you weigh men down with heavy burdens, but you yourselves will not lift a finger to lighten their load.

⁴⁷Woe to you! For you build tombs for the prophets, but it was your fathers who killed them. ⁴⁸So you bear witness and consent^f to the

deeds of your fathers: They killed the prophets, and you build their tombs. ⁴⁹Because of this, the wisdom of God said, ‘I will send them prophets and apostles; some of them they will kill and others they will persecute.’

⁵⁰As a result, this generation will be charged with the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the foundation of the world, ⁵¹from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary.^g Yes, I tell you, all of it will be charged to this generation.

⁵²Woe to you experts in the law! For you have taken away the key to knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you have hindered those who were entering.”

⁵³As Jesus said these things to them,^h the scribes and Pharisees began to oppose Him bitterly and to ply Him with questions about many things, ⁵⁴lying in wait for Him and seeking to catch Him in somethingⁱ He might say, so that they might accuse Him.^j

The Leaven of the Pharisees (*Matthew 16:5–12; Mark 8:14–21*)

12 In the meantime, a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so that they were trampling one another. Jesus began to speak first to His disciples: “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. ²There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, and nothing hidden that will not be made known. ³What you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the housetops.

Fear God Alone (*Matthew 10:26–31*)

⁴I tell you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more.

⁵But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear the One who, after you have been killed, has authority to throw you into hell.^k Yes, I tell you, fear Him!

⁶Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies?^l Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. ⁷And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

^a 33 TH does not include *or under a basket*. ^b 34 CT *Your eye is the lamp of your body* ^c 34 Lit. *So when your eye is sound*; see Proverbs 22:9. ^d 34 Literally *But when it is evil*; see Proverbs 23:6 and 28:22. ^e 44 CT does not include *scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites*. ^f 48 CT *So you are witnesses consenting* ^g 51 Lit. *the house* ^h 53 CT *As Jesus went on from there* ⁱ 54 CT begins this verse with *waiting to catch Him in something*. ^j 54 CT does not include *so that they might accuse Him*. ^k 5 Greek *Gehenna* ^l 6 Greek *two assaria*; an assarion was a Roman copper coin worth about 1/16 of a denarius.

Confessing Christ (*Matthew 10:32–33*)

8I tell you, everyone who confesses Me before men, the Son of Man will also confess him before the angels of God. 9But whoever denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God. 10And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

11When you are brought before synagogues, rulers, and authorities, do not worry about how to defend yourselves or what to say. 12For at that time the Holy Spirit will teach you what you should say.”

The Parable of the Rich Fool

13Someone in the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”

14But Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed Me judge or executor between you?” 15And He said to them, “Watch out! Guard yourselves against greed,^a for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

16Then He told them a parable: “The ground of a certain rich man produced an abundance. 17So he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, since I have nowhere to store my crops?’ 18Then he said, ‘This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and will build bigger ones, and there I will store up all my crops^b and my goods. 19Then I will say to myself, ‘You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take it easy. Eat, drink, and be merry!’”

20But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be required of you. Then who will own what you have accumulated?’

21This is how it will be for anyone who stores up treasure for himself but is not rich toward God.”

Do Not Worry (*Matthew 6:25–34*)

22Then Jesus said to His disciples,^c “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. 23Life^d is more than food, and the body more than clothes. 24Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storehouse or barn; yet

God feeds them. How much more valuable you are than the birds!

25Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?^e 26So if you cannot do such a small thing, why do you worry about the rest?

27Consider how the lilies grow: They do not labor or spin.^f Yet^g I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory was adorned like one of these. 28If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more will He clothe you, O you of little faith!

29And do not be concerned about what you will eat or drink. Do not worry about it. 30For the Gentiles of the world strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. 31But seek the kingdom of God,^h and allⁱ these things will be added unto you.

Treasures in Heaven (*Matthew 6:19–21*)

32Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom. 33Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide yourselves with purses that will not wear out, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. 34For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Readiness at Any Hour

(*Matthew 24:36–51; Mark 13:32–37*)

35Be dressed for service and keep your lamps burning. 36Then you will be like servants waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks, they can open the door for him at once. 37Blessed are those servants whom the master finds on watch when he returns. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve and will have them recline at the table, and he himself will come and wait on them. 38Even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night^j and finds them alert, those servants will be blessed.

39But understand this: If the homeowner had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and^k would not have let his house be broken into. 40Therefore^l you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour you do not expect.”

^a 15 CT *against every form of greed* ^b 18 CT *grain* ^c 22 TH *the disciples* ^d 23 CT *For life* ^e 25 Or *a single cubit to his height*; a cubit was approximately 18 inches or 45 centimeters. ^f 27 NE and Tischendorf *Consider the lilies: They do not spin or weave.* ^g 27 F35 does not include *Yet.* ^h 31 CT *But seek His kingdom*; see Matthew 6:33. ⁱ 31 CT does not include *all.* ^j 38 That is, between nine at night and three in the morning ^k 39 CT does not include *would have kept watch and.* ^l 40 CT does not include *Therefore.*

⁴¹“Lord,” said Peter, “are You addressing this parable to us, or to everyone else as well?”

⁴²And the Lord answered, “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their portion at the proper time? ⁴³Blessed is that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. ⁴⁴Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

⁴⁵But suppose that servant says in his heart, ‘My master will be a long time in coming,’ and he begins to beat the menservants and maidservants, and to eat and drink and get drunk. ⁴⁶The master of that servant will come on a day he does not expect and at an hour he does not anticipate. Then he will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.

⁴⁷That servant who knows his master’s will but does not get ready or follow his instructions will be beaten with many blows. ⁴⁸But the one who unknowingly does things worthy of punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and from him who has been entrusted with much, even more will be demanded.

Not Peace but Division

(Micah 7:1–6; Matthew 10:34–39)

⁴⁹I have come to bring fire to^a the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is accomplished!

⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but division. ⁵²From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three. ⁵³They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.^b”

Interpreting the Present Time

(Matthew 16:1–4; Mark 8:11–13)

⁵⁴Then Jesus said to the crowds, “As soon as you see a cloud rising from^c the west, you say, ‘A shower is coming,’ and that is what happens. ⁵⁵And when the south wind blows, you say, ‘It

will be hot,’ and it is. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and sky.^d Why can’t you interpret^e the present time?

Reconciling with an Adversary

(Matthew 5:21–26)

⁵⁷And why don’t you judge for yourselves what is right? ⁵⁸Make every effort to reconcile with your adversary while you are on your way to the magistrate. Otherwise, he may drag you off to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and the officer may throw you into prison. ⁵⁹I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the very last penny.^f”

A Call to Repentance

(Joel 1:13–20; Amos 5:4–15; Zephaniah 2:1–3)

13 At that time some of those present told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. ²To this Jesus replied,^g “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered this way? ³No, I tell you. But unless you repent, you too will all perish. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam collapsed on them: Do you think that they were more sinful than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you. But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

(Isaiah 5:1–7)

⁶Then Jesus told this parable: “A man had a fig tree that was planted in his vineyard. He went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. ⁷So he said to the keeper of the vineyard, ‘Look, for the past three years I have come to search for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down!^h Why should it use up the soil?”

⁸‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone again this year, until I dig around it and fertilize it. ⁹If it bears fruit, fine. But if not, you can cut it down next year.ⁱ”

Jesus Heals a Disabled Woman

¹⁰One Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, ¹¹and a woman there had been disabled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was hunched over and could not stand up straight. ¹²When Jesus saw her, He called her over and

^a ⁴⁹ CT and GOC to *ignite a fire on* ^b ⁵³ See Micah 7:6. ^c ⁵⁴ CT in ^d ⁵⁶ GOC, F35, and Scrivener TR *sky and earth* ^e ⁵⁶ CT *Why don't you know how to interpret* ^f ⁵⁹ Greek *lepton*; that is, a Jewish coin of bronze or copper worth about 1/128 of a denarius ^g ² CT *He replied* ^h ⁷ SBL, NE, WH *Therefore, cut it down!* ⁱ ⁹ CT *If it bears fruit next year, fine. But if not, you can cut it down.*

said, "Woman, you are set free from your disability." ¹³Then He placed His hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and began to glorify God.

¹⁴But the synagogue leader was indignant that Jesus had healed on the Sabbath. "There are six days for work," he told the crowd. "So come and be healed on those days and not on the Sabbath."

¹⁵"You hypocrites!"^a the Lord replied. "Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or donkey from the stall and lead it to water? ¹⁶Then should not this daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be released from her bondage on the Sabbath day?"

¹⁷When Jesus said this, all His adversaries were humiliated. And the whole crowd rejoiced at all the glorious things He was doing.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed (*Matthew 13:31–32; Mark 4:30–34*)

¹⁸Then Jesus asked, "What is the kingdom of God like? To what can I compare it? ¹⁹It is like a mustard seed that a man tossed into his garden. It grew and became a great tree,^b and the birds of the air nested in its branches."

The Parable of the Leaven (*Matthew 13:33*)

²⁰Again He asked, "To what can I compare the kingdom of God? ²¹It is like leaven that a woman took and mixed into three measures of flour, until all of it was leavened."

The Narrow Door (*Matthew 7:13–14*)

²²Then Jesus traveled throughout the towns and villages, teaching as He made His way toward Jerusalem. ²³"Lord," someone asked Him, "will only a few people be saved?"

Jesus answered, ²⁴"Make every effort to enter through the narrow gate.^c For many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able. ²⁵After the master of the house gets up and shuts the door, you will stand outside knocking and saying, 'Lord, Lord,^d open the door for us.'

But he will reply, 'I do not know where you are from.'

²⁶Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.'

²⁷And he will answer, 'I tell you, I do not know where you are from. Depart from me, all you evildoers.'

²⁸There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves are thrown out. ²⁹People will come from east and west and north and south, and will recline at the table in the kingdom of God. ³⁰And indeed, some who are last will be first, and some who are first will be last."

Lament over Jerusalem (*Matthew 23:37–39*)

³¹On that very day,^e some Pharisees came to Jesus and told Him, "Leave this place and get away, because Herod wants to kill You."

³²But Jesus replied, "Go tell that fox, 'Look, I will keep driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach My goal.' ³³Nevertheless, I must keep going today and tomorrow and the next day, for it is not admissible for a prophet to perish outside of Jerusalem.

³⁴O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those sent to her, how often I have longed to gather your children together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were unwilling! ³⁵Look, your house is left to you desolate. And I tell you that you will not see Me again until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Jesus Heals a Man with Dropsy

14 One Sabbath, Jesus went to eat in the home of a leading Pharisee, and those in attendance were watching Him closely. ²Right there before Him was a man with dropsy. ³So Jesus asked the experts in the law and the Pharisees, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?^g"

⁴But they remained silent.

Then Jesus took hold of the man, healed him, and sent him on his way. ⁵And He asked them, "Which of you whose son^h or ox falls into a pit on the Sabbath day will not immediately pull him out?"

⁶And they were unable to answer these questions.

The Parable of the Guests

⁷When Jesus noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, He told them a parable: ⁸"When you are invited to a wedding banquet, do not sit in the place of honor, in case someone more

^a 15 TR and GOC "You hypocrite!" ^b 19 CT a tree ^c 24 CT door ^d 25 CT 'Lord,' ^e 31 CT At that very hour
^f 35 Psalm 118:26 ^g 3 CT includes or not. ^h 5 TR donkey

distinguished than you has been invited. ⁹Then the host who invited both of you will come and tell you, ‘Give this man your seat.’ And in humiliation, you will have to take the last place.

¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit in the last place, so that your host will come and tell you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’^a Then you will be honored in front of those^b at the table with you. ¹¹For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

¹²Then Jesus said to the man who had invited Him, “When you host a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or brothers or relatives or rich neighbors. Otherwise, they may invite you in return, and you will be repaid. ¹³But when you host a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind, ¹⁴and you will be blessed. Since they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

The Parable of the Banquet (*Matt. 22:1–14*)

¹⁵When one of those reclining with Him heard this, he said to Jesus, “Blessed is he^c who will eat at the feast^d in the kingdom of God.”

¹⁶But Jesus replied, “A certain man prepared a great banquet and invited many guests. ¹⁷When it was time for the banquet, he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now^e ready.’

¹⁸But one after another they all began to make excuses. The first one said, ‘I have bought a field, and I need to go and^f see it. Please excuse me.’

¹⁹Another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out. Please excuse me.’

²⁰Still another said, ‘I have married a wife, so I cannot come.’

²¹That servant^g returned and reported all this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the city, and bring in the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.’^h

²²‘Sir,’ the servant replied, ‘it has been done as you ordered,ⁱ and there is still room.’

²³So the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges and compel them to come

in, so that my house will be full. ²⁴For I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.’”

The Cost of Discipleship

(*Matthew 8:18–22; Luke 9:57–62; John 6:59–66*)

²⁵Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and He turned and said to them, ²⁶“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be My disciple. ²⁷And whoever does not carry his cross and follow Me cannot be My disciple.

²⁸Which of you, wishing to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost to see if he has the resources to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, if he lays the foundation and is unable to finish the work, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, ³⁰saying, ‘This man could not finish what he started to build.’

³¹Or what king on his way to war with another king does not^k first sit down and consider whether he can engage with ten thousand men the one coming against him with twenty thousand? ³²And if he is unable, he will send a delegation while the other king is still far off, to ask for terms of peace.

³³In the same way, any one of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be My disciple.

Good Salt (*Matthew 5:13–16; Mark 9:49–50*)

³⁴Salt is good, but if the salt loses its savor, with what will it be seasoned? ³⁵It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile, and it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

(*Matthew 18:10–14*)

15 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were gathering around to listen to Jesus. ²So the Pharisees and scribes began to grumble: “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴“What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the pasture and go after the one that is lost, until he

^a 10 See Proverbs 25:7. ^b 10 CT *everyone* ^c 15 CT *everyone* ^d 15 Literally *who will eat breakfast*; CT and TR *who will eat bread* ^e 17 CT *literal it is now* ^f 18 CT *does not include and* ^g 21 CT *The servant* ^h 21 CT and F35 *the blind, and the lame* ⁱ 22 CT *what you ordered has been done* ^j 24 CT, GOC, ALT, HF, F35, and TR do not include *For many are called, but few are chosen.* ^k 31 CT *will not*

finds it? ⁵And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders, ⁶comes home, and calls together his friends and neighbors to tell them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep!' ⁷I tell you that in the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous ones who do not need to repent.

The Parable of the Lost Coin

⁸Or what woman who has ten silver coins^a and loses one of them does not light a lamp, sweep her house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹And when she finds it, she calls together her friends and neighbors to say, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost coin.' ¹⁰In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of God's angels over one sinner who repents."

The Parable of the Prodigal Son

(Deuteronomy 21:18-21)

¹¹Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger son said to him, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

¹³After a few days, the younger son got everything together and journeyed to a distant country, where he squandered his wealth in wild living.

¹⁴After he had spent all he had, a severe famine swept through that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He longed to fill his belly^b with the pods the pigs were eating, but no one would give him a thing.

¹⁷Finally he came to his senses and said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have plenty of food, but I am^c starving to death!^d ¹⁸I will get up and go back to my father and say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."

²⁰So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still in the distance, his father saw him and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him.

²¹The son declared, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'^e

²²But the father said to his servants, 'Bring^f the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let us feast and celebrate. ²⁴For this son of mine was dead and is alive again! He was lost and is found!' So they began to celebrate.

²⁵Meanwhile the older son was in the field, and as he approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶So he called one of the^g servants and asked what was going on.

²⁷'Your brother has returned,' he said, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has him back safe and sound.'

²⁸The older son became angry and refused to go in. So his father came out and pleaded with him.

²⁹But he answered his father, 'Look, all these years I have served you and never disobeyed a commandment of yours. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours returns from squandering your wealth with prostitutes, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

³¹'Son, you are always with me,' the father said, 'and all that is mine is yours. ³²But it was fitting to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

The Parable of the Shrewd Manager

16 Jesus also said to His disciples,^h "There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. ²So he called him in to ask, 'What is this I hear about you? Turn in an account of your management, for you cannot be manager any longer.'

³The manager said to himself, 'What shall I do, now that my master is taking away my position? I am too weak to dig and too ashamed to beg. ⁴I know what I will do so that after my removal from management, people will welcome me into their homes.'

⁵And he called in each one of his master's debtors. 'How much do you owe my master?' he asked the first.

⁶'A hundred measures of olive oil,'ⁱ he answered. 'Take your bill,' said the manager, 'sit down quickly, and write fifty.'

^a 8 Greek *ten drachmas*, each worth about a day's wages ^b 16 NA, TH, and WH to be filled ^c 17 CT *but here I am*
^d 17 Or *perishing with hunger* ^e 21 WH includes *Make me like one of your hired servants*; see verse 19. ^f 22 CT *Quick! Bring*
^g 26 Stephanus TR *his* ^h 1 CT *the disciples* ⁱ 6 Greek 'A hundred baths of oil'; that is, approx. 870 gallons or 3,300 liters

7Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?'

'A hundred measures of wheat,'^a he replied.

'Take your bill and write eighty,' he told him.

8The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the sons of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the sons of light. 9I tell you, use worldly wealth to make friends for yourselves so that when you fail,^b they will welcome you into eternal dwellings.

10Whoever is faithful with very little will also be faithful with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.

11So if you have not been faithful with worldly wealth, who will entrust you with true riches?

12And if you have not been faithful with the belongings of another, who will give you belongings of your own?

13No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

The Law and the Prophets

14The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all of this and were scoffing at Jesus. 15So He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is prized among men is detestable before God.

16The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John. Since that time, the gospel of the kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it.^c 17But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for a single stroke of a pen to drop out of the Law.

18Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery, and everyone who^d marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

The Rich Man and Lazarus (John 5:39–47)

19Now there was a rich man dressed in purple and fine linen, who lived each day in joyous splendor. 20And a beggar named Lazarus lay at

his gate, covered with sores²¹ and longing to be fed with the crumbs that fell^e from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

22One day the beggar died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side.^f And the rich man also died and was buried. 23In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham from afar, with Lazarus by his side.

24So he cried out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. For I am in agony in this fire.'

25But Abraham answered, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things. But now he is comforted here,^g while you are in agony. 26And besides all this, a great chasm has been fixed between us and you, so that even those who wish cannot cross from here to you, nor can anyone cross from there to us.'

27'Then I beg you, father,' he said, 'send Lazarus to my father's house, 28for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also end up in this place of torment.'

29But Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let your brothers listen to them.'

30'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone is sent to them from the dead, they will repent.'

31Then Abraham said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.'"

Temptations and Trespasses

(Matthew 18:6–9; Mark 9:42–48)

17 Jesus said to the disciples,^h "It is inevitable that stumbling blocks will come, but woe to the one through whom they come! 2It would be better for him to have a large millstoneⁱ hung around his neck and to be thrown into the sea than to cause one of these little ones to stumble.

3Watch yourselves. If your brother sins against you,^j rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.

4Even if he sins against you seven times in a day, and returns seven times in that day^k to say, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."

^a 7 Greek 'A hundred cors of wheat'; that is, approximately 1,000 bushels or 35,000 liters (probably about 30 tons or 27 metric tons of wheat) ^b 9 Or when you die; CT when it runs out ^c 16 Or everyone is urged to enter into it ^d 18 CT he who ^e 21 CT literal with that which fell ^f 22 Greek into Abraham's bosom; similarly in verse 23 ^g 25 F35 does not include here. ^h 1 CT and GOC His disciples ⁱ 2 CT and GOC a millstone ^j 3 CT does not include against you. ^k 4 CT does not include in that day.

The Power of Faith (Matthew 17:19–20)

5The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!”

6And the Lord answered, “If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it will obey you.

7Which of you whose servant comes in from plowing or shepherding in the field will say,^a ‘Come at once and sit down to eat’? 8Instead, won’t he tell him, ‘Prepare my meal and dress yourself to serve me while I eat and drink, and afterward you may eat and drink’? 9Does he thank the servant because he did what he was told? I think not.^b 10So you also, when you have done everything commanded of you, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.’”

The Ten Lepers (2 Kings 5:1–14)

11While Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem, He was passing between Samaria and Galilee. 12As He entered one of the villages, He was met by ten lepers.^c They stood at a distance 13and raised their voices, shouting, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”

14When Jesus saw them, He said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.”^d And as they were on their way, they were cleansed.

15When one of them saw that he was healed, he came back, praising God in a loud voice. 16He fell facedown at Jesus’ feet in thanksgiving to Him—and he was a Samaritan.

17“Were not all ten cleansed?” Jesus asked. “Where then are the other nine? 18Was no one found except this foreigner to return and give glory to God?”

19Then Jesus said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well!”^e

The Coming of the Kingdom (Gen. 19:24–29)

20When asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, “The kingdom of God will not come with observable signs. 21Nor will people say, ‘Look, here it is,’ or ‘There it is.’ For you see, the kingdom of God is in your midst.^f”

^a 7 CT say to him ^b 9 CT does not include *I think not.* ^c 12 A leper was one afflicted with a skin disease. See Leviticus 13. ^d 14 See Leviticus 14:1–32. ^e 19 Or *has saved you* ^f 21 Or *within you* or *within your grasp* ^g 24 WH does not include in His day. ^h 33 CT literal to keep ⁱ 35 TR includes ³⁶Two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left; see Matthew 24:40. ^j 1 CT and GOC their

22 Then He said to the disciples, “The time is coming when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it. 23 People will tell you, ‘Look, there He is!’ or ‘Look, here He is!’ Do not go out or chase after them. 24 For just as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other, so will be the Son of Man in His day.^g 25 But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.

26 Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man: 27 People were eating and drinking, marrying and being given in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.

28 It was the same in the days of Lot: People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. 29 But on the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all.

30 It will be just like that on the day the Son of Man is revealed. 31 On that day, let no one on the housetop come down to retrieve his possessions. Likewise, let no one in the field return for anything he has left behind. 32 Remember Lot’s wife! 33 Whoever tries to save^h his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will preserve it. 34 I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed: one will be taken and the other left. 35 Two women will be grinding grain together: one will be taken and the other left.”ⁱ

37 “Where, Lord?” they asked.

Jesus answered, “Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.”

The Parable of the Persistent Widow

18 Then Jesus told them a parable about the^j need to pray at all times and not lose heart: 2 “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected men. 3 And there was a widow in that town who kept appealing to him, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’

4 For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect men, 5 yet because this widow keeps pestering me, I will give her justice. Otherwise, she will wear me out with her perpetual requests.’”

⁶And the Lord said, “Listen to the words of the unjust judge. ⁷Will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry out to Him day and night? Will He delay in helping them? ⁸I tell you, He will promptly carry out justice on their behalf. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?”

The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

⁹To some who trusted in their own righteousness and viewed others with contempt, He also told this parable: ¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed,^a ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—swindlers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week and pay tithes of all that I acquire.’

¹³But the tax collector stood at a distance, unwilling even to lift up his eyes to heaven. Instead, he beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴I tell you, this man, rather than the Pharisee, went home justified. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Jesus Blesses the Children

(Matthew 19:13–15; Mark 10:13–16)

¹⁵Now people were even bringing their babies to Jesus for Him to place His hands on them. And when the disciples saw this, they rebuked those who brought them.

¹⁶But Jesus called the children to Him and said, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them! For the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁷Truly I tell you, anyone who does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”

The Rich Young Ruler

(Matthew 19:16–30; Mark 10:17–31)

¹⁸Then a certain ruler asked Him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

¹⁹“Why do you call Me good?” Jesus replied. “No one is good except God alone. ²⁰You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not bear false witness, honor your father and mother.’^b”

²¹“All these I have kept from my youth,” he said.

²²On hearing this, Jesus told him, “You still lack one thing: Sell everything you own and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me.”

²³But when the ruler heard this, he became very sad, because he was extremely wealthy.

²⁴Seeing the man’s sadness,^c Jesus said, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!

²⁵Indeed, it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

²⁶Those who heard this asked, “Who then can be saved?”

²⁷But Jesus said, “What is impossible with man is possible with God.”

²⁸“Look,” said Peter, “we have left all we had^d to follow You.”

²⁹“Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or parents or brothers or wife^e or children for the sake of the kingdom of God ³⁰will fail to receive many times more in this age—and in the age to come, eternal life.”

The Third Prediction of the Passion

(Matthew 20:17–19; Mark 10:32–34)

³¹Then Jesus took the Twelve aside and said to them, “Look, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything the prophets have written about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. ³²He will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. ³³They will flog Him and kill Him, and on the third day He will rise again.”

³⁴But the disciples did not understand any of these things. The meaning was hidden from them, and they did not comprehend what He was saying.

Jesus Heals a Blind Beggar

(Matthew 20:29–34; Mark 10:46–52)

³⁵As Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting beside the road, begging. ³⁶When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening.

³⁷“Jesus of Nazareth is passing by,” they told him.

³⁸So he called out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

^a ¹¹ Or stood and prayed to himself ^b ²⁰ Exodus 20:12–16; Deuteronomy 5:16–20 ^c ²⁴ Literally Seeing that he had become sorrowful; SBL, NE, TH, and WH Seeing him ^d ²⁸ Literally, CT left our own; MT left all ^e ²⁹ CT home or wife or brothers or parents

³⁹Those who led the way admonished him to be silent, but he cried out all the louder, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

⁴⁰Jesus stopped and directed that the man be brought to Him. When he had come near, Jesus asked him, ⁴¹“What do you want Me to do for you?”

“Lord,” he said, “let me see again.”

⁴²“Receive your sight!” Jesus replied. “Your faith has healed you.” ⁴³Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Jesus and Zacchaeus (*Numbers 5:5–10*)

19 Then Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ²And there was a man named Zacchaeus, a chief tax collector, who was very wealthy. ³He was trying to see who Jesus was, but could not see over the crowd because he was small in stature. ⁴So he ran on ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see Him, since Jesus was about to pass that way.

⁵When Jesus came to that place, He looked up and saw him^a and said, “Zacchaeus, hurry down, for I must stay at your house today.”

⁶So Zacchaeus hurried down and welcomed Him joyfully. ⁷And all who saw this began to grumble, saying, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinful man!”

⁸But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, half of my possessions I give to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone, I will repay it fourfold.”

⁹Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man too is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

The Parable of the Ten Minas

(*Matthew 25:14–30*)

¹¹While the people were listening to this, Jesus proceeded to tell them a parable, because He was near Jerusalem and they thought the kingdom of God would appear imminently. ¹²So He said, “A man of noble birth went to a distant country to lay claim to his kingship and then return. ¹³Beforehand, he called ten of his servants and gave

them ten minas.^b ‘Conduct business with this until I return,’ he said.

¹⁴But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, ‘We do not want this man to rule over us.’

¹⁵When he returned from procuring his kingship, he summoned the servants to whom he had given the money, to find out what each one had earned.^c

¹⁶The first servant came forward and said, ‘Master, your mina has produced ten more minas.’

¹⁷His master replied, ‘Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very small matter, you shall have authority over ten cities.’

¹⁸The second servant came and said, ‘Master, your mina has made five minas.’

¹⁹And to this one he said, ‘You shall have authority over five cities.’

²⁰Then another servant came and said, ‘Master, here is your mina, which I have laid away in a piece of cloth.^d ²¹For I was afraid of you, because you are a harsh man. You withdraw what you did not deposit and reap what you did not sow.^e’

²²His master replied, ‘You wicked servant, I will judge you by your own words. So you knew that I am a harsh man, withdrawing what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow?^f ²³Why then did you not deposit my money in the bank, and upon my return I could have collected it with interest?’

²⁴Then he told those standing by, “Take the mina from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.’

²⁵‘Master,’ they said, ‘he already has ten!’

²⁶He replied, ‘I tell you that everyone who has will be given more; but the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.^g ²⁷And these enemies of mine who were unwilling for me to rule over them, bring them here and slay them in front of me.’”

The Triumphal Entry (*Zechariah 9:9–13; Matthew 21:1–11; Mark 11:1–11; John 12:12–19*)

²⁸After Jesus had said this, He went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

^a 5 CT does not include *and saw him*. ^b 13 That is, he gave each servant one mina. A mina was most likely a silver coin worth a hundred drachmas, that is, about a hundred days’ wages. ^c 15 Literally *who had gained what* ^d 20 Greek *soudariō* ^e 21 GOC includes *and you gather where you scattered no seed*. ^f 22 GOC includes *and gathering where I scattered no seed*. ^g 26 CT literal does not include *from him*.

²⁹As He approached Bethsphage^a and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, He sent out two of His disciples, ³⁰saying, “Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks, ‘Why are you untying it?’ tell him, ‘The Lord needs it.’”

³²So those who were sent went out and found it^b just as Jesus had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners asked, “Why are you untying the colt?”

³⁴“The Lord needs it,” they answered. ³⁵Then they led the colt to Jesus, threw their cloaks over it, and put Jesus on it.

³⁶As He rode along, the people spread their cloaks on the road. ³⁷And as He approached the descent from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of disciples began to praise God joyfully in a loud voice for all the miracles they had seen:

³⁸“Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!”^c

“Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”^d

³⁹But some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, rebuke Your disciples!”

⁴⁰“I tell you,” He answered, “if they remain silent, the very stones will cry out.”

Jesus Weeps over Jerusalem (Isaiah 29:1–16)

⁴¹As Jesus approached Jerusalem and saw the city, He wept over it ⁴²and said, “If only you, even you,^e had known on this day what would bring you peace! But now it is hidden from your eyes. ⁴³For the days will come upon you when your enemies will barricade you and surround you and hem you in on every side. ⁴⁴They will level you to the ground—you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God.”^f

Jesus Cleanses the Temple

(Matt. 21:12–17; Mark 11:15–19; John 2:12–25)

⁴⁵Then Jesus entered the temple courts^g and began to drive out those who were selling and buying^h there. ⁴⁶He declared to them, “It is written: ‘My house isⁱ a house of prayer.’^j But you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’^k”

⁴⁷Jesus was teaching at the temple every day, but the chief priests, scribes, and leaders of the people were intent on killing Him. ⁴⁸Yet they could not find a way to do so, because all the people hung on His words.

Jesus’ Authority Challenged

(Matthew 21:23–27; Mark 11:27–33)

20 One day as Jesus was teaching the people in the temple courts^l and proclaiming the gospel, the priests^m and scribes, together with the elders, came up to Him. ²“Tell us,” they said, “by what authority are You doing these things, and who gave You this authority?”

³“I will also ask you one question,ⁿ” Jesus replied. “Tell Me: ⁴John’s baptism—was it from heaven, or from men?”

⁵They deliberated among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will ask, ‘Why^o did you not believe him?’ ⁶But if we say, ‘From men,’ all the people will stone us, for they are convinced that John was a prophet.”

⁷So they answered that they did not know where it was from.

⁸And Jesus replied, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”

The Parable of the Wicked Tenants

(Matthew 21:33–46; Mark 12:1–12)

⁹Then He proceeded to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard, rented it out to some tenants, and went away for a long time. ¹⁰At harvest time, he sent a servant to the tenants to collect his share of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat the servant and sent him away empty-handed.

¹¹So he sent another servant, but they beat him and treated him shamefully, sending him away empty-handed.

¹²Then he sent a third, but they wounded him and threw him out.

¹³‘What shall I do?’ asked the owner of the vineyard. ‘I will send my beloved son. Perhaps they will respect him when they see him.’^p”

¹⁴But when the tenants saw the son, they discussed it among themselves and said, “This is the heir. Come,^q let us kill him, and the inheritance

^a 29 ALT, CT, and TR *Bethphage* ^b 32 GOC *found the colt standing there* ^c 38 Psalm 118:26 ^d 38 See Psalm 148:1.

^e 42 CT does not include *even you*. ^f 44 Lit. *your visitation* ^g 45 Lit. *the temple* ^h 45 CT does not include *and buying*.

ⁱ 46 CT will be ^j 46 Isaiah 56:7 ^k 46 Jeremiah 7:11 ^l 11 Lit. *the temple* ^m 1 CT and TR *chief priests* ⁿ 3 CT *a question*

^o 5 TR and GOC *Why then* ^p 13 CT does not include *when they see him*. ^q 14 CT does not include *Come*.

will be ours.' ¹⁵So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? ¹⁶He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others."

And when the people heard this, they said, "May such a thing never happen!"

¹⁷But Jesus looked directly at them and said, "Then what is the meaning of that which is written:

"The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone"^a?

¹⁸Everyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed."

Paying Taxes to Caesar

(*Matthew 22:15–22; Mark 12:13–17*)

¹⁹When the chief priests and scribes^b realized that Jesus had spoken this parable against them, they sought to arrest Him that very hour. But they were afraid.^c

²⁰So they watched Him closely and sent spies who pretended to be sincere. They were hoping to catch Him in His words in order to hand Him over to the rule and authority of the governor. ²¹"Teacher," they inquired, "we know that You speak and teach correctly. You show no partiality but teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. ²²Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

²³But Jesus saw through their duplicity and said to them, "Why do you test Me?^d ²⁴Show Me a denarius.^e Whose image and inscription are on it?"

"Caesar's," they answered.

²⁵So Jesus told them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

²⁶And they were unable to trap Him in His words before the people. And amazed at His answer, they fell silent.

The Sadducees and the Resurrection

(*Matthew 22:23–33; Mark 12:18–27*)

²⁷Then some of the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection,^f came to question Him. ²⁸"Teacher," they said, "Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, the man is to marry his brother's

widow and raise up offspring for him.^g ²⁹Now there were seven brothers. The first one married a wife but died childless. ³⁰Then the second took her as wife, and he died childless.^h ³¹And the third married the widow, and in the same way all seven died, leaving no children. ³²And last of all, the woman died. ³³So then, in the resurrection, whose wife will she be? For all seven were married to her."

³⁴Jesus answered, "The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage. ³⁵But those who are considered worthy to share in the age to come and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage. ³⁶In fact, they can no longer die, because they are like the angels. And since they are sons of the resurrection, they are sons of God.

³⁷Even Moses demonstrates that the dead are raised, in the passage about the burning bush. For he calls the Lord 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.'ⁱ ³⁸He is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for to Him all are alive."

³⁹Some of the scribes answered, "Teacher, You have spoken well!" ⁴⁰And^j they did not dare to question Him any further.

Whose Son Is the Christ?

(*Matthew 22:41–46; Mark 12:35–37*)

⁴¹Then Jesus declared, "How can it be said that the Christ is the Son of David? ⁴²For^k David himself says in the book of Psalms:

"The Lord said to my Lord,
"Sit at My right hand

⁴³until I make Your enemies
a footstool for Your feet."^l

⁴⁴Thus David calls Him 'Lord.' So how can He be David's son?"

Beware of the Scribes (*Mark 12:38–40*)

⁴⁵In the hearing of all the people, Jesus said to His disciples,^m ⁴⁶"Beware of the scribes. They like to walk around in long robes, and they love the greetings in the marketplaces, the chief seats in the synagogues, and the places of honor at banquets. ⁴⁷They defraud widows of their houses,ⁿ and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will receive greater condemnation."

^a 17 Psalm 118:22 ^b 19 CT scribes and chief priests ^c 19 CT and TR include *of the people*. ^d 23 CT does not include *Why do you test Me?* ^e 24 A denarius was customarily a day's wage for a laborer; see Matthew 20:2. ^f 27 Or *deny there is a resurrection* ^g 28 Deuteronomy 25:5 ^h 30 CT does not include *took her as wife, and he died childless*. ⁱ 37 Exodus 3:6 ^j 40 CT lit. *For* ^k 42 CT literal *Even* ^l 43 Psalm 110:1 ^m 45 SBL and WH *the disciples* ⁿ 47 Lit. *They devour widows' houses*

The Poor Widow's Offering (*Mark 12:41–44*)

21 Then Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury,² and He saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins.^a

³“Truly I tell you,” He said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the others. ⁴For they all contributed to God^b out of their surplus, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on.”

Temple Destruction and Other Signs

(*Matthew 24:1–8; Mark 13:1–8*)

⁵As some of the disciples were remarking how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and consecrated gifts, Jesus said, ⁶“As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.”

⁷“Teacher,” they asked, “when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to take place?”

⁸Jesus answered, “See to it that you are not deceived. For many will come in My name, claiming, ‘I am He,’ and, ‘The time is near.’ Therefore^c do not follow them. ⁹When you hear of wars and rebellions, do not be alarmed. These things must happen first, but the end is not imminent.”

Witnessing to All Nations

(*Matthew 24:9–14; Mark 13:9–13*)

¹⁰Then He told them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹There will be great earthquakes in various places, famines and pestilences,^d along with fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

¹²But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you. On account of My name they will deliver you to the synagogues and prisons, and they will bring you before kings and governors. ¹³This will be your opportunity to serve as witnesses. ¹⁴So make up your mind not to worry beforehand how to defend yourselves. ¹⁵For I will give you speech and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to contradict or resist.^e

¹⁶You will be betrayed even by parents and relatives and friends and brothers,^f and some of you will be put to death. ¹⁷And you will be hated by

everyone because of My name. ¹⁸Yet not even a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹By your patient endurance you will gain your souls.

The Destruction of Jerusalem

(*Matthew 24:15–25; Mark 13:14–23*)

²⁰But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, you will know that her desolation is near. ²¹Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country stay out of the city. ²²For these are the days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written.

²³How miserable those days will be for pregnant and nursing mothers! For^g there will be great distress upon the land and wrath against this people. ²⁴They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive into all the nations. And Jerusalem will be trodden down by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

The Return of the Son of Man

(*Matthew 24:26–31; Mark 13:24–27*)

²⁵There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among the nations, bewildered by the roaring of the sea and the surging of the waves. ²⁶Men will faint from fear and anxiety over what is coming upon the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.^h ²⁸When these things begin to happen, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

(*Matthew 24:32–35; Mark 13:28–31*)

²⁹Then Jesus told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. ³⁰When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. ³¹So also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have happened. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.

Be Watchful for the Day

³⁴But watch yourselves, or your hearts will be weighed down by dissipation, drunkenness, and

^a 2 Greek *two lepta*; a lepton was a Jewish coin of bronze or copper worth about 1/128 of a denarius. ^b 4 CT does not include *to God*. ^c 8 CT does not include *Therefore*. ^d 11 CT *great earthquakes, famines, and pestilences in various places* ^e 15 CT *resist or contradict* ^f 16 CT *parents and brothers and relatives and friends* ^g 23 GOC *For at that time* ^h 27 See Daniel 7:13–14.

the worries of life—and that day will spring upon you suddenly like a snare. ³⁵For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of all the earth. ³⁶So keep watch at all times, and pray that you may be deemed worthy^a to escape all that is about to happen and to stand before the Son of Man.”

³⁷Every day Jesus taught at the temple, but every evening He went out to spend the night on the Mount of Olives. ³⁸And early in the morning all the people would come to hear Him at the temple.^b

The Plot to Kill Jesus

(Matthew 26:1–5; Mark 14:1–2; John 11:45–57)

22 Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread,^c called the Passover, was approaching, ²and the chief priests and scribes were looking for a way to put Jesus to death, for they feared the people.

Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

(Matthew 26:14–16; Mark 14:10–11)

³Then Satan entered Judas Iscariot, who was one of the Twelve. ⁴And Judas went to discuss with the chief priests^d and temple officers how he might betray Jesus to them. ⁵They were delighted and agreed to give him money. ⁶Judas consented, and began to look for an opportunity to betray Jesus to them in the absence of a crowd.

Preparing the Passover

(Matthew 26:17–19; Mark 14:12–16)

⁷Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb was to be sacrificed. ⁸Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover.”

⁹“Where do You want us to prepare it?” they asked.

¹⁰He answered, “When you enter the city, a man carrying a jug of water will meet you. Follow him to the house he enters, ¹¹and say to the owner of that house, ‘The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?’ ¹²And he will show you a large upper room, already furnished. Make preparations there.”

¹³So they went and found it just as Jesus had told them. And they prepared the Passover.

The Last Supper (Matthew 26:20–30; Mark 14:17–26; 1 Corinthians 11:17–34)

¹⁴When the hour had come, Jesus reclined at the table with His twelve^e apostles. ¹⁵And He said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before My suffering. ¹⁶For I tell you that I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”

¹⁷After taking the cup,^f He gave thanks and said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves. ¹⁸For I tell you that I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until^g the kingdom of God comes.”

¹⁹And He took the bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body, given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

²⁰In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you.^h

²¹Look! The hand of My betrayer is with Mine on the table. ²²Indeed, the Son of Man will go as it has been determined, but woe to that man who betrays Him.”

²³Then they began to question among themselves which of them was going to do this.

Who Is the Greatest?

²⁴A dispute also arose among the disciples as to which of them should be considered the greatest. ²⁵So Jesus declared, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those in authority over them call themselves benefactors. ²⁶But you shall not be like them. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who leads like the one who serves. ²⁷For who is greater, the one who reclines at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines? But I am among you as one who serves.

²⁸You are the ones who have stood by Me in My trials. ²⁹And I bestow on you a kingdom, just as My Father has bestowed one on Me, ³⁰so that you may eat and drink at My tableⁱ and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

Jesus Predicts Peter’s Denial

(Matt. 26:31–35; Mark 14:27–31; John 13:36–38)

³¹And the Lord said,^j “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you like wheat. ³²But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith will not

^a 36 CT you may have the strength ^b 38 GOC on the mount ^c 1 Literally the feast of the Unleavened; see Exodus 12:14–20. ^d 4 GOC includes scribes. ^e 14 CT does not include twelve. ^f 17 Literally a cup; GOC the cup ^g 18 CT from now on until ^h 20 Some manuscripts end verse 19 after This is My body and do not include verse 20. ⁱ 30 CT and TR include in My kingdom. ^j 31 CT does not include And the Lord said.

fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”

33 “Lord,” said Peter, “I am ready to go with You even to prison and to death.”

34 But Jesus replied, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster will certainly not^a crow today before^b you have denied three times that you know Me.”

35 Then Jesus asked them, “When I sent you out without purse or bag or sandals, did you lack anything?”

“Nothing,” they answered.

36 “Now, however,” He told them, “the one with a purse should take it, and likewise a bag; and the one without a sword should sell his cloak and buy one. 37 For I tell you that this Scripture must yet^c be fulfilled in Me: ‘And He was numbered with the transgressors.’^d For what is written about Me is reaching its fulfillment.”

38 So they said, “Look, Lord, here are two swords.”

“That is enough,” He answered.

Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives

(Matthew 26:36–46; Mark 14:32–42)

39 Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and His disciples^e followed Him. 40 When He came to the place, He told them, “Pray that you will not enter into temptation.”

41 And He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, where He knelt down and prayed, 42 “Father, if You are willing, take this cup from Me. Yet not My will, but Yours be done.”

43 Then an angel from heaven appeared to Him and strengthened Him. 44 And in His anguish, He prayed more earnestly, and His sweat became like drops of blood falling to the ground.^f

45 When Jesus rose from prayer and returned to the disciples,^g He found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. 46 “Why are you sleeping?” He asked. “Get up and pray so that you will not enter into temptation.”

The Betrayal of Jesus (Matthew 26:47–56;

Mark 14:43–52; John 18:1–14)

47 While He was still speaking, a crowd arrived, led by the man called Judas, one of the Twelve.

He approached Jesus to kiss Him.^h 48 But Jesus asked him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

49 Those around Jesus saw what was about to happen and said to Him,ⁱ “Lord, should we strike with our swords?” 50 And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

51 But Jesus answered, “No more of this!” And He touched the man’s ear and healed him.

52 Then Jesus said to the chief priests, temple officers, and elders who had come for Him, “Have you come out with swords and clubs as you would against an outlaw? 53 Every day I was with you in the temple courts,^j and you did not lay a hand on Me. But this hour belongs to you and to the power of darkness.”

Peter Denies Jesus (Matthew 26:69–75; Mark 14:66–72; John 18:15–18)

54 Then they seized Jesus, led Him away, and took Him into the house of the high priest. And Peter followed at a distance.

55 When those present had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. 56 A servant girl saw him seated in the firelight and looked intently at him. “This man also was with Him,” she said.

57 But Peter denied Him.^k “Woman, I do not know Him,” he said.

58 A short time later, someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them.”

But Peter said, “Man, I am not.”

59 About an hour later, another man insisted, “Certainly this man was with Him, for he too is a Galilean.”

60 “Man, I do not know what you are talking about,” Peter replied.

And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster^l crowed. 61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter.

Then Peter remembered the word that the Lord had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows,^m you will deny Me three times.” 62 And Peter went outsideⁿ and wept bitterly.

^a 34 CT and GOC will not ^b 34 CT until ^c 37 CT does not include yet. ^d 37 Isaiah 53:12 ^e 39 CT the disciples ^f 44 Some manuscripts do not include verses 43 and 44. ^g 45 Scrivener TR His disciples ^h 47 F35 and GOC include for he had given them this sign: “Whoever I kiss, He is the One.” ⁱ 49 CT does not include to Him. ^j 53 Literally the temple ^k 57 CT and GOC Peter denied it ^l 60 Literally a rooster; TR the rooster ^m 61 CT includes today. ⁿ 62 CT he went outside

The Soldiers Mock Jesus (*Isaiah 50:4–11; Matt. 27:27–31; Mark 15:16–20; John 19:1–15*)

⁶³The men who were holding Jesus began to mock Him and beat Him. ⁶⁴They blindfolded Him and kept striking Him in the face and demanding,^a “Prophecy! Who hit You?” ⁶⁵And they said many other blasphemous things against Him.

Jesus before the Sanhedrin

(*Matt. 26:57–68; Mark 14:53–65; John 18:19–24*)

⁶⁶At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and scribes, met together. They led Jesus into their Sanhedrin^b and said, ⁶⁷“If You are the Christ, tell us.”

Jesus answered, “If I tell you, you will not believe. ⁶⁸And if I ask you a question, you will not answer Me nor release Me.^c ⁶⁹But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.”^d

⁷⁰So they all asked, “Are You then the Son of God?” He replied, “You say that I am.”

⁷¹“Why do we need any more testimony?” they declared. “We have heard it for ourselves from His own lips.”

Jesus before Pilate

(*Matthew 27:11–14; John 18:28–40*)

23 Then the whole council rose and led Jesus away to Pilate. ²And they began to accuse Him, saying, “We found this man subverting the nation,^e forbidding payment of taxes to Caesar, and proclaiming Himself to be Christ, a King.”

³So Pilate asked Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?”

“You have said so,” Jesus replied.

⁴Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no basis for a charge against this man.”

⁵But they kept insisting, “He stirs up the people all over Judea with His teaching. He began in Galilee and has come all the way here.”

Jesus before Herod

⁶When Pilate heard of Galilee,^f he asked if the man was a Galilean. ⁷And learning that Jesus was

under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who himself was in Jerusalem at that time.

⁸When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased. He had wanted to see Him for a long time, because he had heard many things^g about Him and was hoping to see Him perform a miracle. ⁹Herod questioned Jesus at great length, but He gave no answer.

¹⁰Meanwhile, the chief priests and scribes^h stood there, vehemently accusing Him. ¹¹And even Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked Him. Dressing Him in a fine robe, they sent Him back to Pilate.

¹²That day Pilate and Herodⁱ became friends; before this time they had been enemies.

The Crowd Chooses Barabbas

(*Matthew 27:15–23; Mark 15:6–11*)

¹³Then Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, ¹⁴and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined Him here in your presence and found Him not guilty of your charges against Him. ¹⁵Neither has Herod, for I sent you back to him.^j As you can see, He has done nothing deserving of death. ¹⁶Therefore I will punish Him and release Him.”

¹⁷Now Pilate was obliged to release to the people one prisoner at the feast.^k ¹⁸But they all cried out in unison: “Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!” ¹⁹(Barabbas had been imprisoned for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.)

²⁰Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate addressed them again, ²¹but they kept shouting, “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!”

²²A third time he said to them, “What evil has this man done? I have found in Him no offense worthy of death. So after I punish Him, I will release Him.”

²³But they were insistent, demanding with loud voices for Jesus to be crucified. And their clamor and that of the chief priests^l prevailed. ²⁴So Pilate sentenced that their demand be met. ²⁵As they had requested, he released^m the one imprisoned for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over to their will.

^a 64 CT They blindfolded Him and kept demanding ^b 66 Or their Council ^c 68 CT does not include Me nor release Me.

^d 69 See Psalm 110:1. ^e 2 CT our nation ^f 6 CT does not include of Galilee. ^g 8 CT does not include many things.

^h 10 GOC scribes and chief priests ⁱ 12 CT Herod and Pilate ^j 15 CT for he sent Him back to us ^k 17 Literally Now it was necessary for him to release one to them at the feast; CT does not include verse 17; see Matthew 27:15 and Mark 15:6.

^l 23 CT does not include and that of the chief priests. ^m 25 TR released for them; GOC released for them Barabbas

The Crucifixion (Ps. 22:1–31; Matt. 27:32–44; Mark 15:21–32; John 19:16–27)

²⁶As the soldiers led Him away, they seized Simon of Cyrene on his way in from the country, and they put the cross on him to carry behind Jesus.

²⁷A great number of people followed Him, including women who kept mourning and wailing for Him. ²⁸But Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹Look, the days are coming when people will say, ‘Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore, and breasts that never nursed!’ ³⁰At that time

‘they will say to the mountains, “Fall on us!” and to the hills, “Cover us!”’^a

³¹For if men do these things while the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

³²Two others, who were criminals, were also led away to be executed with Jesus.

³³When they came to the place called The Skull,^b they crucified Him there, along with the criminals, one on His right and the other on His left.

³⁴Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”^c And they divided up His garments by casting lots.^d

³⁵The people stood watching, and the rulers with them^e sneered at Him,^f saying, “He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the Chosen One of God.”^g

³⁶The soldiers also mocked Him and came up to offer Him sour wine.^h ³⁷“If You are the King of the Jews,” they said, “save Yourself!”

³⁸Above Him was posted an inscription written in Greek, Latin, and Hebrew:ⁱ

THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

³⁹One of the criminals who hung there heaped abuse on Him. “If You are the Christ,” he said, “save Yourself^j and us!”

⁴⁰But the other one rebuked him, saying, “Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same

judgment? ⁴¹We are punished justly, for we are receiving what our actions deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴²Then he said to Jesus, “Lord,^k remember me when You come into Your kingdom!”

⁴³And Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

The Death of Jesus

(Psalm 31:1–24; Matthew 27:45–56; Mark 15:33–41; John 19:28–30)

⁴⁴It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over all the land until the ninth hour.^l

⁴⁵The sun was darkened,^m and the veil of the temple was torn down the middle.

⁴⁶Then Jesus called out in a loud voice, “Father, into Your hands I commit My Spirit.”ⁿ And when He had said this, He breathed His last.

⁴⁷When the centurion saw what had happened, he gave glory to God, saying, “Surely this was a righteous man.”^o ⁴⁸And when all the people who had gathered for this spectacle saw what had happened, they returned home beating their breasts. ⁴⁹But all those who knew Jesus, including the women who had followed Him from Galilee, stood at a distance watching these things.

The Burial of Jesus

(Isaiah 53:9–12; Matthew 27:57–61; Mark 15:42–47; John 19:38–42)

⁵⁰Now there was a Council member named Joseph, a good and righteous man, ⁵¹who had not consented to their decision or action. He was from the Judean town of Arimathea and himself^p was waiting for the kingdom of God. ⁵²He went to Pilate to ask for the body of Jesus. ⁵³Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and placed it in a tomb cut into the rock, where no one had yet been laid. ⁵⁴It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was beginning.^q

⁵⁵The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how His body was placed. ⁵⁶Then they returned to prepare spices and perfumes. And they rested on the Sabbath, according to the commandment.

^a 30 Hosea 10:8 ^b 33 Greek *Kranion*; Vulgate *Calvariae*, rendered in some translations as *Calvary* ^c 34 Some manuscripts do not include *Then Jesus said, “Father... what they are doing.”* ^d 34 See Psalm 22:18. ^e 35 CT does not include *with them.* ^f 35 See Psalm 22:7. ^g 35 CT *the Christ of God, the Chosen One* ^h 36 Or *to offer Him wine vinegar* ⁱ 38 CT does not include *written in Greek, Latin, and Hebrew*; see John 19:20. ^j 39 CT *“Are You not the Christ?” he said. “Save Yourself* ^k 42 CT *Then he said, “Lord* ^l 44 That is, from noon until three in the afternoon ^m 45 CT could also be translated as *failed or was obscured.* ⁿ 46 Psalm 31:5 ^o 47 Or *an innocent man* ^p 51 CT does not include *himself.* ^q 54 Or *was about to begin*

The Resurrection

(Matthew 28:1–10; Mark 16:1–8; John 20:1–9)

24 On the first day of the week,^a very early in the morning, they and certain other women with them came^b to the tomb, bringing the spices they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb,³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.^c ⁴While they were puzzling^d over this, suddenly two men in radiant apparel stood beside them.

⁵As the women bowed their faces to the ground in terror, the two men asked them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶He is not here; He has risen! Remember how He told you while He was still in Galilee: ⁷‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.’”

⁸Then they remembered His words. ⁹And when they returned from the tomb, they reported all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. ¹⁰It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹But their^e words seemed like nonsense to them, and they did not believe the women.

¹²Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. And after bending down and seeing only the linen cloths lying there,^f he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

The Road to Emmaus (Mark 16:12–13)

¹³That same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles^g from Jerusalem. ¹⁴They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵And as they talked and deliberated, Jesus Himself came up and walked along with them. ¹⁶But their eyes were kept from recognizing Him.

¹⁷He asked them, “What are you discussing so intently as you walk along with sadness on your faces?”^h

¹⁸The one named Cleopasⁱ asked Him, “Are You the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in recent days?”

¹⁹“What things?” He asked.

“The events involving Jesus of Nazareth,” they answered. “This man was a prophet, powerful in speech and action before God and all the people. ²⁰Our chief priests and rulers delivered Him up to the sentence of death, and they crucified Him. ²¹But we were hoping He was the One who would redeem Israel. And besides all this, today^j is the third day since these things took place.

²²Furthermore, some of our women astounded us. They were at the tomb early,^k ²³but they did not find His body. They came and told us they had seen a vision of angels, who said that Jesus was alive. ²⁴Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had described. But Him they did not see.”

²⁵Then Jesus said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and then to enter His glory?” ²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He explained to them what was written in all the Scriptures about Himself.

²⁸As they approached the village where they were headed, He seemed to be going farther. ²⁹But they pleaded with Him, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over.”

So He went in to stay with them. ³⁰While He was reclining at the table with them, He took bread, spoke a blessing and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Jesus—and He disappeared from their sight.

³²They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us^l as He spoke with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?” ³³And they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem.

There they found the Eleven and those with them, gathered together ³⁴and saying, “The Lord has indeed risen and has appeared to Simon!”

³⁵Then the two told what had happened on the road, and how they had recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

^a 1 Literally *But on the first of the Sabbaths*, ^b 1 CT they came ^c 3 SBL does not include *of the Lord Jesus*. ^d 4 Or *were greatly perplexed* ^e 11 CT literal *these* ^f 12 CT does not include *lying there*. ^g 13 Greek *being sixty stadia in distance*; that is, approximately 6.9 miles or 11.1 kilometers ^h 17 CT *as you walk along?* ⁱ 18 CT *One of them, named Cleopas* ^j 21 CT *it* ^k 22 CT *early this morning* ^l 32 WH does not include *within us*.

Jesus Appears to the Disciples*(John 20:19–23; 1 John 1:1–4)*

³⁶While they were describing these events, Jesus Himself stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”^a ³⁷But they were startled and frightened, thinking they had seen a spirit.

³⁸“Why are you troubled,” Jesus asked, “and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at My hands and My feet. It is I Myself. Touch Me and see—for a spirit does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.” ⁴⁰And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and feet.

⁴¹While they were still in disbelief because of their joy and amazement, He asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” ⁴²So they gave Him a piece of broiled fish and some honeycomb,^b ⁴³and He took them and ate them^c in front of them.

⁴⁴Jesus said to them, “These are the words I spoke to you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms.”

⁴⁵Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

⁴⁶And He told them, “This is what is written: And thus it is necessary that^d the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and in His name repentance and^e forgiveness of sins will be proclaimed to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.

⁴⁹And behold,^f I am sending the promise of My Father upon you. But remain in the city of Jerusalem^g until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

The Ascension*(Mark 16:19–20; Acts 1:6–11)*

⁵⁰When Jesus had led them out as far as Bethany, He lifted up His hands and blessed them. ⁵¹While He was blessing them, He left them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³praising and^h blessing God continually in the temple.

^a ³⁶ SBL does not include *and said, “Peace be with you.”* ^b ⁴² CT does not include *and some honeycomb.* ^c ⁴³ CT *He took (it) and ate (it)* ^d ⁴⁶ CT does not include *And thus it is necessary that.* ^e ⁴⁷ NA, NE, and WH *repentance for* ^f ⁴⁹ TH does not include *And behold.* ^g ⁴⁹ CT does not include *of Jerusalem.* ^h ⁵³ CT does not include *praising and.*

John

The Beginning (*Genesis 1:1–2; Heb. 11:1–3*)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through Him all things were made, and without Him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome^a it.

The Witness of John

⁶There came a man who was sent from God. His name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify about the Light, so that through him everyone might believe. ⁸He himself was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light.

⁹The true Light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him. ¹¹He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. ¹²But to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God— ¹³children born not of blood, nor of the desire or will of man, but born of God.

The Word Became Flesh (*Psalms 84:1–12*)

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.^b We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son^c from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵John testified concerning Him. He cried out, saying, “This is He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because He was before me.’”

¹⁶From His fullness we have all received grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son,^d who is at the Father’s side,^e has made Him known.

The Mission of John the Baptist (*Isa. 40:1–5; Matthew 3:1–12; Mark 1:1–8; Luke 3:1–20*)

¹⁹And this was John’s testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He did not refuse to confess, but openly declared, “I am not the Christ.”

²¹“Then who are you?” they inquired. “Are you Elijah?”

He said, “I am not.”

“Are you the Prophet?”

He answered, “No.”

²²So they said to him, “Who are you? We need an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

²³John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“I am a voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Make straight the way for the Lord.’”^f

²⁴Then those whom the Pharisees had sent^g ²⁵asked him, “Why then do you baptize, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”

²⁶“I baptize with^h water,” John replied, “but among you stands One you do not know. ²⁷He is the One who comes after me, who is preferred before me,ⁱ the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.”

²⁸All this happened at Bethany^j beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Jesus the Lamb of God

(*Matthew 3:13–17; Mark 1:9–11; Luke 3:21–22*)

²⁹The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is He of whom I said, ‘A man who comes after me has surpassed me because He was before me.’ ³¹I myself did not know Him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that He might be revealed to Israel.”

a ⁵ Or comprehended **b** ¹⁴ Or and tabernacled among us **c** ¹⁴ Or the Only Begotten or the Unique One **d** ¹⁸ Or the only begotten Son; CT the only begotten God **e** ¹⁸ Literally in the Father’s bosom **f** ²³ Isaiah 40:3 (see also LXX) **g** ²⁴ CT those sent from the Pharisees or the Pharisees who had been sent **h** ²⁶ Or in; also in verse 31 and twice in 33 **i** ²⁷ CT does not include who is preferred before me. **j** ²⁸ F35 Bithabara; TR Bethabara

32 Then John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove and resting on Him. 33 I myself did not know Him, but the One who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit descend and rest is He who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ 34 I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.”

The First Disciples

(Matthew 4:18–22; Mark 1:16–20; Luke 5:1–11)

35 The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. 36 When he saw Jesus walking by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!” 37 And when the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus.

38 Jesus turned and saw them following. “What do you want?” He asked.

They said to Him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are You staying?”

39 “Come and see,” He replied. So they went and saw where He was staying, and spent that day with Him. It was about the tenth hour.^b

40 Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard John’s testimony and followed Jesus. 41 He first found his brother Simon and told him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated as Christ).

42 Andrew brought him to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of Jonah.^c You will be called Cephas” (which is translated as Peter).

Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

43 The next day Jesus decided to set out for Galilee. Finding Philip, He told him, “Follow Me.”

44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the same town as Andrew and Peter.

45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the One Moses wrote about in the Law, the One the prophets foretold—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

46 “Can anything good come from Nazareth?” Nathanael asked.

“Come and see,” said Philip.

47 When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, He said of him, “Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is no deceit.”

48 “How do You know me?” Nathanael asked.

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

49 “Rabbi,” Nathanael answered, “You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”

50 Jesus said to him, “Do you believe just because I said to you,^d ‘I saw you under the fig tree’? You will see greater things than these.” 51 Then He declared, “Truly, truly, I tell you, from now on^e you will all see heaven open and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”^f

The Wedding at Cana

2 On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, 2 and Jesus and His disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 3 When the wine ran out, Jesus’ mother said to Him, “They have no more wine.”

4 “Woman, what is that to you and to Me?” Jesus replied. “My hour has not yet come.”

5 His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever He tells you.”

6 Now six stone water jars had been set there for the Jewish rites of purification. Each could hold from twenty to thirty gallons.^g 7 Jesus told the servants, “Fill the jars with water.”

So they filled them to the brim.

8 “Now draw some out,” He said, “and take it to the master of the banquet.”

They did so, 9 and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not know where it was from, but the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside 10 and said, “Everyone serves the fine wine first, and then the cheap wine after the guests are drunk. But you have saved the fine wine until now!”

11 Jesus performed this, the first of His signs, at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.

Jesus Cleanses the Temple

(Matt. 21:12–17; Mark 11:15–19; Luke 19:45–48)

12 After this, He went down to Capernaum with His mother and brothers and His disciples, and they stayed there a few days.

^a 34 SBL *The Chosen One of God* ^b 39 That is, about four in the afternoon ^c 42 CT of John ^d 50 CT I told you

^e 51 Or before long; CT does not include from now on. ^f 51 See Genesis 28:12. ^g 6 Greek two or three metretae; that is, approximately 20.8 to 31.2 gallons (78.8 to 118.1 liters)

13When the Jewish Passover was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14In the temple courts^a He found men selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and money changers seated at their tables. 15So He made a whip out of cords and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle. He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. 16To those selling doves He said, “Get these out of here! How dare you turn My Father’s house into a marketplace!”

17His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for Your house will consume Me.”^b

18On account of this, the Jews demanded, “What sign can You show us to prove Your authority to do these things?”

19Jesus answered, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up again.”

20“This temple took forty-six years to build,” the Jews replied, “and You are going to raise it up in three days?”

21But Jesus was speaking about the temple of His body. 22After He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this.^c Then they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

23While He was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many people saw the signs He was doing and believed in His name. 24But Jesus did not entrust Himself to them, for He knew them all. 25He did not need any testimony about man, for He knew what was in a man.

Jesus and Nicodemus

(Genesis 22:1–10; Romans 5:6–11)

3 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 2He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs You are doing if God were not with him.”

3Jesus replied, “Truly, truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.^d”

4“How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Can he enter his mother’s womb a second time to be born?”

5Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. 6Flesh is born of flesh, but spirit is born of the Spirit. 7Do not be amazed that I said, ‘You^e must be born again.’ 8The wind blows where it wishes. You hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

9“How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

10“You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and you do not understand these things? 11Truly, truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, and yet you people do not accept our testimony.

12If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? 13No one has ascended into heaven except the One who descended from heaven—the Son of Man, who is in heaven.^f 14Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15that everyone who believes in Him may not perish, but^g may have eternal life.^h

16For God so loved the world that He gave His one and onlyⁱ Son, that everyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17For God did not send His Son^j into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. 18Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.

19And this is the verdict: The Light has come into the world, but men loved the darkness rather than the Light because their deeds were evil. 20Everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come into the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 21But whoever practices the truth comes into the Light, so that it may be seen clearly that what he has done has been accomplished in God.”^k

John’s Testimony about Jesus

22After this, Jesus and His disciples went into the Judean countryside, where He spent some time with them and baptized.

^a 14 Literally *the temple*; also in verse 15 ^b 17 TR has *consumed Me*; Psalm 69:9 ^c 22 TR includes *to them*. ^d 3 Or *born from above*; also in verse 7 ^e 7 The Greek word for *you* is plural; also in verse 12. ^f 13 CT does not include *who is in heaven*. ^g 15 CT does not include *may not perish, but*. ^h 15 Or *everyone who believes may have eternal life in Him*. ⁱ 16 Or *only begotten or unique*; also in verse 18 ^j 17 CT literal *the Son* ^k 21 Some translators close this quotation after verse 15.

23 Now John was also baptizing at Aenon near Sam-
lem,^a because the water was plentiful there, and
people kept coming to be baptized. 24 (For John
had not yet been thrown into prison.)

25 Then a dispute arose between John's disciples
and a certain Jew^b over the issue of ceremonial
washing. 26 So John's disciples came to him and
said, "Look, Rabbi, the One who was with you
beyond the Jordan, the One you testified about—
He is baptizing, and everyone is going to Him."

27 John replied, "A man can receive only what is
given him from heaven. 28 You yourselves can
testify^c that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but am
sent ahead of Him.' 29 The bride belongs to the
bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom stands
and listens for him, and is overjoyed to hear
the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it
is now complete. 30 He must increase; I must
decrease.

31 The One who comes from above is above all.
The one who is from the earth belongs to the
earth and speaks as one from the earth. The One
who comes from heaven is above all.^d 32 He testi-
fies to what He has seen and heard, yet no one
accepts His testimony. 33 Whoever accepts His
testimony has certified that God is truthful. 34 For
the One whom God has sent speaks the words of
God, for God gives the Spirit without limit.

35 The Father loves the Son and has placed all
things in His hands. 36 Whoever believes in the
Son has eternal life. Whoever rejects the Son will
not see life. Instead, the wrath of God remains^e
on him."^f

Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

4 When the Lord^g realized that the Pharisees
were aware that Jesus was gaining and bap-
tizing more disciples than John² (although it was
not Jesus who baptized, but His disciples),³ He
left Judea and went away^h to Galilee.

⁴ Now He had to pass through Samaria. ⁵ So He
came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the
plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Jo-
seph. ⁶ Since Jacob's well was there, Jesus, weary
from His journey, sat down by the well. It was
about the sixth hour.ⁱ

7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water,
Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." ⁸ (His disci-
ples had gone into the town to buy food.)

⁹ "You are a Jew," said the woman. "How can You
ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?"
(For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)^j

¹⁰ Jesus answered, "If you knew the gift of God
and who is asking you for a drink, you would
have asked Him, and He would have given you
living water."

¹¹ "Sir," the woman replied, "You have nothing to
draw with and the well is deep. Where then will
You get this living water? ¹² Are You greater than
our father Jacob, who gave us this well and drank
from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock?"

¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks this
water will be thirsty again. ¹⁴ But whoever
drinks the water I give him will never thirst. In-
deed, the water I give him will become in him a
fount of water springing up to eternal life."

¹⁵ The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this wa-
ter so that I will not get thirsty and have to keep
coming here to draw water."

¹⁶ Jesus told her, "Go, call your husband and come
back."

¹⁷ "I have no husband," the woman replied.

Jesus said to her, "You are correct to say that you
have no husband. ¹⁸ In fact, you have had five
husbands, and the man you now have is not your
husband. You have spoken truthfully."

¹⁹ "Sir," the woman said, "I see that You are a
prophet. ²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this moun-
tain, but you Jews say that the place where one
must worship is in Jerusalem."

²¹ "Believe Me, woman," Jesus replied, "a time is
coming when you will worship the Father nei-
ther on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You
worship what you do not know; we worship
what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews.
²³ But a time is coming and has now come when
the true worshipers will worship the Father in
spirit and in truth, for the Father is seeking such
as these to worship Him. ²⁴ God is Spirit, and His
worshipers must worship Him in spirit and in
truth."

^a 23 CT, GOC, ALT, and TR *Salim* ^b 25 TR and the Jews ^c 28 CT literal, GOC, F35, and TR *testify to me*

^d 31 Tischendorf *The One comes from heaven.* ^e 36 F35 *will remain* ^f 36 Some translators close this quotation after
verse 30. ^g 1 NA, SBL, and F35 *When Jesus* ^h 3 CT *went away again or returned* ⁱ 6 That is, about noon

^j 9 Tischendorf does not include this sentence.

²⁵The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When He comes, He will explain everything to us.”

²⁶Jesus answered, “I who speak to you am He.”

The Disciples Return and Marvel

²⁷Just then His disciples returned and were surprised that He was speaking with a woman. But no one asked Him, “What do You want from her?” or “Why are You talking with her?”

²⁸Then the woman left her water jar, went back into the town, and said to the people, ²⁹“Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?” ³⁰So they left the town and made their way toward Jesus.

³¹Meanwhile the disciples urged Him, “Rabbi, eat something.”

³²But He told them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.”

³³So the disciples asked one another, “Could someone have brought Him food?”

³⁴Jesus explained, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work. ³⁵Do you not say, ‘There are still^a four months until the harvest’? I tell you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are ripe^b for harvest.

³⁶Already the reaper draws his wages and gathers a crop for eternal life, so that both^c the sower and the reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For in this case the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. ³⁸I sent you to reap what you have not worked for; others have done the hard work, and now you have taken up their labor.”

Many Samaritans Believe

³⁹Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in Jesus because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to Him, they asked Him to stay with them, and He stayed two days.

⁴¹And many more believed because of His message. ⁴²They said to the woman, “We now believe not only because of your words; we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man truly is the Christ,^d the Savior of the world.”

Jesus Heals the Official’s Son

(Matthew 8:5–13; Luke 7:1–10)

⁴³After two days, Jesus left and went to^e Galilee.

⁴⁴Now He Himself had testified that a prophet has no honor in his own hometown. ⁴⁵Yet when He arrived, the Galileans welcomed Him. They had seen all the great things He had done in Jerusalem at the feast, for they had gone there as well.

⁴⁶So once again Jesus^f came to Cana in Galilee, where He had turned the water into wine. And there was a royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. ⁴⁷When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went and begged Him to come down and heal his son, who was about to die.

⁴⁸Jesus said to him, “Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will never believe.”

⁴⁹“Sir,” the official said, “come down before my child dies.”

⁵⁰“Go,” said Jesus. “Your son will live.”

The man took Jesus at His word and departed.

⁵¹And while he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news: “Your boy is alive.”^g

⁵²So he inquired as to the hour when his son had recovered, and they told him, “The fever left him yesterday at the seventh hour.”^h

⁵³Then the father realized that this was the very hour in which Jesus had told him, “Your son will live.” And he and all his household believed.

⁵⁴This was now the second sign that Jesus performed after coming from Judea into Galilee.

The Pool of Bethesda

5 Some time later came the feastⁱ of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

²Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool with five covered colonnades, which in Hebrew^j is called Bethesda.^k ³On these walkways^l lay a great number of the sick, the blind, the lame, and the paralyzed, awaiting the moving of the water.^m ⁴For from time to time an angel descended into the pool and stirred the water. As soon as the water was stirred, the first to enter the pool would be healed of his disease.ⁿ

^a 35 F35 does not include *still*. ^b 35 Literally *white* ^c 36 CT does not include *both*. ^d 42 CT does not include *the Christ*. ^e 43 CT *left for* ^f 46 CT *He* ^g 51 CT *with the news that his boy was alive* ^h 52 That is, one in the afternoon ⁱ 1 ALT, CT, and TR *there was a feast* ^j 2 Or in Aramaic ^k 2 NA, NE, and WH *Bethzatha* ^l 3 Literally *In these* ^m 3 CT does not include *awaiting the moving of the water*. ⁿ 4 CT does not include verse 4.

⁵One man there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. ⁶When Jesus saw him lying there and realized that he had spent a long time in this condition, He asked him, “Do you want to get well?”

⁷“Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am on my way, someone else goes in before me.”

⁸Then Jesus told him, “Get up, pick up your mat, and walk.”

⁹Immediately the man was made well, and he picked up his mat and began to walk.

Now this happened on the Sabbath day, ¹⁰so the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “This is the Sabbath! It is unlawful for you to carry your mat.”

¹¹But he answered, “The man who made me well told me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’”

¹²“Who is this man who told you to pick up your mat^a and walk?” they asked.

¹³But the man who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had slipped away while the crowd was there.

¹⁴Afterward, Jesus found the man at the temple and said to him, “See, you have been made well. Stop sinning, or something worse may happen to you.”

¹⁵And the man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

The Father and the Son

¹⁶Now because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jews began to persecute Him and were seeking to kill Him.^b ¹⁷But Jesus answered them, “To this very day My Father is at His work, and I too am working.”

¹⁸Because of this, the Jews tried all the harder to kill Him. Not only was He breaking the Sabbath, but He was even calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.

¹⁹So Jesus replied, “Truly, truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing by Himself, unless He sees the Father doing it. For whatever the Father does, the Son also does. ²⁰The Father loves the Son and shows Him all He does. And to your amazement, He will show Him even greater works than these. ²¹For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom He wishes.

²²Furthermore, the Father judges no one, but has assigned all judgment to the Son, ²³so that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

²⁴Truly, truly, I tell you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not come under judgment. Indeed, he has crossed over from death to life.

²⁵Truly, truly, I tell you, the hour is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. ²⁶For as the Father has life in Himself, so also He has granted the Son to have life in Himself. ²⁷And He has given Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man.

²⁸Do not be amazed at this, for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear His voice ²⁹and come out—those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.^c

³⁰I can do nothing by Myself; I judge only as I hear. And My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of the Father^d who sent Me.

Testimonies about Jesus

³¹If I testify about Myself, My testimony is not valid. ³²There is another who testifies about Me, and I know that His testimony about Me is valid.

³³You have sent to John, and he has testified to the truth. ³⁴Even though I do not accept human testimony, I say these things so that you may be saved.

³⁵John was a lamp that burned and gave light, and you were willing for a season to bask in his light. ³⁶But I have testimony more substantial than that of John. For the works that the Father has given Me to accomplish—the very works I am doing—testify about Me that the Father has sent Me. ³⁷And the Father who sent Me has Himself testified about Me. You have never heard His voice nor seen His form, ³⁸nor does His word abide in you, because you do not believe the One He sent.

The Witness of Scripture (Luke 16:19–31)

³⁹You pore over the Scriptures because you presume that by them you possess eternal life. These are the very words that testify about Me, ⁴⁰yet you refuse to come to Me to have life.

⁴¹I do not accept glory from men, ⁴²but I know you, that you do not have the love of God within you. ⁴³I have come in My Father's name, and you have not received Me; but if someone else comes in his own name, you will receive him. ⁴⁴How can you believe if you accept glory from one another,^a yet do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?

⁴⁵Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, in whom you have put your hope. ⁴⁶If you had believed Moses, you would believe Me, because he wrote about Me. ⁴⁷But since you do not believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?"

The Feeding of the Five Thousand

(Matt. 14:13–21; Mark 6:30–44; Luke 9:10–17)

6 After this, Jesus crossed to the other side of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias). ²A large crowd followed Him because they saw His signs.^b He was performing on the sick. ³Then Jesus went up on the mountain and sat down with His disciples.

⁴Now the Jewish Feast of the Passover was near. ⁵When Jesus looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where can we buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶But He was asking this to test him, for He knew what He was about to do.

⁷Philip answered, "Two hundred denarii^c would not buy enough bread for each of them^d to have a small piece."

⁸One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, ⁹"Here is a boy with five barley loaves and two small fish. But what difference will these make among so many?"

¹⁰"Have the people sit down," Jesus said. Now there was plenty of grass in that place, so the men sat down, about five thousand of them.

¹¹Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples^e to those who were seated—and the fish—as much as they wanted.

¹²And when everyone was full, He said to His disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over, so that nothing will be wasted."

¹³So they collected them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

¹⁴When the people saw the sign^f that Jesus had performed,^g they began to say, "Truly this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."

¹⁵Then Jesus, realizing that they were about to come and make Him king by force, withdrew^h to a mountain by Himself.

Jesus Walks on Water

(Matthew 14:22–33; Mark 6:45–52)

¹⁶When evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was already dark, and Jesus had not gone outⁱ to them. ¹⁸A strong wind was blowing, and the sea grew agitated.

¹⁹When they had rowed about three or four miles,^j they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the sea—and they were terrified. ²⁰But Jesus spoke up: "It is I; do not be afraid." ²¹Then they were willing to take Him into the boat, and at once the boat reached the shore where they were heading.

Jesus the Bread of Life

²²The next day, the crowd that had remained on the other side of the sea realized that no other boat had been there except the one that His disciples had entered,^k and that Jesus had not boarded it with His disciples, but they had gone away alone. ²³Then other boats, which were from Tiberias,^l landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. ²⁴So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor His disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum to look for Him. ²⁵When they found Him on the other side of the sea, they asked Him, "Rabbi, when did You get here?"

²⁶Jesus replied, "Truly, truly, I tell you, it is not because you saw these signs that you are looking for Me, but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. ²⁷Do not work for food that perishes, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on Him God the Father has placed His seal of approval."

^a ⁴⁴ F35 from others ^b ² CT the signs ^c ⁷ A denarius was customarily a day's wage for a laborer; see Matthew 20:2.

^d ⁷ CT literal does not include of them. ^e ¹¹ CT does not include to the disciples, and the disciples. ^f ¹⁴ WH signs

^g ¹⁴ SBL, NA, NE, and WH He had performed ^h ¹⁵ GOC, CT, F35, and TR withdrew again ⁱ ¹⁷ CT had not yet gone out

^j ¹⁹ Greek about twenty-five or thirty stadia; that is, approximately 2.87 to 3.45 miles (4.62 to 5.55 kilometers) ^k ²² CT does not include except the one that His disciples had entered. ^l ²³ NA and TH However, some boats from Tiberias

28 Then they inquired, “What must we do to perform the works of God?”

29 Jesus replied, “The work of God is this: to believe in the One He has sent.”

30 So they asked Him, “What sign then will You perform, so that we may see it and believe You? What will You do?” 31 Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’^a”

32 Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

34 “Sir,” they said, “give us this bread at all times.”

35 Jesus answered, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to Me will never hunger, and whoever believes in Me will never thirst. 36 But as I stated, you have seen Me and still you do not believe.

37 Everyone the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never drive away. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but to do the will of Him who sent Me.

39 And this is the will of the Father^b who sent Me, that I shall lose none of those He has given Me, but raise them up at the last day. 40 And it is the will of Him who sent Me^c that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”

41 At this, the Jews began to grumble about Jesus because He had said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” 42 They were asking, “Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How then can He say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?”

43 “Stop grumbling among yourselves,” Jesus therefore^d replied. 44 “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day. 45 It is written in the Prophets: ‘And they will all be taught by God.’^e Therefore^f everyone who has heard the Father

and learned from Him comes to Me— 46 not that anyone has seen the Father except the One who is from God; only He has seen the Father.

47 Truly, truly, I tell you, he who believes in Me^g has eternal life. 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. 50 This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that anyone may eat of it and not die. 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And this bread, which I will give for the life of the world, is My flesh.”

52 At this, the Jews began to argue among themselves, “How can this man give us His flesh to eat?”

53 So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of Man, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For My flesh is truly^h food, and My blood is truly drink.

56 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood remains in Me, and I in him. 57 Just as the living Father sent Me and I live because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on Me will live because of Me. 58 This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your fathers, who ate the manna and died,ⁱ the one who eats this bread^j will live forever.”

Many Disciples Turn Back

(Matt. 8:18–22; Luke 9:57–62; Luke 14:25–33)

59 Jesus said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum. 60 On hearing it, many of His disciples said, “This is a difficult teaching. Who can accept it?”

61 Aware that His disciples were grumbling about this teaching, Jesus asked them, “Does this offend you? 62 Then what will happen if you see the Son of Man ascend to where He was before?

63 The Spirit gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words I speak^k to you are spirit and they are life. 64 However, there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray Him.)

^a 31 Psalm 78:24; see also Exodus 16:4. ^b 39 CT of Him ^c 40 CT For it is My Father's will ^d 43 CT does not include therefore. ^e 45 Isaiah 54:13 ^f 45 CT does not include Therefore. ^g 47 CT does not include in Me. ^h 55 CT real; twice in this verse ⁱ 58 CT literal the fathers, who ate and died ^j 58 F35 bread of Mine ^k 63 CT have spoken

65 Then Jesus said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to Me unless My Father^a has granted it to him.”

66 From that time on many of His disciples turned back and no longer walked with Him.

Peter’s Confession of Faith

(Matt. 16:13–20; Mark 8:27–30; Luke 9:18–20)

67 So Jesus asked the Twelve, “Do you want to leave too?”

68 Simon Peter replied, “Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 We believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.^b”

70 Jesus answered them, “Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!” 71 He was speaking about Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.^c For although Judas was one of the Twelve, he was later to betray Jesus.

Jesus Teaches at the Feast

7 After this, Jesus traveled throughout Galilee. He did not want to travel in Judea, because the Jews there were trying to kill Him. 2 However, the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles^d was near. 3 So Jesus’ brothers said to Him, “Leave here and go to Judea, so that Your disciples there may see the works You are doing. 4 For no one who wants to be known publicly acts in secret. Since You are doing these things, show Yourself to the world.” 5 For even His own brothers did not believe in Him.

6 Therefore Jesus told them, “Although your time is always at hand, My time has not yet come. 7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me, because I testify that its works are evil. 8 Go up to the feast on your own. I am not yet^e going up to this feast, because My time has not yet come.”

9 Having said this to them,^f Jesus remained in Galilee. 10 But after His brothers had gone up to the feast, He also went—not publicly, but in secret.

11 So the Jews were looking for Him at the feast and asking, “Where is He?”

12 Many in the crowds were whispering about Him. Some said, “He is a good man.”

But others replied, “No, He deceives the people.”

13 Yet no one would speak publicly about Him for fear of the Jews.

14 About halfway through the feast, Jesus went up to the temple courts^g and began to teach. 15 The Jews were amazed and asked, “How did this man attain such learning without having studied?”

16 “My teaching is not My own,” Jesus replied. “It comes from Him who sent Me. 17 If anyone desires to do His will, he will know whether My teaching is from God or whether I speak on My own. 18 He who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory, but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is a man of truth; in Him there is no falsehood. 19 Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps it. Why are you trying to kill Me?”

20 “You have a demon,” the crowd replied. “Who is trying to kill You?”

21 Jesus answered them, “I did one miracle, and you are all amazed. 22 But because Moses gave you circumcision, you circumcise a boy on the Sabbath (not that it is from Moses, but from the patriarchs.) 23 If a boy can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses will not be broken, why are you angry with Me for making the whole man well on the Sabbath? 24 Stop judging by outward appearances, and start judging justly.”

Is Jesus the Christ?

25 Then some of the people of Jerusalem began to say, “Isn’t this the man they are trying to kill? 26 Yet here He is, speaking publicly, and they are not saying anything to Him. Have the rulers truly recognized that this is the Christ? 27 But we know where this man is from. When the Christ comes, no one will know where He is from.”

28 Then Jesus, still teaching in the temple courts, cried out, “You know Me, and you know where I am from. I have not come of My own accord, but He who sent Me is true. You do not know Him, 29 but I know Him, because I am from Him and He sent Me.”

30 So they tried to seize Him, but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come. 31 Many in the crowd, however, believed in Him and said, “When the Christ comes, will He perform more signs than this man?”

^a 65 CT the Father ^b 69 CT You are the Christ, the Holy One of God ^c 71 CT Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot ^d 2 That is, Sukkot, the autumn feast of pilgrimage to Jerusalem; also translated as *the Feast of Booths* or *the Feast of Shelters* and originally called *the Feast of Ingathering* (see Exodus 23:16 and Exodus 34:22). ^e 8 NA and SBL I am not ^f 9 CT Having said this ^g 14 Literally *the temple*; also in verse 28

32When the Pharisees heard the crowd whispering these things about Jesus, they and the chief priests^a sent officers to arrest Him. 33So Jesus said,^b “I am with you only a little while longer, and then I am going to the One who sent Me. 34You will look for Me, but you will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come.”

35At this, the Jews said to one another, “Where does He intend to go that we will not find Him? Will He go where the Jews are dispersed among the Greeks,^c and teach the Greeks? 36What does He mean by saying, ‘You will look for Me, but you will not find Me,’ and, ‘Where I am, you cannot come’?”

Living Water

37On the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood up and called out in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. 38Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said: ‘Streams of living water will flow from within him.’” 39He was speaking about the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were later to receive. For the Holy Spirit had not yet been given,^d because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Division over Jesus

40On hearing these words, many of the people therefore said,^e “This is truly the Prophet.”

41Others declared, “This is the Christ.”

But still others asked, “How can the Christ come from Galilee? 42Doesn’t the Scripture say that the Christ will come from the line of David and from Bethlehem, the village where David lived?^f”

43So there was division in the crowd because of Jesus. 44Some of them wanted to seize Him, but no one laid a hand on Him.

The Unbelief of the Jewish Leaders

45Then the officers returned to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, “Why didn’t you bring Him in?”

46“Never has anyone spoken like this man!” the officers answered.

47“Have you also been deceived?” replied the Pharisees. 48“Have any of the rulers or Pharisees believed in Him? 49But this crowd that does not know the law—they are under a curse.”

50Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus by night^g and who himself was one of them, asked, 51“Does our law convict a man without first hearing from him to determine what he has done?”

52“Aren’t you also from Galilee?” they replied. “Look into it, and you will see that no prophet comes out of Galilee.”^h

53Then each went to his own home.

The Woman Caught in Adultery

8 But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

²Early in the morningⁱ He went back into the temple courts.^j All the people came to Him, and He sat down to teach them. ³The scribes and Pharisees, however, brought to Him^k a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before them ⁴and to test Him they said,^l “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such a woman. So what do You say?”

⁶They said this to test Him, in order to have a basis for accusing Him. But Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with His finger, not taking notice.^m

⁷When they continued to question Him, He straightened upⁿ and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to cast a stone at her.” ⁸And again He bent down and wrote on the ground.

⁹When they heard this and were convicted by their consciences,^o they began to go away one by one, beginning with the older ones,^p until only Jesus was left, with the woman standing there. ¹⁰Then Jesus straightened up and saw no one but the woman.^q And He asked her, “Where^r are your accusers?^s Has no one condemned you?”

¹¹“No one, Lord,” she answered.

“Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared.^t “Go^u and sin no more.”

^a 32 Literally *the Pharisees and the chief priests*; CT literal *the chief priests and the Pharisees* ^b 33 TR said to them

^c 35 Literally *Will He go to the Diaspora among the Greeks*; the Jewish people living outside the land of Israel since the Babylonian exile were referred to as *the Diaspora*. ^d 39 Literally *the Holy Spirit was not yet*; CT *the Spirit was not yet*

^e 40 CT *some of the people said* ^f 42 See Micah 5:2. ^g 50 CT *earlier* ^h 52 Some early manuscripts do not include John 7:53 through John 8:11. ⁱ 2 ALT and HF *Very early in the morning* ^j 2 Literally *the temple*; also in verse 20 ^k 3 GOC,

ALT, NA, and WH do not include *to Him*. ^l 4 CT and they said ^m 6 CT does not include *not taking notice*. ⁿ 7 ALT and HF *He looked up* ^o 9 GOC, ALT, HF, NA, and WH do not include *and were convicted by their consciences*. ^p 9 ALT, HF, F35, and TR include *unto the last*. ^q 10 GOC, NA, and WH do not include *and saw no one but the woman*. ^r 10 ALT, HF, GOC,

NA, TR, and WH *Woman, where* ^s 10 GOC, ALT, NA, and WH *are they* ^t 11 ALT, HF, F35, and TR *Jesus said to her*

^u 11 GOC, ALT, HF, NA, F35, and WH *Now go*

Jesus the Light of the World (1 John 1:5-10)

12 Once again, Jesus spoke to the people and said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life."

13 So the Pharisees said to Him, "You are testifying about Yourself; Your testimony is not valid."

14 Jesus replied, "Even if I testify about Myself, My testimony is valid, because I know where I came from and where I am going. But you do not know where I came from or where I am going. **15** You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. **16** But even if I do judge, My judgment is true, because I am not alone; I am with the Father who sent Me.^a **17** Even in your own Law it is written that the testimony of two men is valid.^b **18** I am One who testifies about Myself, and the Father, who sent Me, also testifies about Me."

19 "Where is Your Father?" they asked Him.

"You do not know Me or My Father," Jesus answered. "If you knew Me, you would know My Father as well."

20 Jesus spoke^c these words while teaching in the temple courts, near the treasury. Yet no one seized Him, because His hour had not yet come.

21 Again Jesus said^d to them, "I am going away, and you will look for Me, but you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come."

22 So the Jews began to ask, "Will He kill Himself, since He says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come'?"

23 Then He told them, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. **24** That is why I told you that you would die in your sins. For unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."

25 "Who are You?" they asked.

"Just what I have been telling you from the beginning," Jesus replied. **26** "I have much to say about you and much to judge. But the One who sent Me is truthful, and what I have heard from Him, I tell the world."

27 They did not understand that He was telling them about the Father. **28** So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will

know that I am He, and that I do nothing on My own, but speak exactly what My Father^e has taught Me. **29** He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left^f Me alone, because I always do what pleases Him."

The Truth Will Set You Free (2 John 1:4-6)

30 As Jesus spoke these things, many believed in Him. **31** So He said to the Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, you are truly My disciples. **32** Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

33 "We are Abraham's descendants," they answered. "We have never been slaves to anyone. How can You say we will be set free?"

34 Jesus replied, "Truly, truly, I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. **35** A slave does not remain in the house forever, but a son remains forever. **36** So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

37 I know you are Abraham's descendants, but you are trying to kill Me because My word has no place within you. **38** I speak of what I have seen in the presence of My Father,^g and you do what you have seen^h from your father."

39 "Abraham is our father," they replied.

"If you were children of Abraham," said Jesus, "you would do the works of Abraham. **40** But now you are trying to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham never did such a thing. **41** You are doing the works of your father."

"We are not illegitimate children," they declared. "Our only Father is God Himself."

42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on My own, but He sent Me.

43 Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you are unable to accept My message. **44** You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out his desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, refusing to stand inⁱ the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, because he is a liar and the father of lies. **45** But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me!

^a 16 Literally but (it is) I and the Father who sent Me; NE but it is I and the One who sent Me ^b 17 See Deuteronomy 19:15.

^c 20 CT He spoke ^d 21 CT He said ^e 28 CT the Father ^f 29 CT He has not left ^g 38 CT the Father ^h 38 CT heard

ⁱ 44 CT to uphold

46 Which of you can prove Me guilty of sin? If I speak the truth, why do you not believe Me?

47 Whoever belongs to God hears the words of God. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."

Before Abraham Was Born, I Am

48 The Jews answered Him, "Are we not right to say that You are a Samaritan and You have a demon?"

49 "I do not have a demon," Jesus replied, "but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. 50 I do not seek My own glory. There is One who seeks it, and He is the Judge. 51 Truly, truly, I tell you, if anyone keeps My word, he will never see death."

52 "Now we know that You have a demon!" declared the Jews. "Abraham died, and so did the prophets, yet You say that anyone who keeps Your word will never taste death. 53 Are You greater than our father Abraham? He died, as did the prophets. Who do You claim to be?"

54 Jesus answered, "If I glorify Myself, My glory means nothing. The One who glorifies Me is My Father, of whom you say 'He is our^a God.' 55 You do not know Him, but I know Him. If I said I did not know Him, I would be a liar like you. But I do know Him, and I keep His word. 56 Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see My day. He saw it and was glad."

57 Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and You have seen Abraham?"

58 "Truly, truly, I tell you," Jesus declared, "before Abraham was born, I am!^b"

59 At this, they picked up stones to throw at Him. But Jesus was hidden and went out of the temple area, going through the midst of them. And so He passed by.^c

Jesus Heals the Man Born Blind

9 Now as Jesus was passing by, He saw a man blind from birth, ²and His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened so that the works of God would be displayed in him. 4 While it is daytime, I must do^d the works of Him who sent Me. Night is coming, when no one can work.

5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

6 When Jesus had said this, He spit on the ground, made some mud, and applied it to the eyes of the blind man.^e 7 Then He told him, "Go, wash in the Pool of Siloam" (which means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came back seeing.

8 At this, his neighbors and those who had formerly seen him blind^f began to ask, "Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?"

9 Some claimed that he was, but others said, "He just looks^g like him."

But the man kept saying, "I am the one."

10 "How^h were your eyes opened?" they asked.

11 He answered, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and anointed my eyes, and He told me to go to the Pool of Siloamⁱ and wash. So I went and washed and received my sight."

12 "Where is He?" they asked.

"I do not know," he answered.

The Pharisees Investigate the Healing

13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. 14 Now the day on which^j Jesus had made the mud and opened his eyes was a Sabbath. 15 So the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight.

The man answered, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see."

16 Because of this, some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for He does not keep the Sabbath."

But others said, "How can a sinful man perform such signs?"

And there was division among them. 17 So once again they asked the man who had been blind, "What do you say about Him, since it was your eyes He opened?"

"He is a prophet," the man replied.

18 The Jews still did not believe that the man had been blind and had received his sight until they summoned his parents ¹⁹and asked, "Is this your son, the one you say was born blind? So how is it that he can now see?"

^a 54 GOC, TH, TR, and WH Your ^b 58 Lit. before Abraham was, I am! ^c 59 CT does not include going through the midst of them. And so He passed by. ^d 4 CT we must do ^e 6 CT to his eyes ^f 8 CT seen him begging ^g 9 CT No, he just looks ^h 10 NA and WH How then ⁱ 11 CT to go to Siloam ^j 14 MT lit. Now when

20 His parents answered, "We know he is our son, and we know he was born blind. 21 But how he can now see or who opened his eyes, we do not know. He is of age. Ask him. He can speak for himself.^a"

22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews. For the Jews had already determined that anyone who confessed Jesus as the Christ would be put out of the synagogue. 23 That was why his parents said, "He is old enough. Ask him."

24 So a second time they called for the man who had been blind and said, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner."

25 He answered, "Whether He is a sinner I do not know. There is one thing I do know: I was blind, but now I see!"

26 "What did He do to you?" they asked again.^b "How did He open your eyes?"

27 He replied, "I already told you, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?"

28 Then they heaped insults on him and said, "You are His disciple; we are disciples of Moses. 29 We know that God spoke to Moses, but we do not know where this man is from."

30 "That is remarkable indeed!" the man said. "You do not know where He is from, and yet He opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not listen to sinners, but He does listen to the one who worships Him and does His will. 32 Never before has anyone heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, He could do no such thing."

34 They replied, "You were born in utter sin, and you are instructing us?" And they threw him out.

Spiritual Blindness

35 When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, He found the man and said, "Do you believe in the Son of God?^c"

36 "Who is He, Sir?" he replied. "Tell me so that I may believe in Him."

37 "You have already seen Him," Jesus answered. "He is the One speaking with you."

38 "Lord, I believe," he said. And he worshiped Jesus.

39 Then Jesus declared, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind may see and those who see may become blind."^d

40 Some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard this, and they asked Him, "Are we blind too?"

41 "If you were blind," Jesus replied, "you would not be guilty of sin. But since you say, 'We see,'^e your guilt remains."

Jesus the Good Shepherd

(Psalm 23:1–6; Ezekiel 34:11–24)

10 "Truly, truly, I tell you, whoever does not enter the sheepfold by the gate, but climbs in some other way, is a thief and a robber. 2 But the one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen for his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

4 When he has brought out his own sheep,^f he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will flee from him because they do not recognize his voice."

6 Jesus spoke to them using this illustration, but they did not understand what He was telling them. 7 So He said to them again, "Truly, truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who came^g were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the gate. If anyone enters through Me, he will be saved. He will come in and go out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come that they may have life, and have it in all its fullness.

11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand is not the shepherd, and the sheep are not his own. When he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf pounces on them and scatters the flock. 13 The man^h runs away because he is a hired servant and is unconcerned for the sheep.

14 I am the good shepherd. I know My sheep and My sheep know Me, 15 just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father. And I lay down My life for the sheep. 16 I have other sheep that are not

^a 21 CT Ask him. He is old enough to speak for himself. ^b 26 CT does not include again. ^c 35 CT the Son of Man

^d 39 Literally so that those not seeing may see and those seeing may become blind. Some manuscripts do not include ³⁸ "Lord, I believe"... ³⁹ Then Jesus declared. ^e 41 CT since you claim you can see ^f 4 CT brought out all his own ^g 8 GOC, CT, F35, and TR All who came before Me ^h 13 Literally The hired servant; CT literal He

of this fold. I must bring them in as well, and they will listen to My voice. Then there will be one flock and one shepherd.

17The reason My Father^a loves Me is that I lay down My life in order to take it up again. 18No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from My Father.”

19Therefore^b there was again division among the Jews because of Jesus’ message. 20Many of them said, “He is demon-possessed and insane. Why would you listen to Him?”

21But others replied, “These are not the words of a man possessed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

Jesus at the Feast of Dedication

22At that time the Feast of Dedication^c took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, 23and Jesus was walking in the temple courts^d in Solomon’s Colonnade. 24So the Jews gathered around Him and demanded, “How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.”

25“I already told you,” Jesus replied, “but you did not believe. The works I do in My Father’s name testify on My behalf. 26But because you are not My sheep, you refuse to believe, just as I said to you.^e 27My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me. 28I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them out of My hand. 29My Father who has given them to Me is greater than all. No one can snatch them out of My Father’s hand. 30I and the Father are one.”

31At this, the Jews again picked up stones to stone Him. 32But Jesus responded, “I have shown you many good works from My Father.^f For which of these do you stone Me?”

33“We are not stoning You for any good work,” said the Jews, “but for blasphemy, because You, who are a man, declare Yourself to be God.”

34Jesus replied, “Is it not written in your Law: ‘I have said you are gods’^g? 35If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and the Scripture cannot be broken— 36then what about the One whom the Father sanctified and sent into

the world? How then can you accuse Me of blasphemy for stating that I am the Son of God?

37If I am not doing the works of My Father, then do not believe Me. 38But if I am doing them, even though you do not believe Me, believe the works themselves, so that you may know and believe^h that the Father is in Me, and I am in Him.ⁱ”

39At this, they tried again to seize Him, but He escaped their grasp.

John’s Testimony Confirmed

40Then Jesus went back across the Jordan to the place where John had first been baptizing, and He stayed there. 41Many came to Him and said, “Although John never performed a sign, everything he said about this man was true.” 42And many in that place believed in Jesus.

The Death of Lazarus

11 At this time a man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2(Mary, whose brother Lazarus was sick, was to anoint the Lord with perfume and wipe His feet^j with her hair.) 3So the sisters sent word to Jesus, “Lord, the one You love is sick.”

4When Jesus heard this, He said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”

5Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6So on hearing that Lazarus was sick, He stayed where He was for two days, 7and then He said to the disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”

8“Rabbi,” they replied, “the Jews just tried to stone You, and You are going back there?”

9Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? If anyone walks in the daytime, he will not stumble, because he sees by the light of this world. 10But if anyone walks at night, he will stumble, because he has no light.”

11After He had said this, He told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to wake him up.”

12His disciples replied, “Lord, if he is sleeping, he will get better.” 13They thought that Jesus was talking about actual sleep, but He was speaking about the death of Lazarus.

^a 17 CT the Father ^b 19 CT does not include *Therefore*. ^c 22 That is, Hanukkah, the historic celebration of the Maccabean Revolt and rededication of the temple ^d 23 Literally *the temple* ^e 26 CT does not include *just as I said to you*.

^f 32 CT the Father ^g 34 Psalm 82:6 ^h 38 CT *understand* ⁱ 38 CT in the Father ^j 2 Literally *was the one having anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and having wiped His feet*; see John 12:3.

14 So Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, 15 and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”

16 Then Thomas called Didymus^a said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, so that we may die with Him.”

Jesus Comforts Martha and Mary

17 When Jesus arrived, He found that Lazarus had already spent four days in the tomb. 18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, a little less than two miles^b away, 19 and many of the Jews had come to the women around^c Martha and Mary to console them in the loss of their brother. 20 So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet Him, but Mary stayed at home.

21 Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now^d I know that God will give You whatever You ask of Him.”

23 “Your brother will rise again,” Jesus told her.

24 Martha replied, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me will live, even though he dies. 26 And everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?”

27 “Yes, Lord,” she answered, “I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world.”

28 After Martha had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside to tell her, “The Teacher is here and is asking for you.” 29 And when Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to Him.

30 Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was^e at the place where Martha had met Him. 31 When the Jews who were in the house consoling Mary saw how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, saying^f that she was going to the tomb to mourn there. 32 When Mary came to Jesus and saw Him, she fell at His feet and said, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.”

33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit^g and troubled. 34 “Where have you put him?” He asked.

“Come and see, Lord,” they answered.

35 Jesus wept.

36 Then the Jews said, “See how He loved him!”

37 But some of them asked, “Could not this man who opened the eyes of the blind also have kept Lazarus from dying?”

Jesus Raises Lazarus (Acts 9:36–43)

38 Jesus, once again deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. 39 “Take away the stone,” Jesus said.

“Lord, by now he stinks,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man. “It has already been four days.”

40 Jesus replied, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?”

41 So they took away the stone from where the dead man was lying.^h Then Jesus lifted His eyes upward and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. 42 I knew that You always hear Me, but I say this for the benefit of the people standing here, so they may believe that You sent Me.”

43 After Jesus had said this, He called out in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”

44 The man who had been dead came out with his hands and feet bound in strips of linen, and his face wrapped in a cloth.ⁱ

“Unwrap him and let him go,” Jesus told them.

The Plot to Kill Jesus

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

45 Therefore many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in Him. 46 But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what^j Jesus had done.

47 Then the chief priests and Pharisees convened the Sanhedrin^k and said, “What are we to do? This man is performing many signs. 48 If we let Him go on like this, everyone will believe in Him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.”

^a 16 Didymus means the twin. ^b 18 Greek about fifteen stadia; that is, approximately 1.72 miles or 2.78 kilometers

^c 19 CT does not include the women around. ^d 22 SBL and WH Even now ^e 30 CT was still ^f 31 CT supposing

^g 33 Or He was indignant in spirit; similarly in verse 38 ^h 41 CT does not include from where the dead man was lying.

ⁱ 44 Greek soudario ^j 46 F35 all that ^k 47 Or the Council

⁴⁹But one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all! ⁵⁰You do not realize that it is better for us^a that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish.”

⁵¹Caiaphas did not say this on his own. Instead, as high priest that year, he was prophesying that Jesus would die for the nation, ⁵²and not only for the nation, but also for the scattered children of God, to gather them together into one.

⁵³So from that day on they plotted together^b to kill Him. ⁵⁴As a result, Jesus no longer went about publicly among the Jews, but He withdrew to a town called Ephraim in an area near the wilderness. And He spent time there with His disciples.^c

⁵⁵Now the Jewish Passover was near, and many people went up from the country to Jerusalem to purify themselves before the Passover. ⁵⁶They kept looking for Jesus and asking one another as they stood in the temple courts,^d “What do you think? Will He come to the feast at all?” ⁵⁷But the chief priests and Pharisees had given an order^e that anyone who knew where He was must report it, so that they could arrest Him.

Mary Anoints Jesus

(Matthew 26:6–13; Mark 14:3–9; Luke 7:36–50)

12 Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, the hometown of Lazarus who had died,^f whom He had raised from the dead. ²So they hosted a dinner for Jesus there. Martha served, and Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with Him. ³Then Mary took about a pint^g of expensive perfume, made of pure nard, and she anointed Jesus’ feet and wiped them with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

⁴But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, son of Simon,^h who was going to betray Him, asked, ⁵“Why wasn’t this perfume sold for three hundred denariiⁱ and the money given to the poor?” ⁶Judas did not say this because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief. As keeper of the money bag, he used to take from what was put into it.

⁷“Leave her alone,” Jesus replied. “She has kept this perfume in preparation for the day of My burial. ⁸The poor you will always have with you,^j but you will not always have Me.”

The Plot to Kill Lazarus

⁹Meanwhile a large crowd^k of Jews learned that Jesus was there. And they came not only because of Him, but also to see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. ¹⁰So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, ¹¹for on account of him many of the Jews were deserting them and believing in Jesus.

The Triumphal Entry (Zechariah 9:9–13; Matt. 21:1–11; Mark 11:1–11; Luke 19:28–40)

¹²The next day a great crowd^l that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³They took palm branches and went out to meet Him, crying out:^m

“Hosanna!”ⁿ

“Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!”^o

“Blessed is the King of Israel!”

¹⁴Finding a young donkey, Jesus sat on it, as it is written:

¹⁵“Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion.
See, your King is coming,
seated on the colt of a donkey.”^p

¹⁶At first His disciples did not understand these things, but after Jesus was glorified they remembered what had been done to Him, and they realized that these very things had also been written about Him.

¹⁷Meanwhile, many people who had been with Jesus when He called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify. ¹⁸That is also why the crowd went out to meet Him, because they heard that He had performed this sign.

¹⁹Then the Pharisees said to one another, “You can see that this is doing you no good. Look how the whole world has gone after Him!”

^a 50 CT for you ^b 53 CT they plotted ^c 54 CT He stayed there with the disciples ^d 56 Literally the temple ^e 57 CT given orders ^f 1 CT does not include who had died. ^g 3 Greek a *libra*; that is, approximately 12 ounces or 340 grams ^h 4 CT does not include son of Simon. ⁱ 5 A denarius was customarily a day’s wage for a laborer; see Matthew 20:2. ^j 8 See Deuteronomy 15:11. ^k 9 NA, TH, and WH the large crowd ^l 12 NA, SBL, and WH the great crowd ^m 13 CT shouting ⁿ 13 Hosanna is a transliteration of the Hebrew *Hosia-na*, meaning *Save, we pray or Save now*, which became a shout of praise; see Psalm 118:25. ^o 13 Psalm 118:26 ^p 15 Zechariah 9:9

Jesus Predicts His Death

²⁰Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the feast. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and requested of him, “Sir, we want to see Jesus.” ²²Philip relayed this appeal to Andrew, and both of them went and told Jesus.

²³But Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Truly, truly, I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a seed. But if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Whoever loves his life will lose it, but whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, My servant will be as well. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

²⁷Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? No, it is for this purpose that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify Your name!”

Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.”

²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it had thundered. Others said that an angel had spoken to Him.

³⁰In response, Jesus said, “This voice was not for My benefit, but yours. ³¹Now judgment is upon this world; now the prince of this world will be cast out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw everyone to Myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death He was going to die.

³⁴The crowd replied, “We have heard from the Law that the Christ will remain forever. So how can You say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?”

³⁵Then Jesus told them, “For a little while longer, the Light will be with^a you. Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. ³⁶While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of light.”

After Jesus had spoken these things, He went away and was hidden from them.

Belief and Unbelief

³⁷Although Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still did not believe in Him. ³⁸This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet:

“Lord, who has believed our message?

And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”^b

³⁹For this reason they were unable to believe. For again, Isaiah says:

⁴⁰“He has blinded their eyes
and hardened their hearts,
so that they cannot see with their eyes,
and understand with their hearts,
and turn,
and I would heal them.”^c

⁴¹Isaiah said these things when^d he saw Jesus’ glory and spoke about Him. ⁴²Nevertheless, many of the leaders believed in Him. But because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue. ⁴³For they loved praise from men more than praise from God.

⁴⁴Then Jesus cried out, “Whoever believes in Me does not believe in Me alone, but in the One who sent Me. ⁴⁵And whoever sees Me sees the One who sent Me. ⁴⁶I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in Me should remain in darkness.

⁴⁷As for anyone who hears My words and does not believe,^e I do not judge him. For I have not come to judge the world, but to save the world. ⁴⁸There is a judge for the one who rejects Me and does not receive My words: The word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.

⁴⁹I have not spoken on My own, but the Father who sent Me has commanded Me what to say and how to say it. ⁵⁰And I know that His command leads to eternal life. So I speak exactly what the Father has told Me to say.”

Jesus Washes His Disciples’ Feet

13 It was now just before the Passover Feast, and Jesus knew that His hour had come to leave this world and return to the Father. Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the very end.^f ²By the time the evening meal had ended,^g the devil had

^a 35 CT among ^b 38 Isaiah 53:1 ^c 40 Isaiah 6:10 ^d 41 CT because ^e 47 CT does not keep them ^f 1 Or He showed them the full extent of His love. ^g 2 CT The evening meal being underway or When it was time for the evening meal

already put into the heart of Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.

³Jesus knew that the Father had delivered all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was returning to God. ⁴So He got up from the supper, laid aside His outer garments, and wrapped a towel around His waist. ⁵After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel that was around Him.

⁶He came to Simon Peter, who asked Him, "Lord, are You going to wash my feet?"

⁷Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

⁸"Never shall You wash my feet!" Peter told Him.

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with Me."

⁹"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not only my feet, but my hands and my head as well!"

¹⁰Jesus told him, "Whoever has already bathed needs only to wash his feet, and he will be completely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." ¹¹For He knew who would betray Him. That is why He said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹²When Jesus had washed their feet and put on His outer garments, He reclined with them again and asked, "Do you know what I have done for you? ¹³You call Me Teacher and Lord, and rightly so, because I am. ¹⁴So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵I have set you an example so that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶Truly, truly, I tell you, no servant is greater than his master,^a nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷If you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Jesus Predicts His Betrayal (*Psalm 41:1–13*)

¹⁸I am not speaking about all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But this is to fulfill the Scripture: "The one who shares bread with Me^b has lifted up his heel against Me."^c ¹⁹I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it comes to pass, you will believe that I am He. ²⁰Truly, truly, I tell you, whoever receives the one I send receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives the One who sent Me."

²¹After Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit and testified, "Truly, truly, I tell you, one of you will betray Me."

²²The disciples looked at one another, perplexed as to which of them He meant. ²³One of His disciples, the one whom Jesus loved, was reclining at His side.^d ²⁴So Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus which one He was talking about. ²⁵Falling back upon^e Jesus, he asked, "Lord, who is it?"

²⁶Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I give this morsel after I have dipped it." Then He dipped the morsel and gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.^f ²⁷And when Judas had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him.

Then Jesus said to Judas, "What you are about to do, do quickly." ²⁸But no one at the table knew why Jesus had said this to him. ²⁹Since Judas kept the money bag, some thought that Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the feast, or to give something to the poor. ³⁰As soon as he had received the morsel, Judas went out into the night.

Love One Another

(*Romans 12:9–13; 1 John 3:11–24*)

³¹When Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him. ³²If God is glorified in Him,^g God will also glorify the Son in Himself—and will glorify Him at once.

³³Little children, I am with you only a little while longer. You will look for Me, and as I said to the Jews, so now I say to you: 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'

³⁴A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also must love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another."

Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

(*Matt. 26:31–35; Mark 14:27–31; Luke 22:31–38*)

³⁶"Lord, where are You going?" Simon Peter asked.

Jesus answered, "Where I am going, you cannot follow Me now, but you will follow Me^h later."

³⁷"Lord," said Peter, "why can't I follow You now? I will lay down my life for You."

^a 16 Cited in John 15:20 ^b 18 CT shares *My bread* ^c 18 Psalm 41:9 ^d 23 Greek was reclining in the bosom of Jesus

^e 25 CT *Leaning back against* ^f 26 CT Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot ^g 32 TH and WH do not include *If God is glorified in Him*. ^h 36 CT does not include *Me*.

38“Will you lay down your life for Me?” Jesus replied. “Truly, truly, I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.

In My Father’s House Are Many Rooms

14 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God;^a believe in Me as well. ²In My Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?^b ³And if I go, I will prepare a place for you.^c I will come back and welcome you into My presence, so that you also may be where I am. ⁴You know the place where I am going and you know the way.^d”

The Way, the Truth, and the Life

⁵“Lord,” said Thomas, “we do not know where You are going, so how can we know the way?”

⁶Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. ⁷If you had known Me, you would know My Father as well. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him.”

⁸Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us.”

⁹Jesus replied, “Philip, I have been with you all this time, and still you do not know Me? Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words I say to you, I do not speak on My own. Instead, it is the Father dwelling in Me, performing His works. ¹¹Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me—or at least believe Me^e on account of the works themselves.

¹²Truly, truly, I tell you, whoever believes in Me will also do the works that I am doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to My Father.^f ¹³And I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask Me^g for anything in My name, I will do it.

Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit (John 16:5–16)

¹⁵If you love Me, keep^h My commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocateⁱ to abide^j with you forever—¹⁷the Spirit of truth. The world cannot receive

Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you do know Him, for He abides with you and will be in you.^k

¹⁸I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you are in Me, and I am in you. ²¹Whoever has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me. The one who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and reveal Myself to him.”

²²Judas (not Iscariot) asked Him, “Lord, why are You going to reveal Yourself to us and not to the world?”

²³Jesus replied, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. ²⁴Whoever does not love Me does not keep My words. The word that you hear is not My own, but it is from the Father who sent Me.

²⁵All this I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have told you.

Peace I Leave with You

²⁷Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled; do not be afraid. ²⁸You heard Me say, ‘I am going away, and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved Me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because My Father^l is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you before it happens, so that when it does happen, you will believe.

³⁰I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this^m world is coming, and he has no claim on Me. ³¹But I do exactly what the Father has commanded Me, so that the world may know that I love the Father.

Get up! Let us go on from here.

Jesus the True Vine (Isaiah 27:1–13)

15 “I am the true vine, and My Father is the keeper of the vineyard. ²He cuts off every branch in Me that bears no fruit, and every

^a 1 Or Believe in God ^b 2 Or If it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.

^c 3 CT And if I go and prepare a place for you, ^d 4 CT You know the way to the place where I am going. ^e 11 CT does not include Me. ^f 12 CT the Father ^g 14 GOC, ALT, HF, F35, and TR do not include Me. ^h 15 CT If you love Me, you will keep

ⁱ 16 Or Comforter or Helper or Counselor; Greek Paraclete; also in verse 26 ^j 16 CT to be ^k 17 WH and is in you

^l 28 NA, SBL, and WH the Father ^m 30 Literally of the; TR of this

branch that does bear fruit, He prunes to make it even more fruitful. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. Just as no branch can bear fruit by itself unless it remains in the vine, neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me.

⁵I am the vine and you are the branches. The one who remains in Me, and I in him, will bear much fruit. For apart from Me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not remain in Me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers. Such branches are gathered up, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, then you will ask^a whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, proving yourselves to be My disciples.

No Greater Love

⁹As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Remain in My love. ¹⁰If you keep My commandments, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and remain in His love. ¹¹I have told you these things so that My joy may abide^b in you and your joy may be complete.

¹²This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

¹⁴You are My friends if you do whatever^c I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not understand what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, because everything I have learned from My Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose Me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will remain—so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give you. ¹⁷This is My command to you: Love one another.

The Hatred of the World

¹⁸If the world hates you, understand that it hated Me first. ¹⁹If you were of the world, it would love you as its own. Instead, the world hates you, because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world.

²⁰Remember the word that I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.'^d If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you as well; if they kept My word, they will keep yours as well. ²¹But they will treat you like this because of My name, since they do not know the One who sent Me. ²²If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. Now, however, they have no excuse for their sin.

²³Whoever hates Me hates My Father as well. ²⁴If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin; but now they have seen and hated both Me and My Father. ²⁵But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: 'They hated Me without reason.'^e

²⁶When the Advocate^f comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father—He will testify about Me. ²⁷And you also must testify, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

Persecution Foretold (Acts 23:12–22)

16 "I have told you these things so that you will not fall away. ²They will put you out of the synagogues. In fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God. ³They will do these things^g because they have not known the Father or Me. ⁴But I have told you these things so that when the^h hour comes, you will remember that I told you about them. I did not tell you these things from the beginning, because I was with you.

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

(John 14:15–26)

⁵Now, however, I am going to Him who sent Me; yet none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' ⁶Instead, your hearts are filled with sorrow because I have told you these things. ⁷But I tell you the truth, it is for your benefit that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocateⁱ will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

⁸And when He comes, He will convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹in regard to sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰in regard to righteousness, because I am going to My Father^j and you will no longer see Me; ¹¹and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world has been condemned.

^a 7 GOC and CT you, ask ^b 11 CT may be ^c 14 CT what ^d 20 John 13:16 ^e 25 See Psalm 35:19, Psalm 38:19, and Psalm 69:4. ^f 26 Or Comforter or Helper or Counselor; Greek Paraclete ^g 3 TR includes to you. ^h 4 CT their ⁱ 7 Or Comforter or Helper or Counselor; Greek Paraclete ^j 10 CT the Father

12I still have much to tell you, but you cannot yet bear to hear it. 13However, when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. For He will not speak on His own, but He will speak what He hears, and He will declare to you what is to come. 14He will glorify Me by taking from what is Mine and disclosing it to you. 15Everything that belongs to the Father is Mine. That is why I said that the Spirit will take from what is Mine and disclose it to you.

16In a little while you will not see Me,^a and then after a little while you will see Me, because I am going away to the Father.^b

Grief Will Turn to Joy

17Then some of His disciples asked one another, “Why is He telling us, ‘In a little while you will not see Me, and then after a little while you will see Me’ and ‘Because I am going to the Father’?” 18They kept asking, “Why is He saying, ‘a little while’? We do not understand what He is saying.”

19Aware that they wanted to question Him, Jesus said to them, “Are you asking one another why I said, ‘In a little while you will not see Me, and then after a little while you will see Me’? 20Truly, truly, I tell you, you will weep and wail while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. 21A woman has pain in childbirth because her time has come; but when she brings forth her child, she forgets her anguish because of her joy that a child has been born into the world. 22So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.

Ask in My Name (Matthew 18:19–20)

23In that day you will no longer ask Me anything. Truly, truly, I tell you, whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give you. 24Until now you have not asked for anything in My name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.

25I have spoken these things to you in figures of speech. But an hour^c is coming when I will no longer speak to you this way, but will tell you plainly about the Father. 26In that day you will ask in My name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. 27For the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came from God.^d 28I came from

the Father and entered the world. In turn, I will leave the world and go to the Father.”

29His disciples said to Him,^e “See, now You are speaking plainly and without figures of speech. 30Now we understand that You know all things and that You have no need for anyone to question You. Because of this, we believe that You came from God.”

31“Do you finally believe?” Jesus replied.

32“Look, an hour is coming and has already come when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and you will leave Me all alone. Yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. 33I have told you these things so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take courage; I have overcome the world!”

Prayer for the Son

17 When Jesus had spoken these things, He lifted up His eyes to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son may also^f glorify You. 2For You granted Him authority over all people,^g so that He will give^h eternal life to all those You have given Him. 3Now this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent. 4I have glorified You on earth. I have accomplishedⁱ the work You gave Me to do. 5And now, Father, glorify Me in Your presence with the glory I had with You before the world existed.

Prayer for the Disciples

6I have revealed Your name to those You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours; You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. 7Now they know that everything You have given Me comes from You. 8For I have given them the words You gave Me, and they have received them. They knew with certainty that I came from You, and they believed that You sent Me.

9I ask on their behalf. I do not ask on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those You have given Me; for they are Yours. 10All I have is Yours, and all You have is Mine; and in them I have been glorified. 11I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to You.

Holy Father, protect them by Your name, the name You gave Me,^j so that they may be one as We are one. 12While I was with them in the

^a 16 CT you will see Me no more ^b 16 CT does not incl. because I am going away to the Father. ^c 25 CT An hour ^d 27 WH from the Father ^e 29 CT does not incl. to Him. ^f 1 CT does not incl. also. ^g 2 Literally all flesh ^h 2 CT and TR may give ⁱ 4 CT earth by accomplishing ^j 11 Lit. Your name, which You gave Me; TR Your name—these whom You gave Me—

world,^a I protected and preserved by Your name those You gave Me.^b Not one of them has been lost, except the son of destruction, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.

13 But now I am coming to You; and I am saying these things while I am in the world, so that they may have My joy fulfilled within them. **14** I have given them Your word and the world has hated them. For they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

15 I am not asking that You take them out of the world, but that You keep them from the evil one.^c **16** They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. **17** Sanctify them by Your truth;^d Your word is truth. **18** As You sent Me into the world, I have also sent them into the world. **19** For them I sanctify Myself, so that they too may be sanctified by the truth.

Prayer for All Believers

20 I am not asking on behalf of them alone, but also on behalf of those who will believe in Me through their message, **21** that all of them may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I am in You. May they also be one^e in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

22 I have given them the glory You gave Me, so that they may be one as We are one—**23** I in them and You in Me—that they may be perfectly united and that^f the world may know that You sent Me and have loved them just as You have loved Me.

24 Father, I want those You have given Me to be with Me where I am, that they may see the glory You gave Me because You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

25 Righteous Father, although the world has not known You, I know You, and they know that You sent Me. **26** And I have made Your name known to them and will continue to make it known, so that the love You have for Me may be in them, and I in them."

The Betrayal of Jesus

(Matt. 26:47–56; Mark 14:43–52; Luke 22:47–53)

18 After Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples across the Kidron Valley, where they entered a garden. **2** Now Judas His betrayer also knew the place,

because Jesus had^g often met there with His disciples. **3** So Judas brought a band of soldiers and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees. They arrived at the garden carrying lanterns, torches, and weapons.

4 Jesus, knowing all that was coming upon Him, stepped forward and asked them, "Whom are you seeking?"

5 "Jesus of Nazareth," they answered.

Jesus said, "I am He."

And Judas His betrayer was standing there with them. **6** When Jesus said, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground.

7 So He asked them again, "Whom are you seeking?"

"Jesus of Nazareth," they answered.

8 "I told you that I am He," Jesus replied. "So if you are looking for Me, let these men go." **9** This was to fulfill the word He had spoken: "I have not lost one of those You have given Me."^h

10 Then Simon Peter drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.

11 "Put your sword back in its sheath!" Jesus said to Peter. "Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given Me?"

12 Then the band of soldiers, with its commander and the officers of the Jews, arrested Jesus and bound Him. **13** They led Him awayⁱ first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. **14** Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it would be better if one man perished^j for the people.

Peter's First Denial

(Matt. 26:69–70; Mark 14:66–68; Luke 22:54–57)

15 Now Simon Peter and the other^k disciple were following Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he also went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest. **16** But Peter stood outside at the door. Then the disciple who was known to the high priest went out and spoke to the doorkeeper, and brought Peter in.

17 At this, the servant girl watching the door said to Peter, "Aren't you also one of this man's disciples?"

^a 12 CT does not include *in the world*. ^b 12 CT *preserved them by Your name, the name You gave Me* ^c 15 Or *from evil* ^d 17 CT *the truth* ^e 21 CT does not include *one*. ^f 23 CT *so that* ^g 2 HF and GOC *Jesus also had* ^h 9 See John 6:39 and John 17:12. ⁱ 13 CT *They brought Him* ^j 14 CT *died* ^k 15 CT and Scrivener TR *another*

"I am not," he answered.

¹⁸Because it was cold, the servants and officers were standing around a charcoal fire they had made to keep warm. And Peter was^a standing with them, warming himself.

Jesus before the High Priest

(Matt. 26:57–68; Mark 14:53–65; Luke 22:66–71)

¹⁹Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about His disciples and His teaching.

²⁰"I have spoken openly to the world," Jesus answered. "I always taught in the synagogues and at the temple, where the Jews always^b come together. I said nothing in secret. ²¹Why are you asking Me? Ask those who heard My message. Surely they know what I said."

²²When Jesus had said this, one of the officers standing nearby slapped Him in the face and said, "Is this how You answer the high priest?"

²³Jesus replied, "If I said something wrong, testify as to what was wrong. But if I spoke correctly, why did you strike Me?"

²⁴Then Annas sent Him, still bound, to Caiaphas the high priest.

Peter's Second and Third Denials

(Matt. 26:71–75; Mark 14:69–72; Luke 22:58–62)

²⁵Simon Peter was still standing and warming himself. So they asked him, "Aren't you also one of His disciples?"

He denied it and said, "I am not."

²⁶One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Didn't I see you with Him in the garden?"

²⁷Peter denied it once more, and immediately a rooster crowed.

Jesus before Pilate

(Matthew 27:11–14; Luke 23:1–5)

²⁸Then they led Jesus away from Caiaphas into the Praetorium. By now it was early morning, and the Jews did not enter the Praetorium, to avoid being defiled and unable to eat the Passover.

²⁹So Pilate went out to them and asked, "What accusation are you bringing against this man?"

³⁰"If He were not a criminal," they replied, "we would not have handed Him over to you."

³¹"You take Him and judge Him by your own law," Pilate told them.

"We are not permitted to execute anyone," the Jews then replied.^c ³²This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to indicate the kind of death He was going to die.^d

³³Pilate went back into the Praetorium, summoned Jesus, and asked Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?"

³⁴"Are you saying this on your own," Jesus asked him,^e "or did others tell you about Me?"

³⁵"Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "Your own people and chief priests handed You over to me. What have You done?"

³⁶Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world; if it were, My servants would fight to prevent My arrest by the Jews. But now My kingdom is not of this realm."

³⁷"Then You are a king!" Pilate said.

"You say that I am a king," Jesus answered. "For this reason I was born and have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to My voice."

³⁸"What is truth?" Pilate asked.

And having said this, he went out again to the Jews and told them, "I find no basis for a charge against Him. ³⁹But it is your^f custom that I release to you one prisoner at the Passover. So then, do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?"

⁴⁰"Not this man," they all shouted,^g "but Barabbas!" (Now Barabbas was an insurrectionist.)

The Soldiers Mock Jesus (Isaiah 50:4–11; Matt. 27:27–31; Mark 15:16–20; Luke 22:63–65)

19 Then Pilate took Jesus and had Him flogged. ²The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns, set it on His head, and dressed Him in a purple robe. ³And they kept saying,^h "Hail, King of the Jews!" and slapping Him in the face.

⁴Once again Pilate came out and said to the Jews, "Look, I am bringing Him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against Him." ⁵When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!"

^a 18 CT includes also. ^b 20 CT all the Jews ^c 31 CT the Jews replied ^d 32 See John 12:32–33. ^e 34 CT Jesus asked ^f 39 F35 our ^g 40 CT they shouted ^h 3 CT And they went up to Him again and again, saying

⁶As soon as the chief priests and officers saw Him, they shouted, “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!”^a

“You take Him and crucify Him,” Pilate replied, “for I find no basis for a charge against Him.”

⁷“We have a law,” answered the Jews, “and according to our law^b He must die, because He declared Himself to be the Son of God.”

⁸When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid, ⁹and he went back into the Praetorium. “Where are You from?” he asked.

But Jesus gave no answer.

¹⁰So Pilate said to Him, “Do You refuse to speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to crucify You and authority to release You?^c”

¹¹Jesus answered, “You would have no authority over Me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed Me over to you is guilty of greater sin.”

¹²From then on, Pilate tried to release Him, but the Jews kept crying out,^d “If you release this man, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who declares himself a king is defying Caesar.”

¹³When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat on the judgment seat at a place called the Stone Pavement, which in Hebrew^e is Gabbatha. ¹⁴It was the day of Preparation for the Passover, about the sixth hour.^f And Pilate said to the Jews, “Here is your King!”

¹⁵At this, they shouted, “Away with Him! Away with Him! Crucify Him!”

“Shall I crucify your King?” Pilate asked.

“We have no king but Caesar,” replied the chief priests.

The Crucifixion

(Psalm 22:1–31; Matthew 27:32–44; Mark 15:21–32; Luke 23:26–43)

¹⁶Then Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified, and the soldiers took Him and led Him away.^g

¹⁷Carrying His own cross, He went out to a place called^h The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.

¹⁸There they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on each side, with Jesus in the middle.

¹⁹Pilate also had a notice posted on the cross. It read:

JESUS OF NAZARETH,
THE KING OF THE JEWS.

²⁰Many of the Jews read this sign, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin.ⁱ ²¹So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but only that He said, ‘I am the King of the Jews.’”

²²Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

²³When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they divided His garments into four parts, one for each soldier, with the tunic remaining. It was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. ²⁴So they said to one another, “Let us not tear it. Instead, let us cast lots to see who will get it.” This was to fulfill the Scripture:

“They divided My garments among them,
and cast lots for My clothing.”^j

So that is what the soldiers did.

²⁵Near the cross of Jesus stood His mother and her sister, as well as Mary the wife of Clopas and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, “Woman, here is your son.” ²⁷Then He said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” So from that hour, this disciple took her into his home.

The Death of Jesus (Psalm 22:1–31;

Matt. 27:45–56; Mark 15:33–41; Luke 23:44–49)

²⁸After this, seeing^k that everything had now been accomplished, and to fulfill the Scripture, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.”^l ²⁹A jar of sour wine^m was sitting there. So they soaked a sponge in the wine, put it on a stalk of hyssop, and lifted it to His mouth.ⁿ ³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished.” And bowing His head, He yielded up His spirit.

Jesus’ Side Is Pierced (Zechariah 12:10–14)

³¹It was the day of Preparation, and the next day was a High Sabbath. In order that the bodies

^a 6 Literally “Crucify! Crucify Him!”; CT and TR “Crucify! Crucify!” ^b 7 CT the law ^c 10 CT authority to release You and authority to crucify You ^d 12 CT kept shouting ^e 13 Or in Aramaic; also in verses 17 and 20 ^f 14 That is, about noon ^g 16 CT does not include and led Him away. ^h 17 GOC, CT, F35, and TR literal what is called ⁱ 20 CT Hebrew, Latin, and Greek ^j 24 Psalm 22:18 ^k 28 CT and TR knowing ^l 28 See Psalm 22:15. ^m 29 Or A jar of wine vinegar; similarly in verse 30 ⁿ 29 See Psalm 69:21.

would not remain on the cross during the Sabbath, the Jews asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies removed. ³²So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and those of the other.

³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. ³⁴Instead, one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water flowed out. ³⁵The one who saw it has testified to this, and his testimony is true. He knows that he is telling the truth, so that you^a may believe.

³⁶Now these things happened so that the Scripture would be fulfilled: “Not one of His bones will be broken.”^b ³⁷And, as another Scripture says: “They will look on the One they have pierced.”^c

The Burial of Jesus (*Isaiah 53:9–12; Matt. 27:57–61; Mark 15:42–47; Luke 23:50–56*)

³⁸Afterward, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus (but secretly for fear of the Jews), asked Pilate to let him remove the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission, so he came and removed the body of Jesus.^d ³⁹Nicodemus, who had previously come to Jesus at night, also brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds.^e ⁴⁰So they took the body of Jesus and wrapped it in linen cloths with the spices, according to the Jewish burial custom.

⁴¹Now there was a garden in the place where Jesus was crucified, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. ⁴²And because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and the tomb was nearby, they placed Jesus there.

The Resurrection

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

20 Early on the first day of the week,^f while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ²So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb,” she said, “and we do not know where they have put Him!”

³Then Peter and the other disciple set out for the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the

other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down and looked in at the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in.

⁶Simon Peter arrived just after him. He entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. ⁷The cloth^g that had been around Jesus’ head was rolled up, lying separate from the linen cloths. ⁸Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in. And he saw and believed. ⁹For they still did not understand from the Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

(*Mark 16:9–11*)

¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes. ¹¹But Mary stood outside the tomb weeping. And as she wept, she bent down to look into the tomb, ¹²and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and the other at the feet.

¹³“Woman, why are you weeping?” they asked.

“Because they have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I do not know where they have put Him.”

¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there. But she did not recognize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵“Woman, why are you weeping?” Jesus asked. “Whom are you seeking?”

Thinking He was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried Him off, tell me where you have put Him, and I will get Him.”

¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned and said to Him,^h “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).

¹⁷“Do not cling to Me,” Jesus said, “for I have not yet ascended to My Father.ⁱ But go and tell My brothers, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.’”

¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples that she had seen the Lord.^j And she told them what He had said to her.

^a ³⁵ CT and GOC you also ^b ³⁶ Psalm 34:20; see also Exodus 12:46 and Numbers 9:12. ^c ³⁷ Zechariah 12:10
^d ³⁸ CT His body ^e ³⁹ Greek about a hundred litras; that is, approximately 34 kilograms ^f ¹ Literally Now on the first of the Sabbaths, early, ^g ⁷ Greek soudarion ^h ¹⁶ CT includes in Hebrew or in Aramaic. ⁱ ¹⁷ NA, SBL, and WH the Father
^j ¹⁸ CT to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord!”

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

(Luke 24:36–49; 1 John 1:1–4)

¹⁹It was the first day of the week, and that very evening, while the disciples were gathered together^a with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them. “Peace be with you!” He said to them. ²⁰After He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side.

The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

²¹Again Jesus said to them, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so also I am sending you.” ²²When He had said this, He breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.”

Jesus Appears to Thomas

²⁴Now Thomas called Didymus,^b one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he replied, “Unless I see the nail marks in His hands, and put my finger where the nails have been, and put my hand into His side, I will never believe.”

²⁶Eight days later, His disciples were once again inside with the doors locked, and Thomas was with them. Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

²⁷Then Jesus said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and look at My hands. Reach out your hand and put it into My side. Stop doubting and believe.”

²⁸Thomas replied, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen Me,^c you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

The Purpose of John’s Book

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

Jesus Appears by the Sea of Tiberias

21 Later, by the Sea of Tiberias,^e Jesus again revealed Himself to the disciples. He made Himself known in this way: ²Simon Peter, Thomas called Didymus,^f Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. ³Simon Peter told them, “I am going fishing.”

“We will go with you,” they said. So they went out and immediately^g got into the boat, but caught nothing that night.

⁴Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not recognize that it was Jesus. ⁵So He called out to them, “Children, do you have any fish?”

“No,” they answered.

⁶He told them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it there, and they were unable to haul it in because of the great number of fish.

⁷Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it) and jumped into the sea. ⁸The other disciples came ashore in the boat. They dragged in the net full of fish, for they were not far from land, only about a hundred yards.^h

⁹When they landed, they saw a charcoal fire there with fish on it, and some bread.

¹⁰Jesus told them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” ¹¹So Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many, the net was not torn.

¹²“Come, have breakfast,” Jesus said to them. None of the disciples dared to ask Him, “Who are You?” They knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus thenⁱ came and took the bread and gave it to them, and He did the same with the fish.

¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to His disciples^j after He was raised from the dead.

a ¹⁹ CT were together **b** ²⁴ Didymus means the twin. **c** ²⁹ TR includes Thomas. **d** ³¹ Or may continue to believe

e ¹ That is, the Sea of Galilee; ALT and F35 include after He had been raised from the dead. **f** ² Didymus means the twin.

g ³ CT does not include immediately. **h** ⁸ Greek about two hundred cubits away; that is, approximately 300 feet or 91

meters **i** ¹³ CT does not include then. **j** ¹⁴ CT to the disciples

Jesus and Peter

15 When they had finished eating, Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Simon son of Jonah,^a do you love Me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” he answered, “You know I love You.”

Jesus replied, “Feed My lambs.”

16 Jesus asked a second time, “Simon son of Jonah, do you love Me?”

“Yes, Lord,” he answered, “You know I love You.”

Jesus told him, “Shepherd My sheep.”

17 Jesus asked a third time, “Simon son of Jonah, do you love Me?”

Peter was deeply hurt that Jesus had asked him a third time, “Do you love Me?”

“Lord, You know all things,” he replied. “You know I love You.”

Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep.

18 Truly, truly, I tell you, when you were young, you dressed yourself and walked where you wanted; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else^b will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.”

19 Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God.

And after He had said this, He told him, “Follow Me.”

Jesus and the Beloved Disciple

20 Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them. He was the one who had leaned back against Jesus^c at the supper to ask, “Lord, who is going to betray You?” **21** When Peter saw him, he asked, “Lord, what about him?”

22 Jesus answered, “If I want him to remain until I return, what is that to you? You follow Me!”

23 Because of this, the rumor spread among the brothers that this disciple would not die. However, Jesus did not say that he would not die, but only, “If I want him to remain until I return, what is that to you?”

24 This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who has written them down. And we know that his testimony is true.

25 There are many more things that Jesus did. If all of them were written down, I suppose that not even the world itself would have space for the books that would be written. Amen.^d

^a **15** Or *of Jonas*; CT of *John*; also in verses 16 and 17 ^b **18** Or *others* ^c **20** Greek *reclined on His bosom* ^d **25** CT does not include *Amen*.

Acts

Prologue (Luke 1:1-4)

1 In my first book, O Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach, ²until the day He was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles He had chosen. ³After His suffering, He presented Himself to them with many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a span of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

⁴And while they were gathered together,^a He commanded them: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift the Father promised, which you have heard Me discuss. ⁵For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.^b"

The Ascension (Mark 16:19-20; Luke 24:50-53)

⁶So when they came together, they asked Him, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷Jesus replied, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be witnesses to Me^c in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

⁹After He had said this, they watched as He was taken up, and a cloud hid Him from their sight. ¹⁰They were looking intently into the sky as He was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking^d into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven."

Matthias Replaces Judas

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, which is near the city, a Sabbath day's journey away.^e ¹³When they arrived, they went to the upper room where they were

staying: Peter and James, John and Andrew,^f Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴With one accord they all continued in prayer and petition,^g along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the disciples^h (a gathering of about a hundred and twenty) and said, ¹⁶"Brothers, thisⁱ Scripture had to be fulfilled that the Holy Spirit foretold through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷He was one of our number and shared in this ministry."

¹⁸(Now with the reward for his wickedness Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong and burst open in the middle, and all his intestines spilled out. ¹⁹This became known to all who lived in Jerusalem, so they called that field in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)

²⁰"For it is written in the book of Psalms:

'May his place be deserted;
let there be no one to dwell in it,'^j

and,

'May another take his position.'^k

²¹Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have accompanied us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from John's baptism until the day Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection."

²³So they proposed two men: Joseph called Barsabas^l (also known as Justus) and Matthias. ²⁴And they prayed, "Lord, You know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two You have chosen ²⁵to receive a portion in this^m ministry and apostleship that Judas abandoned to go to his rightful place."

a 4 Or *eating together* **b** 5 Or *For John baptized in water, but in a few days you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit*; cited in Acts 11:16 **c** 8 CT *My witnesses* **d** 11 Or *staring*; or *gazing up* **e** 12 *A Sabbath day's journey* is 2,000 cubits (approx. 3,000 feet or 914.4 meters) **f** 13 CT *Peter and John, James and Andrew* **g** 14 CT does not include *and petition*. **h** 15 CT *the brothers* **i** 16 CT *the* **j** 20 Psalm 69:25 **k** 20 Psalm 109:8 **l** 23 CT and GOC *Barsabbas* **m** 25 CT *to take up this*

26 Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias. So he was added to the eleven apostles.

The Holy Spirit at Pentecost

(Genesis 11:1–9; Leviticus 23:15–22)

2 When the day of Pentecost^a came, they were all with one accord^b in one place. **2** Suddenly a sound like a mighty rushing wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** They saw tongues like flames of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. **4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now there were dwelling^c in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.

6 And when this sound rang out, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking his own language.

7 Astounded and amazed, they asked one another,^d “Are not all^e these who are speaking Galileans? **8** How is it then that each of us hears them in his own native language? **9** Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,^f **10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome, **11** both Jews and converts to Judaism; Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!”

12 Astounded and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does^g this mean?”

13 But others mocked them and said, “They are drunk on new wine!”

Peter Addresses the Crowd

(Psalm 16:1–11; Joel 2:28–32)

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, lifted up his voice, and addressed the crowd: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen carefully to my words. **15** These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It is only the third hour of the day!^h **16** No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17 ‘In the last days, God says,
I will pour out My Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.

18 Even on My menservants and maidservants
I will pour out My Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.

19 I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.

20 The sun will be turned to darkness,
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the great and glorious
Day of the Lord.

21 And everyone who calls on the name of the
Lord
will be saved.’ⁱ

22 Men of Israel, listen to this message: Jesus of Nazareth was a man certified by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs, which God did among you through Him, as you yourselves know. **23** He was delivered up by God’s set plan and foreknowledge, and you, by the hands of the lawless, took and^j put Him to death by nailing Him to the cross. **24** But God raised Him from the dead, releasing Him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep Him in its grip.

25 David says about Him:

‘I saw^k the Lord always before me;
because He is at my right hand, I will not
be shaken.

26 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue
rejoices;

my body also will dwell in hope,
27 because You will not abandon my soul to
Hades,

nor will You let Your Holy One see decay.
28 You have made known to me the paths of life;
You will fill me with joy in Your presence.’^l

29 Brothers, I can tell you with confidence that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. **30** But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that from his descendants^m according to the flesh He would raise up the Christ to seat Him on his throne.ⁿ **31** Foreseeing this, David spoke

^a 1 That is, Shavuot, the late spring feast of pilgrimage to Jerusalem; it is also known as the *Feast of Harvest* (see Exodus 23:16) or the *Feast of Weeks* (see Exodus 34:22). ^b 1 CT were all together ^c 5 Or staying; similarly in verse 14 ^d 7 CT does not include one another. ^e 7 HF, NA, F35, SBL, and WH do not include all. ^f 9 That is, the Roman province of Asia, located in what is now western Turkey ^g 12 Or could ^h 15 That is, nine in the morning ⁱ 21 Joel 2:28–32 (see also LXX) ^j 23 CT does not include took and. ^k 25 Literally I foresaw; see verse 31. ^l 28 Psalm 16:8–11 (see also LXX) ^m 30 Literally out of the fruit of his loins ⁿ 30 CT that God had promised him on oath that He would place one of his descendants on his throne; Psalm 132:11

about the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not abandoned^a to Hades, nor did His body see decay. ³²God has raised this Jesus to life, to which we are all witnesses.

³³Exalted, then, to the right hand of God, He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. ³⁴For David did not ascend into heaven, but he himself says:

“The Lord said to my Lord,

“Sit at My right hand

³⁵until I make Your enemies

a footstool for Your feet.”^b

³⁶Therefore let all Israel know with certainty that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ!”

Three Thousand Believe

³⁷When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and asked Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

³⁸Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins,^c and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹This promise belongs to you and your children and to all who are far off—to all whom the Lord our God will call to Himself.”

⁴⁰With many other words he testified, and he urged them, “Be saved from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹Those who gladly^d embraced his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to the believers that day.^e

The Fellowship of Believers (Acts 4:32–37)

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³A sense of awe^f came over everyone, and the apostles performed many wonders and signs.

⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵Selling their possessions and goods, they shared with anyone who was in need.

⁴⁶With one accord they continued to meet daily in the temple courts^g and to break bread from house to house, sharing their meals with gladness and sincerity of heart, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord

added to the church^h daily those who were being saved.

A Lame Man Walks

3 One afternoon Peter and John were going up togetherⁱ to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.^j ²And a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those entering the temple courts.^k ³When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money.

⁴Peter looked directly at him, as did John. “Look at us!” said Peter. ⁵So the man gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶But Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!”

⁷Taking him by the right hand, Peter helped him up, and at once the man’s feet and ankles were made strong. ⁸He sprang to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and leaping and praising God.

⁹When all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰they recognized him as the man who used to sit begging at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Peter Speaks in Solomon’s Colonnade

(Deuteronomy 18:15–22)

¹¹While the lame man who had been healed clung to^m Peter and John, all the people were astonished and ran to them in the walkway called Solomon’s Colonnade.ⁿ ¹²And when Peter saw this, he addressed the people: “Men of Israel, why are you surprised by this? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?”

¹³The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant^o Jesus. You handed Him over and rejected Him before Pilate, even though he had decided to release Him. ¹⁴You rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. ¹⁵You killed the Author of life, but God raised Him from the dead, and we are witnesses of this fact.

^a 31 CT He was not abandoned ^b 35 Psalm 110:1 ^c 38 NA, SBL, TH, and WH of your sins ^d 41 CT does not include gladly.

^e 41 Literally about three thousand souls were added that day ^f 43 Or fear ^g 46 Literally the temple ^h 47 CT to their number ⁱ 1 CT does not include together. ^j 1 That is, three in the afternoon ^k 2 Literally the temple; also in verse 8

^l 6 SBL, NE, and WH In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk! ^m 11 NA, SBL, TH, and WH While he clung to

ⁿ 11 Literally in the colonnade called Solomon’s ^o 13 Or His child; also in verse 26

16By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know has been made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through Him that has given him this complete healing in your presence.

17And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. 18But in this way God has fulfilled what He foretold through all His prophets, saying that the^a Christ would suffer. 19Repent, then, and turn back, so that your sins may be wiped away, 20that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus, the Christ, who has been appointed for you.

21Heaven must take Him in until the time comes for the restoration of all things, which God announced long ago through all^b His holy prophets. 22For Moses said to the fathers,^c "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers. You must listen to Him in everything He tells you."^d 23Everyone who does not listen to Him will be completely cut off from among his people.^e

24Indeed, all the prophets from Samuel on, as many as have spoken, have proclaimed^f these days. 25And you are sons of the prophets and of the covenant God made with our fathers^g when He said to Abraham, "Through your offspring all the families of the earth will be blessed."^h 26When God raised up His servant Jesus,ⁱ He sent Him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways."

Peter and John before the Sanhedrin

4 While Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests^j and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to them, 2greatly disturbed that they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. 3They seized Peter and John, and because it was evening, they put them in custody until the next day. 4But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand.

5The next day the rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, 6along with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and many others from the high priest's family. 7They had

Peter and John brought in and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"

8Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of the people of Israel!^k

9If we are being examined today about a kind service to a man who was lame, to determine how he was healed, 10then let this be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. 11This Jesus is

'the stone you builders rejected,
which has become the cornerstone.'^l

12Salvation exists in no one else, for there is no other name^m given to men by which we must be saved."

The Name Forbidden

13When they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they marveled and took note that these men had been with Jesus. 14And seeing the man who had been healed standing there with them, they had nothing to say in response. 15So they ordered them to leave the Sanhedrinⁿ and then conferred together.

16"What shall we do with these men?" they asked. "It is clear to everyone living in Jerusalem that a remarkable miracle has occurred through them, and we cannot deny it. 17But to keep this message from spreading any further among the people, we must strictly^o warn them not to speak to anyone in this name."

18Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. 19But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to listen to you rather than God. 20For we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard."

21After further threats they let them go. They could not find a way to punish them, because all the people were glorifying God for what had happened. 22For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.

^a 18 CT the prophets, (saying) that His ^b 21 CT does not include all. ^c 22 CT does not include to the fathers.

^d 22 Deuteronomy 18:15 ^e 23 See Deuteronomy 18:19. ^f 24 ALT, F35, and TR have foretold ^g 25 NA, SBL, TH, and WH your fathers ^h 25 Genesis 22:18 ⁱ 26 CT His Servant ^j 1 WH the chief priests ^k 8 CT does not include of Israel.

^l 11 Psalm 118:22 ^m 12 CT, TR, and some MT include under heaven. ⁿ 15 Or the Council ^o 17 CT does not include strictly.

The Believers' Prayer (*Psalms 2:1–12*)

²³On their release, Peter and John returned to their own people and reported everything that the chief priests and elders had said to them. ²⁴When the believers heard this, they lifted up their voices to God with one accord. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "You are God, who made^a the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them. ²⁵You spoke^b through the mouth of Your servant^c David:^d

'Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?

²⁶The kings of the earth take their stand
and the rulers gather together
against the Lord
and against His Anointed One.'^e

²⁷In fact,^f Herod and Pontius Pilate conspired with the Gentiles and the people of Israel against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed. ²⁸They carried out what Your hand and will had decided beforehand would happen. ²⁹And now, Lord, consider their threats, and enable Your servants to speak Your word with complete boldness, ³⁰as You stretch out Your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of Your holy servant Jesus."

³¹After they had prayed, their meeting place was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

Sharing among Believers (*Acts 2:42–47*)

³²The multitude of believers was one in heart and soul. No one claimed that any of their^g possessions was his own, but they shared everything they owned. ³³With great power the apostles continued to give their testimony about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And abundant grace was upon them all.

³⁴There were no needy ones among them, because those who owned lands or houses would sell their property, bring the proceeds from the sales, ³⁵and lay them at the apostles' feet for distribution to anyone as he had need.

³⁶Joseph,^h a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (meaning Son of Encouragement), ³⁷sold a field he owned, brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Ananias and Sapphira

5 Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. ²With his wife's full knowledge, he kept back some of the proceeds for himself, but brought a portion and laid it at the apostles' feet.

³Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and withhold some of the proceeds from the land?

⁴Did it not belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? How could you conceive such a deed in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God!"

⁵On hearing these words, Ananias fell down and died. And great fear came over all who heard what had happened. ⁶Then the young men stepped forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him.

⁷About three hours later his wife also came in, unaware of what had happened. ⁸"Tell me," said Peter, "is this the price you and your husband got for the land?"

"Yes," she answered, "that is the price."

⁹"How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord?" Peter replied. "Look, the feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also."

¹⁰At that instant she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. ¹¹And great fear came over the whole church and all who heard about these events.

The Apostles Heal Many

¹²The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people, and with one accord the believers gathered together in Solomon's Colonnade. ¹³Although the people regarded them highly, no one else dared to join them. ¹⁴Yet more and more believers were brought to the Lord—large numbers of both men and women.

¹⁵As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. ¹⁶Crowds also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick

^a 24 CT You made ^b 25 CT includes by the Holy Spirit. ^c 25 Or child; also in verses 27 and 30 ^d 25 CT Your servant, our father David ^e 26 Or His Christ or His Messiah; Psalm 2:1–2 ^f 27 CT includes this is the very city where. ^g 32 GOC, ALT, CT, and F35 his ^h 36 CT Joseph

and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were healed.

The Apostles Arrested and Freed

¹⁷Then the high priest and all his associates, who belonged to the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. They went out ¹⁸and arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. ¹⁹But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out, saying, ²⁰“Go, stand in the temple courts^a and tell the people the full message of this new life.”

²¹At daybreak the apostles entered the temple courts as they had been told and began to teach the people.

When the high priest and his associates arrived, they convened the Sanhedrin^b—the full assembly of the elders of Israel—and sent to the jail for the apostles. ²²But on arriving at the jail, the officers did not find them there. So they returned with the report: ²³“We indeed^c found the jail securely locked, with the guards posted before^d the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside.”

The Apostles before the Sanhedrin

²⁴When the high priest and^e the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests heard this account, they were perplexed as to what was happening.^f ²⁵Then someone came in and announced, “Look, the men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people!”

²⁶At that point, the captain went with the officers and brought the apostles—but not by force, for fear the people would stone them. ²⁷They brought them in and made them stand before the Sanhedrin, where the high priest interrogated them. ²⁸“Did we not give you strict orders not to teach in this name?” he asked.^g “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us responsible for this man’s blood.”

²⁹But Peter and the other apostles replied, “We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging Him on a tree. ³¹God exalted Him to His right hand as Prince and Savior, in order to

grant repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. ³²We are His^h witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.”

Gamaliel’s Advice

³³When the Council members heard this, they were enraged, and they resolvedⁱ to put the apostles to death. ³⁴But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the apostles^j be put outside for a short time.

³⁵“Men of Israel,” he said, “consider carefully what you are about to do to these men. ³⁶Some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him.^k He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing. ³⁷After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and drew away many^l people after him. He too perished, and all his followers were scattered.

³⁸So in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone. Let them go! For if their purpose or endeavor is of human origin, it will fail. ³⁹But if it is from God, you cannot stop it.^m You may even find yourselves fighting against God.”

⁴⁰At this, they yielded to Gamaliel. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and released them.

⁴¹The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the name of Jesus.ⁿ ⁴²Every day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they did not stop teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.

The Choosing of the Seven (1 Timothy 3:8–13)

6 In those days when the disciples were increasing in number, the Grecian Jews among them began to grumble against the Hebraic Jews^o because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

²So the Twelve summoned all the disciples and said, “It is unacceptable for us to neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables.

^a ²⁰ Literally *the temple*; also in verses 21, 25, and 42 ^b ²¹ Or *the Council*; also in verses 27, 34, and 41 ^c ²³ CT does not include *indeed*. ^d ²³ CT posted at ^e ²⁴ CT does not include *the high priest* and. ^f ²⁴ Literally *as to what this might be* ^g ²⁸ CT “*We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,*” he said ^h ³² CT does not include *His*. ⁱ ³³ ECM, MT, TR, and Tischendorf; or *they took counsel*; SBL, NE, and WH *they wanted* ^j ³⁴ CT *the men* ^k ³⁶ GOC, CT, F35, and TR *joined him* ^l ³⁷ CT does not include *many*. ^m ³⁹ CT *you will not be able to stop them* ⁿ ⁴¹ CT *for the Name*; TR *for His name*; F35 *for the name of the Christ* ^o ¹ Literally *the Hellenists* began to grumble against the Hebrews

³Therefore, brothers, select from among you seven men confirmed to be full of the Holy^a Spirit and wisdom. We will assign this responsibility to them ⁴and will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

⁵This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, as well as Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.^b ⁶They presented these seven to the apostles,^c who prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷So the word of God continued to spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem grew rapidly, and a great number of priests^d became obedient to the faith.

The Arrest of Stephen

⁸Now Stephen, who was full of faith^e and power, was performing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹But resistance arose from what was called the Synagogue of the Freedmen, including Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and men from the provinces of Cilicia and Asia.^f They disputed with Stephen, ¹⁰but they could not stand up to his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke.

¹¹Then they prompted some men to say, “We heard Stephen speak words of blasphemy against Moses and against God.”

¹²So they stirred up the people, elders, and scribes and confronted Stephen. They seized him and brought him before the Sanhedrin,^g ¹³where they presented false witnesses who said, “This man never stops speaking blasphemies^h against this holy place and against the law. ¹⁴For we have heard him say that Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs that Moses handed down to us.”

¹⁵All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Stephen's Address: The Call of Abraham (Genesis 12:1–9)

7 Then the high priest asked Stephen, “Are these charges true?”

^a 3 CT does not include *Holy*. ^b 5 Literally *and Nicolas, a convert of Antioch* ^c 6 Literally —*whom they set before the apostles*, ^d 7 GOC *Jews* ^e 8 CT *grace* ^f 9 Literally *and those from Cilicia and Asia*; the Roman province of Asia was located in what is now western Turkey. ^g 12 Or *the Council*; also in verse 15 ^h 13 CT does not include *blasphemies*. ⁱ 3 Genesis 12:1 ^j 7 Genesis 15:13–14; Exodus 3:12 ^k 11 CT does not include *the land of*. ^l 13 Or *Joseph was made known to or Joseph was recognized by* ^m 16 Literally *And they were carried back* ⁿ 16 CT at *Shechem*

²And Stephen declared: “Brothers and fathers, listen to me! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, ³and told him, ‘Leave your country and your kindred and go to the land I will show you.’”ⁱ ⁴So Abraham left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran. After his father died, God brought him out of that place and into this land where you are now living.

⁵He gave him no inheritance here, not even a foot of ground. But God promised to give possession of the land to Abraham and his descendants, even though he did not yet have a child. ⁶God told him that his descendants would be foreigners in a strange land, and that they would be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. ⁷‘But I will punish the nation that enslaves them,’ God said, ‘and afterward they will come forth and worship Me in this place.’^j

⁸Then God gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision, and Abraham became the father of Isaac and circumcised him on the eighth day. And Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob of the twelve patriarchs.

Joseph Sold into Egypt (Genesis 37:12–30)

⁹Because the patriarchs were jealous of Joseph, they sold him as a slave into Egypt. But God was with him ¹⁰and rescued him from all his troubles. He granted Joseph favor and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt, who appointed him ruler over Egypt and all his household.

¹¹Then famine and great suffering swept across the land of^k Egypt and Canaan, and our fathers could not find food. ¹²When Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent our fathers on their first visit. ¹³On their second visit, Joseph revealed his identity to^l his brothers, and his family became known to Pharaoh. ¹⁴Then Joseph sent for his father Jacob and all his relatives, seventy-five in all.

Israel Oppressed in Egypt (Exodus 1:8–22)

¹⁵So Jacob went down to Egypt, where he and our fathers died. ¹⁶Their bones were carried back^m to Shechem and placed in the tomb that Abraham had bought from the sons of Hamor of Shechemⁿ for a price he paid in silver.

17As the time drew near for God to fulfill His promise^a to Abraham, our people in Egypt increased greatly in number. 18Then another king, who knew nothing of Joseph, arose.^b 19He exploited our people and oppressed our fathers, forcing them to abandon their infants so they would die.

The Birth and Adoption of Moses

(Exodus 2:1–10; Hebrews 11:23–29)

20At that time Moses was born, and he was beautiful in the sight of God.^c For three months he was nurtured in his father's house. 21When he was set outside, Pharaoh's daughter took him and brought him up as her own son. 22So Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action.

The Rejection and Flight of Moses

(Exodus 2:11–22)

23When Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his brothers, the children of Israel. 24And when he saw one of them being mistreated, Moses went to his defense and avenged him by striking down the Egyptian who was oppressing him. 25He assumed his brothers would understand that God was using him to deliver them, but they did not.

26The next day he came upon two Israelites who were fighting, and he urged them to make peace,^d saying, 'Men, you are brothers. Why are you mistreating each other?'

27But the man who was abusing his neighbor pushed Moses aside and said, 'Who made you ruler and judge over us? 28Do you want to kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?'^e 29At this remark, Moses fled to the land of Midian, where he lived as a foreigner and had two sons.

The Call of Moses (Exodus 3:1–22)

30After forty years had passed, an angel of the Lord^f appeared to Moses in the flames of a burning bush in the desert near Mount Sinai. 31When Moses saw it, he marveled at the sight. As he approached to look more closely, the voice of the Lord came to him:^g 32'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.'^h

Moses trembled with fear and did not dare to look.

33Then the Lord said to him, 'Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground. 34I have indeed seen the oppression of My people in Egypt. I have heard their groaning and have come down to deliver them. Now come, I will send you back to Egypt.'ⁱ

35This Moses, whom they had rejected with the words, 'Who made you ruler and judge?'^j is the one whom God sent to be their ruler and redeemer through the angel^k who appeared to him in the bush. 36He led them out and performed wonders and signs in the land of^l Egypt, at the Red Sea, and for forty years in the wilderness.

37This is the same Moses who told the Israelites, 'The Lord our God will raise up^m for you a prophet like me from among your brothers.'ⁿ 38He was in the assembly in the wilderness with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers. And he received a living word^o to pass on to us.^p

The Rebellion of Israel (Exodus 32:1–35; Deuteronomy 9:7–29; Amos 5:16–27)

39But our fathers refused to obey him. Instead, they rejected him and in their heart^q turned back to Egypt. 40They said to Aaron, 'Make us gods who will go before us! As for this Moses who led us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has happened to him.'^r

41At that time they made a calf and offered a sacrifice to the idol, rejoicing in the works of their hands. 42But God turned away from them and gave them over to the worship of the host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the prophets:

'Did you bring Me sacrifices and offerings forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel?

43You have taken along the tabernacle of Molech and the star of your god Remphan,^s the idols you made to worship. Therefore I will send you into exile beyond Babylon.'^t

^a 17 Lit. *the promise He had sworn* ^b 18 CT includes *over Egypt*. ^c 20 Or *he was of great status in God's eyes or he was no ordinary child* ^d 26 CT *he tried to reconcile them in peace* ^e 28 Exodus 2:13–14 (see also LXX) ^f 30 CT does not include *of the Lord*. ^g 31 CT lit. does not include *to him*. ^h 32 Exodus 3:6 ⁱ 34 Exodus 3:5–10 ^j 35 Exodus 2:14 ^k 35 Or *Angel*; also in verse 38 ^l 36 WH does not include *the land of*. ^m 37 CT *'God will raise up*; TR *'The Lord your God will raise up* ⁿ 37 Deuteronomy 18:15 ^o 38 CT and TR *living words* ^p 38 NE and WH *to you* ^q 39 CT and TR *hearts* ^r 40 Exodus 32:1 ^s 43 ALT and TH *Rephan*; F35 *Rephphan*; ECM, NA, and SBL *Raiphon*; WH *Rompha* ^t 43 Amos 5:25–27 (see also LXX)

The Tabernacle of the Testimony*(Exodus 40:1–33; Hebrews 9:1–10)*

⁴⁴Our fathers had the tabernacle of the Testimony with them in the wilderness. It was constructed exactly as God had directed Moses, according to the pattern he had seen. ⁴⁵And our fathers who received it brought it in with Joshua when they dispossessed the nations God drove out before them. It remained until the time of David, ⁴⁶who found favor in the sight of God and asked to provide a dwelling place for the God of Jacob.^a ⁴⁷But it was Solomon who built the house for Him.

⁴⁸However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made by human hands.^b As the prophet says:

⁴⁹Heaven is My throne

and the earth is My footstool.

What kind of house will you build for Me,
says the Lord,

or where will My place of repose be?

⁵⁰Has not My hand made all these things?^c

⁵¹You stiff-necked people with uncircumcised heart^d and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit, just as your fathers did. ⁵²Which of the prophets did your fathers fail to persecute? They even killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One. And now you are His betrayers and murderers— ⁵³you who received the law ordained by angels, yet have not kept it.”

The Stoning of Stephen

⁵⁴On hearing this, the members of the Sanhedrin were enraged,^e and they gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked intently into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶“Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

⁵⁷At this they covered their ears, cried out in a loud voice, and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸They dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile the witnesses laid their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul.

⁵⁹While they were stoning him, Stephen appealed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰Falling on his knees, he cried out in a loud voice, “Lord,

do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Saul Persecutes the Church

8 And Saul was there, giving approval to Stephen’s death.

On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. ²God-fearing men buried Stephen and mourned deeply over him. ³But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.

Philip in Samaria

⁴Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. ⁵Philip went down to a city in Samaria^f and proclaimed the Christ to them. ⁶The crowds all paid close attention to Philip’s message and to the signs they saw him perform. ⁷With loud shrieks, unclean spirits came out of many who were possessed, and many of the paralyzed and lame were healed. ⁸So there was great joy in that city.

Simon the Sorcerer (Deuteronomy 18:9–14)

⁹Prior to that time, a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and astounded the people of Samaria. He claimed to be someone great, ¹⁰and from the least to the greatest heeded his words^g and said, “This man is the great power of God.^h” ¹¹They paid close attention to him because he had astounded them for a long time with his sorcery.

¹²But when they believed Philip as he preached the gospel of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. ¹³Even Simon himself believed and was baptized. He followed Philip closely and was astounded by the miracles and signsⁱ he observed.

¹⁴When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵On their arrival, they prayed for them to receive the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶For the Holy Spirit had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of Jesus Christ.^j ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid

^a 46 SBL, WH, MT, and TR; see also LXX for Psalm 132:5; ECM and NE *a dwelling place for the house of Jacob* ^b 48 CT *houses made by human hands* ^c 50 Isaiah 66:1–2 ^d 51 CT *hearts* ^e 54 Lit. *On hearing these things, they were cut in their hearts,* ^f 5 NA, SBL, and WH *the city of Samaria* ^g 10 CT and *all from the least to the greatest heeded his words* ^h 10 CT *the divine power called the Great Power* ⁱ 13 CT and Stephanus TR *signs and great miracles* ^j 16 CT, GOC, and TR *of the Lord Jesus*

their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

¹⁸When Simon saw that the Holy^a Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money. ¹⁹"Give me this power as well," he said, "so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

²⁰But Peter replied, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! ²¹You have no part or share in our ministry, because your heart is not right in the sight of God.^b ²²Repent, therefore, of your wickedness, and pray to God.^c Perhaps He will forgive you for the intent of your heart. ²³For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and captive to iniquity."

²⁴Then Simon answered, "Pray to the Lord^d for me, so that nothing you have said may happen to me."

²⁵And after Peter and John had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many of the Samaritan villages.

Philip and the Ethiopian (*Isaiah 53:1-8*)

²⁶Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go south to the desert road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." ²⁷So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official in charge of the entire treasury of Candace,^e the queen^f of the Ethiopians. He had gone to Jerusalem to worship,²⁸ and on his return was sitting in his chariot reading Isaiah the prophet.

²⁹The Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to that chariot and stay by it."

³⁰So Philip ran up and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.

³¹"How can I," he said, "unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³²The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture:

"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so He did not open His mouth.

³³In His humiliation He was deprived of justice. Who can recount His descendants? For His life was removed from the earth."^g

³⁴"Tell me," said the eunuch, "who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?"

³⁵Then Philip began with this very Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶As they traveled along the road and came to some water, the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is there to prevent me from being baptized?"^h

³⁸And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, but went on his way rejoicing.

⁴⁰But Philip appeared at Azotus and traveled through that region, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Road to Damascus (*Acts 22:1-21; 26:1-23*)

9 Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the disciples of the Lord. He approached the high priest ²and requested letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any men or women belonging to the Way, he could bring them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

³As Saul drew near to Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?"

⁵"Who are You, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," replied the Lord.ⁱ ⁶"Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

⁷The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless. They heard the voice but did not see anyone. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could not see a thing.^j So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹For

^a 18 CT does not include *Holy*. ^b 21 CT *before God* ^c 22 CT *to the Lord* ^d 24 GOC *Pray to God* ^e 27 Greek *Kandakē* ^f 27 CT *Candace, queen* ^g 33 Isaiah 53:7-8 (see also LXX) ^h 36 TR includes ³⁷*And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may be baptized." The eunuch replied, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."* ⁱ 5 CT does not include *replied the Lord*. TR includes *"It is hard for you to kick against the goads."* ⁶ *And trembling and astonished, the man asked, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" And the Lord said to him:* ^j 8 Literally *he could see nothing or he could see no one*

three days he was without sight, and he did not eat or drink anything.

Ananias Baptizes Saul

10In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord spoke to him in a vision, “Ananias!”

“Here I am, Lord,” he answered.

11“Get up!” the Lord told him. “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. **12**In a vision^a he has seen a man named Ananias come and place a hand^b on him to restore his sight.”

13But Ananias answered, “Lord, many people have told me about this man and all the harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. **14**And now he is here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on Your name.”

15“Go!” said the Lord. “This man is My chosen instrument to carry My name before the Gentiles and their kings, and before the people of Israel. **16**I will show him how much he must suffer for My name.”

17So Ananias went to the house, and when he arrived, he placed his hands on Saul. “Brother Saul,” he said, “the Lord,^c who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here, has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

18At that instant, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and his sight was restored.^d He got up and was baptized, **19**and after taking some food, he regained his strength. And Saul^e spent several days with the disciples in Damascus.

Saul Preaches at Damascus

20Saul promptly began to proclaim Christ^f in the synagogues, declaring, “He is the Son of God.”

21All who heard him were astounded and asked, “Isn’t this the man who wreaked havoc in Jerusalem on those who call on this name? And hasn’t he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?”

22But Saul was empowered all the more, and he confounded the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.

The Escape from Damascus

23After many days had passed, the Jews conspired to kill him,²⁴ but Saul learned of their plot. Day and night they watched the city gates in order to kill him. **25**One night, however, the disciples^g took him and lowered him in a basket through a window in the wall.^h

Saul in Jerusalem

26When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. **27**Then Barnabas brought him to the apostles and described how Saul had seen the Lord, who had spoken to him on the road to Damascus, and how Saul had spoken boldly in that city in the name of Jesus.ⁱ

28So Saul stayed with them, moving about freely in Jerusalem and speaking boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus.^j **29**He talked and debated with the Grecian Jews,^k but they tried to kill him. **30**When the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

The Healing of Aeneas

31Then the churches^l throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria experienced a time of peace. They grew in strength^m and numbers, living in the fear of the Lord and the encouragement of the Holy Spirit.

32As Peter traveled throughout the area, he went to visit the saints in Lydda. **33**There he found a man named Aeneas who had been paralyzed and bedridden for eight years. **34**“Aeneas,” Peter said to him, “Jesus Christ heals you! Get up and put away your mat.” Immediately Aeneas got up, **35**and all who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

The Raising of Tabitha (John 11:38–44)

36In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which is translated as Dorcas),ⁿ who was always occupied with works of kindness and charity. **37**At that time, however, she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upper room.^o **38**Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent^p to urge him, “Come to them^q without delay.”

^a 12 ECM does not include *In a vision*. ^b 12 CT (his) hands ^c 17 GOC, CT, and TR the Lord Jesus ^d 18 ALT, F35, and TR restored immediately ^e 19 CT he ^f 20 GOC, CT, and F35 Jesus ^g 25 CT his disciples ^h 25 Literally through the wall; see 2 Corinthians 11:33. ⁱ 27 F35 the Lord Jesus ^j 28 CT in the name of the Lord; F35 in the name of Jesus ^k 29 Or Hellenists ^l 31 CT church ^m 31 CT It grew in strength ⁿ 36 Tabitha in Aramaic and Dorcas in Greek both mean gazelle. ^o 37 F35 the upper room ^p 38 GOC, CT, and TR include two men. ^q 38 CT Come to us

³⁹So Peter got up and went with them. On his arrival, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood around him, weeping and showing him the tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

⁴⁰Then Peter sent them all out of the room. He knelt down and prayed, and turning toward her body, he said, “Tabitha, get up!” She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹Peter took her by the hand and helped her up. Then he called the saints and widows and presented her to them alive.

⁴²This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. ⁴³And Peter stayed for several days in Joppa with a tanner named Simon.

Cornelius Sends for Peter

10 At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was called the Italian Regiment. ²He and all his household were devout and God-fearing. He gave generously to the people and prayed to God regularly. ³One day at about the ninth hour,^a he had a clear vision of an angel of God who came to him and said, “Cornelius!”

⁴Cornelius stared at him in fear and asked, “What is it, Lord?”

The angel answered, “Your prayers and gifts to the poor have ascended as a memorial offering before God. ⁵Now send men to Joppa to call for Simon^b who is called Peter. ⁶He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea.^c”

⁷When the angel who spoke to him had gone, Cornelius called two of his servants and a devout soldier from among his attendants. ⁸He explained what had happened and sent them to Joppa.

Peter’s Vision

(Leviticus 11:1–47; Deuteronomy 14:1–21)

⁹The next day at about the sixth hour,^d as the men were approaching the city on their journey, Peter went up on the roof to pray. ¹⁰He became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance.

¹¹He saw heaven open and something like a large sheet being let down to earth to him, bound at its four corners.^e ¹²It contained all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, and reptiles,^f as well as birds of the air. ¹³Then a voice said to him: “Get up, Peter, kill and eat!”

¹⁴“No, Lord!” Peter answered. “I have never eaten anything impure^g or unclean.”

¹⁵The voice spoke to him a second time: “Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.”

¹⁶This happened three times, and again^h the sheet was taken back up into heaven.

Peter Called to Caesarea

¹⁷While Peter was puzzling over the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found Simon’s house and approached the gate. ¹⁸They called out to ask if Simon called Peter was staying there.

¹⁹As Peter continued to reflect on the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Behold, menⁱ are looking for you. ²⁰So get up! Go downstairs and accompany them without hesitation, because I have sent them.”

²¹So Peter went down to the men^j and said, “Here am I, the one you are looking for. Why have you come?”

²²“Cornelius the centurion has sent us,” they said. “He is a righteous and God-fearing man with a good reputation among the whole Jewish nation. A holy angel^k instructed him to request your presence in his home so he could hear a message from you.”

²³So Peter invited them in as his guests. And the next day he went^l with them, accompanied by some of the brothers from Joppa.

Peter Visits Cornelius

²⁴The following day they arrived^m in Caesarea, where Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. ²⁵As Peter was about to enter, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet to worship him. ²⁶But Peter helped him up. “Stand up,” he said, “I am only a man myself.”

^a 3 That is, about three in the afternoon; also in verse 30 ^b 5 CT a man named Simon ^c 6 TR includes *He will tell you what you need to do.* ^d 9 That is, about noon ^e 11 CT *being let down to earth by its four corners* ^f 12 CT *all kinds of four-footed animals and reptiles of the earth* ^g 14 Literally *common*; similarly in verses 15 and 28 ^h 16 CT *all at once* ⁱ 19 SBL and MT; ECM and TR *three men*; NE and WH *two men* ^j 21 TR *the men sent to him by Cornelius* ^k 22 F35 *An angel* ^l 23 GOC and CT *he got ready and went* ^m 24 CT *he arrived*

²⁷As Peter talked with him, he went inside and found many people gathered together. ²⁸He said to them, “You know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with a foreigner or visit him. But God has shown me that I should not call any man impure or unclean. ²⁹So when I was invited, I came without objection. I ask, then, why have you sent for me?”

³⁰Cornelius answered: “Four days ago I was in my house fasting and^a praying at this, the ninth hour. Suddenly a man in radiant clothing stood before me ³¹and said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your gifts to the poor have been remembered before God. ³²Therefore send to Joppa for Simon, who is called Peter. He is a guest in the home of Simon the tanner, by the sea. He will speak to you when he arrives.’^b”

³³So I sent for you immediately, and you were kind enough to come. Now then, we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything God^c has instructed you to tell us.”

Good News for the Gentiles

³⁴Then Peter began to speak: “I now truly understand that God does not show favoritism, ³⁵but welcomes those from every nation who fear Him and do what is right. ³⁶He has sent this message to the people of Israel, proclaiming the gospel of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

³⁷You yourselves know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee with the baptism that John proclaimed: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, because God was with Him.

³⁹We are witnesses of all that He did, both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. And although they put Him to death by hanging Him on a tree, ⁴⁰God raised Him up on the third day and caused Him to be seen— ⁴¹not by all the people, but by the witnesses God had chosen beforehand, by us who ate and drank with Him after He rose from the dead. ⁴²And He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that He is the One appointed by God to judge the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about Him that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name.”

The Gentiles Receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 19:1–7)

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard his message. ⁴⁵All^d the circumcised believers who had accompanied Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶For they heard them speaking in tongues and exalting God.

Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water to baptize these people? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have!” ⁴⁸So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of the Lord.^e Then they asked him to stay for a few days.

Peter’s Report at Jerusalem

11 The apostles and brothers throughout Judea soon heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers/ took issue with him ³and said, “You visited uncircumcised men and ate with them.”

⁴But Peter began and explained to them the whole sequence of events: ⁵“I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision of something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came right down to me. ⁶I looked at it closely and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷Then I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter, kill and eat.’

⁸‘No, Lord,’ I said, ‘for nothing impure^g or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’

⁹But the voice spoke to me^h from heaven a second time, ‘Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.’

¹⁰This happened three times, and everything was drawn back up into heaven.

¹¹Just then three men sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. ¹²The Spirit told me to accompany them without hesitation. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man’s home. ¹³He told us how he had seen an angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send menⁱ to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. ¹⁴He will convey to you a message by which you and all your household will be saved.’

^a 30 CT does not include *fasting and*. ^b 32 CT does not include *He will speak to you when he arrives*. ^c 33 CT the Lord ^d 45 WH does not include *All*. ^e 48 F35 the Lord Jesus; CT of Jesus Christ ^f 2 Literally those of the circumcision ^g 8 Literally *common*; similarly in verse 9 ^h 9 CT does not include *to me*. ⁱ 13 CT and F35 do not include *men*.

15 As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, just as He had fallen upon us at the beginning. 16 Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'^a 17 So if God gave them the same gift He gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ,^b who was I to hinder the work of God?"

18 When they heard this, they had no further objections, and they glorified God, saying, "So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life."

The Church at Antioch

19 Meanwhile those scattered by the persecution that began with Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, speaking the message only to Jews. 20 But some of them, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks,^c proclaiming the good news about the Lord Jesus. 21 The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number of people believed and^d turned to the Lord.

22 When news of this reached the ears of the church in Jerusalem, they sent out Barnabas, that he should go to Antioch.^e 23 When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced and encouraged them all to abide in the Lord with all their hearts. 24 Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

25 Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, 26 and when he found him, he brought him back to Antioch. So for a full year they met together with the church and taught large numbers of people. The disciples were first called Christians at Antioch.

27 In those days some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 One of them named Agabus stood up and predicted through the Spirit that a great famine would sweep across the whole world.^f (This happened under Claudius Caesar^g.) 29 So the disciples, each according to his ability, decided to send relief to the brothers living in Judea. 30 This they did, sending their gifts to the elders with Barnabas and Saul.

James Killed, Peter Imprisoned

12 About that time, King Herod^h reached out to harmⁱ some who belonged to the church. 2 He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword.

3 And seeing that this pleased the Jews, Herod proceeded to seize Peter during the Feast of Unleavened Bread.^j 4 He arrested him and put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out to the people after the Passover.

The Rescue of Peter

5 So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly^k praying to God for him.

6 On the night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, with sentries standing guard at the entrance to the prison. 7 Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him up, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his wrists. 8 "Get dressed and put on your sandals," said the angel. Peter did so, and the angel told him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me."

9 So Peter followed him out, but he was unaware that what the angel was doing was real. He thought he was only seeing a vision. 10 They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city, which opened for them by itself. When they had gone outside and walked the length of one block, the angel suddenly left him.

11 Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I know for sure that the Lord has sent His angel and rescued me from Herod's grasp and from everything the Jewish people were anticipating."

12 And when he had realized this, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered together and were praying. 13 Peter^l knocked at the outer gate, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer it. 14 When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed that she forgot to open the gate,

^a 16 Or 'John baptized in water, but in a few days you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit.' Acts 1:5 ^b 17 F35 the Lord Jesus ^c 20 Or the Hellenists; CT includes as well. ^d 21 NA, SBL, TH, and WH who believed ^e 22 ECM, SBL, TH, and WH they sent Barnabas to Antioch ^f 28 Or the entire Roman world ^g 28 CT does not include Caesar. ^h 1 That is, King Herod Agrippa ⁱ 1 Literally put forth the hands to mistreat ^j 3 Literally seize Peter—now these were the days of the Unleavened; see Exodus 12:14–20. ^k 5 CT fervently ^l 13 CT He

but ran inside and announced, “Peter is standing at the gate!”

¹⁵“You are out of your mind,” they told her. But when she kept insisting it was so, they said, “It must be his angel.”

¹⁶But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astounded. ¹⁷Peter motioned with his hand for silence, and he described how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. “Send word to James and to the brothers,” he said, and he left for another place.

¹⁸At daybreak there was no small commotion among the soldiers as to what had become of Peter. ¹⁹After Herod had searched for him unsuccessfully, he examined the guards and ordered that they be executed. Then he went down from Judea to Caesarea and spent some time there.

The Death of Herod

²⁰Now Herod was in a furious dispute^a with the people of Tyre and Sidon, and they convened before him. Having secured the support of Blastus, the king’s chamberlain, they asked for peace, because their region depended on the king’s country for food. ²¹On the appointed day, Herod donned his royal robes, sat on his throne, and addressed the people. ²²And they began to shout, “This is the voice of a god, not a man!”

²³Immediately, because Herod did not give glory to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.

²⁴But the word of God^b continued to spread and multiply.

²⁵When Barnabas and Saul had fulfilled their mission to Jerusalem, they returned,^c bringing with them John, also called Mark.

Paul’s First Missionary Journey Begins

(Acts 15:36–41; 18:23–28)

13 Now in the church at Antioch there were certain^d prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch), and Saul. ²While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” ³And after they had

fasted and prayed, they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

On Cyprus

⁴So Barnabas and Saul, sent forth by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. ⁵When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. And John was with them as their helper.

⁶They traveled through the island^e as far as Paphos, where they found a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus, ⁷an attendant of the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. The proconsul, a man of intelligence, summoned Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God. ⁸But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith.

⁹Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked directly at Elymas ¹⁰and said, “O child of the devil and enemy of all righteousness, you are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery! Will you never stop perverting the straight ways of the Lord? ¹¹Now look, the hand of the Lord is against you, and for a time you will be blind and unable to see the light of the sun.” Immediately mist and darkness fell^f over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand.

¹²When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was astonished at the teaching about the Lord.

In Pisidian Antioch

¹³After setting sail from Paphos, Paul and his companions came to Perga in Pamphylia, where John left them to return to Jerusalem. ¹⁴And from Perga, they traveled inland to Pisidian Antioch, where they entered the synagogue on the Sabbath and sat down. ¹⁵After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the synagogue leaders sent word to them: “Brothers, if you have a word of encouragement for the people, please speak.”

¹⁶Paul stood up, motioned with his hand, and began to speak: “Men of Israel and you Gentiles who fear God, listen to me! ¹⁷The God of the people^g chose our fathers. He made them into a great

^a 20 Or had become furious ^b 24 WH the Lord ^c 25 Or had fulfilled their mission, they returned to Jerusalem; ALT, NE, and TR had fulfilled their mission, they returned from Jerusalem; F35 includes to Antioch. ^d 1 CT does not include certain. ^e 6 CT the whole island ^f 11 CT came ^g 17 GOC, CT, and TR the people of Israel

people during their stay in Egypt, and with an uplifted arm He led them out of that land. ¹⁸He endured their conduct for about forty years in the wilderness. ¹⁹And having vanquished seven nations in Canaan, He gave their land to His people as their inheritance.^a ²⁰All this took about 450 years.

After this, God gave them judges until the time of Samuel the prophet. ²¹Then the people asked for a king, and God gave them Saul son of Kish, from the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled forty years. ²²After removing Saul, He raised up David as their king and testified about him: 'I have found David son of Jesse a man after My own heart; he will carry out My will in its entirety.'^b

²³From the descendants of this man, God has brought to Israel salvation,^c as He promised. ²⁴Before the arrival of Jesus, John preached a baptism of repentance to Israel.^d ²⁵As John was completing his course, he said, 'Who do you suppose I am? I am not that One. But there is One coming after me whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.'^e

²⁶Brothers, children of Abraham, and you Gentiles who fear God, it is to you^f that this message of salvation has been sent. ²⁷The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning Him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath. ²⁸And though they found no ground for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have Him executed.

²⁹When they had carried out all that was written about Him, they took Him down from the tree and laid Him in a tomb. ³⁰But God raised Him from the dead, ³¹and for many days He was seen by those who had accompanied Him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are^g His witnesses to our people.

³²And now we proclaim to you the good news: What God promised our fathers ³³He has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm:

'You are My Son;
today I have become Your Father.'^h

³⁴In fact, God raised Him from the dead, never to see decay. As He has said:

'I will give you the holy and sure blessings
promised to David.'ⁱ

³⁵So also, He says in another Psalm:

'You will not let Your Holy One see decay.'^j

³⁶For when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep. His body was buried with his fathers and saw decay. ³⁷But the One whom God raised from the dead did not see decay.

³⁸Therefore let it be known to you, brothers, that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. ³⁹Through Him everyone who believes is justified from everything from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses. ⁴⁰Watch out, then, that what was spoken by the prophets does not happen to you:^k

⁴¹'Look, you scoffers,
wonder and perish!
For I am doing a work in your days
that you would never believe,
even if someone told you.'^l

A Light for the Gentiles (*Isaiah 49:1-6*)

⁴²As the Jews were leaving the synagogue, the Gentiles urged^m Paul and Barnabas to continue this message on the next Sabbath. ⁴³After the synagogue was dismissed, many of the Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who spoke to them and urged them to continue in the grace of God.

⁴⁴On the following Sabbath, nearly the whole city gathered to hear the word of God.ⁿ ⁴⁵But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy, and they blasphemously opposed and contradicted^o what Paul was saying.

⁴⁶Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: "It was necessary to speak the word of God to you first. But since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷For this is what the Lord has commanded us:

'I have made you a light for the Gentiles,
to bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'^p

^a 19 CT as an inheritance ^b 22 See 1 Samuel 13:14. ^c 23 CT and TR the Savior Jesus ^d 24 GOC, CT, and TR to all the people of Israel ^e 25 Luke 3:16; see also Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:7, and John 1:27. ^f 26 CT to us ^g 31 CT includes now. ^h 33 Psalm 2:7; literally today I have begotten You ⁱ 34 Literally I will give you the holy, the trustworthy of David; Isaiah 55:3 ^j 35 Psalm 16:10 ^k 40 CT literal does not include to you. ^l 41 Habakkuk 1:5 (see also LXX) ^m 42 CT As they were leaving, they urged ⁿ 44 CT of the Lord ^o 45 CT blasphemously contradicted ^p 47 Isaiah 49:6

48When the Gentiles heard this, they rejoiced and glorified the word of the Lord, and all who were appointed for eternal life believed. **49**And the word of the Lord spread throughout that region.

50The Jews, however, incited the religious women of prominence and the leading men of the city. They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas and drove them out of their district. **51**So they shook the dust off their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium. **52**And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Paul and Barnabas at Iconium

14 At Iconium, Paul and Barnabas went as usual into the Jewish synagogue, where they spoke so well that a great number of Jews and Greeks believed. **2**But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. **3**So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who affirmed the message of His grace by enabling them to perform signs and wonders.

4The people of the city were divided. Some sided with the Jews, and others with the apostles. **5**But when the Gentiles and Jews, together with their rulers, set out to mistreat and stone them, **6**they found out about it and fled to the Lycaonian cities of Lystra and Derbe and to the surrounding region, **7**where they continued to preach the gospel.

The Visit to Lystra and Derbe

8In Lystra there sat a man crippled in his feet, who was lame from birth and had never walked. **9**This man was listening to the words of Paul, who looked intently at him and saw that he had faith to be healed. **10**In a loud voice Paul called out, "Stand up on your feet!" And the man jumped up and began to walk.

11When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices in the Lycaonian language: "The gods have come down to us in human form!" **12**Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. **13**The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside their city,^a brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates, hoping to offer a sacrifice along with the crowds.

14But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul found out about this, they tore their clothes and rushed into the crowd, shouting, **15**"Men, why are you doing this? We too are only men, human like you. We are bringing you good news that you should turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them. **16**In past generations, He let all nations go their own way. **17**Yet He has not left Himself without testimony to His goodness: He gives you^b rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our^c hearts with food and gladness."

18Even with these words, Paul and Barnabas could hardly stop the crowds from sacrificing to them.

19Then some Jews arrived from Antioch and Iconium and won over the crowds. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, presuming he was dead. **20**But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. And the next day he left with Barnabas for Derbe.

Strengthening the Disciples

21They preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, **22**strengthening the souls of the disciples and encouraging them to continue in the faith. "We must endure many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said.

23Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church, praying and fasting as they entrusted them to the Lord, in whom they had believed.

24After passing through Pisidia, they came to Pamphylia. **25**And when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia.

26From Attalia they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work they had just completed. **27**When they arrived, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them, and how He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. **28**And they spent a long time there^d with the disciples.

The Dispute over Circumcision

15 Then some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” ^a2 Therefore after^a engaging these men in sharp debate, Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.

³Sent on their way by the church, they passed through Phoenicia^b and Samaria, recounting the conversion of the Gentiles and bringing great joy to all the brothers. ⁴On their arrival in Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and apostles and elders, to whom they reported all that God had done through them.^c

The Council at Jerusalem

(Amos 9:11–15; Galatians 2:1–10)

⁵But some believers from the party of the Pharisees stood up and declared, “The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to obey the law of Moses.” ⁶So the apostles and elders met to look into this matter.

⁷After much debate,^d Peter got up and said to them, “Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among us^e that the Gentiles would hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. ⁸And God, who knows the heart, showed His approval by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as He did to us. ⁹He made no distinction between us and them, for He cleansed their hearts by faith.

¹⁰Now then, why do you test God by placing on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear? ¹¹On the contrary, we believe it is through the grace of the Lord Jesus^f that we are saved, just as they are.”

¹²The whole assembly fell silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul describing the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. ¹³When they had finished speaking, James declared, “Brothers, listen to me! ¹⁴Simon^g has told us how God first visited the Gentiles to take from them a people to be His own. ¹⁵The words of the prophets agree with this, as it is written:

¹⁶‘After this I will return and rebuild the fallen tent of David.

Its ruins I will rebuild,
and I will restore it,

¹⁷so that the remnant of men may seek the Lord,

and all the Gentiles who are called by My name,

says the Lord who does all these things.’^h

¹⁸Known for ages to God are all His works.’ⁱ

¹⁹It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not cause trouble for the Gentiles who are turning to God. ²⁰Instead, we should write and tell them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals, and from blood. ²¹For Moses has been proclaimed in every city from ancient times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath.”

The Letter to the Gentile Believers

²²Then the apostles and elders, with the whole church, decided to select men from among them to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They chose Judas called Barsabbas^j and Silas, two leaders among the brothers, ²³and sent them with this letter:

The apostles, elders, and brothers,^k

To the brothers among the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia:

Greetings.

²⁴It has come to our attention that some went out from us without our authorization and unsettled you, troubling your minds by saying that you must be circumcised and keep the law.^l ²⁵So we all agreed to send chosen men^m to you along with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, ²⁶men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁷Therefore we are sending Judas and Silas to tell you in person the same things we are writing.

²⁸It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond these essential requirements: ²⁹You must abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals,

^a 2 CT And after ^b 3 NA, SBL, TH, and WH both Phoenicia ^c 4 GOC includes and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. ^d 7 CT discussion ^e 7 CT and F35 you ^f 11 TR the Lord Jesus Christ ^g 14 Greek Simeon, a variant of Simon ^h 17 Amos 9:11–12 (see also LXX) ⁱ 18 CT says the Lord who does these things ¹⁸ that have been known for ages.’

^j 22 ALT, F35, and TR Barsabas ^k 23 CT The apostles and elders, (your) brothers ^l 24 CT troubling your minds by what they said ^m 25 CT choose men to send

and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things.

Farewell.

The Believers at Antioch Rejoice

³⁰So the men were sent off and went^a to Antioch, where they assembled the congregation and delivered the letter. ³¹When the people read it, they rejoiced at its encouraging message.

³²Judas and Silas, who themselves were prophets, said much to encourage and strengthen the brothers. ³³After spending some time there, they were sent off by the brothers in peace to return to the apostles.^b ³⁵But Paul and Barnabas remained at Antioch, along with many others, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord.

Paul's Second Missionary Journey Begins

(Acts 13:1–3; Acts 18:23–28)

³⁶Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us go back and visit our brothers^c in every town where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, to see how they are doing.” ³⁷Barnabas wanted to take John called^d Mark. ³⁸But Paul thought it best not to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not accompanied them in the work.

³⁹Their disagreement was so sharp that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, ⁴⁰but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the brothers to the grace of God.^e ⁴¹And he traveled through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

Timothy Joins Paul and Silas

16 Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where he found a disciple named Timothy, the son of a believing Jewish woman and a Greek father. ²The brothers in Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. ³Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, so he took him and circumcised him on account of the Jews in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.

⁴As they went from town to town, they delivered the decisions handed down by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey. ⁵So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.

Paul's Vision of the Macedonian

⁶After the Holy Spirit had prevented them from speaking the word in the province of Asia,^f they traveled through the region of Phrygia and Galatia. ⁷And when they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit^g would not permit them. ⁸So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas.

⁹During the night, Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and pleading with him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” ¹⁰As soon as Paul had seen the vision, we got ready to leave for Macedonia, concluding that the Lord^h had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Lydia's Conversion in Philippi (Rev. 2:18–29)

¹¹Thereforeⁱ we sailed from Troas straight to Samothrace, and the following day on to Neapolis. ¹²From there we went to the Roman colony of Philippi, the leading city of that district of Macedonia.^j And we stayed there several days.

¹³On the Sabbath we went outside the city^k along the river, where it was customary to find a place of prayer. After sitting down, we spoke to the women who had gathered there.

¹⁴Among those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. ¹⁵And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, “If you consider me a believer in the Lord, come and stay at my house.” And she persuaded us.

Paul and Silas Imprisoned

¹⁶One day as we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl with a spirit of divination,^l who earned a large income for her masters by fortune-telling. ¹⁷This girl followed Paul and the rest of us,^m shouting, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to usⁿ the way of salvation!”

¹⁸She continued this for many days. Eventually Paul grew so aggravated that he turned and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!” And the spirit left her at that very moment.

^a 30 CT went down ^b 33 CT to those who had sent them. TR includes ³⁴But it seemed good to Silas to remain there.

^c 36 CT the brothers ^d 37 CT and F35 John, also called ^e 40 CT of the Lord ^f 6 Literally in Asia; Asia was a Roman province in what is now western Turkey. ^g 7 CT the Spirit of Jesus ^h 10 CT that God ⁱ 11 CT does not

include Therefore. ^j 12 Literally we went to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia—a colony

^k 13 CT the city gate ^l 16 Greek a spirit of Python; that is, a spirit of divination named after the mythical serpent slain by Apollo ^m 17 GOC, ALT, and F35 and Silas ⁿ 17 CT to you

19When the girl's owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them before the authorities in the marketplace. **20**They brought them to the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews and are throwing our city into turmoil **21**by promoting customs that are unlawful for us Romans to adopt or practice."

22The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered that they be stripped and beaten with rods. **23**And after striking them with many blows, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to guard them securely. **24**On receiving this order, he placed them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

The Conversion of the Jailer

25About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. **26**Suddenly a strong earthquake shook the foundations of the prison. At once all the doors flew open and everyone's chains came loose.

27When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, presuming that the prisoners had escaped. **28**But Paul called out in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself! We are all here!"

29Calling for lights, the jailer rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. **30**Then he brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

31They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ^a and you will be saved, you and your household."

32Then Paul and Silas spoke the word of the Lord^b to him and to everyone in his house. **33**At that hour of the night, the jailer took them and washed their wounds. And without delay, he and all his household were baptized. **34**Then he brought them into his home and set a meal before them. So he and all his household rejoiced that they had come to believe in God.

An Official Apology

35When daylight came, the magistrates sent their officers with the order: "Release those men."

36The jailer informed Paul: "The magistrates have sent orders to release you. Now you may go on your way in peace."

37But Paul said to the officers, "They beat us publicly without a trial and threw us into prison, even though we are Roman citizens. And now do they want to send us away secretly? Absolutely not! Let them come themselves and escort us out!"

38So the officers relayed this message to the magistrates, who were alarmed to hear that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens. **39**They came to appease them and led them out, requesting that they leave the city. **40**After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia's house to see the brothers and encourage them. Then they left the city.

The Uproar in Thessalonica

17 When they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. **2**As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbaths he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, **3**explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ," he declared. **4**Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few leading women.

5The unbelieving Jews, however, brought in some troublemakers from the marketplace,^c formed a mob, and sent the city into an uproar. They raided Jason's house in search of Paul and Silas, hoping to bring them out to the people. **6**But when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some other brothers before the city officials, shouting, "These men who have turned the world upside down have now come here, **7**and Jason has welcomed them into his home. They are all defying Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king, named Jesus!"

8On hearing this, the crowd and city officials were greatly disturbed. **9**And they collected bond from Jason and the others and then released them.

^a **31** CT the Lord Jesus ^b **32** WH of God ^c **5** CT The Jews, however, became jealous. So they brought in some troublemakers from the marketplace

The Character of the Bereans

¹⁰As soon as night had fallen, the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went into the Jewish synagogue. ¹¹Now the Bereans were more noble-minded than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if these teachings were true.^a ¹²As a result, many of them believed, along with quite a few prominent Greek women and men.

¹³But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that Paul was also proclaiming the word of God in Berea, they went there themselves to incite^b the crowds. ¹⁴The brothers immediately sent Paul away as if^c to the coast, but Silas and Timothy remained in Berea. ¹⁵Those who escorted Paul brought him to Athens and then returned with instructions for Silas and Timothy to join him as soon as possible.

Paul in Athens

¹⁶While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply disturbed in his spirit to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and God-fearing Gentiles, and in the marketplace with those he met each day.

¹⁸Some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others said, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was proclaiming the good news of Jesus and the resurrection.

¹⁹So they took Paul and brought him to the Areopagus,^d where they asked him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?" ²⁰For you are bringing some strange notions to our ears, and we want to know what they mean."

²¹Now all the Athenians and foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing more than hearing and articulating new ideas.

Paul's Address in the Areopagus

²²Then Paul stood up in the meeting^e of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I see that in every way you are very religious. ²³For as

I walked around and examined your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription:

TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.

Therefore Him whom^f you worship as something unknown, I now proclaim to you.

²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples made by human hands. ²⁵Nor is He served by the hands of men,^g as if He needed anything, because He Himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. ²⁶From one blood^h He made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their lands.

²⁷The Lord intended that they would seek Himⁱ and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us. ²⁸'For in Him we live and move and have our being.'^j As some of your own poets have said, 'We are His offspring.'^k ²⁹Therefore, being offspring of God, we should not think that the Divine Being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by man's skill and imagination.

³⁰Although God overlooked the ignorance of earlier times, He now commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹For He has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the Man He has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising Him from the dead."

³²When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some began to mock him, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this topic." ³³At that, Paul left the Areopagus. ³⁴But some^l joined him and believed, including Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others who were with them.

Paul Ministers in Corinth

(1 Corinthians 1:1–3; 2 Corinthians 1:1–2)

18 After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. ²There he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome.

^a 11 Lit. with great eagerness, every day examining the Writings, whether these things were so. ^b 13 CT to incite and agitate ^c 14 CT sent Paul (away to go) ^d 19 Or Ares Hill or Mars Hill; also in verse 22 and added for clarity in verse 33 ^e 22 Lit. in the middle ^f 23 CT Therefore what ^g 25 CT human hands ^h 26 CT From one man ⁱ 27 Lit. that they would seek the Lord; CT that they would seek God ^j 28 This is probably a quote from the Cretan philosopher Epimenides of Knossos. ^k 28 This is probably a quote from the poem "Phainomena" by the Cilician philosopher Aratus. ^l 34 Lit. some men

Paul went to visit them, ³and he stayed and worked with them because they were tentmakers by trade, just as he was.

⁴Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks alike. ⁵And when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit,^a testifying to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ. ⁶But when they opposed and insulted him, he shook out his garments and told them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent of it. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”

⁷So Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Justus,^b a worshiper of God. ⁸Crispus, the synagogue leader, and his whole household believed in the Lord. And many of the Corinthians who heard the message believed and were baptized.

⁹One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: “Do not be afraid; keep on speaking; do not be silent. ¹⁰For I am with you and no one will lay a hand on you, because I have many people in this city.” ¹¹So Paul stayed for a year and a half, teaching the word of God among the Corinthians.

Paul before Gallio

¹²While Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews coordinated an attack on Paul and brought him before the judgment seat. ¹³“This man is persuading the people to worship God in ways contrary to the law,” they said.

¹⁴But just as Paul was about to speak, Gallio told the Jews, “If this matter involved a wrongdoing or vicious crime, O Jews, it would be reasonable for me to hear your complaint. ¹⁵But since it is a dispute about words and names and your own law, settle it yourselves. For ^c I refuse to be a judge of such things.” ¹⁶And he drove them away from the judgment seat.

¹⁷At this, all the Greeks^d seized Sosthenes the synagogue leader and beat him in front of the judgment seat. But none of this was of concern to Gallio.

Paul Returns to Antioch

¹⁸Paul remained in Corinth for quite some time before saying goodbye to the brothers. He had his head shaved in Cenchrea to keep a vow he

had made, and then he sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila.

¹⁹When he reached^e Ephesus, Paul left Priscilla and Aquila. He himself went into the synagogue there and reasoned with the Jews. ²⁰When they asked him to stay with them^f for a while longer, he declined. ²¹But as he left, he said, “I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem, but^g I will come back to you if God is willing.” And he set sail from Ephesus.

²²When Paul had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church at Jerusalem.^h Then he went down to Antioch.

Paul's Third Missionary Journey Begins

(Acts 13:1–3; Acts 15:36–41)

²³After Paul had spent some time in Antioch, he traveled from place to place throughout the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

²⁴Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, well versed in the Scriptures. ²⁵He had been instructed in the way of the Lord and was fervent in spirit. He spoke and taught accurately about the Lord,ⁱ though he knew only the baptism of John. ²⁶And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla^j heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

²⁷When Apollos resolved to cross over to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. On his arrival, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed. ²⁸For he powerfully refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.

The Holy Spirit Received at Ephesus

(Acts 10:44–48)

19 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the interior^k and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples ²and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?”

“No,” they answered, “we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

^a 5 CT Paul devoted himself fully to the word ^b 7 ECM Titus Justus; SBL, NE, and WH Titus Justus ^c 15 CT does not include For. ^d 17 CT they all ^e 19 CT they reached ^f 20 CT does not include with them. ^g 21 CT does not include I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem, but. ^h 22 Literally he went up and greeted the church ⁱ 25 CT about Jesus ^j 26 CT Priscilla and Aquila ^k 1 Or the highland

³“Into what, then, were you baptized?” Paul asked.

“The baptism of John,” they replied.

⁴Paul explained: “John’s baptism was indeed^a a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the One coming after him, that is, in Christ Jesus.^b”

⁵On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶And when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. ⁷There were about twelve men in all.

Paul Ministers in Ephesus

(*Ephesians 1:1–2; Revelation 2:1–7*)

⁸Then Paul went into the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. ⁹But when some of them stubbornly refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way, Paul took his disciples and left the synagogue to conduct daily discussions in the lecture hall of a man named Tyrannus.^c ¹⁰This continued for two years, so that everyone who lived in the province of Asia,^d Jews and Greeks alike, heard the word of the Lord Jesus.^e

¹¹God did extraordinary miracles through the hands of Paul, ¹²so that even handkerchiefs^f and aprons that had touched him were brought^g to the sick, and the diseases and evil spirits left them.

Seven Sons of Sceva

¹³Now there were some itinerant Jewish exorcists who tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those with evil spirits. They would say, “I command you by Jesus, whom Paul proclaims.” ¹⁴Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this.

¹⁵But one day the evil spirit responded, “Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?” ¹⁶Then the man with the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them.^h The attack was so violent that they ran out of the house naked and wounded.

¹⁷This became known to all the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, and fear came over all of them.

So the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. ¹⁸Many who had believed now came forward, confessing and disclosing their deeds. ¹⁹And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books and burned them in front of everyone. When the value of the books was calculated, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas.ⁱ ²⁰So the word of the Lord powerfully continued to spread and prevail.

The Riot in Ephesus

²¹After these things had happened, Paul resolved in the Spirit^j to go to Jerusalem, passing through Macedonia and Achaia. “After I have been there,” he said, “I must see Rome as well.” ²²He sent two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, to Macedonia, while he stayed for a time in the province of Asia.

²³About that time there arose a great disturbance^k about the Way. ²⁴It began with a silversmith named Demetrius who made silver shrines of Artemis, bringing much business^l to the craftsmen.

²⁵Demetrius assembled the craftsmen, along with the workmen in related trades. “Men,” he said, “you know that this business is our source of prosperity. ²⁶And you can see and hear that not only in Ephesus, but in nearly the whole province of Asia, this Paul has persuaded a great number of people to turn away. He says that man-made gods are no gods at all. ²⁷There is danger not only that our business will fall into disrepute, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be discredited and her majesty deposed—she who is worshiped by all the province of Asia and the whole world.”

²⁸When the men heard this, they were enraged and began shouting, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” ²⁹Soon the whole city^m was in disarray. They rushed together into the theatre, dragging with them Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul’s traveling companions from Macedonia.

³⁰Paul wanted to go before the assembly, but the disciples would not allow him. ³¹Even some of Paul’s friends who were officials of the province of Asiaⁿ sent word to him, begging him not to venture into the theatre.

^a ⁴ CT does not include *indeed*. ^b ⁴ CT in *Jesus*; GOC in *Jesus Christ* ^c ⁹ CT of *Tyrannus* ^d ¹⁰ Literally in *Asia*; Asia was a Roman province in what is now western Turkey; similarly in verses 22, 26, 27, and 31. ^e ¹⁰ CT of *the Lord* ^f ¹² Greek *soudaria* ^g ¹² CT were taken ^h ¹⁶ CT them all ⁱ ¹⁹ Or *fifty thousand pieces of silver*. A drachma was a silver coin worth about one day’s wages. ^j ²¹ Or *resolved in spirit* ^k ²³ Literally *there arose no little disturbance* ^l ²⁴ Literally *bringing no little business* ^m ²⁹ CT *literal the city* ⁿ ³¹ Or *friends who were Asiarchs*

³²Meanwhile the assembly was in turmoil. Some were shouting one thing and some another, and most of them did not even know why they were there. ³³The Jews in the crowd pushed Alexander forward,^a and he motioned for silence so he could make his defense to the people. ³⁴But when they realized that he was a Jew, they all shouted in unison for about two hours: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

³⁵Finally the city clerk quieted the crowd and declared, "Men of Ephesus, doesn't everyone know that the city of Ephesus is guardian of the temple of the great goddess^b Artemis and of her image, which fell from heaven? ³⁶Since these things are undeniable, you ought to be calm and not do anything rash. ³⁷For you have brought these men here, though they have neither robbed our temple nor blasphemed your^c goddess.

³⁸So if Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a complaint against anyone, the courts are open and proconsuls are available. Let them bring charges against one another there. ³⁹But if you are seeking anything concerning other matters,^d it must be settled in a legal assembly. ⁴⁰For we are in jeopardy of being charged with rioting for today's events, and we have no justification to account for this commotion."

⁴¹After he had said this, he dismissed the assembly.

Paul in Macedonia and Greece

20 When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples. And^e he said goodbye to them and left for Macedonia. ²After traveling through that area and speaking many words of encouragement, he arrived in Greece, ³where he stayed three months. And when the Jews formed a plot against him as he was about to sail for Syria, he decided^f to go back through Macedonia.

⁴Paul was accompanied into the province of Asia^g by Sopater^h from Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica, Gaius from Derbe, Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus from the province of Asia. ⁵These men went on ahead and waited for us in Troas. ⁶And after the Feast of

Unleavened Bread,ⁱ we sailed from Philippi, and five days later we rejoined them in Troas, where we stayed seven days.

Eutychus Revived at Troas (2 Kings 4:18–37)

⁷On the first day of the week, the disciples came together^j to break bread. Since Paul was ready to leave the next day, he talked to them and kept on speaking until midnight.

⁸Now there were many lamps in the upper room where we were^k gathered. ⁹And a certain young man named Eutychus, seated in the window, was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell from the third story and was picked up dead. ¹⁰But Paul went down, threw himself on the young man, and embraced him. "Do not be alarmed!" he said. "He is still alive!"

¹¹Then Paul went back upstairs, broke bread, and ate. And after speaking until daybreak, he departed. ¹²And the people were greatly relieved to take the boy home alive.

From Troas to Miletus

¹³We went to^l the ship and sailed to Assos, where we were to take Paul aboard. He had arranged this because he was going there on foot. ¹⁴And when he met us at Assos, we took him aboard and went on to Mitylene. ¹⁵Sailing on from there, we arrived the next day opposite Chios. The day after that we arrived at Samos. And after remaining at Trogyllium,^m on the following day we came to Miletus.

¹⁶Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus to avoid spending time in the province of Asia, because he was in a hurry to reach Jerusalem, if possible, by the day of Pentecost.ⁿ

Paul's Farewell to the Ephesians

¹⁷From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church.

¹⁸When they came to him, he said, "You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I arrived in the province of Asia. ¹⁹I served the Lord with great humility and with

^a ³³ Literally *forward, putting him forward*, CT *forward to explain himself* ^b ³⁵ CT does not include *goddess*. ^c ³⁷ CT *our* ^d ³⁹ CT *anything beyond this* ^e ¹ CT includes *after encouraging them*. ^f ³ Literally *the decision was made* ^g ⁴ Literally *into Asia*; Asia was a Roman province in what is now western Turkey; twice in this verse and also in verses 16 and 18; CT does not include *into the province of Asia*. ^h ⁴ CT *Sopater son of Pyrrhus* ⁱ ⁶ Literally *after the days of the Unleavened*; see Exodus 12:14–20. ^j ⁷ CT *we came together* ^k ⁸ TR *they were* ^l ¹³ GOC, NA, SBL, TR, and WH *went on ahead to* ^m ¹⁵ CT does not include *after remaining at Trogyllium*. ⁿ ¹⁶ That is, Shavuot, the late spring feast of pilgrimage to Jerusalem; it is also known as *the Feast of Harvest* (see Exodus 23:16) or *the Feast of Weeks* (see Exodus 34:22).

many tears,^a especially in the trials that came upon me through the plots of the Jews. ²⁰I did not shrink back from declaring anything that was helpful to you as I taught you publicly and from house to house, ²¹testifying to Jews and Greeks alike about repentance to God and faith in our Lord Jesus.^b

²²And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. ²³I only know that in town after town the Holy Spirit warns^c that chains and afflictions await me. ²⁴But I consider my life of no value to me, if only I may finish my course with joy^d and complete the ministry I have received from the Lord Jesus—the ministry of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.

²⁵Now I know that none of you among whom I have preached the kingdom of God^e will see my face again. ²⁶Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men.^f ²⁷For I did not shrink back from declaring to you the whole will of God.

²⁸Therefore^g keep watch over yourselves and the entire flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of the Lord and God,^h which He purchased with His own blood.ⁱ ²⁹For I know this,^j that after my departure, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. ³⁰Even from your own number, men will rise up and distort the truth to draw away disciples after them. ³¹Therefore be alert and remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

³²And now I commit you, brothers,^k to God and to the word of His grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all who are sanctified.

³³I have not coveted anyone’s silver or gold or clothing. ³⁴You yourselves know that these hands of mine have ministered to my own needs and those of my companions. ³⁵In everything, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus Himself: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

³⁶When Paul had said this, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. ³⁷They all wept openly as they embraced Paul and kissed him. ³⁸They were especially grieved by his statement that they would never see his face again. Then they accompanied him to the ship.

Paul’s Journey to Jerusalem

21 After we had torn ourselves away from them, we sailed directly to Cos, and the next day on to Rhodes, and from there to Patara. ²Finding a ship crossing over to Phoenicia, we boarded it and set sail. ³After sighting Cyprus and passing south of it, we sailed on to Syria and landed at Tyre, where the ship was to unload its cargo.

⁴We sought out disciples^l in Tyre and stayed with them seven days. Through the Spirit they kept telling Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. ⁵But when our time there had ended, we set out on our journey. All the disciples, with their wives and children, accompanied us out of the city and knelt down on the beach to pray with us. ⁶And after we had said our farewells, we went aboard the ship, and they returned home.

⁷When we had finished our voyage from Tyre, we landed at Ptolemais, where we greeted the brothers and stayed with them for a day.

Paul Visits Philip the Evangelist

⁸Leaving the next day, Paul and his companions went on^m to Caesarea and stayed at the home of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the Seven.ⁿ ⁹He had four unmarried daughters who prophesied.

¹⁰After we had been there several days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. ¹¹Coming over to us, he took Paul’s belt, bound his own feet and hands,^o and said, “The Holy Spirit says: ‘In this way the Jews of Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and hand him over to the Gentiles.’” ¹²When we heard this, we and the people there pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem.

¹³Then Paul answered, “Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name

^a 19 CT and with tears ^b 21 ECM, TR, GOC, and Tischendorf our Lord Jesus Christ ^c 23 CT warns me ^d 24 CT does not include with joy. ^e 25 CT does not include of God. ^f 26 See Ezekiel 33:8–9. ^g 28 CT does not include Therefore.

^h 28 CT the church of God ⁱ 28 Or with the blood of His own Son. ^j 29 CT begins the verse with I know. ^k 32 CT does not include brothers. ^l 4 CT the disciples ^m 8 CT Leaving the next day, we went on ⁿ 8 See Acts 6:5. ^o 11 TR hands and feet

of the Lord Jesus.” ¹⁴When he would not be dissuaded, we quieted down and said, “The Lord’s will be done.”

¹⁵After these days, we packed up and went on to Jerusalem. ¹⁶Some of the disciples from Caesarea accompanied us, and they took us to stay at the home of Mnason the Cypriot, an early disciple.

Paul’s Arrival at Jerusalem

¹⁷When we arrived in Jerusalem, the brothers welcomed us joyfully. ¹⁸The next day Paul went in with us to see James, and all the elders were present. ¹⁹Paul greeted them and recounted one by one the things that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.

²⁰When they heard this, they glorified the Lord.^a Then they said to Paul, “You see, brother, how many thousands of Jews have believed, and all of them are zealous for the law. ²¹But they are under the impression that you teach all the Jews who live among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or observe our customs. ²²What then should we do? Certainly a multitude will gather, for^b they will hear that you have come.

²³Therefore do what we advise you. There are four men with us who have taken a vow. ²⁴Take these men, purify yourself along with them, and pay their expenses so they can have their heads shaved. Then everyone will know that there is no truth to these rumors about you, but that you also live in obedience to the law.

²⁵As for the Gentile believers, we have written to them our decision that they should observe no such thing, except that they^c must abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals, and from sexual immorality.”

²⁶So the next day Paul took the men and purified himself along with them. Then he entered the temple to give notice of the date when their purification would be complete and the offering would be made for each of them.

Paul Seized at the Temple

²⁷When the seven days were almost over, some Jews from the province of Asia^d saw Paul at the

temple. They stirred up the whole crowd and seized him, ²⁸crying out, “Men of Israel, help us! This is the man who teaches everyone everywhere against our people and against our law and against this place. Furthermore, he has brought Greeks into the temple and defiled this holy place.” ²⁹For they had seen^e Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, and they assumed that Paul had brought him into the temple.

³⁰The whole city was stirred up, and the people rushed together. They seized Paul and dragged him out of the temple, and at once the gates were shut. ³¹While they were trying to kill him, the commander of the Roman regiment^f received a report that all Jerusalem was in turmoil. ³²Immediately he took some soldiers and centurions and ran down to the crowd. When the people saw the commander and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul.

³³The commander came up and arrested Paul, ordering that he be bound with two chains. Then he asked who he was and what he had done.

³⁴Some in the crowd were crying out^g one thing, and some another. And since the commander could not get at the truth because of the uproar, he ordered that Paul be brought into the barracks. ³⁵When Paul reached the steps, he had to be carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the mob. ³⁶For the crowd that followed him kept shouting, “Away with him!”

Paul Addresses the Crowd

³⁷As they were about to take Paul into the barracks, he asked the commander, “May I speak^h to you?”

“Do you speak Greek?” he replied. ³⁸“Aren’t you the Egyptian who incited a rebellion some time ago and led four thousand members of the Assassins into the wilderness?”

³⁹But Paul answered, “I am a Jew from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no ordinary city. Now I beg you to allow me to speak to the people.”

⁴⁰Having received permission, Paul stood on the steps and motioned to the crowd. A great hush came over the crowd, and he addressed them in Hebrew:ⁱ

^a 20 CT they glorified God ^b 22 CT does not include a multitude will gather, for. ^c 25 CT does not include should observe no such thing, except that they. ^d 27 Literally from Asia; Asia was a Roman province in what is now western Turkey.

^e 29 CT and TR previously seen ^f 31 Literally the commander of the cohort ^g 34 CT were shouting ^h 37 CT and TR May I say something ⁱ 40 Or in Aramaic; literally in the Hebrew language

Paul's Defense to the Crowd*(Acts 9:1–19; 26:1–23)*

22 “Brothers and fathers, listen now to my defense before you.” ²When they heard him speak to them in Hebrew,^a they became even more quiet.

Then Paul declared, ³“I am indeed^b a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but raised in this city. I was educated at the feet of Gamaliel in strict conformity to the law of our fathers. I was just as zealous for God as any of you are today.

⁴I persecuted this Way even to the death, detaining both men and women and throwing them into prison, ⁵as the high priest and the whole Council can testify about me. I even obtained letters from them to their brothers in Damascus, and I was on my way to apprehend these people and bring them to Jerusalem to be punished.

⁶About noon as I was approaching Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. ⁷I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?’

⁸‘Who are You, Lord?’ I asked.

‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,’ He replied. ⁹My companions saw the light and were terrified,^c but they could not understand the voice of the One speaking to me.

¹⁰Then I asked, ‘What should I do, Lord?’

‘Get up and go into Damascus,’ He told me. ‘There you will be told all that you have been appointed to do.’

¹¹Because the brilliance of the light had blinded me, my companions led me by the hand into Damascus. ¹²There a man named Ananias, a devout observer of the law who was highly regarded by all the Jews living there,^d ¹³came and stood beside me. ‘Brother Saul,’ he said, ‘receive your sight.’ And at that moment I could see him.

¹⁴Then he said, ‘The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will and to see the Righteous One and to hear His voice. ¹⁵You will be His witness to everyone of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized, and wash your sins away, calling on the name of the Lord.’^e

¹⁷Later, when I had returned to Jerusalem and was praying at the temple, I fell into a trance ¹⁸and saw the Lord^f saying to me, ‘Hurry! Leave Jerusalem quickly, because the people here will not accept your testimony about Me.’

¹⁹‘Lord,’ I answered, ‘they know very well that in one synagogue after another I imprisoned and beat those who believed in You. ²⁰And when the blood of Your witness^g Stephen was shed, I stood there giving my approval to his death^h and watching over the garments of those who killed him.’

²¹Then He said to me, ‘Go! I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’”

Paul the Roman Citizen

²²The crowd listened to Paul until he made this statement. Then they lifted up their voices and shouted, “Rid the earth of him! He is not fit to live!”

²³As they were crying outⁱ and throwing off their cloaks and tossing dust into the air, ²⁴the commander ordered that Paul be brought into the barracks. He directed that Paul be flogged and interrogated to determine the reason for this outcry against him.

²⁵But as he stretched him out^j to strap him down, Paul said to the centurion standing there, “Is it lawful for you to flog a Roman citizen without a trial?”

²⁶On hearing this, the centurion went and reported it to the commander. “Consider what you are about to do,”^k he said. “This man is a Roman citizen.”

²⁷The commander went to Paul and asked, “Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?”

“Yes,” he answered.

²⁸“I paid a high price for my citizenship,” said the commander.

“But I was born a citizen,” Paul replied.

²⁹At once those who were about to interrogate Paul stepped back, and the commander himself was alarmed when he realized that he had put a Roman citizen in chains.

a 2 Or in Aramaic; lit. in the Hebrew language *b* 3 CT does not include indeed. *c* 9 CT does not include and were terrified. *d* 12 GOC, HF, and F35 In Damascus *e* 16 CT calling on His name *f* 18 Lit. saw Him *g* 20 Or martyr *h* 20 CT does not include to his death. *i* 23 CT were shouting *j* 25 GOC, ALT, CT, F35, and Scrivener TR as they stretched him out *k* 26 CT “What are you going to do?”

³⁰The next day the commander, wanting to learn the real reason Paul was accused by the Jews, released him from the bonds^a and ordered the chief priests and their whole Sanhedrin^b to assemble. Then he brought Paul down and had him stand before them.

Paul before the Sanhedrin

23 Paul looked directly at the Sanhedrin^c and said, “Brothers, I have conducted myself before God in all good conscience to this day.”

²At this, the high priest Ananias ordered those standing near Paul to strike him on the mouth.

³Then Paul said to him, “God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! You sit here to judge me according to the law, yet you yourself violate the law by commanding that I be struck.”

⁴But those standing nearby said, “How dare you insult the high priest of God!”

⁵“Brothers,” Paul replied, “I was not aware that he was the high priest, for it is written: ‘Do not speak evil about the ruler of your people.’^d”

⁶Then Paul, knowing that some of them were Sadducees and others Pharisees,^e called out in the Sanhedrin, “Brothers, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee. It is because of my hope in the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial.”

⁷As soon as he had said this, a dispute broke out between the Pharisees and Sadducees,^f and the assembly was divided. ⁸For the Sadducees say that there is neither a resurrection nor angels nor spirits, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.

⁹A great clamor arose, and some scribes from the party of the Pharisees got up and contended sharply, “We find nothing wrong with this man. If a spirit or an angel has spoken to him, let us not fight against God.^g” ¹⁰The dispute grew so violent that the commander was afraid they would tear Paul to pieces. He ordered the soldiers to go down and remove him by force and bring him into the barracks.

¹¹The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, “Take courage, Paul!^h As you have

testified about Me in Jerusalem, so also you must testify in Rome.”

The Plot to Kill Paul (*John 16:1–4*)

¹²When daylight came, some ofⁱ the Jews formed a conspiracy and bound themselves with an oath not to eat or drink until they had killed Paul. ¹³More than forty of them were involved in this plot. ¹⁴They went to the chief priests and elders and said, “We have bound ourselves with a solemn oath not to eat anything until we have killed Paul. ¹⁵Now then, you and the Sanhedrin petition the commander to bring him down to you tomorrow^j on the pretext of examining his case more carefully. We are ready to kill him on the way.”

¹⁶But when the son of Paul’s sister heard about the plot,^k he went into the barracks and told Paul. ¹⁷Then Paul called one of the centurions and said, “Take this young man to the commander; he has something to tell him.”

¹⁸So the centurion took him to the commander and said, “Paul the prisoner sent and asked me to bring this young man to you. He has something to tell you.”

¹⁹The commander took the young man by the hand, drew him aside, and asked, “What do you need to tell me?”

²⁰He answered, “The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul to the Sanhedrin tomorrow on the pretext of acquiring more information about him. ²¹Do not let them persuade you, because more than forty men are waiting to ambush him. They have bound themselves with an oath not to eat or drink until they have killed him; they are ready now, awaiting your consent.”

²²So the commander dismissed the young man and instructed him, “Do not tell anyone that you have reported this to me.”

Paul Sent to Felix

²³Then he called two of his centurions and said, “Prepare two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen, and two hundred spearmen to go to Caesarea in the third hour of the night.^l ²⁴Provide mounts for Paul to take him safely to Governor Felix.” ²⁵And he wrote the following letter:

^a 30 CT does not include *from the bonds*. ^b 30 Or *their whole Council*; CT *the whole Sanhedrin* ^c 1 Or *the Council*; also in verses 6, 15, 20, and 28 ^d 5 Exodus 22:28 (see also LXX) ^e 6 F35 *Pharisees and others Sadducees* ^f 7 and *Sadducees* is implied but not included in MT; CT, GOC, ALT, HF, F35, and TR include *and Sadducees*. ^g 9 CT *What if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?* ^h 11 CT does not include *Paul*. ⁱ 12 CT does not include *some of*. ^j 15 CT does not include *tomorrow*. ^k 16 Or *the ambush* ^l 23 That is, at nine tonight

²⁶Claudius Lysias,

To His Excellency, Governor Felix:

Greetings.

²⁷This man was seized by the Jews, and they were about to kill him when I came with my troops to rescue him. For I had learned that he is a Roman citizen, ²⁸and since I wanted to know^a their charges against him, I brought him down to their Sanhedrin. ²⁹I found that the accusation involved questions about their own law, but there was no charge worthy of death or imprisonment.

³⁰When I was informed that there was a plot by the Jews^b against the man, I sent him to you at once. I also instructed his accusers to present their case against him before you. Farewell.^c

³¹So the soldiers followed their orders and brought Paul by night to Antipatris. ³²The next day they returned to the barracks and let the horsemen go on with him. ³³When the horsemen arrived in Caesarea, they delivered the letter to the governor and presented Paul to him.

³⁴The governor read the letter and asked what province Paul was from. Learning that he was from Cilicia, ³⁵he said, "I will hear your case when your accusers arrive." Then he ordered that Paul be kept under guard in Herod's Praetorium.

Tertullus Prosecutes Paul

24 Five days later the high priest Ananias came down with the elders^d and a lawyer^e named Tertullus, who presented to the governor their case against Paul.

²When Paul had been called in, Tertullus opened the prosecution: "Because of you, we have enjoyed a lasting peace, and your foresight has brought worthy reforms^f to this nation. ³In every way and everywhere, most excellent Felix, we acknowledge this with all gratitude. ⁴But in order not to delay you any further, I beg your indulgence to hear us briefly.

⁵We have found this man to be a pestilence, stirring up dissension among the Jews all over the world. He is a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes, ⁶and he even tried to desecrate the temple; so we seized him.^g ⁸By examining him yourself, you will be able to learn the truth about all our charges against him."

⁹The Jews concurred, asserting that these charges were true.

Paul's Defense to Felix

¹⁰When the governor motioned for Paul to speak, he began his response: "Knowing that you have been a judge^h over this nation for many years, I gladly make my defense. ¹¹You can verify for yourself that no more than twelve days ago I went up to worship in Jerusalem.ⁱ ¹²Yet my accusers did not find me debating with anyone in the temple or riling up a crowd in the synagogues or in the city. ¹³Nor can they prove^j any of their charges against me.

¹⁴I do confess to you, however, that I worship the God of our fathers according to the Way, which they call a sect. I believe everything that is written throughout the Law and the Prophets,^k ¹⁵and I have the same hope in God that they themselves cherish, that there will be a resurrection of the dead—^l of both the righteous and the wicked. ¹⁶In this hope, I strive always to maintain a clear conscience before God and man.

¹⁷After several years, then, I returned to Jerusalem to bring alms to my people and to present offerings. ¹⁸At the time they found me in the temple, I was ceremonially clean and was not inciting a crowd or an uproar. But there are some Jews from the province of Asia^m ¹⁹who ought to appear before you and bring charges, if they have anything against me. ²⁰Otherwise, let these men state for themselves any crime they found in meⁿ when I stood before the Sanhedrin,^o ²¹unless it was this one thing I called out as I stood in their presence: 'It is concerning the resurrection of the dead that I am being tried by^p you today.'"

^a ²⁸ CT to understand ^b ³⁰ CT does not include *by the Jews*. ^c ³⁰ NA, SBL, and WH do not include *Farewell*. ^d ¹ CT some elders ^e ¹ Or an orator ^f ² CT brought improvements ^g ⁶ TR includes *and we would have judged him according to our law*. ⁷ But Lysias the commander came with great force and took him out of our hands, ⁸ ordering his accusers to come before you. ^h ¹⁰ F35 a righteous judge ⁱ ¹¹ CT I went up to Jerusalem to worship ^j ¹³ CT includes *to you*. ^k ¹⁴ GOC and ^{CT} everything that is laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets ^l ¹⁵ CT does not include *of the dead*—^m ¹⁸ Literally from Asia; Asia was a Roman province in what is now western Turkey. ⁿ ²⁰ CT literal does not include *in me*. ^o ²⁰ Or the Council ^p ²¹ CT I am on trial before

The Verdict Postponed

²²On hearing these things^a Felix, who was well informed about the Way, adjourned the hearing and said, “When Lysias the commander comes, I will decide your case.” ²³He ordered the centurion to keep Paul under guard, but to allow him some freedom and permit his friends to come and^b minister to his needs.

²⁴After several days, Felix returned with his wife Drusilla, who was a Jewess. He sent for Paul and listened to him speak about faith in Christ.^c ²⁵As Paul expounded on righteousness, self-control, and the coming judgment, Felix became frightened and said, “You may go for now. When I find the time, I will call for you.” ²⁶At the same time, he was hoping that Paul would offer him a bribe to release him.^d So he sent for Paul frequently and talked with him.

²⁷After two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus. And wishing to do the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul in prison.

Paul’s Trial before Festus

25 Three days after his arrival in the province, Festus went up from Caesarea to Jerusalem, ²where the high priest^e and Jewish leaders presented their case against Paul. They urged Festus ³to grant them a concession against Paul by summoning him to Jerusalem, because they were preparing an ambush to kill him along the way.

⁴But Festus replied, “Paul is being held in Caesarea, and I myself am going there soon. ⁵So if this man has done anything wrong, let some of your leaders come down with me and accuse him there.”

⁶After spending more than ten days^f with them, Festus went down to Caesarea. The next day he sat on the judgment seat and ordered that Paul be brought in. ⁷When Paul arrived, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, laying against Paul many^g serious charges that they could not prove.

⁸Then Paul made his defense: “I have committed no offense against the law of the Jews or against the temple or against Caesar.”

⁹But Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, said to Paul, “Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem to stand trial before^h me on these charges?”

Paul Appeals to Caesar

¹⁰Paul replied, “I am standing before the judgment seat of Caesar, where I ought to be tried. I have done nothing wrong to the Jews, as you yourself know very well. ¹¹If, however, I am guilty of anything worthy of death, I do not refuse to die. But if there is no truth to their accusations against me, no one has the right to hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar!”

¹²Then Festus conferred with his council and replied, “You have appealed to Caesar. To Caesar you will go!”

Festus Consults Agrippa

¹³After several days had passed, King Agrippa and Bernice came down to Caesarea to pay their respects to Festus. ¹⁴Since he was staying ⁱseveral days, Festus laid out Paul’s case before the king: “There is a certain man whom Felix left in prison. ¹⁵While I was in Jerusalem, the chief priests and elders of the Jews presented their case and requested a judgment against him. ¹⁶I told them that it is not the Roman custom to hand a man over to die^j before he has had an opportunity to face his accusers and defend himself against their charges.

¹⁷So when they came here with me, I did not delay. The next day I sat on the judgment seat and ordered that the man be brought in. ¹⁸But when his accusers rose to speak, they did not charge him with anything^k I had expected. ¹⁹They only had some contentions with him regarding their own religion and a certain Jesus who had died, but whom Paul affirmed to be alive.

²⁰Since I was at a loss as to how to investigate this matter,^l I asked if he was willing to go to Jerusalem and be tried there on these charges. ²¹But when Paul appealed to be held over for the decision of the Emperor, I ordered that he be held until I could send him to Caesar.”

²²Then Agrippa said to Festus, “I would like to hear this man myself.”

^a ²² CT does not include *On hearing these things*. ^b ²³ CT does not include *come and*. ^c ²⁴ CT and F35 in *Christ Jesus*
^d ²⁶ CT does not include *to release him*. ^e ² CT and F35 *chief priests* ^f ⁶ CT *no more than eight or ten days* ^g ⁷ CT *bringing many* ^h ⁹ F35 *be tried by* ⁱ ¹⁴ GOC, ALT, CT, F35, and TR *they were staying* ^j ¹⁶ CT does not include *to die*.
^k ¹⁸ CT *with any of the crimes* ^l ²⁰ CT and F35 *these matters*

“Tomorrow you will hear him,” Festus declared.

Paul before Agrippa and Bernice

²³The next day Agrippa and Bernice came with great pomp and entered the auditorium, along with the commanders and leading men of the city. And Festus ordered that Paul be brought in.

²⁴Then Festus said, “King Agrippa and all who are present with us, you see this man. The whole Jewish community has petitioned me about him, both here and in Jerusalem, crying out that he ought not to live any longer. ²⁵But I found he had done nothing worthy of death, and since he has now appealed to the Emperor, I decided to send him.

²⁶I have nothing definite to write to our sovereign about him. Therefore I have brought him before all of you, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that after this inquiry I may have something to write. ²⁷For it seems unreasonable to me to send on a prisoner without specifying the charges against him.”

Paul's Testimony to Agrippa

(Acts 9:1–19; 22:1–21)

26 Agrippa said to Paul, “You have permission to speak for yourself.”

Then Paul stretched out his hand and began his defense: ²“King Agrippa, I consider myself fortunate to stand before you today to defend myself against all the accusations of the Jews, ³especially since you^a are acquainted with all the Jewish customs and controversies. I beg you, therefore, to listen to me patiently.

⁴Surely all the Jews know how I have lived from my earliest childhood among my own people^b in Jerusalem. ⁵They have known me for a long time and can testify, if they are willing, that I lived as a Pharisee, adhering to the strictest sect of our religion.

⁶And now I stand on trial because of my hope in the promise that God made to our fathers, ⁷the promise our twelve tribes are hoping to see fulfilled as they earnestly serve God day and night. It is because of this hope, O King Agrippa,^c that I am accused by the Jews. ⁸Why would any of you consider it incredible that God raises the dead?

⁹So then, I too was convinced that I ought to do all I could to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth. ¹⁰And that is what I did in Jerusalem. With authority from the chief priests I put many of the saints in prison, and when they were condemned to death, I cast my vote against them. ¹¹I frequently had them punished in the synagogues, and I tried to make them blaspheme. In my raging fury against them, I even went to foreign cities to persecute them.

¹²In this pursuit I was on my way to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. ¹³About noon, O king, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and my companions. ¹⁴We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice say to me in Hebrew,^d ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’

¹⁵‘Who are You, Lord?’ I asked.

‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,’ He replied.^e ¹⁶‘But get up and stand on your feet. For I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen^f and what I will show you. ¹⁷I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them ¹⁸to open their eyes, so that they may turn^g from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those sanctified by faith in Me.’

¹⁹So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision. ²⁰First to those in Damascus and Jerusalem, then to everyone throughout the region^h of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I declared that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds worthy of their repentance. ²¹For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple courtsⁱ and tried to kill me.

²²But I have had God's help to this day, and I stand here to testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen: ²³that the Christ would suffer, and as the first to rise from the dead, would proclaim light to^j our people and to the Gentiles.”

^a 3 Scrivener TR since I know you ^b 4 CT includes and. ^c 7 CT O king ^d 14 Or in Aramaic; literally in the Hebrew language ^e 15 CT the Lord replied ^f 16 NA, SBL, TH, and WH seen from Me ^g 18 Or to turn them ^h 20 CT in the region ⁱ 21 Literally the temple ^j 23 CT and F35 literal both to

Festus Interrupts Paul's Defense

24At this stage of Paul's defense, Festus exclaimed in a loud voice, "You are insane, Paul! Your great learning is driving you to madness!"

25But he answered,^a "I am not insane, most excellent Festus; I am speaking words of truth and sobriety. **26**For the king knows about these matters, and I can speak freely to him. I am confident that none of this has escaped his notice, because it was not done in a corner. **27**King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do."

28Then Agrippa said to Paul, "Can you persuade me in such a short time to become a Christian?"

29"Short time or long," Paul replied, "I wish to God that not only you but all who hear me this day may become what I am, except for these chains."

30When he had spoken these things,^b the king and the governor rose, along with Bernice and those seated with them. **31**On their way out, they said to one another, "This man has done nothing worthy of death or imprisonment."

32And Agrippa said to Festus, "This man could have been released if he had not appealed to Caesar."

Paul Sails for Rome

27 When it was decided that we would sail for Italy, Paul and some other prisoners were handed over to a centurion named Julius, who belonged to the Imperial^c Regiment. **2**We boarded an Adramyttian ship about to sail for ports along the coast of Asia,^d and we put out to sea. Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica, was with us.

3The next day we landed at Sidon, and Julius treated Paul with consideration, allowing him to visit his^e friends and receive their care. **4**After putting out from there, we sailed to the lee of Cyprus because the winds were against us. **5**And when we had sailed across the open sea off the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra in Lycia. **6**There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing for Italy and put us on board.

7After sailing slowly for many days, we arrived off Cnidus. When the wind impeded us, we sailed to the lee of Crete, opposite Salmone. **8**After we

had moved along the coast with difficulty, we came to a place called Fair Havens, near the town of Lasea.

9By now much time had passed, and the voyage had already become dangerous because it was after the Fast.^f So Paul advised them, **10**"Men, I can see that our voyage will be filled with disaster and great loss, not only to ship and cargo, but to our own lives as well."

11But contrary to Paul's advice, the centurion was persuaded by the pilot and by the owner of the ship. **12**Since the harbor was unsuitable to winter in, the majority decided to sail on, hoping that somehow they could reach Phoenix to winter there. Phoenix was a harbor in Crete facing both southwest and northwest.

The Storm at Sea (Jonah 1:4–10)

13When a gentle south wind began to blow, they thought they had their opportunity. So they weighed anchor and sailed along, hugging the coast of Crete. **14**But it was not long before a cyclone called the Northeaster^g swept down across the island. **15**Unable to head into the wind, the ship was caught up. So we gave way and let ourselves be driven along.

16Passing to the lee of a small island called Claudia,^h we barely managed to secure the lifeboat. **17**After hoisting it up, the crew used ropes to undergird the ship. And fearing that they would run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchorⁱ and were driven along.

18We were tossed so violently that the next day the men began to jettison the cargo. **19**On the third day, we threw the ship's tackle overboard with our own hands.^j **20**When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the great storm continued to batter us, we abandoned all hope of being saved.

21After the men had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up among them and said, "Men, you should have followed my advice not to sail from Crete. Then you would have averted this disaster and loss. **22**But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because you will not experience any loss of life, but only of the ship. **23**For just last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and

^a **25** CT But Paul answered ^b **30** CT Then ^c **1** Or Augustan ^d **2** Literally sail to the places along Asia; Asia was a Roman province in what is now western Turkey. ^e **3** Stephanus TR some ^f **9** That is, Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement ^g **14** Literally Euroclydon; CT Euraquilo ^h **16** ECM, NA, SBL, and WH Cauda ⁱ **17** Or the sails ^j **19** CT they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands

whom I serve stood beside me ²⁴and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And look, God has granted you the lives of all who sail with you.'

²⁵So take courage, men, for I believe God that it will happen just as He told me. ²⁶However, we must run aground on some island."

The Shipwreck

²⁷On the fourteenth night we were still being driven across the Adriatic Sea.^a About midnight the sailors sensed they were approaching land. ²⁸They took soundings and found that the water was twenty fathoms deep.^b Going a little farther, they took another set of soundings that read fifteen fathoms.^c ²⁹Fearing that we would run aground^d on the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern and prayed for daybreak.

³⁰Meanwhile, the sailors attempted to escape from the ship. Pretending to lower anchors from the bow, they let the lifeboat down into the sea. ³¹But Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men remain with the ship, you cannot be saved." ³²So the soldiers cut the ropes to the lifeboat and set it adrift.

³³Right up to daybreak, Paul kept urging them all to eat: "Today is your fourteenth day in constant suspense, without taking any food. ³⁴So for your^e own preservation, I urge you to eat something, because not a single hair of your head will be lost."

³⁵After he had said this, Paul took bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all. Then he broke it and began to eat. ³⁶They were all encouraged and took some food themselves. ³⁷In all, there were 276^f of us on board. ³⁸After the men had eaten their fill, they lightened the ship by throwing the grain into the sea.

³⁹When daylight came, they did not recognize the land, but they sighted a bay with a sandy beach, where they decided to run the ship aground if possible.^g ⁴⁰Cutting away the anchors, they left them in the sea as they loosened the ropes that held the rudders. Then they hoisted the foresail to the wind and made for the beach. ⁴¹But the ship struck a sandbar and ran aground. The bow stuck fast and would not

move, and the stern was being broken up by the pounding of the waves.

⁴²The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners so none of them could swim to freedom. ⁴³But the centurion, wanting to spare Paul's life, thwarted their plan. He commanded those who could swim to jump overboard first and get to land. ⁴⁴The rest were to follow on planks and various parts of the ship. In this way everyone was brought safely to land.

Ashore on Malta

28 Once we were safely ashore, we learned that the island was called Malta.^h ²The islanders showed us extraordinary kindness. They kindled a fire and welcomed all of us because it was raining and cold.

³Paul gathered a bundle of sticks, and as he laid them on the fire, a viper, driven out by the heat, fastened itself to his hand. ⁴When the islanders saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, "Surely this man is a murderer. Although he was saved from the sea, Justiceⁱ has not allowed him to live." ⁵But Paul shook the creature off into the fire and suffered no ill effects. ⁶The islanders were expecting him to swell up or suddenly drop dead. But after waiting a long time and seeing nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and said he was a god.

⁷Nearby stood an estate belonging to Publius, the chief official of the island. He welcomed us and entertained us hospitably for three days. ⁸The father of Publius was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him, and after praying and placing his hands on him, he healed the man. ⁹After this had happened, the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured as well.

¹⁰The islanders honored us in many ways and supplied our needs when we were ready to sail.

Paul Arrives in Italy

¹¹After three months we set sail in an Alexandrian ship that had wintered in the island. It had the Twin Brothers^j as a figurehead. ¹²Putting in at Syracuse, we stayed there three days. ¹³From there we sailed around^k and came to Rhegium.

^a 27 The Adriatic Sea referred to an area extending well south of Italy to include the central portion of the Mediterranean Sea. ^b 28 20 fathoms is approximately 120 feet or 36.6 meters. ^c 28 15 fathoms is approximately 90 feet or 27.4 meters. ^d 29 Stephanus TR they would run aground ^e 34 F35 our ^f 37 WH 76 ^g 39 GOC, CT, and TR if they could ^h 1 WH Melitene ⁱ 4 Greek Dike; that is, the Greek goddess of justice ^j 11 Greek Dioscuri; that is, the Greek gods Castor and Pollux ^k 13 CT we weighed anchor

After one day, a south wind came up, and on the second day we arrived at Puteoli. ¹⁴There we found some brothers who invited us to spend the week with them. And so we came to Rome.

¹⁵The brothers there had heard about us and traveled as far as the Forum of Appius^a and the Three Taverns^b to meet us. When Paul saw them, he was encouraged and gave thanks to God.

Paul Preaches at Rome (*Isaiah 6:1–13*)

¹⁶When we arrived in Rome, the centurion delivered up the prisoners to the captain of the guard, but^c Paul was permitted to stay by himself, with a soldier to guard him.

¹⁷After three days, Paul^d called together the leaders of the Jews. When they had gathered, he said to them, “Brothers, although I have done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers, I was taken prisoner in Jerusalem and handed over to the Romans. ¹⁸They examined me and wanted to release me, because there was no basis for a death sentence against me. ¹⁹But when the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar, even though I have no charge to bring against my nation. ²⁰So for this reason I have called to see you and speak with you. It is because of the hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain.”

²¹The leaders replied, “We have not received any letters about you from Judea, nor have any of the brothers from there reported or even mentioned anything bad about you. ²²But we consider your views worth hearing, because we know that people everywhere are speaking against this sect.”

²³So they set a day to meet with Paul, and many people came to the place he was staying. He expounded to them from morning to evening, testifying about the kingdom of God and persuading them about Jesus from the Law of Moses and the Prophets.

²⁴Some of them were convinced by what he said, but others refused to believe. ²⁵They disagreed among themselves and began to leave after Paul had made this final statement: “The Holy Spirit was right when He spoke to our^e fathers through Isaiah the prophet:

²⁶‘Go to this people and say,

“You will be ever hearing but never understanding;
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.”

²⁷For this people’s heart has grown callous; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their hearts,
and turn, and I would heal them.’^f

²⁸Be advised, therefore, that God’s salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen!”

²⁹And when he had said these things, the Jews went away, disputing sharply among themselves.^g

³⁰Paul stayed there two full years in his own rented house, welcoming all who came to visit him. ³¹Boldly and freely he proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.

^a 15 The Forum of Appius was about 43 miles or 70 kilometers from Rome. ^b 15 The Three Taverns was about 35 miles or 57 kilometers from Rome. ^c 16 CT does not include *the centurion delivered up the prisoners to the captain of the guard, but.* ^d 17 CT *he* ^e 25 CT *your* ^f 27 Isaiah 6:9–10 (see also LXX) ^g 29 CT does not include verse 29.

Romans

Paul Greet the Saints in Rome

1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ,^a called to be an apostle, and set apart for the gospel of God— ²the gospel He promised beforehand through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, ³regarding His Son, who was a descendant of David according to the flesh, ⁴and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

⁵Through Him and on behalf of His name, we received grace and apostleship to call all those among the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith. ⁶And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

⁷To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Unashamed of the Gospel

⁸First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being proclaimed all over the world. ⁹God, whom I serve with my spirit^b in preaching the gospel of His Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you ¹⁰in my prayers at all times, asking that now at last by God's will I may succeed in coming to you. ¹¹For I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you, ¹²that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.

¹³I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, how often I planned to come to you (but have been prevented from visiting^c until now), in order that I might have a harvest among you, just as I have had among the other Gentiles. ¹⁴I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks,^d both to the wise and the foolish. ¹⁵That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome.

¹⁶I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ,^e because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, then to the Greek. ¹⁷For the gospel reveals the righteousness of God that comes by faith from start to finish,^f just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."^g

God's Wrath against Sin

¹⁸The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness. ¹⁹For what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood from His workmanship, so that men are without excuse.

²¹For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking and darkened in their foolish hearts. ²²Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools, ²³and exchanged^h the glory of the immortal God for images of mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

²⁴Therefore God gave them over in the desires of their hearts to impurity for the dishonoring of their bodies with one another. ²⁵They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is forever worthy of praise!ⁱ Amen.

²⁶For this reason God gave them over to dishonorable passions. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷Likewise, the men abandoned natural relations with women and burned with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

^a 1 CT of Christ Jesus ^b 9 Or in my spirit ^c 13 Literally but have been prevented ^d 14 Literally to Greeks and barbarians

^e 16 CT does not include of Christ. ^f 17 Literally For in it is revealed the righteousness of God from faith to faith

^g 17 Habakkuk 2:4 ^h 23 F35 exchanged for themselves ⁱ 25 Or forever blessed

28 Furthermore, since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, He gave them up to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. 29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, sexual immorality,^a evil, greed, and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, and malice. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant, and boastful. They invent new forms of evil; they disobey their parents. 31 They are senseless, faithless, heartless, unforgiving,^b merciless.

32 Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things are worthy of death, they not only continue to do these things, but also approve of those who practice them.

God's Righteous Judgment

(Psalm 75:1–10)

2 You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on another. For on whatever grounds you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. 2 And we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. 3 So when you, O man, pass judgment on others, yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? 4 Or do you disregard the riches of His kindness, tolerance, and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you to repentance?

5 But because of your hard and unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of wrath, revelation, and God's righteous judgment.^c 6 God "will repay each one according to his deeds."^d 7 To those who by perseverance in doing good seek glory, honor, and immortality, He will give eternal life. 8 But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow wickedness, there will be anger and wrath.^e

9 There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil, first for the Jew, then for the Greek; 10 but glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does good, first for the Jew, then for the Greek. 11 For God does not show favoritism.

12 All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law

will be judged by the law. 13 For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but it is the doers of the law who will be declared righteous.

14 Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. 15 So they show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts either accusing or defending them 16 on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ,^f as proclaimed by my gospel.

The Jews and the Law

17 Behold, you call yourself a Jew. You^g rely on the law and boast in God. 18 And you know^h His will and approve of what is superior because you are instructed by the law. 19 And you are convincedⁱ that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those in darkness, 20 an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of infants, because you have in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth. 21 You, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal? 22 You who forbid adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? 23 You who boast in the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law? 24 As it is written: "God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you."^j

25 Circumcision has value if you observe the law, but if you break the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. 26 If a man who is not circumcised keeps the requirements of the law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? 27 The one who is physically uncircumcised yet keeps the law will condemn you who, even though you have the written code and circumcision, are a lawbreaker.

28 A man is not a Jew because he is one outwardly, nor is circumcision only outward and physical. 29 No, a man is a Jew because he is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise does not come from men, but from God.

^a 29 CT does not include *sexual immorality*. ^b 31 CT does not include *unforgiving*. ^c 5 CT and TR for *the day of wrath, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed* ^d 6 Psalm 62:12 ^e 8 CT *wrath and anger* ^f 16 NA, SBL, and WH through *Christ Jesus* ^g 17 CT *Now you, if you call yourself a Jew; if you* ^h 18 CT *if you know* ⁱ 19 CT *if you are convinced* ^j 24 Isaiah 52:5 (see also LXX)

God Remains Faithful

3 What, then, is the advantage of being a Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? ²Much in every way. First of all, they have been entrusted with the very words^a of God.

³What if some did not have faith? Will their lack of faith nullify God's faithfulness? ⁴Certainly not! Let God be true and every man a liar. As it is written:

"So that You may be proved right when
You speak
and victorious when You judge."^b

⁵But if our unrighteousness highlights the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unjust to inflict His wrath on us? I am speaking in human terms. ⁶Certainly not! In that case, how could God judge the world? ⁷For^c if my falsehood accentuates God's truthfulness, to the increase of His glory, why am I still condemned as a sinner? ⁸Why not say, as some slanderously claim that we say, "Let us do evil that good may result"? Their condemnation is deserved!

There Is No One Righteous

(Psalm 14:1–7; Psalm 53:1–6; Isaiah 59:1–17)

⁹What then? Are we any better? Not at all. For we have already made the charge that Jews and Greeks alike are all under sin. ¹⁰As it is written:

"There is no one righteous,
not even one.

¹¹There is no one who understands,
no one who seeks God.

¹²All have turned away,
they have together become worthless;
there is no one who does good,
not even one."^d

¹³"Their throats are open graves;
their tongues practice deceit."^e
"The venom of vipers is on their lips."^f

¹⁴"Their mouths are full
of cursing and bitterness."^g

¹⁵"Their feet are swift to shed blood;

¹⁶ruin and misery lie in their wake,

¹⁷and the way of peace they have not
known."^h

¹⁸"There is no fear of God
before their eyes."ⁱ

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. ²⁰Therefore no one will be justified in His sight by works of the law. For the law merely brings awareness of sin.

Righteousness through Faith in Christ

(Philippians 3:1–11)

²¹But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been revealed, as attested by the Law and the Prophets. ²²And this righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all and upon all^j who believe. There is no distinction, ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

²⁵God presented Him as an atoning sacrifice^k in His blood through faith, in order to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance He had passed over the sins committed beforehand. ²⁶He did this to demonstrate His righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and to justify the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of works? No, but on that of faith. ²⁸Therefore^l we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

²⁹Is God the God of Jews only? Is He not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too, ³⁰since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith.

³¹Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Certainly not! Instead, we uphold the law.

Abraham Justified by Faith (Genesis 15:1–7;

Psalm 32:1–11; Hebrews 11:8–19)

4 What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has discovered? ²If Abraham was indeed justified by works, he had something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."^m

⁴Now the wages of the worker are not credited as a gift, but as an obligation. ⁵However, to the

^a 2 Or *the oracles* ^b 4 Or *when You are judged*; Psalm 51:4 (see also LXX) ^c 7 NA, SBL, and WH *But* ^d 12 Psalm 14:1–3 and Psalm 53:1–3 (see also LXX) ^e 13 Psalm 5:9 ^f 13 Psalm 140:3 ^g 14 Psalm 10:7 (see also LXX) ^h 17 Isaiah 59:7–8 (see also LXX) ⁱ 18 Psalm 36:1 ^j 22 CT does not include *and upon all*. ^k 25 Or *as a propitiation* ^l 28 CT *For* ^m 3 Genesis 15:6

one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness. ⁶And David speaks likewise of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

⁷"Blessed are they whose lawless acts are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.

⁸Blessed is the man
whose sin the Lord will never count
against him."^a

⁹Is this blessing only on the circumcised, or also on the uncircumcised? We have been saying that Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness. ¹⁰In what context was it credited? Was it after his circumcision, or before? It was not after, but before.^b

¹¹And he received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. So then, he is the father of all who believe but are not circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them as well.^c ¹²And he is also the father of the circumcised who not only are circumcised, but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

Abraham Receives the Promise (Genesis 15:8–21)

¹³For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world was not given through the law, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. ¹⁴For if those who live by the law are heirs, faith is useless and the promise is worthless, ¹⁵because the law brings wrath. For^d where there is no law, there is no transgression.

¹⁶Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may rest on grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. ¹⁷As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations."^e He is our father in the presence of God, in whom he believed, the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being what does not yet exist.

¹⁸Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as

he had been told, "So shall your offspring be."^f ¹⁹Without weakening in his faith, he acknowledged neither^g the decrepitness of his body (since he was about a hundred years old) nor^h the lifelessness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰Yet he did not waver through disbelief in the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, ²¹being fully persuaded that God was able to do what He had promised. ²²This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness."ⁱ

²³Now the words "it was credited to him" were written not only for Abraham, ²⁴but also for us, to whom righteousness will be credited—for us who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. ²⁵He was delivered over to death for our trespasses and was raised to life for our justification.

The Triumph of Faith

5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have^j peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we stand. And we rejoice^k in the hope of the glory of God.

³Not only that, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us.

Christ's Sacrifice for the Ungodly (John 3:1–21)

⁶For at the right time,^l while we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸But God proves His love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹Therefore, since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from wrath through Him! ¹⁰For if, when we were enemies of God, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life! ¹¹Not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

^a 8 Psalm 32:1–2 (see also LXX) ^b 10 Literally *How then was it reckoned—being in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision.* ^c 11 SBL, TH, and WH do not include *as well.* ^d 15 CT *And* ^e 17 Genesis 17:5 ^f 18 Genesis 15:5 ^g 19 CT does not include *neither.* ^h 19 CT *and* ⁱ 22 Genesis 15:6 ^j 1 Or *let us have* ^k 2 Or *exult*; also in verses 3 and 11 ^l 6 CT *just the right time*

Death in Adam, Life in Christ (*Genesis 3:1–7*)

12Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, so also death was passed on to all men, because all sinned. 13For sin was in the world before the law was given; but sin is not taken into account when there is no law. 14Nevertheless, death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who did not sin in the way that Adam transgressed. He is a pattern of the One to come.

15But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many! 16Again, the gift is not like the result of the one man's sin: The judgment that followed one sin brought condemnation, but the gift that followed many trespasses brought justification. 17For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

18So then, just as one trespass brought condemnation for all men, so also one act of righteousness brought justification and life for all men. 19For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

20The law came in so that the trespass would increase; but where sin increased, grace increased all the more, 21so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Dead to Sin, Alive to God (*2 Cor. 4:7–18*)

6 What then shall we say? Shall we continue in sin so that grace may increase? 2Certainly not! How can we who died to sin live in it any longer? 3Or aren't you aware that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may walk in newness of life.

5For if we have been united with Him like this in His death, we will certainly also be united with

Him in His resurrection. 6We know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be rendered powerless, that we should no longer be slaves to sin. 7For anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

8Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. 9For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, He cannot die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. 10The death He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life He lives, He lives to God. 11So you too must count yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.^a

12Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey it in its desires.^b 13Do not present the parts of your body to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and present the parts of your body to Him as instruments of righteousness. 14For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

The Wages of Sin

15What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law, but under grace? Certainly not! 16Do you not know that when you offer yourselves as obedient slaves, you are slaves to the one you obey, whether you are slaves to sin leading to death, or to obedience leading to righteousness? 17But thanks be to God that, though you once were slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were committed. 18You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

19I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to escalating wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness.

20For when you were slaves to sin, you were free of obligation to righteousness. 21What fruit did you reap at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The outcome of those things is death. 22But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the fruit you reap leads to holiness, and the outcome is eternal life. 23For the wages of sin is death,^c but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

^a 11 CT does not include *our Lord*. ^b 12 CT so that you obey its desires ^c 23 See Proverbs 10:16.

Release from the Law (*Galatians 3:15–25*)

7 Do you not know, brothers (for I am speaking to those who know the law), that the law has authority over a man only as long as he lives? ²For instance, a married woman is bound by law to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage. ³So then, if she is joined to another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law and is not an adulteress if she marries another man.

⁴Therefore, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God. ⁵For when we lived according to the flesh, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, bearing fruit for death. ⁶But now, having died to what bound us, we have been released from the law, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.

God's Law Is Holy

⁷What then shall we say? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed, I would not have been mindful of sin if not for the law. For I would not have been aware of coveting if the law had not said, "Do not covet."^a ⁸But sin, seizing its opportunity through the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For apart from the law, sin is dead.

⁹Once I was alive apart from the law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died. ¹⁰So I discovered that the very commandment that was meant to bring life actually brought death. ¹¹For sin, seizing its opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through the commandment put me to death.

¹²So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous, and good.

Struggling with Sin

¹³Has that which^b is good, then, become death to me? Certainly not! But in order that sin might be exposed as sin, it produced death in me through what was good, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.

¹⁴We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. ¹⁵I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do, I do not do. But what I hate, I do. ¹⁶And if I do what I do not want to do, I admit that the law is good. ¹⁷In that case, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

¹⁸I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh; for I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot discover how to carry it out.^c ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want to do. Instead, I keep on doing the evil I do not want to do. ²⁰And if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

²¹So this is the principle I have discovered: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²²For in my inner being I delight in God's law. ²³But I see another law at work in my body, warring against the law of my mind and holding me captive to the law of sin that dwells within me.^d

²⁴What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵I thank God^e through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, with my mind I serve the law of God, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

Walking by the Spirit

(*Ezekiel 36:16–38; Galatians 5:16–26*)

8 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.^f ²For in Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me^g free from the law of sin and death. ³For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful man, as an offering for sin.^h He thus condemned sin in the flesh,⁴ so that the righteous standard of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

⁵Those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh; but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶The mind of the flesh is death, but the mind of the Spirit is life and peace, ⁷because the mind of the flesh is hostile to God: It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

^a 7 Exodus 20:17; Deuteronomy 5:21 ^b 13 CT *Did that which* ^c 18 CT *I cannot carry it out* ^d 23 Literally *captive to the law of sin being in my members.* ^e 25 CT *Thanks be to God* ^f 1 CT does not include *who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.* ^g 2 CT *you* ^h 3 Literally *in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin*

⁸Those controlled by the flesh^a cannot please God.

⁹You, however, are controlled not by the flesh, but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive^b because of righteousness. ¹¹And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ^c from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, who lives in you.

Heirs with Christ

¹²Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation, but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery that returns you to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption to sonship, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. ¹⁷And if we are children, then we are heirs: heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ—if indeed we suffer with Him, so that we may also be glorified with Him.

Future Glory (2 Corinthians 5:1–10)

¹⁸I consider that our present sufferings are not comparable to the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹The creation waits in eager expectation for the revelation of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not by its own will, but because of the One who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until the present time. ²³Not only that, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved; but hope that is seen is no hope at all. Why would one hope for^d what he can already see? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not yet see, we wait for it patiently.

²⁶In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weaknesses.^e For we do not know how we ought to pray, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us^f with groans too deep for words. ²⁷And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

God Works in All Things (Ephesians 1:3–14)

²⁸And we know that all things work together^g for the good of those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose. ²⁹For those God foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified.

³¹What then shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also, along with Him, freely give us all things? ³³Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is there to condemn us? For Christ,^h who died, and more than that was raised to life, is at the right hand of God—and He is interceding for us.

More than Conquerors (Psalm 44:1–26)

³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶As it is written:

“For Your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be
slaughtered.”ⁱ

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor principalities nor powers, neither the present nor the future,^j ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Paul’s Concern for the Jews

9 I speak the truth in Christ; I am not lying, as confirmed by my conscience in the Holy Spirit. ²I have deep sorrow and unceasing

^a 8 Literally *Those being in the flesh*; similarly in verse 9 ^b 10 Or *yet the Spirit is life* ^c 11 SBL and WH *Christ Jesus*
^d 24 CT *Who hopes for* ^e 26 CT *weakness* ^f 26 CT literal does not include *for us*. ^g 28 CT *that God works all things to-*
gether ^h 34 NA and WH *Christ Jesus* ⁱ 36 Psalm 44:22 ^j 38 CT *neither angels nor principalities, neither the present nor*
the future, nor any powers

anguish in my heart. ³For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my own flesh and blood, ⁴the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory and the covenants; theirs the giving of the law, the temple worship, and the promises. ⁵Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them proceeds the human descent of Christ, who is God over all, forever worthy of praise!^a Amen.

God's Sovereign Choice

(Genesis 25:19–28; Malachi 1:1–5)

⁶It is not as though God's word has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. ⁷Nor because they are Abraham's descendants are they all his children. On the contrary, "Through Isaac your offspring will be reckoned."^b ⁸So it is not the children of the flesh who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as offspring. ⁹For this is what the promise stated: "At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son."^c

¹⁰Not only that, but Rebecca's children were conceived by one man, our father Isaac. ¹¹Yet before the twins were born or had done anything good or evil,^d in order that God's plan of election might stand, ¹²not by works but by Him who calls, she was told, "The older will serve the younger."^e ¹³So it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."^f

¹⁴What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Certainly not! ¹⁵For He says to Moses:

"I will have mercy on whom I have mercy,
and I will have compassion on whom I
have compassion."^g

¹⁶So then, it does not depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy. ¹⁷For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display My power in you, and that My name might be proclaimed in all the earth."^h ¹⁸Therefore God has mercy on whom He wants to have mercy, and He hardens whom He wants to harden.

¹⁹One of you will say to me, "Whyⁱ does God still find fault? For who can resist His will?" ²⁰But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? Shall

what is formed say to Him who formed it, "Why did You make me like this?"^j ²¹Does not the potter have the right to make from the same lump of clay one vessel for special occasions and another for common use?

²²What if God, intending to show His wrath and make His power known, bore with great patience the vessels of His wrath, prepared for destruction? ²³What if He did this to make the riches of His glory known to the vessels of His mercy, whom He prepared in advance for glory— ²⁴including us, whom He has called not only from the Jews, but also from the Gentiles? ²⁵As He says in Hosea:

"I will call them 'My People' who are not My
people,
and I will call her 'My Beloved' who is not
My beloved,"^k

²⁶and,

"It will happen that in the very place where
it was said to them,
'You are not My people,'
they will be called
'sons of the living God.'"^l

²⁷Isaiah cries out concerning Israel:

"Though the number of the Israelites is like
the sand of the sea,
only the remnant will be saved.

²⁸For the Lord will carry out His sentence
thoroughly and decisively in
righteousness,
because He will cut short the matter on
the earth."^m

²⁹It is just as Isaiah foretold:

"Unless the Lord of Hosts had left us
descendants,
we would have become like Sodom,
we would have resembled Gomorrah."ⁿ

Israel's Unbelief

³⁰What then will we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; ³¹but Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it.^o ³²Why not? Because their pursuit was not by faith, but as if it were by works of the law.^p For^q

^a 5 Or *forever blessed* ^b 7 Genesis 21:12 ^c 9 Genesis 18:14 ^d 11 CT *good or bad* ^e 12 Genesis 25:23
^f 13 Malachi 1:2–3 ^g 15 Exodus 33:19 ^h 17 Exodus 9:16 (see also LXX) ⁱ 19 NA and SBL *Then why* ^j 20 Isaiah 29:16;
Isaiah 45:9 ^k 25 Hosea 2:23 ^l 26 Hosea 1:10 ^m 28 Isaiah 10:22–23 (see also LXX); CT *For the Lord will carry out His
sentence on the earth thoroughly and decisively.* ⁿ 29 Isaiah 1:9 (see also LXX) ^o 31 Literally *attained a law of righteous-
ness*; CT *literal attained that law* ^p 32 CT does not include *of the law.* ^q 32 CT does not include *For.*

they stumbled over the stumbling stone,³³ as it is written:

“See, I lay in Zion a stone of stumbling
and a rock of offense;^a
and the one who believes in Him
will never be put to shame.”^b

The Word Brings Salvation (*Isaiah 65:1–16*)

10 Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is for their salvation. ²For I testify about them that they are zealous for God, but not on the basis of knowledge. ³Because they were ignorant of God’s righteousness and sought to establish their own,^c they did not submit to God’s righteousness. ⁴For Christ is the end of the law, to bring righteousness to everyone who believes.

⁵For concerning the righteousness that is by the law, Moses writes: “The man who does these things will live by them.”^d ⁶But the righteousness that is by faith says: “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’^e (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷or, ‘Who will descend into the Abyss?’^f (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).”

⁸But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,”^g that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: ⁹that if you confess^h with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with your heart you believe and are justified, and with your mouth you confess and are saved.

¹¹It is just as the Scripture says: “Anyone who believes in Him will never be put to shame.”ⁱ

¹²For there is no difference between Jew and Greek: The same Lord is Lord of all, and gives richly to all who call on Him, ¹³for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”^j

¹⁴How then will they call on the One in whom they have not believed? And how will they believe in the One of whom they have not heard? And how will they hear^k without someone to preach? ¹⁵And how will they preach^l unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the

feet of those who bring good news of peace,^m who bring good news of good things!”ⁿ

¹⁶But not all of them welcomed the good news. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?”^o ¹⁷Consequently, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.^p

¹⁸But I ask, did they not hear? Indeed they did:

“Their voice has gone out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.”^q

¹⁹I ask instead, did Israel not understand? First, Moses says:

“I will make you jealous by those who are not
a nation;
I will make you angry by a nation without
understanding.”^r

²⁰And Isaiah boldly says:

“I was found by those who did not seek Me;
I revealed Myself to those who did not ask
for Me.”^s

²¹But as for Israel he says:

“All day long I have held out My hands
to a disobedient and obstinate people.”^t

A Remnant Chosen by Grace

11 I ask then, did God reject His people? Certainly not! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. ²God did not reject His people, whom He foreknew. Do you not know what the Scripture says about Elijah, how he appealed to God against Israel, saying,^u ³“Lord, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars. I am the only one left, and they are seeking my life as well?”^v

⁴And what was the divine reply to him? “I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.”^w

⁵In the same way, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace. ⁶And if it is by grace, then it is no longer by works. Otherwise, grace would no longer be grace. But if it is by works, then it is no longer by grace. Otherwise, work would no longer be work.^x

^a 33 Isaiah 8:14 ^b 33 Isaiah 28:16 (see also LXX) ^c 3 Lit. *their own righteousness*; SBL and WH *their own* ^d 5 Leviticus 18:5; see also Ezekiel 20:11, 13, and 21. ^e 6 Deuteronomy 30:12 ^f 7 See Deuteronomy 30:13. ^g 8 Deuteronomy 30:14 ^h 9 WH *confess the word* ⁱ 11 Isaiah 28:16 (see also LXX) ^j 13 Joel 2:32 ^k 14 CT *can they call... can they believe... can they hear* ^l 15 CT *can they preach* ^m 15 CT does not include *who bring good news of peace*. ⁿ 15 Isaiah 52:7 ^o 16 Isaiah 53:1 ^p 17 CT *the word of Christ* ^q 18 Psalm 19:4 (see also LXX) ^r 19 Deuteronomy 32:21 (see also LXX) ^s 20 Isaiah 65:1 ^t 21 Isaiah 65:2 (see also LXX) ^u 2 CT does not include *saying*. ^v 3 1 Kings 19:10, 14 ^w 4 1 Kings 19:18 ^x 6 CT does not include *But if it is by works, then it is no longer by grace. Otherwise, work would no longer be work*.

7What then? What Israel was seeking, it failed to obtain, but the elect did. The others were hardened,⁸ as it is written:

“God gave them a spirit of stupor,
eyes that could not see,
and ears that could not hear,
to this very day.”^a

9And David says:

“May their table become a snare and a trap,
a stumbling block and a retribution to
them.

10May their eyes be darkened so they cannot
see,
and their backs be bent forever.”^b

The Ingrafting of the Gentiles

11I ask then, did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery?^c Certainly not! However, because of their trespass, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel jealous. 12But if their trespass means riches for the world, and their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their fullness bring!

13I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry¹⁴ in the hope that I may provoke my own people to jealousy and save some of them. 15For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? 16If the first part of the dough is holy, so is the whole batch; if the root is holy, so are the branches.

17Now if some branches have been broken off, and you, a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others to share in the nourishment of the olive root, 18do not boast over those branches. If you do, remember this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you.

19You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in.” 20That is correct: They were broken off because of unbelief, but you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but be afraid. 21For if God did not spare the natural branches, He will certainly not^d spare you either.

22Take notice, therefore, of the kindness and severity of God: severity to those who fell, but kindness to you, if you continue in His kindness.

Otherwise you also will be cut off. 23And if they also do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. 24For if you were cut from a wild olive tree, and contrary to nature were grafted into one that is cultivated, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree!

All Israel Will Be Saved

25I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you will not be conceited: A hardening in part has come to Israel, until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. 26And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written:

“The Deliverer will come from Zion;
He will remove godlessness from Jacob.

27And this is My covenant with them
when I take away their sins.”^e

28Regarding the gospel, they are enemies on your account; but regarding election, they are loved on account of the patriarchs. 29For God’s gifts and His call are irrevocable.

30For just as you who formerly disobeyed God have now received mercy through^f their disobedience, 31so they too have now disobeyed, in order that they too may receive mercy through the mercy shown to you.^g 32For God has consigned everyone to disobedience so that He may have mercy on everyone.

A Hymn of Praise (Isaiah 40:9–31)

33O, the depth of the riches
of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable are His judgments,
and untraceable His ways!

34“Who has known the mind of the Lord?
Or who has been His counselor?”^h

35“Who has first given to God,
that God should repay him?”ⁱ

36For from Him and through Him and to Him
are all things.

To Him be the glory forever! Amen.

Living Sacrifices

(1 Corinthians 3:16–23; 6:18–20)

12 Therefore I urge you, brothers, on account of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to

^a 8 See Deuteronomy 29:4 and Isaiah 29:10. ^b 10 Psalm 69:22–23 (see also LXX) ^c 11 Or *did they stumble so as to lose their share?* Literally *did they stumble that they might fall?* ^d 21 Or *He will perhaps not*; SBL, NE, and WH *He will not* ^e 27 Isaiah 27:9 and Isaiah 59:20–21; see also LXX. ^f 30 Or *As a result of* ^g 31 Lit. *may receive mercy through your mercy*; CT *may now receive mercy through the mercy shown to you.* ^h 34 Isaiah 40:13 (see also LXX) ⁱ 35 Job 41:11

God, which is your spiritual service of worship.^a

²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

³For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but think of yourself with sober judgment, according to the measure of faith God has given you. ⁴Just as each of us has one body with many members, and not all members have the same function, ⁵so in Christ we who are many are one body, and each member belongs to one another.

⁶We have different gifts according to the grace given us. If one's gift is prophecy, let him use it in proportion to his faith; ⁷if it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; ⁸if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is giving, let him give generously; if it is leading, let him lead with diligence; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

Love, Zeal, Hope, Hospitality

(John 13:31–35; 1 John 3:11–24)

⁹Love must be sincere. Detest what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Outdo yourselves in honoring one another.

¹¹Do not let your zeal subside; keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

¹²Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, persistent in prayer.

¹³Share with the saints who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Forgiveness

(Matthew 18:21–35)

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you. Bless and do not curse. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but associate with the lowly. Do not be conceited.

¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Carefully consider what is right in the eyes of everybody.

¹⁸If it is possible on your part, live at peace with everyone.

¹⁹Do not avenge yourselves, beloved, but leave room for God's wrath. For it is written: "Vengeance is Mine; I will repay, says the Lord."^b

²⁰Therefore,^c

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him a drink.

For in so doing,

you will heap burning coals on his head."^d

²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Submission to Authorities (1 Peter 2:13–20)

13 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which is from God. The authorities that exist have been appointed by God. ²Consequently, whoever resists authority is opposing what God has set in place, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

³For rulers are not a terror to good works,^e but to bad. Do you want to be unafraid of the one in authority? Then do what is right, and you will have his approval. ⁴For he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not carry the sword in vain. He is God's servant, an agent of retribution to the wrongdoer.

⁵Therefore it is necessary to submit to authority, not only to avoid punishment, but also as a matter of conscience. ⁶This is also why you pay taxes. For the authorities are God's servants, who devote themselves to their work. ⁷Therefore^f pay everyone what you owe him: taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due.

Love Fulfills the Law

(Leviticus 19:9–18)

⁸Be indebted to no one, except to one another in love. For he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet,"^g and any other commandments, are summed up in this one decree: "Love your neighbor as yourself."^h ¹⁰Love does no wrong to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

^a 1 Or *your reasonable service* ^b 19 Deuteronomy 32:35 (see also LXX) ^c 20 CT *On the contrary* ^d 20 Proverbs 25:21–22 (see also LXX) ^e 3 CT *good conduct* ^f 7 CT does not include *Therefore*. ^g 9 Exodus 20:13–17; Deuteronomy 5:17–21; ALT, F35, and TR "Do not bear false witness," "Do not covet" ^h 9 Leviticus 19:18

The Day Is Near

¹¹And do this, understanding the occasion. The hour has come for us to wake up from our slumber,^a for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is nearly over; the day has drawn near. So let us lay aside^b the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, clothe yourselves with^c the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the flesh.

The Law of Liberty (Matt. 7:1–6; Luke 6:37–42)

14 Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on his opinions.^d ²For one person has faith to eat all things, while another, who is weak, eats only vegetables. ³The one who eats everything must not belittle the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted him. ⁴Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for God^e is able to make him stand.

⁵One person regards a certain day above the others, while someone else considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶He who observes a special day does so to the Lord. And he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it.^f He who eats does so to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God.

⁷For none of us lives to himself alone, and none of us dies to himself alone. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. ⁹For this reason Christ died and rose^g and returned to life, that He might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why, then, do you judge your brother? Or why do you belittle your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.^h ¹¹It is written:

“As surely as I live,
says the Lord,
every knee will bow before Me;
every tongue will confess to God.”ⁱ

¹²So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.^j

The Law of Love (Ezek. 14:1–11; 1 Cor. 8:1–13)

¹³Therefore let us stop judging one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way.

¹⁴I am convinced and fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for him it is unclean. ¹⁵If your brother is distressed by what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy your brother, for whom Christ died.

¹⁶Do not allow what you consider good, then, to be spoken of as evil. ¹⁷For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸For whoever serves Christ in these things^k is pleasing to God and approved by men.

¹⁹So then, let us pursue what leads to peace and to mutual edification. ²⁰Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to let his eating be a stumbling block. ²¹It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything to cause your brother to stumble or to be hindered or weakened.^l

²²Keep your belief about such matters between yourself and God.^m Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves. ²³But the one who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that is not from faith is sin.

Doxology (Jude 1:24–25)

²⁴Now to Him who is able to strengthen you by my gospel and by the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery concealed for ages past²⁵ but now revealed and made known through the writings of the prophets by the command of the eternal God, in order to lead all nations to the obedience that comes from faithⁿ— ²⁶to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.^o

a ¹¹ CT for you to wake up from your slumber **b** ¹² SBL cast aside **c** ¹⁴ Or put on; see v. 12. **d** ¹ Or without quarreling over disputable matters **e** ⁴ CT the Lord **f** ⁶ CT does not include And he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. **g** ⁹ CT does not include and rose. **h** ¹⁰ CT of God **i** ¹¹ Or will give praise to God or will acknowledge God; Isaiah 45:23 (see also LXX) **j** ¹² SBL does not include to God. **k** ¹⁸ CT in this way **l** ²¹ SBL, MT, and TR; other CT do not include or to be hindered or weakened. **m** ²² Literally Keep the faith that you have to yourself before God **n** ²⁵ Lit. the obedience of faith **o** ²⁶ Some manuscripts place the text of verses 24–26 after Romans 15:33 or after Romans 16:24.

Accept One Another

15 We who are strong ought to bear with the shortcomings of the weak and not to please ourselves. ²Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. ³For even Christ did not please Himself, but as it is written: “The insults of those who insult You have fallen on Me.”^a ⁴For what^b was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we might have hope.

⁵Now may the God who gives endurance and encouragement grant you harmony with one another in Christ Jesus, ⁶so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ the Servant of Jews and Gentiles

⁷Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you,^c in order to bring glory to God. ⁸Now^d I tell you that Christ Jesus^e has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of God’s truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs, ⁹so that the Gentiles may glorify God for His mercy. As it is written:

“Therefore I will praise You among the Gentiles;^f
I will sing hymns to Your name.”^g

¹⁰Again, it says:

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people.”^h

¹¹And again:

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and extol Him, all you peoples.”ⁱ

¹²And once more, Isaiah says:

“The Root of Jesse will appear,
One who will arise to rule over the Gentiles;
in Him the Gentiles will put their hope.”^j

¹³Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Paul the Minister to the Gentiles

¹⁴I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, brimming with

knowledge, and able to instruct others.^k ¹⁵However, brothers,^l I have written you a bold reminder on some points, because of the grace God has given me ¹⁶to be a minister of Jesus Christ^m to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

¹⁷Therefore I exult in Christ Jesus in my service to God. ¹⁸I will not presume to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obedience by word and deed, ¹⁹by the power of signs and wonders, and by the power of the Spirit of God.ⁿ So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ.

²⁰In this way I have aspired to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else’s foundation. ²¹Rather, as it is written:

“Those who were not told about Him will see,
and those who have not heard will understand.”^o

²²That is why I have often been hindered from coming to you.

Paul’s Travel Plans (1 Corinthians 16:5–9)

²³But now that there are no further opportunities for me in these regions, and since I have longed for many years to visit you, ²⁴I hope to come^p to see you on my way to Spain. And after I have enjoyed your company for a while, you can equip me for my journey.

²⁵Now, however, I am on my way to Jerusalem to serve the saints there. ²⁶For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem. ²⁷They were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in their spiritual blessings, they are obligated to minister to them with material blessings.

²⁸So after I have completed this service and have safely delivered this bounty to them, I will set off to Spain by way of you. ²⁹I know that when I come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel^q of Christ.

^a 3 Psalm 69:9 ^b 4 CT For everything that ^c 7 ALT, F35, TR, and WH us ^d 8 CT For ^e 8 CT Christ; TR Jesus Christ ^f 9 GOC and F35 include O Lord. ^g 9 2 Samuel 22:50; Psalm 18:49 ^h 10 Deuteronomy 32:43 ⁱ 11 Psalm 117:1 ^j 12 Isaiah 11:10 (see also LXX) ^k 14 GOC, CT, and TR one another ^l 15 CT does not include brothers. ^m 16 CT of Christ Jesus ⁿ 19 SBL the power of the Spirit; NE and WH the power of the Holy Spirit ^o 21 Isaiah 52:15 (see also LXX) ^p 24 CT does not include to come. ^q 29 CT does not include of the gospel.

30 Now I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me. **31** Pray that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service in Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints there, **32** so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and together with you be refreshed.

33 The God of peace be with all of you. Amen.^a

Personal Greetings and Love

16 I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant^b of the church in Cenchrea. **2** Welcome her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her with anything she may need from you. For she has been a great help to many people, including me.

3 Greet Prisca^c and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, **4** who have risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them. **5** Greet also the church that meets at their house.

Greet my beloved Epenetus, who was the first convert to Christ in Achaia.^d

6 Greet Mary, who has worked very hard for us.^e

7 Greet Andronicus and Junia, my fellow countrymen and fellow prisoners. They are outstanding among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was.

8 Greet Amplias,^f my beloved in the Lord.

9 Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and my beloved Stachys.

10 Greet Apelles, who is approved in Christ.

Greet those who belong to the household of Aristobulus.

11 Greet Herodion, my fellow countryman.

Greet those from the household of Narcissus who are in the Lord.

12 Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, women who have worked hard in the Lord.

Greet my beloved Persis, who has worked very hard in the Lord.

13 Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother, who has been a mother to me as well.

14 Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermas, Patrobas, Hermes,^g and the brothers with them.

15 Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas and all the saints with them.

16 Greet one another with a holy kiss.

The churches^h of Christ send you greetings.

Avoid Divisions

(*Titus 3:9–11*)

17 Now I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who create divisions and obstacles that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Turn away from them. **18** For such people are not serving our Lord Jesus Christ,ⁱ but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.

19 Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I rejoice over you. But I want you to be wise indeed^j about what is good and innocent about what is evil.

20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ^k be with you.^l

Greetings from Paul's Fellow Workers

(*Colossians 4:7–14*)

21 Timothy, my fellow worker, sends you greetings, as do Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my fellow countrymen.

22 I, Tertius, who wrote down this letter, greet you in the Lord.

23 Gaius, who has hosted me and all the church, sends you greetings.

Erastus, the city treasurer, sends you greetings, as does our brother Quartus. **24** May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.^m

^a **33** Some manuscripts do not include *Amen*. One early manuscript places the text of Romans 14:24–26 here. ^b **1** Or *deaconess*. ^c **3** *Prisca* is a variant of *Priscilla*; GOC, ALT, and TR *Priscilla*; see Acts 18:2. ^d **5** CT in the province of Asia ^e **6** CT for you ^f **8** CT *Ampliatius* ^g **14** CT *Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas* ^h **16** CT All the churches ⁱ **18** CT our Lord Christ ^j **19** CT does not include *indeed*. ^k **20** NA, NE, and WH *Lord Jesus* ^l **20** Scrivener TR includes *Amen*. ^m **24** SBL, MT, and TR; other CT do not include verse 24. Additionally, some manuscripts place the text of verses of Romans 14:24–26 after Romans 15:33 or after Romans 16:24.

1 Corinthians

Greetings from Paul and Sosthenes

(Acts 18:1–11; 2 Corinthians 1:1–2)

1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ^a by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

²To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours:^b

³Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving

(Philippians 1:3–11; Colossians 1:3–14)

⁴I always thank my^c God for you because of the grace He has given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵For in Him you have been enriched in every way, in all speech and all knowledge, ⁶because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you.

⁷Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly await the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will sustain you to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God, who has called you into fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

Unity in the Church

(Psalm 133:1–3; Ephesians 4:1–16)

¹⁰I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree together, so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be united in mind and conviction.

¹¹My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. ¹²What I mean is this: Individuals among you are saying, "I follow Paul," "I follow Apollos," "I follow Cephas,"^d or "I follow Christ."

¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized into the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God^e that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so no one can say that

I baptized^f into my name. ¹⁶Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that I do not remember if I baptized anyone else. ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with words of wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

The Message of the Cross

¹⁸For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written:

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
the intelligence of the intelligent I will
frustrate."^g

²⁰Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?^h ²¹For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know Him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

²²Jews demand a signⁱ and Greeks search for wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Greeks,^j ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom,^k and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

Wisdom from God

²⁶Brothers, consider the time of your calling: Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were powerful; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸He chose the lowly and despised things of the world, and the things that are not, to nullify the things that are, ²⁹so that no one may boast in His presence.

^a 1 CT of Christ Jesus ^b 2 Literally both theirs and ours ^c 4 WH does not include my. ^d 12 That is, Peter ^e 14 SBL, TH, and WH I am thankful ^f 15 CT you were baptized ^g 19 Isaiah 29:14 (see also LXX) ^h 20 CT of the world ⁱ 22 CT signs ^j 23 CT to Gentiles ^k 25 Literally than men; twice in this verse

³⁰It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God: our righteousness, holiness, and redemption. ³¹Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."^a

Paul's Message by the Spirit's Power

2 When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony^b about God. ²For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. ³I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. ⁴My message and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human^c wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, ⁵so that your faith would not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

Spiritual Wisdom (Ephesians 1:15–23)

⁶Among the mature, however, we speak a message of wisdom—but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷No, we speak of the mysterious and hidden wisdom of God,^d which He destined for our glory before time began. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood it. For if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹Rather, as it is written:

"No eye has seen,
no ear has heard,
no heart has imagined,
what God has prepared for those who love Him."^e

¹⁰But God has revealed it to us by His Spirit.^f

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹For who among men knows the thoughts of man except his own spirit within him? So too, no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²We have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. ¹³And this is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom, but in words taught by the Holy Spirit,^g expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.^h

¹⁴The natural man does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God. For they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand

them, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵The spiritual man judges all things, but he himself is not subject to anyone's judgment. ¹⁶"For who has known the mind of the Lord, so as to instruct Him?"ⁱ But we have the mind of Christ.

God's Fellow Workers (Hebrews 5:11–14)

3 Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual, but as worldly—as infants in Christ. ²I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for solid food. In fact, you are still not ready, ³for you are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and dissension and division^j among you, are you not worldly? Are you not walking in the way of man? ⁴For when one of you says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not of the flesh?^k

⁵Who then is Paul? And who is Apollos?^l They are servants through whom you believed, as the Lord has assigned to each his role. ⁶I planted the seed and Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. ⁷So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸He who plants and he who waters are one in purpose,^m and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. ⁹For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

Christ Our Foundation (Isaiah 28:14–22; Ephesians 2:19–22; 1 Peter 2:1–8)

¹⁰By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one must be careful how he builds. ¹¹For no one can lay a foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

¹²If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, ¹³his workmanship will be evident, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will prove the quality of each man's work. ¹⁴If what he has built survives, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵If it is burned up, he will suffer loss. He himself will be saved, but only as if through the flames.

God's Temple and God's Wisdom (Romans 12:1–8; 1 Corinthians 6:18–20)

¹⁶Do you not know that you yourselves are God's temple, and that God's Spirit dwells inⁿ you? ¹⁷If

^a 31 Jer. 9:24 ^b 1 NA and WH *the mystery* ^c 4 CT does not incl. *human*. ^d 7 Or *we speak God's wisdom in a mystery* ^e 9 Isa. 64:4 ^f 10 CT *the Spirit* ^g 13 CT *the Spirit* ^h 13 Or *to spiritual people* ⁱ 16 Isa. 40:13 (see also LXX) ^j 3 CT does not incl. *and division*. ^k 4 CT *are you not mere men* ^l 5 CT *What then is Apollos? And what is Paul?* ^m 8 Lit. *are one* ⁿ 16 Or *among*

anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

18 Let no one deceive himself. If any of you thinks he is wise in this age, he should become a fool, so that he may become wise. **19** For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness."^a **20** And again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile."^b

21 Therefore, stop boasting in men. All things are yours, **22** whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas^c or the world or life or death or the present or the future. All of them belong to you, **23** and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

Servants of Christ

4 So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. **2** Now it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.

3 I care very little, however, if I am judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. **4** My conscience is clear, but that does not vindicate me. It is the Lord who judges me.

5 Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

6 Brothers, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us not to think beyond^d what is written. Then you will not take pride in one man over another. **7** For who makes you so superior? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

8 Already you have all you want. Already you have become rich. Without us, you have become kings. How I wish you really were kings, so that we might be kings with you! **9** For it seems to me that God has displayed us apostles at the end of the procession, like prisoners appointed for death. We have become a spectacle to the whole world, to angels as well as to men.

10 We are fools for Christ, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are honored, but we are dishonored. **11** To this very hour we are hungry and thirsty, we are poorly clothed, we are brutally treated, we are homeless. **12** We work hard with our own hands. When we are vilified, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; **13** when we are slandered, we answer gently. Up to this moment we have become the scum of the earth, the refuse of the world.

Paul's Fatherly Warning

14 I am not writing this to shame you, but to warn you^e as my beloved children. **15** Even if you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. **16** Therefore I urge you to imitate me. **17** That is why I have sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ,^f which is exactly what I teach everywhere in every church.

18 Some of you have become arrogant, as if I were not coming to you. **19** But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord is willing, and then I will find out not only what these arrogant people are saying, but what power they have. **20** For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power. **21** Which do you prefer? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and with a gentle spirit?

Immorality Rebuked

(Leviticus 20:10–21; Proverbs 5:1–23)

5 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not even named^g among pagans: A man has his father's wife. **2** And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have been stricken with grief and have removed from your fellowship the man who did this?

3 Although I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit, and I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did this, just as if I were present. **4** When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ^h and I am with you in spirit, along with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,ⁱ **5** hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the Day of the Lord Jesus.^j

^a **19** Job 5:13 ^b **20** Psalm 94:11 ^c **22** That is, Peter ^d **6** CT *not to go beyond* ^e **14** Lit. *but I am admonishing you* ^f **17** CT *in Christ Jesus* ^g **1** CT *that exists not even or that is intolerable* ^h **4** Or *In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are assembled*; CT *When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus* ⁱ **4** CT *of our Lord Jesus* ^j **5** NA, SBL, and WH do not include *Jesus*.

⁶Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven works through the whole batch of dough? ⁷Get rid of^a the old leaven, that you may be a new unleavened batch, as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed for us.^b ⁸Therefore let us keep the feast, not with the old bread, leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and of truth.

Expel the Immoral Brother

⁹I wrote you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people. ¹⁰I was not including the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy or^c swindlers or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. ¹¹But now I am writing you not to associate with anyone who claims to be a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a verbal abuser, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.

¹²What business of mine is it to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? ¹³God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked man from among you."^d

Lawsuits among Believers

6 If any of you has a grievance against another, how dare he go to law before the unrighteous instead of before the saints! ²Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? ³Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life!

⁴So if you need to settle everyday matters, do you appoint as judges those of no standing in the church? ⁵I say this to your shame. Is there really not even one^e among you wise enough to arbitrate between his brothers? ⁶Instead, one brother goes to law against another, and this in front of unbelievers!

⁷The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means that you are thoroughly defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? ⁸Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, even against your own brothers!^f

^a 7 TR *Therefore get rid of* ^b 7 CT does not include *for us*. ^c 10 CT and ^d 13 Literally *Expel the evil from among you*; Deuteronomy 13:5, 17:7, 19:19, 21:21, 22:21, 22:24, and 24:7 ^e 5 CT *no one* ^f 8 Literally *do wrong, and these things to brothers!* ^g 10 CT and TR *nor thieves, nor the covetous* ^h 11 NA *the Lord Jesus Christ*; TH and WH *our Lord Jesus Christ* ⁱ 16 GOC, ALT, CT, F35, and TR *Or don't you know* ^j 16 Genesis 2:24 (see also LXX) ^k 20 CT does not include *and with your spirit, which belong to God*. ^l 1 CT *the matters you wrote about* ^m 1 Literally *It is good for a man not to touch a woman*.

Members of Christ

⁹Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who submit to or perform homosexual acts, ¹⁰nor the covetous, nor thieves,^g nor drunkards, nor verbal abusers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified, in the name of the Lord Jesus^h and by the Spirit of our God.

¹²"Everything is permissible for me," but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me," but I will not be mastered by anything. ¹³"Food for the stomach and the stomach for food," but God will destroy them both. The body is not intended for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴By His power God raised the Lord from the dead, and He will raise us also.

¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Don't you knowⁱ that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh."^j ¹⁷But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with Him in spirit.

The Temple of the Holy Spirit

(Romans 12:1–8; 1 Corinthians 3:16–23)

¹⁸Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a man can commit is outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. ¹⁹Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰you were bought at a price. Therefore glorify God with your body and with your spirit, which belong to God.^k

Principles of Marriage

7 Now for the matters about which you wrote me:^l It is good to abstain from sexual relations.^m ²But because there is so much sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband.

³The husband should render the affection due^a to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband.

⁴The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife.

⁵Do not deprive each other, except by mutual consent and for a time, so you may devote yourselves to fasting and^b to prayer. Then come together again, so that Satan will not tempt you through your lack of self-control. ⁶I say this as a concession, not as a command. ⁷For^c I wish that all men were as I am. But each man has his own gift from God, one in this way and another in that.^d

⁸Now to the unmarried and widows I say this: It is good for them to remain unmarried, as I am.

⁹But if they cannot control themselves, let them marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

¹⁰To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. ¹¹But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife.

¹²To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If a brother has an unbelieving wife and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her.

¹³And if a woman has an unbelieving husband and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. ¹⁴For the unbelieving husband is sanctified through his believing wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her believing husband.^e Otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy.

¹⁵But if the unbeliever leaves, let him go. The believing brother or sister is not bound in such cases. God has called us^f to live in peace. ¹⁶How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

Live Your Calling

¹⁷Regardless, each one should lead the life that God^g has assigned to him and to which the Lord^h has called him. This is what I prescribe in all the churches. ¹⁸Was a man already circumcised when he was called? He should not become uncircumcised. Was a man still uncircumcised

when called? He should not be circumcised. ¹⁹Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing. Keeping God's commandments is what counts.

²⁰Each one should remain in the situation he was in when he was called. ²¹Were you a slave when you were called? Do not let it concern you—but if you can gain your freedom, take the opportunity. ²²For he who was a slave when he was called by the Lord is the Lord's freedman. Conversely, he who was a free man when he was called is Christ's slave.

²³You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. ²⁴Brothers, each one should remain in the situation he was in when God called him.

The Unmarried and Widowed

²⁵Now about virgins, I have no command from the Lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. ²⁶Because of the presentⁱ crisis, I think it is good for a man to remain as he is. ²⁷Are you committed to a wife? Do not seek to be released. Are you free of commitment? Do not look for a wife. ²⁸But if you do marry, you have not sinned. And if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will face troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this.

²⁹What I am saying, brothers, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they had none; ³⁰those who weep, as if they did not; those who are joyful, as if they were not; those who make a purchase, as if they had nothing; ³¹and those who use the things of this world, as if not dependent on them. For this world in its present form is passing away.

³²I want you to be free from concern. The unmarried man is concerned about the work of the Lord, how he will please^j the Lord. ³³But the married man is concerned about the affairs of this world, how he will please his wife. ³⁴And there is a difference between the wife and the virgin. The unmarried woman is concerned about the work of the Lord,^k how she can be holy in both body and spirit. But the married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world, how she will please her husband.

^a 3 CT should render what is due or should fulfill his marital duty ^b 5 CT does not include to fasting and. ^c 7 CT does not include For. ^d 7 CT one has this gift and another has that ^e 14 CT literal brother ^f 15 SBL, MT, and TR; NA and WH you ^g 17 CT the Lord ^h 17 CT God ⁱ 26 Or impending ^j 32 CT can please; also in verses 33 and 34 ^k 34 CT And his interests are divided. The unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the work of the Lord

³⁵I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but in order to promote proper decorum and undivided devotion to the Lord.

³⁶However, if someone thinks he is acting inappropriately toward his betrothed, and if she is beyond her youth^a and they ought to marry,^b let him do as he wishes; he is not sinning; they should get married. ³⁷But the man who is firmly established in his heart and under no constraint, with control over his will and resolve in his heart not to marry the virgin,^c he will do well.

³⁸So then, he who marries her^d does well, but he who does not marry her^e does even better.

³⁹A wife is bound by law^f to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, as long as he belongs to the Lord.^g ⁴⁰In my judgment, however, she is happier if she remains as she is. And I think that I too have the Spirit of God.

Food Sacrificed to Idols

(Ezekiel 14:1–11; Romans 14:13–23)

8 Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²The one who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know. ³But the one who loves God is known by God.

⁴So about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world, and that there is no other^h God but one. ⁵For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many so-called gods and lords), ⁶yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we exist. And there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we exist.

⁷But not everyone has this knowledge. Some people with consciousness of the idol still eat such foodⁱ as if it were sacrificed to an idol. And since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. ⁸But food does not bring us closer to God: We are no better if we do not eat, and no worse^j if we do.

^a 36 Or of full age or past the bloom of youth ^b 36 Literally and it ought to be so ^c 37 Literally in his heart to keep the virgin or in his heart to keep the betrothed ^d 38 Or gives her in marriage; CT marries the virgin or gives the virgin in marriage ^e 38 Or does not give her in marriage ^f 39 CT does not include by law. ^g 39 Literally she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord ^h 4 CT does not include other. ⁱ 7 CT Some people are still so accustomed to idols that they eat such food ^j 8 CT We are no worse if we do not eat, and no better ^k 1 CT Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? ^l 1 CT does not include Christ. ^m 5 Literally take along a sister—a wife— ⁿ 5 That is, Peter ^o 6 Literally Or is it only Barnabas and I who do not have authority not to work? ^p 7 SBL Who ^q 9 Deuteronomy 25:4

⁹Be careful, however, that your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if someone with a weak conscience sees you who are well informed eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged to eat food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹Should this weak brother, for whom Christ died, be destroyed by your knowledge? ¹²By sinning against your brothers in this way and wounding their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.

¹³Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to stumble.

The Rights of an Apostle (De. 18:1–8)

9 Am I not an apostle? Am I not free?^k Have I not seen Jesus Christ^l our Lord? Are you yourselves not my workmanship in the Lord? ²Even if I am not an apostle to others, surely I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

³This is my defense to those who scrutinize me: ⁴Have we no right to food and to drink? ⁵Have we no right to take along a believing wife,^m as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas?ⁿ ⁶Or are Barnabas and I the only apostles who must work for a living?^o

⁷Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who^p tends a flock and does not drink of its milk?

⁸Do I say this from a human perspective? Doesn't the Law say the same thing? ⁹For it is written in the Law of Moses: "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain."^q Is it about oxen that God is concerned? ¹⁰Isn't He actually speaking on our behalf? Indeed, this was written for us, because when the plowman plows and the thresher threshes, they should also expect to share in the harvest.

¹¹If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much for us to reap a material harvest from you? ¹²If others have this right to your support, shouldn't we have it all the more? But we did not exercise this right. Instead, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ.

¹³Do you not know that those who work in the temple eat of its food, and those who serve at the altar partake of its offerings? ¹⁴In the same way, the Lord has prescribed that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel. ¹⁵But I have not used any of these rights. And I am not writing this to suggest that something be done for me. Indeed, I would rather die than let anyone nullify my boast.

¹⁶Yet when I preach the gospel, I have no reason to boast, because I am obligated to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷If my preaching is voluntary, I have a reward. But if it is not voluntary, I am still entrusted with a responsibility. ¹⁸What then is my reward? That in preaching the gospel I may offer the gospel of Christ^a free of charge, and so not use up my rights in preaching it.

Paul the Servant to All

¹⁹Though I am free of obligation to anyone, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. ²⁰To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law,^b to win those under the law. ²¹To those without the law I became like one without the law (though I am not outside the law of God but am under the law of Christ), to win those without the law. ²²To the weak I became like one who is weak,^c to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.

²³I do this^d for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

Run Your Race to Win

²⁴Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way as to take the prize. ²⁵Everyone who competes in the games trains with strict discipline. They do it for a crown that is perishable, but we do it for a crown that is imperishable. ²⁶Therefore I do not run aimlessly; I do not fight like I am beating the air. ²⁷No, I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

Warnings from Israel's Past

(Numbers 16:41–50; Numbers 25:1–5)

10 Now^e I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud, and that they all passed through the sea. ²They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³They all ate the same spiritual food ⁴and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, for they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶These things took place as examples to keep us from craving evil things as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters, as some of them were. As it is written: "The people sat down to eat and to drink, and got up to indulge in revelry."^f ⁸We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. ⁹We should not test Christ,^g as some of them also^h did, and were killed by snakes. ¹⁰And do not complain, as alsoⁱ some of them did, and were killed by the destroying angel.^j

¹¹Now all^k these things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. ¹²So the one who thinks he is standing firm should be careful not to fall. ¹³No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful;^l He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide an escape, so that you can stand up under it.

Flee from Idolatry (Exodus 20:22–26)

¹⁴Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. ¹⁵I speak to reasonable people; judge for yourselves what I say. ¹⁶Is not the cup of blessing that we bless a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? ¹⁷Because there is one loaf, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one loaf.

¹⁸Consider the people of Israel: Are not those who eat the sacrifices fellow partakers in the altar? ¹⁹Am I suggesting, then, that an idol is anything, or that food sacrificed to an idol is

^a 18 CT does not include *of Christ*. ^b 20 CT includes (*though I myself am not under the law*). ^c 22 CT *To the weak I became weak* ^d 23 CT *I do all this* ^e 1 CT literal *For* ^f 7 Or *to play*; Exodus 32:6 ^g 9 WH, TH, NE, and Tischendorf *test the Lord* ^h 9 CT does not include *also*. ⁱ 10 CT does not include *also*. ^j 10 Literally *the destroyer* ^k 11 CT does not include *all*. ^l 13 F35 *capable*

anything?^a ²⁰No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God. And I do not want you to be participants with demons. ²¹You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot partake in the table of the Lord and the table of demons too. ²²Are we trying to provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He?

All to God's Glory (1 Peter 4:1–11)

²³“Everything is permissible for me,”^b but not everything is beneficial. “Everything is permissible for me,” but not everything is edifying. ²⁴No one should seek his own good, but each one should seek^c the good of others.

²⁵Eat anything sold in the meat market without raising questions of conscience, ²⁶for, “The earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof.”^d

²⁷If an unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat anything set before you without raising questions of conscience. ²⁸But if someone tells you, “This food was offered to idols,” then do not eat it, for the sake of the one who told you and for the sake of conscience—for the earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof—^e ²⁹the other one’s conscience, I mean, not your own. For why should my freedom be determined by someone else’s conscience? ³⁰If I partake in the meal with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of that for which I give thanks?

³¹So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all to the glory of God. ³²Do not become a stumbling block, whether to Jews or Greeks or the church of God— ³³as I also try to please everyone in all I do. For I am not seeking my own good, but the good of many, that they may be saved.

Roles in Worship

11 You are to imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.

²Now I commend you, brothers,^f for remembering me in everything and for maintaining the traditions, just as I passed them on to you. ³But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

⁴Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head. ⁵And every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, for it is just as if her head were shaved. ⁶If a woman does not cover her head, she should have her hair cut off. And if it is shameful for a woman to have her hair cut or shaved off, she should cover her head.

⁷A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman^g is the glory of man. ⁸For man did not come from woman, but woman from man. ⁹Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. ¹⁰For this reason a woman ought to have a sign of authority on^h her head, because of the angels.

¹¹In the Lord, however, man is not independent of woman, nor is woman independent of man.ⁱ ¹²For just as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God.

¹³Judge for yourselves: Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? ¹⁴Doesn’t nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him, ¹⁵but that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For long hair is given^j as a covering. ¹⁶If anyone is inclined to dispute this, we have no other practice, nor do the churches of God.

Sharing in the Lord's Supper

(Matt. 26:20–30; Mark 14:17–26; Luke 22:14–23)

¹⁷In the following instructions I have no praise to offer, because your gatherings do more harm than good. ¹⁸First of all, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. ¹⁹And indeed, there must be differences among you to show which of you are approved.

²⁰Now then, when you come together, it is not the Lord’s Supper you eat. ²¹For as you eat, each of you goes ahead without sharing his meal.^k While one remains hungry, another gets drunk. ²²Don’t you have your own homes in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What can I say to you? Shall I praise you for this? No, I will not!

^a 19 CT that food sacrificed to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything ^b 23 Or “All things are lawful for me”; CT does not include for me; twice in this verse. ^c 24 CT does not contain each one should seek. ^d 26 Psalm 24:1 ^e 28 CT does not include for the earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof— ^f 2 CT does not include brothers. ^g 7 CT the woman ^h 10 Or have authority over ⁱ 11 CT woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman ^j 15 GOC, NA, TR, and WH given to her ^k 21 Literally each one takes first his own meal.

²³For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take and eat.^a This is My body, which is broken^b for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

²⁷Therefore, whoever eats this bread^c or drinks the cup of the Lord in a manner unworthy of the Lord^d will be guilty of sinning against the^e body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸Each one must examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. ²⁹For anyone who eats and drinks unworthily,^f without recognizing the body of the Lord,^g eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep.

³¹Now if we judged ourselves properly, we would not come under judgment. ³²But when we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world.

³³So, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. ³⁴If anyone is hungry, he should eat at home, so that when you come together it will not result in judgment. And when I come, I will give instructions about the remaining matters.

Spiritual Gifts

12 Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans, you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. ³Therefore I inform you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can call Jesus Lord,^h except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴There are different gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵There are different ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶There are different ways of working, but the same God works all things in all people.

⁷Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by the

same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that sameⁱ Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in various tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, who apportions them to each one as He determines.

The Body of Christ

¹²The body is a unit, though it is composed of many parts. And although its parts are many, they all form one body. So it is with Christ. ¹³For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free, and we were all given into^j one Spirit to drink.

¹⁴For the body does not consist of one part, but of many. ¹⁵If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?

¹⁸But in fact, God has arranged the members of the body, every one of them, according to His design. ¹⁹If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, "I do not need you." Nor can the head say to the feet, "I do not need you." ²²On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and the parts we consider less honorable, we treat with greater honor. And our unpresentable parts are treated with special modesty, ²⁴whereas our presentable parts have no such need.

But God has composed the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, ²⁵so that there should be no divisions^k in the body, but that its members should have mutual concern for one another. ²⁶If one part suffers, every part suffers^l with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices^m with it.

a 24 CT does not include *Take and eat*. **b** 24 CT does not include *broken*. **c** 27 CT *the bread* **d** 27 CT and TR in *an unworthy manner* **e** 27 Or *will be responsible for the* **f** 29 CT does not include *unworthily*. **g** 29 CT does not include *of the Lord*. **h** 3 CT says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord" **i** 9 CT by that one **j** 13 CT does not include *into*. **k** 25 GOC, CT, F35, and TR *division* **l** 26 F35 *should suffer* **m** 26 F35 *should rejoice*

The Greater Gifts

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ, and each of you is a member of it. ²⁸And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, and those with gifts of healing, helping, administration, and various tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹But eagerly desire the better^a gifts.

And now I will show you the most excellent way.

Love

13 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a ringing gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have absolute faith so as to move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to be burned,^b but have not love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no account of wrongs. ⁶Love takes no pleasure in evil, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be restrained; where there is knowledge, it will be dismissed. ⁹Now^c we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when the perfect comes, the partial passes away.

¹¹When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I set aside childish ways. ¹²Now we see but a dim reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love; but the greatest of these is love.

Prophecy and Tongues

14 Earnestly pursue love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy. ²For he who speaks in a tongue does

not speak to men, but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries in the Spirit. ³But he who prophesies speaks to men for their edification, encouragement, and comfort. ⁴The one who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but the one who prophesies edifies the church.

⁵I wish that all of you could speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. For^d he who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets so that the church may be edified.

⁶Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you, unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching? ⁷Even in the case of lifeless instruments, such as the flute or harp, how will anyone recognize the tune they are playing unless the notes are distinct? ⁸Again, if the trumpet sounds a muffled call, who will prepare for battle? ⁹So it is with you. Unless you speak intelligible words with your tongue, how will anyone know what you are saying? You will just be speaking into the air.

¹⁰Assuredly, there are many different languages in the world, yet none of them is without meaning. ¹¹If, then, I do not know the meaning of someone's language, I am a foreigner^e to the speaker, and he is a foreigner to me.

¹²It is the same with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, strive to excel in gifts that build up the church. ¹³Therefore, the one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret. ¹⁴For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.

¹⁵What then shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind. I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind. ¹⁶Otherwise, if you speak a blessing in spirit,^f how can someone who is uninstructed say "Amen" to your thanksgiving, since he does not know what you are saying? ¹⁷You may be giving thanks well enough, but the other one is not edified.

¹⁸I thank my^g God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. ¹⁹But in the church, I would rather speak five coherent words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue.

^a 31 CT greater ^b 3 GOC, ALT, F35, SBL, and TH; NA and WH surrender my body that I may boast or exult in the surrender of my body ^c 9 CT and TR For ^d 5 CT does not include For. ^e 11 Literally a barbarian; twice in this verse ^f 16 Or in the Spirit ^g 18 CT does not include my.

20 Brothers, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be mature.

21 It is written in the Law:

“By strange tongues and foreign lips
I will speak to this people,
but even then they will not listen to Me,
says the Lord.”^a

22 Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers, but for unbelievers. Prophecy, however, is for believers, not for unbelievers.

23 So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and some who are uninstructed or some unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your minds?

24 But if an unbeliever or uninstructed person comes in while everyone is prophesying, he will be convicted and called to account by all, ²⁵ and so ^b the secrets of his heart will be made known. So he will fall facedown and worship God, proclaiming, “God is truly among you!”

Orderly Worship

26 What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, each one of you has ^c a psalm or a teaching, a tongue, a revelation,^d or an interpretation. All of these must be done to build up the church.

27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, two, or at most three, should speak in turn, and someone must interpret. **28** But if there is no interpreter, he should remain silent in the church and speak only to himself and God.

29 Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. **30** And if a revelation comes to someone who is seated, the first speaker should stop. **31** For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. **32** The spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. **33** For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace—as in all the churches of the saints.^e

34 Your ^f women are to be silent in the churches. They are not permitted to speak, but must be in submission, as the law says. **35** If they wish to inquire about something, they are to ask their own husbands at home; for it is dishonorable for a woman to speak in the church.^g

36 Did the word of God originate with you? Or are you the only ones it has reached? **37** If anyone considers himself a prophet or spiritual person, let him acknowledge that what I am writing you is the Lord’s command.^h **38** But if anyone is ignorant, let him be ignorant.ⁱ

39 So, brothers,^j be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. **40** But everything^k must be done in a proper and orderly manner.

The Resurrection of Christ

15 Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, and in which you stand firm. **2** By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4** that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, **5** and that He appeared to Cephas^l and then to the Twelve. **6** After that, He appeared to more than five hundred brothers at once, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. **7** Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles. **8** And last of all He appeared to me also, as to one of untimely birth.

9 For I am the least of the apostles and am unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. **10** But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace to me was not in vain. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. **11** Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

The Resurrection of the Dead

12 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? **13** If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. **14** And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is worthless, and so is your ^m faith. **15** In that case, we are also exposed as false witnesses about God. For we have testified about God that He raised Christ from the

^a 21 Isaiah 28:11–12 ^b 25 CT does not include *and so*. ^c 26 CT *everyone has* ^d 26 CT *a revelation, a tongue* ^e 33 Or *of peace. As in all the churches of the saints*: Thus, some translators begin the new paragraph after *peace*. ^f 34 CT does not include *Your*. ^g 35 Some manuscripts place verses 34–35 after verse 40. ^h 37 Literally *are the Lord’s commandments*; NA, TH, and WH *is the Lord’s commandment*; SBL *is of the Lord* ⁱ 38 CT *But if anyone ignores this, he himself will be ignored*. ^j 39 CT *So, my brothers* ^k 40 Literally *Everything*; CT *But everything* ^l 5 That is, Peter ^m 14 WH *our*

dead, but He did not raise Him if in fact the dead are not raised.

¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If our hope in Christ is for this life alone, we are to be pitied more than all men.

The Order of Resurrection

²⁰But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead and has become^a the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²²For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³But each in his own turn: Christ the firstfruits; then at His coming, those who belong to Him.

²⁴Then the end will come, when He hands over the kingdom to God the Father after He has destroyed all dominion, authority, and power. ²⁵For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷For “God has put everything under His feet.”^b Now when it says that everything has been put under Him, this clearly does not include the One who put everything under Him. ²⁸And when all things have been subjected to Him, then the Son Himself will also^c be made subject to Him who put all things under Him, so that God may be all in all.

²⁹If these things are not so,^d what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized for the dead?^e ³⁰And why do we endanger ourselves every hour? ³¹I face death every day,^f as surely as I boast about you in Christ Jesus our Lord. ³²If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus for human motives, what did I gain? If the dead are not raised,

“Let us eat and drink,
for tomorrow we die.”^g

³³Do not be deceived: “Bad company corrupts good character.”^h ³⁴Sober up as you ought, and stop sinning; for some of you are ignorant of God. I say this to your shame.

The Resurrection Body

³⁵But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?”

³⁶You fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷And what you sow is not the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or something else. ³⁸But God gives it a body as He has designed, and to each kind of seed He gives its own body.

³⁹Not all flesh is the same: Men have one kind of flesh, animals have another, fish another, and birds another.ⁱ ⁴⁰There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies. But the splendor of the heavenly bodies is of one degree, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is of another. ⁴¹The sun has one degree of splendor, the moon another, and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor.

⁴²So will it be with the resurrection of the dead: What is sown is perishable; it is raised imperishable. ⁴³It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body; there is^j also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being;”^k the last Adam a life-giving spirit.

⁴⁶The spiritual, however, was not first, but the natural, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is the Lord^l from heaven. ⁴⁸As was the earthly man, so also are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so also let us bear^m the likeness of the heavenly man.

Where, O Death, Is Your Victory? (Hos. 13:9-14)

⁵⁰Now I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

⁵¹Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— ⁵²in an instant, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³For the perishable must be clothedⁿ with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

^a 20 CT does not include *and has become*. ^b 27 Psalm 8:6 ^c 28 CT will ^d 29 That is, *If there is no resurrection*; literally *Otherwise* ^e 29 CT for them ^f 31 CT includes *brothers*. ^g 32 Isaiah 22:13 ^h 33 Probably a quote from the Greek comedy *Thais* by Menander ⁱ 39 CT *birds another, and fish another* ^j 44 CT *If there is a natural body, there is* ^k 45 Genesis 2:7 ^l 47 CT does not include *is the Lord*. ^m 49 GOC, NA, SBL, and TR *we shall bear* ⁿ 53 Or *clothe itself*

⁵⁴When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable and the mortal with immortality,^a then the saying that is written will come to pass: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”^b

⁵⁵“Where, O Death, is your sting?
Where, O Hades, is your victory?”^c

⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

⁵⁸Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast and immovable. Always excel in the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

The Collection for the Saints (2 Cor. 9:1–15)

16 Now about the collection for the saints, you are to do as I directed the churches of Galatia: ²On the first day of every week, each of you should set aside a portion of his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will be needed. ³Then, on my arrival, I will send letters with those you recommend to carry your gift to Jerusalem. ⁴And if it is advisable for me to go also, they can travel with me.

Paul’s Travel Plans (Romans 15:23–33)

⁵After I go through Macedonia, however, I will come to you; for I will be going through Macedonia. ⁶Perhaps I will stay with you awhile, or even spend the winter, so that you can help me on my journey, wherever I go. ⁷For I do not want to see you now only in passing; I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits. ⁸But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost,^d ⁹because a great door for effective work has opened to me, even though many oppose me.

Timothy and Apollos (Philippians 2:19–30)

¹⁰If Timothy comes, see to it that he has nothing to fear while he is with you, for he is doing the work of the Lord, just as I am. ¹¹No one, then,

should treat him with contempt. Send him on his way in peace so that he can return to me, for I am expecting him along with the brothers.

¹²Now about our brother Apollos: I strongly urged him to go to you with the brothers. He was not at all inclined to go now, but he will go when he has the opportunity.

Concluding Exhortations

¹³Be on the alert. Stand firm in the faith. Be men of courage. Be strong. ¹⁴Do everything in love.

¹⁵You know that Stephanas and his household were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints. Now I urge you, brothers, ¹⁶to submit to such as these, and to every fellow worker and laborer.

¹⁷I am glad that Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus have arrived, because they have supplied what was lacking from you. ¹⁸For they refreshed my spirit and yours as well. Show your appreciation, therefore, to such men.

Signature and Final Greetings

(Colossians 4:15–18; 2 Thessalonians 3:16–18)

¹⁹The churches in the province of Asia^e send you greetings.

Aquila and Priscilla^f greet you warmly in the Lord, and so does the church that meets at their house.

²⁰All the brothers here send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

²¹This greeting is in my own hand—Paul.

²²If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ,^g let him be under a curse. Come, O Lord!^h

²³The grace of the Lord Jesus Christⁱ be with you.

²⁴My love be with all of you in Christ Jesus.

Amen.^j

^a ⁵⁴ WH does not include *and the mortal with immortality*. ^b ⁵⁴ Isaiah 25:8 ^c ⁵⁵ Hosea 13:14 (see also LXX); CT “Where, O Death, is your victory? Where, O Death, is your sting?” ^d ⁸ That is, Shavuot, the late spring feast of pilgrimage to Jerusalem; it is also known as *the Feast of Harvest* (see Exodus 23:16) or *the Feast of Weeks* (see Exodus 34:22). ^e ¹⁹ Literally *in Asia*; Asia was a Roman province in what is now western Turkey. ^f ¹⁹ CT *Prisca*; see Acts 18:2. ^g ²² F35 *our Lord Jesus Christ*; CT does not include *Jesus Christ*. ^h ²² Greek *Marana tha* from a transliteration of the Aramaic, an exclamation of approaching divine judgment ⁱ ²³ CT does not include *Christ*. ^j ²⁴ SBL, WH, and NA do not include *Amen*. Some manuscripts place the text of Romans 14:24–26 here or after Romans 15:33.

2 Corinthians

Paul Greet the Corinthians

(Acts 18:1–11; 1 Corinthians 1:1–3)

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ^a by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

To the church of God in Corinth, together with all the saints throughout Achaia:

²Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The God of All Comfort

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. ⁵For just as the sufferings of Christ overflow to us, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.

⁶If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation,^b which accomplishes in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we experience. And our hope for you is sure;^c if we are comforted, it is for your comfort and salvation, ⁷because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you will share in our comfort.

⁸We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the hardships we encountered in the province of Asia.^d We were under a burden far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. ⁹Indeed, we felt we were under the sentence of death, in order that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God, who raises the dead.

¹⁰He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and He continues to deliver us.^e In Him we have placed our hope that He will yet again deliver us, ¹¹as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on your behalf^f for the favor shown us in answer to their prayers.

Paul's Change of Plans

¹²For this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in relation to you, in the integrity^g and sincerity that are from God—not in worldly^h wisdom, but in the grace of God. ¹³For we do not write you anything that is beyond your ability to read and understand. And I hope that you will understand us completely, ¹⁴as you have already understood us in part, that you may boast of us just as we will boast of you in the day of the Lord Jesus.ⁱ

¹⁵Confident of this, I planned to visit you first, so that you might receive a double blessing. ¹⁶I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia, and to return to you from Macedonia, and then to have you help me on my way to Judea.

¹⁷When I planned this, did I do it carelessly? Or do I make my plans by human standards, so as to say “Yes, yes” and also “No, no”? ¹⁸But as surely as God is faithful, our message to you was not “Yes” and “No.” ¹⁹For the Son of God, Jesus Christ,^k who was proclaimed among you by me and Silvanus^l and Timothy, was not “Yes” and “No,” but in Him it has always been “Yes.” ²⁰For all the promises of God are “Yes” in Christ. And so in Him,^m our “Amen” is spoken to the glory of God.

²¹Now it is God who establishes both us and you in Christ. He anointed us, ²²placed His seal on us, and put His Spirit in our hearts as a pledge of what is to come. ²³I call God as my witness that it was in order to spare you that I did not return to Corinth. ²⁴Not that we lord it over your faith, but we are fellow workers with you for your joy, because it is by faith that you stand firm.

Reaffirm Your Love

2 So I made up my mind not to make another painful visit to you. ²For if I grieve you, who is left to cheer me but those whom I have

^a 1 CT of Christ Jesus ^b 6 CT includes here *if we are comforted, it is for your comfort.* ^c 6 CT includes *And our hope for you is sure* with verse 7. ^d 8 Literally *in Asia*; Asia was a Roman province in what is now western Turkey. ^e 10 CT *He will deliver (us)* ^f 11 GOC, CT, and TR *on our behalf* ^g 12 SBL, TH, and WH *holiness* ^h 12 Literally *fleshly* ⁱ 14 CT of our Lord Jesus ^j 18 CT is not ^k 19 WH Christ Jesus ^l 19 That is, Silas ^m 20 CT *through Him*

grieved? ³I wrote to you^a as I did so that on my arrival I would not be grieved by those who ought to make me rejoice. I had confidence in all of you, that you would share my joy. ⁴For through many tears I wrote you out of great distress and anguish of heart, not to grieve you but to let you know how much I love you.

⁵Now if anyone has caused grief, he has not grieved me but all of you—to some degree, not to overstate it. ⁶The punishment imposed on him by the majority is sufficient for him. ⁷So instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. ⁸Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love for him.

⁹My purpose in writing you was to see if you would stand the test and be obedient in everything. ¹⁰If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And if I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven it in the presence of Christ for your sake, ¹¹in order that Satan should not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

Triumph in Christ

¹²Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and a door stood open for me in the Lord, ¹³I had no peace in my spirit, because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said goodbye to them and went on to Macedonia.

¹⁴But thanks be to God, who always leads us triumphantly as captives in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him. ¹⁵For we are to God the sweet aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. ¹⁶To the one we are an odor that brings death, to the other a fragrance that brings life.^b And who is qualified for such a task?

¹⁷For we are not like others,^c who peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, as men sent from God.

Ministers of a New Covenant

3 Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Do we need,^d like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you?^e ²You yourselves are our letter, inscribed on our hearts, known and read by everyone. ³It is clear

that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

⁴Such confidence before God is ours through Christ. ⁵Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim that anything comes from us, but our competence comes from God. ⁶And He has qualified us as ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

The Glory of the New Covenant (Exodus 34:10–35)

⁷Now if the ministry of death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at the face of Moses because of its fleeting glory, ⁸will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? ⁹For if the ministry of condemnation was glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry of righteousness! ¹⁰Indeed, what was once glorious has no glory now in comparison to the glory that surpasses it. ¹¹For if what was fading away came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which endures!

¹²Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. ¹³We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at the end of what was fading away.

¹⁴But their minds were closed. For to this day the same veil remains at the reading of the old covenant. It has not been lifted, because only in Christ can it be removed. ¹⁵And even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. ¹⁶But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into His image with intensifying glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

The Light of the Gospel

4 Therefore, since God in His mercy has given us this ministry,^f we do not lose heart. ²Instead, we have renounced secret and shameful

^a 3 CT does not include *to you*. ^b 16 Literally *To the one, indeed, an aroma from death to death; but to the other, an aroma from life to life*. ^c 17 ALT, CT, and TR *so many others* ^d 1 CT, Scrivener TR *Or do we need* ^e 1 Literally *letters of recommendation to you or of recommendation from you*; CT *letters of recommendation to you or from you* ^f 1 Literally *Therefore, having this ministry, as we have received mercy*,

ways. We do not practice deceit, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by open proclamation of the truth, we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.

⁴The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, might not dawn upon them.^a ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves, but Christ Jesus^b as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness,"^c made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.^d

Treasure in Jars of Clay (Romans 6:1–14)

⁷Now we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this surpassingly great power is from God and not from us. ⁸We are hard pressed on all sides, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.

¹⁰We always carry around in our body the death of the Lord Jesus,^e so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. ¹¹For we who are alive are always consigned to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our mortal body. ¹²So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

¹³And in keeping with what is written, "I believed, therefore I have spoken,"^f we who have the same spirit of faith also believe and therefore speak, ¹⁴knowing that the One who raised the Lord Jesus^g will also raise us through^h Jesus and present us with you in His presence. ¹⁵All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is extending to more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow, to the glory of God.

¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, yet the innerⁱ self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For our light and momentary affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory that is far beyond comparison. ¹⁸So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Our Eternal Dwelling (Romans 8:18–27)

5 For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is dismantled, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. ²For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, ³because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. ⁴For while we are in this tent, we groan under our burdens, because we do not wish to be unclothed but clothed, so that our mortality may be swallowed up by life. ⁵And it is God who has prepared us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a pledge of what is to come.

⁶Therefore we are always confident, although we know that while we are at home in the body, we are away from the Lord. ⁷For we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸We are confident, then, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So we aspire to please Him, whether we are at home in this body or away from it. ¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive his due for the things done in the body, whether good or bad.

Ambassadors for Christ

¹¹Therefore, since we know what it means to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men. What we are is clear to God, and I hope it is clear to your conscience as well. ¹²For^j we are not commending ourselves to you again. Instead, we are giving you an occasion to be proud of us, so that you can answer those who take pride in appearances rather than in the heart.

¹³If we are out of our mind, it is for God; if we are of sound mind, it is for you. ¹⁴For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that if^k One died for all, therefore all died. ¹⁵And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died for them^l and was raised again.

¹⁶So from now on we regard no one according to the flesh. Although we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.^m The old has passed away. Behold, all things have become new!ⁿ

^a 4 CT so they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God ^b 5 NA Jesus Christ

^c 6 Genesis 1:3 ^d 6 SBL, NE, and WH in the face of Christ ^e 10 CT the death of Jesus ^f 13 Psalm 116:10 (see also LXX)

^g 14 SBL who raised Jesus ^h 14 CT with ⁱ 16 CT our inner ^j 12 CT does not include For. ^k 14 CT does not include if.

^l 15 F35 all ^m 17 Or a new creature ⁿ 17 CT Behold, the new has come!

18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ^a and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: **19** that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's trespasses against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

20 Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ: Be reconciled to God. **21** For^b God made Him who knew no sin to be sin^c on our behalf, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

Paul's Hardships and God's Grace

6 As God's fellow workers,^d then, we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. **2** For He says:

"In the time of favor I heard you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you."^e

Behold, now is the time of favor; now is the day of salvation!

3 We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no one can discredit our ministry.

4 Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships, and calamities; **5** in beatings, imprisonments, and riots; in labor, sleepless nights, and hunger; **6** in purity, knowledge, patience, and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; **7** in truthful speech and in the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; **8** through glory and dishonor, slander and praise; viewed as imposters, yet genuine; **9** unknown, yet well-known; dying, and yet we live on; punished, yet not killed; **10** sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

11 We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians. Our hearts are open wide. **12** It is not our affection, but yours, that is restrained. **13** As a fair exchange—I speak as to my children—open wide your hearts also.

Do Not Be Unequally Yoked

14 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership can righteousness have with wickedness? Or what fellowship does light

have with darkness? **15** What harmony is there between Christ and Belial?^f Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? **16** What agreement can exist between the temple of God and idols? For you^g are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

"I will dwell with them
and walk among them,
and I will be their God,
and they will be My people."^h

17 "Therefore come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord.

Touch no unclean thing,
and I will receive you."ⁱ

18 And:

"I will be a Father to you,
and you will be My sons and daughters,
says the Lord Almighty."^j

Paul's Joy in the Corinthians

7 Therefore, beloved, since we have these promises, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that defiles body and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

2 Make room for us in your hearts. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have exploited no one. **3** I do not say this to condemn you. I have said before that you so occupy our hearts that we live and die together with you.

4 Great is my confidence in you; great is my pride in you; I am filled with encouragement; in all our troubles my joy overflows.

5 For when we arrived in Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were pressed from every direction—conflicts on the outside, fears within.

6 But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the arrival of Titus, **7** and not only by his arrival, but also by the comfort he had received from you. He told us about your longing, your mourning, and your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced all the more.

8 Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Although I did regret it—for I see that my letter caused you sorrow, but only for a short time—**9** yet now I rejoice, not because you were made sorrowful, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you felt the sorrow that God had intended, and so were not harmed

^a **18** CT *through Christ* ^b **21** CT does not include *For*. ^c **21** Or *a sin offering* ^d **1** Literally *Now working together*
^e **2** Isaiah 49:8 (see also LXX) ^f **15** Scrivener TR and GOC; many Greek sources *Beliar* ^g **16** CT *we* ^h **16** Leviticus 26:12;
Jeremiah 32:38; Ezekiel 37:27 ⁱ **17** Isaiah 52:11; see also Ezekiel 20:34, including LXX. ^j **18** See 2 Samuel 7:14.

in any way by us. ¹⁰Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation without regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

¹¹Consider what this godly sorrow of yours^a has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what zeal, what vindication! In every way you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter. ¹²So even though I wrote to you, it was not on account of the one who did wrong or the one who was harmed, but rather that your earnestness on our behalf^b would be made clear to you in the sight of God. ¹³On account of this, we are encouraged.

And in your encouragement,^c we were even more delighted by the joy of Titus. For his spirit has been refreshed by all of you. ¹⁴Indeed, I was not embarrassed by anything I had boasted to him about you. But just as everything we said to you was true, so our boasting to Titus has proved to be true as well. ¹⁵And his affection for you is even greater when he remembers that you were all obedient as you welcomed him with fear and trembling. ¹⁶I rejoice^d that I can have complete confidence in you.

Generosity Commended

(Philippians 4:10–20)

8 Now, brothers, we want you to know about^e the grace that God has given the churches of Macedonia. ²In the terrible ordeal they suffered, their abundant joy and deep poverty overflowed into rich generosity. ³For I testify that they gave according to their ability and even beyond it. Of their own accord, ⁴they earnestly pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. ⁵And not only did they do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us, through the will of God.

⁶So we urged Titus to help complete your act of grace, just as he had started it. ⁷But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness, and in your love for us^f—see that you also excel in this grace of giving. ⁸I am not giving a command, but I am testing the sincerity of your love through the earnestness of others.

⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake^g He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich. ¹⁰And this is my opinion about what is helpful for you in this matter: Last year you were the first not only to give, but even to have such a desire. ¹¹Now finish the work, so that you may complete it with the same eager desire, according to your means. ¹²For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.

¹³It is not our intention that others may be relieved while you are burdened, but that there may be equality. ¹⁴At the present time, your surplus will meet their need, so that in turn their surplus will meet your need. This way there will be equality. ¹⁵As it is written:

“He who gathered much had no excess,
and he who gathered little had no
shortfall.”^h

Titus Commended (Titus 1:1–4)

¹⁶But thanks be to God, who put into the heart of Titus the same devotion I have for you. ¹⁷For not only did he welcome our appeal, but he is eagerly coming to you of his own volition.

¹⁸Along with Titus we are sending the brother who is praised by all the churches for his work in the gospel. ¹⁹More than that, this brother was chosen by the churches to accompany us with the gracious gift we administerⁱ to honor the Lord Himself and to show our eagerness to help.

²⁰We want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this generous gift. ²¹We are taking great care to do^j what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord, but also in the eyes of men.

²²And we are sending along with them our brother who has proven his earnestness to us many times and in many ways, and now even more so by his great confidence in you. ²³As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker among you. As for our brothers, they are messengers^k of the churches, the glory of Christ. ²⁴In full view of the churches, then, show these men the proof of your love and the reason for our boasting about you.

^a **11** CT does not include *of yours*. ^b **12** Scrivener TR *our earnestness on your behalf* ^c **13** CT *And in addition to our own encouragement* ^d **16** Scrivener TR *I rejoice, therefore*, ^e **1** GOC *I want you to know about* ^f **7** NA, SBL, and WH *in the love we inspired in you* ^g **9** F35 *our sake* ^h **15** Exodus 16:18 ⁱ **19** See 1 Corinthians 16:3–4. ^j **21** CT *For we are taking great care to do* ^k **23** Or *apostles*

God Loves a Cheerful Giver (1 Cor. 16:1–4)

9 Now about the service to the saints, there is no need for me to write to you. ²For I know your eagerness to help, and I have been boasting to the Macedonians that since last year you in Achaia were prepared to give. And your zeal has stirred most of them to do likewise.

³But I am sending the brothers in order that our boasting about you in this matter should not prove empty, but that you will be prepared, just as I said. ⁴Otherwise, if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we—to say nothing of you—would be ashamed of having been so confident in our boasting.^a ⁵So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you beforehand and make arrangements for the generous gift that was announced.^b This way, your gift will be prepared generously and not begrudgingly.

⁶Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷Each one should give what he decides^c in his heart to give, not out of regret or compulsion. For God loves a cheerful giver.^d ⁸And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹As it is written:

“He has scattered abroad His gifts to the poor;
His righteousness endures forever.”^e

¹⁰Now may He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food supply and multiply your store of seed and increase^f the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹May you be enriched^g in every way to be generous on every occasion, so that through us your generosity may produce^h thanksgiving to God. ¹²For this ministry of service is not only supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanksgiving to God.

¹³Because of the proof this ministry provides, the saints will glorify God for your obedient confession of the gospel of Christ, and for the generosity of your contribution to them and to all the others. ¹⁴And their prayers for you will express their affection for you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

Paul's Apostolic Authority

10 Now by the mildness and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you—I, Paul, who am humble when face to face with you, but bold when away. ²I beg you that when I come I may not need to be as bold as I expect toward those who presume that we live according to the flesh.

³For though we live in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh. ⁴The weapons of our warfare are not the weapons of the flesh. Instead, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵We demolish arguments and every presumption set up against the knowledge of God; and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. ⁶And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, as soon as your obedience is complete.

⁷You are looking at outward appearances. If anyone is confident that he belongs to Christ, he should remind himself that we belong to Christ just as much as he belongs to Christ.ⁱ ⁸For even if I boast somewhat excessively about the authority the Lord gave us for building you up rather than tearing you down, I will not be ashamed.

⁹I do not want to seem to be trying to frighten you by my letters. ¹⁰For some say, “His letters are weighty and forceful, but his physical presence is unimpressive, and his speaking is of no account.” ¹¹Such people should consider that what we are in our letters when absent, we will be in our actions when present.

¹²We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they show their ignorance. ¹³We, however, will not boast beyond our limits, but only within the field of influence that God has assigned to us—a field that reaches even to you. ¹⁴We are not overstepping our bounds, as if we had not come to you. Indeed, we were the first to reach you with the gospel of Christ.

¹⁵Neither do we boast beyond our limits in the labors of others. But we hope that as your faith increases, our area of influence among you will greatly increase as well, ¹⁶so that we can preach

^a 4 CT does not include in our boasting. ^b 5 CT you had promised ^c 7 CT has decided ^d 7 See Proverbs 22:8, LXX addition. ^e 9 Psalm 112:9 ^f 10 CT Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your store of seed and will increase ^g 11 CT You will be enriched ^h 11 CT will produce ⁱ 7 CT we belong to Christ just as much as he does or just as he is Christ's, so too are we

the gospel in the regions beyond you. Then we will not be boasting in the work already done in another man's territory.

¹⁷Rather, "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."^a ¹⁸For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.

Paul and the False Apostles

11 I hope you will put up with a little of my foolishness, but you are already doing that. ²¹I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. For I promised you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

³¹I am afraid, however, that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may be led astray from the simplicity that is in Christ.^b

⁴For if someone comes and proclaims a Jesus other than the One we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit than the One you received, or a different gospel than the one you accepted, you put up with it very easily.

⁵¹I consider myself in no way inferior to those "super-apostles." ⁶Although I am not a polished speaker, I am certainly not lacking in knowledge. We have been made known^c to you in every way possible.

⁷Was it a sin for me to humble myself in order to exalt you, because I preached the gospel of God to you free of charge? ⁸¹I robbed other churches by accepting their support in order to serve you. ⁹And when I was with you and in need, I was not a burden to anyone; for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied my needs. I have refrained from being a burden to you in any way, and I will continue to do so. ¹⁰As surely as the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting of mine will not be silenced^d in the regions of Achaia. ¹¹Why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do!

¹²But I will keep on doing what I am doing, in order to undercut those who want an opportunity to be regarded as our equals in the things of which they boast. ¹³For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. ¹⁵It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as

servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their actions.

Paul's Suffering and Service (Col. 1:24–29)

¹⁶I repeat: Let no one take me for a fool. But if you do, then receive me as a fool, so that I too may boast a little. ¹⁷In this confident boasting of mine, I am not speaking as the Lord would, but as a fool. ¹⁸Since many are boasting according to the flesh, I too will boast. ¹⁹For you gladly put up with fools, since you are so wise. ²⁰In fact, you even put up with anyone who enslaves you or exploits you or takes advantage of you or exalts himself or strikes you in the face. ²¹To my shame I concede that we were too weak for that!

Speaking as a fool, however, I can match what anyone else dares to boast about. ²²Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. ²³Are they servants of Christ? (I am speaking as if I were out of my mind.) I am so much more: in harder labor, in worse beatings, in more imprisonments,^e in frequent danger of death. ²⁴Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. ²⁵Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked. I spent a night and a day in the open sea.

²⁶In my frequent journeys, I have been in danger from rivers and from bandits, in danger from my countrymen and from the Gentiles, in danger in the city and in the country, in danger on the sea and among false brothers, ²⁷in labor and toil and often without sleep, in hunger and thirst and often without food, in cold and exposure.

²⁸Apart from these external trials, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. ²⁹Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not burn with grief?

³⁰If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. ³¹The God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ,^f who is forever worthy of praise,^g knows that I am not lying. ³²In Damascus, the governor under King Aretas secured the city of the Damascenes wishing^h to arrest me. ³³But I was lowered in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his grasp.

^a ¹⁷ Jeremiah 9:24 ^b ³ CT from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ ^c ⁶ CT We have made this clear ^d ¹⁰ Stephanus TR be stopped ^e ²³ CT in more imprisonments, in worse beatings ^f ³¹ CT of the Lord Jesus; TR and GOC of our Lord Jesus Christ ^g ³¹ Or forever blessed ^h ³² CT does not include wishing.

Paul's Revelation

12 Surely it is not beneficial for me to boast, yet^a I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord. ²I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of it I do not know, but God knows. ³And I know that this man—whether in the body or out of^b it I do not know, but God knows— ⁴was caught up to Paradise. The things he heard were inexpressible, things that man is not permitted to tell.

Paul's Thorn and God's Grace

⁵I will boast about such a man, but I will not boast about myself, except in my weaknesses. ⁶Even if I wanted to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will credit me with more than he sees in me or hears from me, ⁷or because of these surpassingly great revelations.

So to keep me from becoming conceited,^c I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹But He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest on me. ¹⁰That is why, for the sake of Christ, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Paul's Concern for the Corinthians

¹¹I have become a fool in my boasting,^d but you drove me to it. In fact, you should have commended me, since I am in no way inferior to those “super-apostles,” even though I am nothing. ¹²The marks of a true apostle—signs, wonders, and miracles—were performed among you with great perseverance. ¹³In what way were you inferior to the other churches, except that I was not a burden to you? Forgive me this wrong!

¹⁴See, I am ready to come to you a third time, and I will not be a burden to you,^e because I am not seeking your possessions, but you. For children

should not have to save up for their parents, but parents for their children. ¹⁵And for the sake of your souls, I will most gladly spend my money and myself, even if the more I love you, the less you love me.^f

¹⁶Be that as it may, I was not a burden to you; but crafty as I am, I caught you by trickery. ¹⁷Did I exploit you by anyone I sent you? ¹⁸I urged Titus to visit you, and I sent our brother with him. Did Titus exploit you in any way? Did we not walk in the same Spirit and follow in the same footsteps?^g

¹⁹Do you still think that we are making a defense to you?^h We speak before God in Christ, and all of this, beloved, is to build you up. ²⁰For I am afraid that when I come, I may not find you as I wish, and you may not find me as you wish. I fear that there may be quarrels,ⁱ jealousies,^j rage, rivalry, slander, gossip, arrogance, and disorder. ²¹I am afraid that when I come again, my God will humble me before you, and I will be grieved over many who have sinned earlier and have not repented of their acts of impurity, sexual immorality, and debauchery.

Examine Yourselves

13 This is the third time I am coming to you. “Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.”^k

²I already warned you the second time I was with you. So now in my absence I write to warn^l those who sinned earlier and everyone else: If I return, I will not spare anyone,³ since you are demanding proof that Christ is speaking through me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful among you. ⁴For although^m He was indeed crucified in weakness, yet He lives by God's power. For we are also weak in Him, yet by God's power we will live with Him concerning you.

⁵Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christⁿ is in you—unless you actually fail the test? ⁶And I hope you will realize that we have not failed the test.

^a 1 CT I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to gain, ^b 3 NA, SBL, and WH apart from ^c 7 Some translators end the previous paragraph after verse 6, and begin verse 7 with *So to keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations*, ^d 11 CT does not include *in my boasting*. ^e 14 CT does not include *to you*. ^f 15 CT myself. *If I love you more, will you love me less?* ^g 18 Literally *Did we not walk in the same Spirit? Not in the same footsteps?* ^h 19 CT *Have you been thinking all along that we were making a defense to you?* ⁱ 20 NA, F35, SBL, and WH *quarreling* ^j 20 CT *jealousy* ^k 1 Deuteronomy 19:15 ^l 2 CT *in my absence I warn* ^m 4 CT does not include *although*. ⁿ 5 TH *Christ Jesus*

⁷Now I pray^a to God that you will not do anything wrong—not that we will appear to have stood the test, but that you will do what is right, even if we appear to have failed. ⁸For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. ⁹In fact, we rejoice when we are weak but you are strong, and our prayer is for your perfection.

¹⁰This is why I write these things while absent, so that when I am present I will not need to be severe in my use of the authority that the Lord gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down.

Benediction and Farewell

¹¹Finally, brothers, rejoice! Aim for perfect harmony, encourage one another,^b be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

¹²Greet one another with a holy kiss.

¹³All the saints send you greetings.

¹⁴The grace of the^c Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. Amen.^d

^a 7 CT we pray ^b 11 Or listen to my appeal ^c 14 F35 our ^d 14 Texts vary in verse numbering for the last three verses of this chapter. CT does not include Amen.

Galatians

Paul's Greeting to the Galatians

1 Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead— ²and all the brothers with me,

To the churches of Galatia:

³Grace and peace to you from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ,^a ⁴who gave Himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

No Other Gospel

⁶I am amazed how quickly you are deserting the One who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— ⁷which is not even a gospel. Evidently some people are troubling you and trying to distort the gospel of Christ.

⁸But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel^b contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be under a curse! ⁹As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be under a curse!

Paul Preaches the Gospel

¹⁰Am I now seeking the approval of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? For^c if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ. ¹¹But^d I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached was not devised by man.^e ¹²I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.^f

¹³For you have heard of my former way of life in Judaism, how severely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. ¹⁴I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

¹⁵But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by His grace, was pleased ¹⁶to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not rush to consult with flesh and blood, ¹⁷nor did I go up to Jerusalem to the apostles who came before me, but I went into Arabia and later returned to Damascus.

¹⁸Only after three years did I go up to Jerusalem to confer with Peter,^g and I stayed with him fifteen days. ¹⁹But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother. ²⁰I assure you before God that what I am writing to you is no lie.

²¹Later I went to the regions of Syria and Cilicia. ²²I was personally unknown, however, to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. ²³They only heard the account: "The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." ²⁴And they glorified God because of me.

The Council at Jerusalem (Acts 15:5–21)

2 Fourteen years later I went up again to Jerusalem, accompanied by Barnabas. I took Titus along also. ²I went in response to a revelation and set before them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. But I spoke privately to those recognized as leaders, for fear that I was running or had already run in vain. ³Yet not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled to be circumcised, even though he was a Greek.

⁴This issue arose because some false brothers had come in under false pretenses to spy on our freedom in Christ Jesus, in order to enslave us. ⁵We did not give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel would remain with you.

⁶But as for the highly esteemed—whatever they were makes no difference to me; God does not show favoritism^h—those leaders added nothing to me. ⁷On the contrary, they saw that I had been entrusted to preach the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised.

^a 3 SBL, MT, and TR; NA and WH *God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ* ^b 8 ALT and HF *heaven preach a gospel*

^c 10 CT does not include *For*. ^d 11 CT *For* ^e 11 Literally *not according to man* ^f 12 F35 *from Christ* ^g 18 CT *Cephas*

^h 6 Literally *God does not accept the face of man*

⁸For the One who was at work in Peter's apostleship to the circumcised was also at work in my apostleship to the Gentiles.

⁹And recognizing the grace that I had been given, James, Cephas,^a and John—those reputed to be pillars—gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, so that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised. ¹⁰They only asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

Paul Confronts Cephas

¹¹When Peter^b came to Antioch, however, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. ¹²For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself, for fear of those in the circumcision group. ¹³The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.

¹⁴When I saw that they were not walking in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter^c in front of them all, "If you, who are a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?"^d

¹⁵We who are Jews by birth and not Gentile "sinners" ¹⁶know that a man is not justified by works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ.^e So we, too, have believed in Christ Jesus, that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

¹⁷But if, while we seek to be justified in Christ, we ourselves are found to be sinners, does that make Christ a minister of sin? Certainly not! ¹⁸If I rebuild what I have already torn down, I prove myself to be a lawbreaker.

¹⁹For through the law I died to the law so that I might live to God. ²⁰I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. ²¹I do not set aside the grace of God. For if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.

Faith and Belief (*James 2:14–26*)

3 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you not to obey the truth?^f Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you^g as crucified. ²I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law, or by hearing with faith?

³Are you so foolish? After starting in the Spirit, are you now finishing in the flesh? ⁴Have you suffered so much for nothing, if it really was for nothing? ⁵Does God lavish His Spirit on you and work miracles among you because you practice the law, or because you hear and believe?

⁶So also, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."^h ⁷Understand, then, that those who have faith are sons of Abraham. ⁸The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and foretold the gospel to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you."ⁱ ⁹So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Christ Has Redeemed Us

¹⁰All who rely on works of the law are under a curse. For it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law."^j ¹¹Now it is clear that no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith."^k ¹²The law, however, is not based on faith; on the contrary, "The man who^l does these things will live by them."^m

¹³Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us. For it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."ⁿ

¹⁴He redeemed us in order that the blessing promised to Abraham^o would come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

The Purpose of the Law (*Romans 7:1–6*)

¹⁵Brothers, let me put this in human terms. Even a human covenant, once it is ratified, cannot be canceled or amended. ¹⁶The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say, "and to seeds," meaning many, but "and to your seed,"^p meaning One, who is Christ.

^a ⁹ That is, Peter ^b ¹¹ CT *Cephas*; also in verse 14 ^c ¹⁴ CT literal *Cephas* ^d ¹⁴ Some translators close this quotation after verse 16 or 21. ^e ¹⁶ WH *Christ Jesus* ^f ¹ CT does not include *not to obey the truth*. ^g ¹ CT does not include *among you*. ^h ⁶ Genesis 15:6 ⁱ ⁸ See Genesis 12:3, Genesis 18:18, and Genesis 22:18. ^j ¹⁰ Deuteronomy 27:26 (see also LXX) ^k ¹¹ Habakkuk 2:4 ^l ¹² CT literal *He who* ^m ¹² Leviticus 18:5; see also Ezekiel 20:11, 13, and 21. ⁿ ¹³ Deuteronomy 21:23 (see also LXX) ^o ¹⁴ Literally *the blessing of Abraham* ^p ¹⁶ Genesis 12:7; Genesis 13:15

17What I mean is this: The law that came 430 years later does not revoke the covenant previously established by God in Christ,^a so as to nullify the promise. **18**For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on a promise; but God freely granted it to Abraham through a promise.

19Why then was the law given? It was added because of transgressions, until the arrival of the seed to whom the promise referred. It was administered through angels by a mediator. **20**A mediator is unnecessary, however, for only one party; but God is one.

21Is the law, then, opposed to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come from the law. **22**But the Scripture pronounces all things confined by sin, so that by faith in Jesus Christ the promise might be given to those who believe.

23Before this faith came, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. **24**So the law became our guardian to lead us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. **25**Now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.

Sons through Faith in Christ

26You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. **27**For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. **28**There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. **29**And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise.

Sons and Heirs

4 What I am saying is that as long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave, although he is the owner of everything. **2**He is subject to guardians and trustees until the date set by his father.

3So also, when we were children, we were enslaved under the basic principles^b of the world. **4**But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, **5**to redeem those under the law, that we might receive our adoption as sons. **6**And because you are

sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into your^c hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" **7**So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, you are also an heir of God through Christ.^d

Paul's Concern for the Galatians

8Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. **9**But now that you know God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you are turning back to those weak and worthless principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? **10**You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! **11**I fear for you, that my efforts for you may have been in vain. **12**I beg you, brothers, become like me, for I became like you. You have done me no wrong.

13You know that it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you. **14**And although my illness was a trial to me,^e you did not despise or reject me. Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus Himself. **15**What then has become of your blessing? For I can testify that, if it were possible, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me. **16**Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth?

17Those people are zealous for you, but not in a good way. Instead, they want to isolate you from us, so that you may be zealous for them. **18**Nevertheless, it is good to be zealous if it serves a noble purpose—at any time, and not only when I am with you.

19My little children,^f for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, **20**how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you.

Hagar and Sarah (Genesis 21:9–21)

21Tell me, you who want to be under the law, do you not understand what the law says? **22**For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman.^g **23**His son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, but his son by the free woman was born through the promise.

24These things serve as illustrations, for the women represent two^h covenants. One covenant

^a 17 CT does not include *in Christ*. ^b 3 Or *elemental forces*; similarly in verse 9 ^c 6 CT *our* ^d 7 CT *an heir through God*
^e 14 CT *to you* ^f 19 NA and SBL *My children* ^g 22 See Genesis 16:15 and Genesis 21:2–3. ^h 24 TR *the two*

is from Mount Sinai and bears children into slavery: This is Hagar. ²⁵For^a Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present-day Jerusalem, and^b she is in slavery with her children. ²⁶But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is the mother of us all.^c ²⁷For it is written:

“Rejoice, O barren woman,
who bears no children;
break forth and cry aloud,
you who have never travailed;
because more are the children of the
desolate woman
than of her who has a husband.”^d

²⁸Now we,^e brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. ²⁹At that time, however, the son born by the flesh persecuted the son born by the Spirit. It is the same now.

³⁰But what does the Scripture say? “Expel the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman’s son.”^f ³¹Therefore, brothers, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.

Freedom in Christ

5 In the freedom with which Christ has set us free,^g stand firm, then, and do not be encumbered once more by a yoke of slavery.

²Take notice: I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. ³Again I testify to every man who gets himself circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. ⁴You who are trying to be justified by the law have been severed from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.

⁵But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the hope of righteousness. ⁶For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. All that matters is faith expressing itself through love.

⁷You were running so well. Who has obstructed you from obeying the truth? ⁸Such persuasion does not come from the One who calls you. ⁹A little leaven works through the whole batch of dough. ¹⁰I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is troubling you will bear the judgment, whoever he may be.

¹¹Now, brothers, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. ¹²As for those who are agitating you, I wish they would proceed to emasculate themselves!

¹³For you, brothers, were called to freedom; but do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh. Rather, serve one another in love. ¹⁴The entire law is fulfilled in a single decree: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”^h ¹⁵But if you keep on biting and devouring one another, watch out, or you will be consumed by one another.

Walking by the Spirit

(Ezekiel 36:16–38; Romans 8:9–11)

¹⁶So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For the flesh craves what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are opposed to each other, so that you do not do what you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹The acts of the flesh are obvious: adultery,ⁱ sexual immorality, impurity, and debauchery; ²⁰idolatry and sorcery; hostilities,^j quarrels,^k jealousies,^l and rage; rivalries, divisions, factions, ²¹envy, and murders;^m drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

²⁴Those who belong to Christⁿ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵Since we live by the Spirit, let us walk in step with the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying one another.

Carry One Another’s Burdens

6 Brothers, if someone is caught in a trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him with a spirit of gentleness. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. ²Carry one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

^a 25 CT Now ^b 25 CT because ^c 26 CT and she is our mother ^d 27 Isaiah 54:1 ^e 28 NA, SBL, and TH you ^f 30 Genesis 21:10 ^g 1 CT It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. ^h 14 Leviticus 19:18 ⁱ 19 CT does not include adultery. ^j 20 Or hatred ^k 20 CT and F35 quarreling or discord ^l 20 CT jealousy ^m 21 NA, SBL, and WH do not include murders. ⁿ 24 NA, TH, and WH Christ Jesus

³If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

⁴Each one should test his own work. Then he will have reason to boast in himself alone, and not in someone else. ⁵For each one should carry his own load. ⁶Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word must share in all good things with his instructor.

⁷Do not be deceived: God is not to be mocked. Whatever a man sows, he will reap in return.

⁸The one who sows to please his flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; but the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

⁹Let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

¹⁰Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to the family of faith.

Final Warnings and Blessings

¹¹See what large letters I am using to write to you with my own hand!

¹²Those who want to make a good impression outwardly are trying to compel you to be circumcised. They only do this to avoid persecution for the cross of Christ.^a ¹³For the circumcised do not even keep the law themselves, yet they want you to be circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.

¹⁴But as for me, may I never boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which^b the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵For in Christ Jesus^c neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything. What counts is a new creation.

¹⁶Peace and mercy to all who walk by this rule, even to the Israel of God.

¹⁷From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.^d

¹⁸The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers.

Amen.

Ephesians

Paul's Greeting to the Ephesians

(Acts 19:8–12; Revelation 2:1–7)

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ^a by the will of God,

To the saints in Ephesus,^b the faithful in Christ Jesus:

²Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Spiritual Blessings (Romans 8:28–34)

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms. ⁴For He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless in His presence. In love ⁵He predestined us for adoption as His sons through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶to the praise of His glorious grace, by which He has bestowed favor upon us^c in the Beloved One.

⁷In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace ⁸that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. ⁹And He has made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to bring all things in heaven and on earth together in Christ.

¹¹In Him we were also chosen as God's own, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything by the counsel of His will, ¹²in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, would be for the praise of His glory.

¹³And in Him you also—having heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation—believed and were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the pledge of our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession, to the praise of His glory.

Spiritual Wisdom (1 Corinthians 2:6–16)

¹⁵For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in your knowledge of Him.

¹⁸I ask that the eyes of your heart^d may be enlightened, so that you may know the hope of His calling, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and the surpassing greatness of His power to us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of His mighty strength, ²⁰which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

²²And God put everything under His feet and made Him head over everything for the church, ²³which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Alive with Christ (Colossians 2:6–23)

2 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ²in which you used to walk when you conformed to the ways of this world and of the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit who is now at work in the sons of disobedience. ³All of us also lived among them at one time, fulfilling the cravings of our flesh and indulging its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature children of wrath.

⁴But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our trespasses. It is by grace you have been saved! ⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages He might display the surpassing

^a 1 NA, SBL, and WH *Christ Jesus* ^b 1 Some manuscripts do not include *in Ephesus*. ^c 6 CT *grace, which He has freely given us* ^d 18 TR *the eyes of your understanding*

riches of His grace, demonstrated by His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

⁸For it is by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not from yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance as our way of life.^a

One in Christ (Philippians 2:1–4)

¹¹Therefore remember that formerly you who are Gentiles in the flesh and called uncircumcised by the so-called circumcision (that done in the body by human hands)— ¹²remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

¹⁴For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has torn down the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing in His flesh the law of commandments and decrees. He did this to create in Himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace ¹⁶and reconciling both of them to God in one body through the cross, by which He put to death their hostility.

¹⁷He came and preached peace to you^b who were far away and^c to those who were near. ¹⁸For through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Christ Our Cornerstone (Isaiah 28:14–22; 1 Corinthians 3:10–15; 1 Peter 2:1–8)

¹⁹Therefore you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of God's household, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ^d Himself as the cornerstone. ²¹In Him the whole building is fitted together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²And in Him you too are being built together into a dwelling place for God in His Spirit.

The Mystery of the Gospel

3 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles...^e

²Surely you have heard about the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are fellow heirs, fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of His^f promise in Christ.^g

⁷I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace, given me through the working of His power. ⁸Though I am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given me: to preach among the Gentiles^h the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to illuminate for everyone the stewardshipⁱ of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things through Jesus Christ.^j ¹⁰His purpose was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹according to the eternal purpose that He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

¹²In Him and through faith in Him^k we may enter God's presence with boldness and confidence. ¹³So I ask you not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

Paul's Prayer for the Ephesians

¹⁴... for this reason I bow my knees before the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,^l ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶I ask that out of the riches of His glory He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. Then you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸will have power, together with all the saints, to comprehend the length and width and depth and height^m ¹⁹of the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, ²¹to Him be the

^a 10 Literally which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. ^b 17 F35 to us ^c 17 CT and peace

^d 20 CT Christ Jesus ^e 1 This train of thought is continued in verse 14. ^f 6 CT of the ^g 6 CT Christ Jesus ^h 8 CT to the Gentiles ⁱ 9 NE and WH and to illuminate the stewardship; TR and to illuminate for everyone the fellowship ^j 9 CT does not include through Jesus Christ. ^k 12 Or through His faithfulness ^l 14 CT does not include of our Lord Jesus Christ.

^m 18 CT and height and depth

glory in the church in^a Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Unity in the Body

(Psalm 133:1–3; 1 Corinthians 1:10–17)

4 As a prisoner in the Lord, then, I urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling you have received: ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³and with diligence to preserve the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in us all.^b

⁷Now to each one of us grace has been given according to the measure of the gift of Christ. ⁸This is why it says:^c

“When He ascended on high,
He led captives away,
and gave gifts to men.”^d

⁹What does “He ascended” mean, except that He also descended first^e to the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the very One who ascended above all the heavens, in order to fill all things.

¹¹And it was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for works of ministry and to build up the body of Christ, ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, as we mature to the full measure of the stature of Christ.

¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed about by the waves and carried around by every wind of teaching and by the clever cunning of men in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Christ Himself, who is the head. ¹⁶From Him the whole body, fitted and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love through the work of each individual part.

New Life in Christ (Colossians 3:1–17)

¹⁷So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the other^f

Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸They are darkened in their understanding and alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardness of their hearts. ¹⁹Having lost all sense of shame, they have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity, with a craving for more.

²⁰But this is not the way you came to know Christ. ²¹Surely you heard of Him and were taught in Him—in keeping with the truth that is in Jesus— ²²to put off your former way of life, your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³to be renewed in the spirit of your minds; ²⁴and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

²⁵Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one another. ²⁶“Be angry, yet do not sin.”^g Do not let the sun set upon your anger, ²⁷and do not give the devil a foothold.

²⁸He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing good with his hands,^h that he may have something to share with the one in need.

²⁹Let no unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building up the one in need and bringing grace to those who listen.

³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

³¹Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, outcry and slander, along with every form of malice. ³²Be kind and tenderhearted to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave us.ⁱ

Imitators of God

5 Be imitators of God, therefore, as beloved children, ²and walk in love, just as Christ loved us^j and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant sacrificial offering to God.

³But among you, as is proper among the saints, there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed. ⁴Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk, or crude joking, which are out of character, but rather

^a 21 CT and in ^b 6 CT in all; TR in you all ^c 8 Or He says ^d 8 Psalm 68:18 ^e 9 CT does not include first. ^f 17 CT does not include other. ^g 26 Or “In your anger do not sin.” Psalm 4:4 ^h 28 NA, SBL, and TH his own hands ⁱ 32 NA, F35, SBL, TR, and WH you ^j 2 NE and WH Christ loved you

thanksgiving. ⁵For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure, or greedy person (that is, an idolater) has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things the wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience. ⁷Therefore do not be partakers with them.

Children of Light

⁸For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, ⁹for the fruit of the Spirit^a consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth. ¹⁰Test and prove what pleases the Lord.

¹¹Have no fellowship with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³But everything exposed by the light becomes visible,^b for everything that is illuminated becomes a light itself. ¹⁴So it is said:

“Wake up, O sleeper,
rise up from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

¹⁵Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Therefore do not be foolish, but understand^c what the Lord’s will is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to reckless indiscretion. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

¹⁹Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord, ²⁰always giving thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Wives and Husbands

(Song of Solomon 1:1–17; 1 Peter 3:1–7)

²¹Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.^d

²²Wives, submit to your^e husbands as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, and He is the Savior of the body.^f ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her ²⁶to sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷and to present her to Himself as a glorious church, without stain or wrinkle or any such blemish, but holy and blameless.

²⁸In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹Indeed, no one ever hated his own body, but he nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord^g does the church. ³⁰For we are members of His body—of His flesh and of His bones.^h

³¹“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”ⁱ ³²This mystery is profound, but I am speaking about Christ and the church. ³³Nevertheless, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Children and Parents

(Colossians 3:18–21)

6 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²“Honor your father and mother” (which is the first commandment with a promise), ³“that it may go well with you and that you may have a long life on the earth.”^j

⁴Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath; instead, bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Serving with Honor

(Colossians 3:22–25; 1 Timothy 6:1–2)

⁵Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear and sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. ⁶And do this not only to please them while they are watching, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. ⁷Serve^k with good will, as to the Lord and not to men, ⁸because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.

⁹And masters, do the same for your slaves. Give up your use of threats, because you know that your Master^l is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with Him.

^a 9 CT the fruit of the light ^b 13 SBL begins verse 14 after visible, ^c 17 Literally but be understanding (of); CT but understand ^d 21 Or in the fear of Christ; ALT, HF, F35, and TR out of reverence for God ^e 22 TH Wives must submit to their ^f 23 CT the church, His body, of which He is the Savior ^g 29 CT just as Christ ^h 30 CT does not include —of His flesh and of His bones. ⁱ 31 Genesis 2:24 (see also LXX) ^j 3 Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16 ^k 7 F35 and Stephanus TR Do so ^l 9 CT He who is both their Master and yours

The Full Armor of God

¹⁰Finally, my brothers,^a be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God, so that you can make your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this world's darkness, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

¹³Therefore take up the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you will be able to stand your ground, and having done everything, to stand. ¹⁴Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness arrayed, ¹⁵and with your feet fitted with the readiness of the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times, with every kind of prayer and petition. To this end, stay alert with all perseverance in your prayers for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will boldly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it fearlessly, as I should.

Final Greetings

(*Philippians 4:21–23; 2 Timothy 4:19–22*)

²¹Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you everything, so that you also may know about me and what I am doing. ²²I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know about us, and that he may encourage your hearts.

²³Peace to the brothers and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁴Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love. Amen.^b

^a ¹⁰ CT does not include *my brothers*. ^b ²⁴ CT and Scrivener TR do not include *Amen*.

Philippians

Greetings from Paul and Timothy

(Colossians 1:1–2; Philemon 1:1–3)

1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Jesus Christ,^a
To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi,
together with the overseers and deacons:

²Grace and peace to you from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving and Prayer

(1 Corinthians 1:4–9; Colossians 1:3–14)

³I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴In every prayer for all of you, I always pray with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.^b

⁷It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart. For in my chains and in my defense and confirmation of the gospel, you are all partners in grace with me. ⁸God is my witness how I long for all of you with the affection of Jesus Christ.

⁹And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰so that you may be able to test and prove what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruits of righteousness that come^c through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Paul's Trials Advance the Gospel

(James 1:2–12)

¹²Now I want you to know, brothers, that my circumstances have actually served to advance the gospel. ¹³As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard^d and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, confident in the Lord by my chains, now dare more greatly to speak the word^e without fear.

¹⁵It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. ¹⁶The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can add to the distress of my chains.^f ¹⁷The latter do so in love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.

¹⁸What then is the issue?^g Just this: that in every way, whether by false motives or true, Christ is preached. And in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, ¹⁹because I know that through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, my distress will turn out for my deliverance. ²⁰I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have complete boldness so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

To Live Is Christ

²¹For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

²²But if I go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. So what shall I choose? I do not know. ²³I am torn between the two. I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.^h ²⁴But it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that through my coming to you again your exultation in Christ Jesus will resound on account of me.

Worthy of the Gospel

²⁷Nevertheless, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending side by sideⁱ for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is indeed a clear sign^j of their destruction but of your salvation, and it is from God. ²⁹For it has been granted to

^a 1 CT of Christ Jesus; similarly in verse 8 ^b 6 GOC, F35, TR, and WH Jesus Christ ^c 11 CT the fruit of righteousness that comes ^d 13 Or all the Praetorium ^e 14 NE and WH the word of God ^f 16 CT reverses the order of verses 16 and 17.
^g 18 Literally What then? ^h 23 CT far better indeed ⁱ 27 Or striving together with one mind ^j 28 CT This is a clear sign

you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for Him, ³⁰since you are encountering the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

One in Christ (*Ephesians 2:11–18*)

2 Therefore if you have any encouragement in Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being united in spirit and purpose.

³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or empty pride, but in humility consider others more important than yourselves. ⁴Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

The Mind of Christ (*Isaiah 52:13–15*)

⁵Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus:

- ⁶Who, existing in the form of God,
did not consider equality with God
something to be grasped,^a
- ⁷but emptied Himself,
taking the form of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
- ⁸And being found in appearance as a man,
He humbled Himself
and became obedient to death—
even death on a cross.
- ⁹Therefore God exalted Him to the highest
place
and gave Him the name above all names,
- ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should
bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the
earth,
- ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ
is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Lights in the World (*Matthew 5:13–16*)

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence, but now even more in my absence, continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling. ¹³For it is God who works in you to will and to act on behalf of His good purpose.

¹⁴Do everything without complaining or arguing, ¹⁵so that you may be blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and perverse generation,^b in which you shine as lights in the world ¹⁶as you hold forth the word of life, in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.

¹⁷But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. ¹⁸So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

Timothy and Epaphroditus

(*1 Corinthians 16:10–12*)

¹⁹Now I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I learn how you are doing. ²⁰I have nobody else like him who will genuinely care for your needs. ²¹For all the others look after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus.^c ²²But you know Timothy's proven worth, that as a child with his father he has served with me to advance the gospel. ²³So I hope to send him as soon as I see what happens with me. ²⁴And I trust in the Lord that I myself will come soon.

²⁵But I thought it necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger and minister to my needs. ²⁶For he has been longing for^d all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. ²⁷He was sick indeed, nearly unto death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow.

²⁸Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less anxious. ²⁹Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor men like him, ³⁰because he nearly died for the work of Christ,^e disregarding^f his life to make up for your deficit of service to me.

Righteousness through Faith in Christ

(*Romans 3:21–31*)

3 Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you.

^a 6 Or something to be exploited ^b 15 Deuteronomy 32:5 ^c 21 NA, SBL, and TH *Jesus Christ* ^d 26 WH *longing to see*
^e 30 WH of the Lord ^f 30 CT *risking*

²Watch out for those dogs, those workers of evil, those mutilators of the flesh! ³For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God,^a who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh— ⁴though I myself could have such confidence.

If anyone else thinks he has grounds for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin; a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, persecuting the church; as to righteousness in the law, faultless.

⁷But whatever was gain to me I count as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸More than that, I count all things as loss compared to the surpassing excellence of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ,^b the righteousness from God on the basis of faith.

¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to Him in His death, ¹¹and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Pressing on toward the Goal

¹²Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus^c took hold of me. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider myself yet^d to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize of God's heavenly calling in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵All of us who are mature should embrace this point of view. And if you think differently about some issue, God will reveal this to you as well. ¹⁶Nevertheless, we must live up to the standard we have already attained, being of the same mind.^e

Citizenship in Heaven

¹⁷Join one another in following my example, brothers, and carefully observe those who walk according to the pattern we set for you. ¹⁸For as I have often told you before, and now say again

even with tears: Many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and their glory is in their shame. Their minds are set on earthly things.

²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who, by the power that enables Him to subject all things to Himself, will transform our lowly bodies to be like His glorious body.

Rejoice in the Lord

4 Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you must stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.

²I urge Euodia and Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord. ³Yes, and^f I ask you, my true yokefellow,^g to help these women who have contended side by side with me for the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be apparent to all. The Lord is near.

⁶Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think on these things. ⁹Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me, put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

The Generosity of the Philippians (2 Corinthians 8:1–15)

¹⁰Now I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹I am not saying this out of need, for I have learned to be content regardless of my circumstances. ¹²I know how to live humbly, and I know how to abound. In any and every situation I have learned the secret of being filled and being hungry, of having plenty and having need. ¹³I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.^h

^a 3 TR God by the Spirit ^b 9 Or through the faithfulness of Christ ^c 12 SBL Christ ^d 13 Literally consider myself; GOC, ALT, F35, and WH consider myself yet ^e 16 CT Nevertheless, we must live up to what we have already attained. ^f 3 TR And also ^g 3 Or I ask you, loyal Syzygus ^h 13 NA, SBL, NE, and WH the One who gives me strength

14Nevertheless, you have done well to share in my affliction. **15**And as you Philippians know, in the early days of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church but you partnered with me in the matter of giving and receiving. **16**For even while I was in Thessalonica, you provided for my needs again and again.

17Not that I am seeking a gift, but I am looking for the fruit that may be credited to your account. **18**I have all I need and more, now that I have received your gifts from Epaphroditus. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.

19And my God will supply all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus. **20**To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Final Greetings

(Ephesians 6:21–24; 2 Timothy 4:19–22)

21Greet all the saints in Christ Jesus.

The brothers who are with me send you greetings.

22All the saints send you greetings, especially those from the household of Caesar.

23The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. ^a Amen. ^b

Colossians

Greetings from Paul and Timothy (*Philippians 1:1–2; Philemon 1:1–3*)

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ^a by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

2To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.^b

Thanksgiving and Prayer (*1 Corinthians 1:4–9; Philippians 1:3–11*)

3We always thank the God and Father^c of our Lord Jesus Christ when we pray for you, **4**because we have heard about your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all the saints— **5**the faith and love proceeding from the hope stored up for you in heaven, of which you have already heard in the word of truth, the gospel **6**that has come to you.

All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing,^d just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood the grace of God. **7**You also learned it^e from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your^f behalf, **8**and who also informed us of your love in the Spirit.

9For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, **10**so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, **11**being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have full endurance and patience, and joyfully **12**giving thanks to the Father,^g who has qualified us^h to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.

13He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of His

beloved Son, **14**in whom we have redemption,ⁱ the forgiveness of sins.

The Supremacy of the Son (*Hebrews 1:1–14*)

15The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. **16**For in Him all things were created, things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities. All things were created through Him and for Him.

17He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. **18**And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and firstborn from among the dead, so that in all things He may have preeminence. **19**For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, **20**and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through the blood of His cross.

21Once you were alienated from God and were hostile in your minds, engaging in evil deeds. **22**But now He has reconciled you^j by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy, unblemished, and blameless in His presence— **23**if^k you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope of the gospel you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature^l under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

Paul's Suffering for the Church (*2 Corinthians 11:16–33*)

24Now I rejoice in my sufferings for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions for the sake of His body, which is the church. **25**I became its servant by the commission God gave me to fully proclaim to you the word of God, **26**the mystery that was hidden for ages and generations but is now revealed to His saints. **27**To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

^a **1** CT of Christ Jesus ^b **2** CT does not include and the Lord Jesus Christ. ^c **3** CT We always thank God, the Father
^d **6** ALT and TR do not include and growing. ^e **7** CT You learned it ^f **7** SBL, TH, and WH our ^g **12** GOC our God and Father
^h **12** CT you ⁱ **14** TR, ALT, and F35 include through His blood. ^j **22** SBL you have been reconciled ^k **23** CT if indeed
^l **23** Or in all creation

28We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect^a in Christ Jesus.^b **29**To this end I also labor, striving with all His energy working powerfully within me.

Absent in Body, Present in Spirit (*Rev. 3:14-22*)

2 For I want you to know how much I am struggling for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me face to face, ²that they may be encouraged in heart, knit together in love, and filled with the full riches of complete understanding, so that they may know the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ,^c ³in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

⁴I say this so that no one will deceive you by smooth rhetoric. ⁵For although I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit, and I delight to see your orderly condition and firm faith in Christ.

Alive with Christ (*Ephesians 2:1-10*)

⁶Therefore, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in Him, ⁷rooted and built up in Him, established in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing in it^d with thankfulness.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, which are based on human tradition and the spiritual forces of the world rather than on Christ. ⁹For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity dwells in bodily form. ¹⁰And you have been made complete in Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.

¹¹In Him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of your sinful nature, with the circumcision performed by Christ^e and not by human hands. ¹²And having been buried with Him in baptism, you were raised with Him through your faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead.

¹³When you were dead in your trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴having canceled the debt ascribed to us in the decrees that stood against us. He took it away, nailing it to the cross! ¹⁵And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

¹⁶Therefore let no one judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a feast, a New Moon, or a Sabbath. ¹⁷These are a shadow of the things to come, but the body that casts it belongs to Christ.^f ¹⁸Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you with speculation about what he has not seen.^g Such a person is puffed up without basis by his unspiritual mind. ¹⁹He has lost connection to the head, from whom the whole body, supported and knit together by its joints and ligaments, grows as God causes it to grow.

²⁰If^h you have died with Christ to the spiritual forces of the world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its regulations: ²¹"Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!"? ²²These will all perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. ²³Such restrictions indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-prescribed worship, their false humility, and their harsh treatment of the body; but they are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

Put On the New Self (*Ephesians 4:17-32*)

3 Therefore, since you have been raised with Christ, strive for the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is ourⁱ life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

⁵Put to death, therefore, the components of your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶Because of these, the wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience.^j ⁷When you lived among them, you also used to walk in these ways. ⁸But now you must put aside all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

⁹Do not lie to one another, since you have taken off the old self with its practices, ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, or free, but Christ is all and is in all.

^a 28 Or *fully mature* ^b 28 CT and F35 *in Christ* ^c 2 NA, SBL, and WH *the mystery of God, namely Christ*, ^d 7 NA, SBL, and TH do not include *in it*. ^e 11 Literally *in the cutting away of the body of sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ* ^f 17 Literally *but the body is of the Christ* ^g 18 NA, SBL, WH, and TH *what he has seen* ^h 20 GOC, F35, and TR *If then* ⁱ 4 NA, SBL, and TH *your* ^j 6 NE, WH, and Tischendorf do not include *on the sons of disobedience*.

12Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with hearts of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. 13Bear with one another and forgive any complaint you may have against someone else. Forgive as Christ^a forgave you. 14And over all these virtues put on love, which is the bond of perfect unity. 15Let the peace of God^b rule in your hearts, for to this you were called as members of one body. And be thankful.

16Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to the Lord.^c 17And whatever you do, in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father^d through Him.

Christian Households (*Ephesians 6:1–4*)

18Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

19Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

20Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord.^e

21Fathers, do not provoke your children, so they will not become discouraged.

Serving with Honor (*Eph. 6:5–9; 1 Tim. 6:1–2*)

22Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything, not only to please them while they are watching, but with sincerity of heart and fear of God.^f

23And^g whatever you do, work at it with your whole being, as for the Lord and not for men, 24because you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as your reward. For^h it is the Lord Christ you are serving. 25Butⁱ whoever does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism.

Prayerful Speech and Actions

4 Masters, supply your slaves with what is right and fair, since you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

2Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful, 3as you pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, so that we

may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. 4Pray that I may declare it clearly, as I should.

5Act wisely toward outsiders, redeeming the time. 6Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Greetings from Paul's Fellow Workers

(*Romans 16:21–23*)

7Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a beloved brother, a faithful minister, and a fellow servant in the Lord. 8I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that he may know about you,^j and that he may encourage your hearts. 9With him I am sending Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you about everything here.

10My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you greetings, as does Mark the cousin of Barnabas. You have already received instructions about him: If he comes to you, welcome him. 11Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me.

12Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ,^k sends you greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, so that you may stand mature and complete^l in the full will of God. 13For I testify about him that he has great zeal^m for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis.

14Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas send you greetings.

Signature and Final Instructions

(*1 Cor. 16:19–24; 2 Thessalonians 3:16–18*)

15Greet the brothers in Laodicea, as well as Nymphas and the church that meets at his house.ⁿ

16After this letter has been read among you, make sure that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea.

17Tell Archippus: “See to it that you complete the ministry you have received in the Lord.”

18This greeting is in my own hand—Paul.

Remember my chains.

Grace be with you. Amen.^o

^a 13 CT the Lord ^b 15 CT of Christ ^c 16 CT to God ^d 17 Literally to the God and Father ^e 17 Literally in the Lord ^f 22 CT of the Lord ^g 23 CT does not include And. ^h 24 CT does not include For. ⁱ 25 CT literal For ^j 8 CT you may know about us ^k 12 CT of Christ Jesus ^l 12 CT mature and fully assured ^m 13 CT he goes to great pains ⁿ 15 NA, SBL, and WH *Nympha and the church that meets in her house* ^o 18 CT does not include Amen.

1 Thessalonians

Greetings to the Thessalonians

(2 Thessalonians 1:1–4)

1 Paul, Silvanus,^a and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.^b

2We always thank God for all of you, remembering you in our prayers **3**and continually recalling before our God and Father your work of faith, your labor of love, and your enduring hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

4Brothers who are beloved by God, we know that He has chosen you, **5**because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power, in the Holy Spirit, and with great conviction—just as you know we lived among you for your sake. **6**And you became imitators of us and of the Lord when you welcomed the message with the joy of the Holy Spirit, in spite of your great suffering.

7As a result, you have become examples^c to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. **8**For not only did the message of the Lord ring out from you to Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone out to every place, so that we have no need to say anything more. **9**For they themselves report what kind of welcome you gave us, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God **10**and to await His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead—Jesus our deliverer from the coming wrath.

Paul's Ministry

2 You yourselves know, brothers, that our visit to you was not in vain. **2**As you are aware, we had already endured suffering and shameful treatment in Philippi. But in the face of strong opposition, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God.

3For our appeal does not arise from deceit or ulterior motives or trickery. **4**Instead, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, not in order to please men but God, who examines our hearts. **5**As you know, we never used words of flattery or any pretext for greed. God is our witness! **6**Nor did we seek praise from you or from anyone else, although as apostles of Christ we had authority to demand it.^d

7On the contrary, we were gentle among you,^e like a nursing mother caring for her children. **8**We cared so deeply that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God, but our own lives as well. That is how beloved you have become to us.

9Surely you recall, brothers, our labor and toil. We worked night and day so that we would not be a burden to anyone while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. **10**You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous, and blameless our conduct was among you who believed. **11**For you know that we treated each of you as a father treats his own children— **12**encouraging you, comforting you, and urging you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

13And we continually thank God because, when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as the true word of God—the word which is now at work in you who believe.

14For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Judea that are in Christ Jesus. You suffered from your own countrymen the very things they suffered from the Jews, **15**who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets,^f and drove us out as well. They are displeasing to God and hostile to all men, **16**hindering us from telling the Gentiles how they may be saved. As a result, they continue to heap up their sins to full capacity; the utmost wrath has come upon them.^g

^a 1 That is, Silas ^b 1 CT does not include *from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ*. ^c 7 CT *an example* ^d 6 Or *although as apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you*; SBL, NE, and WH include this phrase with verse 7. ^e 7 WH and NA *we were like young children among you* ^f 15 CT *literal the prophets* ^g 16 Or *at last the wrath of God has come upon them*.

Paul's Longing to Visit

¹⁷Brothers, although we were torn away from you for a short time (in person, not in heart), our desire to see you face to face was even more intense. ¹⁸Therefore^a we wanted to come to you—indeed I, Paul, tried again and again—but Satan obstructed us. ¹⁹After all, who is our hope, our joy, our crown of boasting, if it is not you yourselves in the presence of our Lord Jesus^b at His coming? ²⁰You are indeed our glory and our joy.

Timothy's Visit

3 So when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left on our own in Athens. ²We sent Timothy, our brother and minister for God, and our fellow worker^c in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, ³so that none of you would be shaken by these trials. For you know that we are destined for this. ⁴Indeed, when we were with you, we kept warning you that we would suffer persecution; and as you know, it has come to pass. ⁵For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter had somehow tempted you and caused our labor to be in vain.

Timothy's Encouraging Report

⁶But just now, Timothy has returned from his visit with the good news about your faith, your love, and the fond memories you have preserved, longing to see us just as we long to see you. ⁷For this reason, brothers, in all our persecution and distress,^d we have been reassured about you, because of your faith. ⁸For now we can go on living, as long as you are standing firm in the Lord.

⁹How can we adequately thank God for you in return for our great joy over you in His presence? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking from your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ,^e direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord cause you to increase and overflow with love for one another and for everyone else, just as our love for you overflows, ¹³so that He may establish your hearts in blamelessness and

holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.^f

Living to Please God

4 Finally, brothers, we ask and encourage you in the Lord Jesus to live in a way that is pleasing to God, just as you have received from us.^g So you should do so all the more. ²For you know the instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

³For it is God's will that you should be holy: You must abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴each of you must know how to control his own body^h in holiness and honor, ⁵not in lustful passion like the Gentiles who do not know God; ⁶and no one should ever violate or exploit his brother in this regard,ⁱ because the Lord will avenge all such acts, as we have already told you and solemnly warned you. ⁷For God has not called us to impurity, but to holiness. ⁸Anyone, then, who rejects this command does not reject man but God, the very One who has given^j you His Holy Spirit.

⁹Now about brotherly love, you do not need anyone to write to you, because you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another. ¹⁰And you are indeed showing this love to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to excel more and more ¹¹and to aspire to live quietly, to attend to your own matters, and to work with your own hands,^k as we instructed you. ¹²Then you will behave properly toward outsiders, without being dependent on anyone.

The Return of the Lord

¹³Brothers, we do not want^l you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death,^m so that you will not grieve like the rest, who are without hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, we also believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him.

¹⁵By the word of the Lord, we declare to you that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will be the first to

^a 18 CT For ^b 19 GOC and TR our Lord Jesus Christ ^c 2 Most CT Timothy, our brother and fellow worker for God ^d 7 CT distress and persecution ^e 11 CT our Lord Jesus; also in verse 13 ^f 13 NA includes Amen. ^g 1 CT includes This is how you already live. ^h 4 Literally know how to possess his own vessel ⁱ 6 Or no one should ever harm or cheat his brother in this matter ^j 8 NA, SBL, and WH who gives ^k 11 SBL, TH, and WH your hands ^l 13 TR I do not want ^m 13 Literally those who have fallen asleep, as in verses 14 and 15

rise. ¹⁷After that, we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord.

¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Day of the Lord

(*Zephaniah 1:7–18; Malachi 4:1–6;*
2 Peter 3:8–13)

5 Now about the times and seasons, brothers, we do not need to write to you. ²For you are fully aware that the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³For^a while people are saying, “Peace and security,” destruction will come upon them suddenly, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

⁴But you, brothers, are not in the darkness so that this day should overtake you like a thief.^b

⁵You^c are all sons of the light and sons of the day; we do not belong to the night or to the darkness.

⁶So then, let us not sleep as the others do, but let us remain awake and sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night; and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. ⁸But since we^d belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and the helmet of our hope of salvation.

⁹For God has not appointed us to suffer wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him. ¹¹Therefore encourage and build one another up, just as you are already doing.

Christian Living

¹²But we ask you, brothers, to acknowledge those who work diligently among you, who preside over you in the Lord and give you instruction. ¹³In love, hold them in highest regard because of their work. Live in peace with one another.

¹⁴And we urge you, brothers, to admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, and be patient with everyone.

¹⁵Make sure that no one repays evil for evil. Always pursue what is good for one another and for all people.

¹⁶Rejoice at all times. ¹⁷Pray without ceasing. ¹⁸Give thanks in every circumstance, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

¹⁹Do not extinguish the Spirit. ²⁰Do not treat prophecies with contempt, ²¹but test all things. Hold fast to what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil.

Final Blessings and Instructions

²³Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your entire spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless^e at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The One who calls you is faithful, and He will do it.

²⁵Brothers, pray for us.^f

²⁶Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss.

²⁷I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the holy^g brothers.

²⁸The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.^h

^a 3 CT does not include *For*. ^b 4 WH like *thieves* ^c 5 CT *For you* ^d 8 GOC *you* ^e 23 Or *may your spirit, soul, and body be kept entirely blameless* ^f 25 CT includes *as well*. ^g 27 CT does not include *holy*. ^h 28 CT does not include *Amen*.

2 Thessalonians

Greetings to the Thessalonians

(1 Thessalonians 1:1–10)

1 Paul, Silvanus,^a and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

²Grace and peace to you from God our Father^b and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³We are obligated to thank God for you all the time, brothers, as is fitting, because your faith is growing more and more, and your love for one another is increasing. ⁴That is why we boast among God's churches about your perseverance and faith in the face of all the persecution and affliction you are enduring.

Christ's Coming

⁵All this is clear evidence of God's righteous judgment. And so you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering.

⁶After all, it is only right for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, ⁷and to grant relief to you who are oppressed and to us as well. This will take place when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels ⁸in blazing fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.^c ⁹They will suffer the penalty of eternal destruction, separated from the presence of the Lord and the glory of His might, ¹⁰on the day He comes to be glorified in His saints and regarded with wonder by all who have believed, including you who have believed our testimony.

¹¹To this end, we always pray for you, that our God will count you worthy of His calling, and that He will powerfully fulfill your every good desire and work of faith, ¹²so that the name of our Lord Jesus^d will be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.^e

The Man of Sin

2 Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to Him, we ask you, brothers, ²not to be easily disconcerted or alarmed by any spirit or message or letter seeming to be from us, alleging that the Day of Christ^f has already come. ³Let no one deceive you in any way, for it will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of sin^g—the son of destruction—is revealed. ⁴He will oppose and exalt himself above every so-called god or object of worship. So he will seat himself as God^h in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

⁵Do you not remember that I told you these things while I was still with you? ⁶And you know what is now restraining him, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. ⁷For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work, but the one who now restrains it will continue until he is taken out of the way. ⁸And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consumeⁱ with the breath of His mouth and annihilate by the majesty of His arrival.

⁹The coming of the lawless one will be accompanied by the working of Satan, with every kind of power, sign, and false wonder, ¹⁰and with every wicked deception directed against those who are perishing, because they refused the love of the truth that would have saved them. ¹¹For this reason God will send them a powerful delusion so that they believe the lie, ¹²in order that judgment may come upon all who have disbelieved the truth and delighted in wickedness.

Stand Firm

¹³But we should always thank God for you, brothers who are loved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning/^j to be saved by the sanctification of the Spirit and by faith in the truth. ¹⁴To this He called you through our

^a 1 That is, Silas ^b 2 SBL, NE, and WH *God the Father* ^c 8 GOC, ALT, HF, F35, and TR *our Lord Jesus Christ* ^d 12 GOC, ALT, F35, and TR *the name of our Lord Jesus Christ* ^e 12 Or *the grace of our God and Lord, Jesus Christ*. ^f 2 CT *Day of the Lord* ^g 3 CT *the man of lawlessness* ^h 4 CT does not include *as God*. ⁱ 8 CT *the Lord Jesus will slay* ^j 13 NA and SBL *God has chosen you as the firstfruits*

gospel, so that you may share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵Therefore, brothers, stand firm and cling to the traditions we taught you, whether by speech or by letter.

¹⁶Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and our God and Father,^a who by grace has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope, ¹⁷encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good word and deed.

Request for Prayer

3 Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may spread quickly and be held in honor, just as it was with you. ²And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men; for not everyone holds to the faith. ³But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one.^b ⁴And we have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do what we command you.^c ⁵May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.

A Warning against Idleness

⁶Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from any brother who leads an undisciplined life that is not in keeping with the tradition you received^d from us. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not undisciplined among you, ⁸nor did we eat

anyone's food without paying for it. Instead, in labor and toil, we worked night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you. ⁹Not that we lack this right, but we wanted to offer ourselves as an example for you to imitate. ¹⁰For even while we were with you, we gave you this command: "If anyone is unwilling to work, he shall not eat."

¹¹Yet we hear that some of you are leading undisciplined lives and accomplishing nothing but being busybodies. ¹²We command and urge such people by our Lord Jesus Christ to begin working quietly to earn their own living. ¹³But as for you, brothers, do not grow weary in well-doing.

¹⁴Take note of anyone who does not obey the instructions we have given in this letter. Do not associate with him, so that he may be ashamed. ¹⁵Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

Signature and Final Greetings

(1 Corinthians 16:19–24; Colossians 4:15–18)

¹⁶Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.

¹⁷This greeting is in my own hand—Paul. This is my mark in every letter; it is the way I write.

¹⁸The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all of you. Amen.^e

^a ¹⁶ CT and God our Father ^b ³ Or from evil ^c ⁴ CT what we command ^d ⁶ Or they received ^e ¹⁸ CT does not include Amen.

1 Timothy

Paul's Greeting to Timothy (2 Timothy 1:1–2)

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ ^a by the command of God our Savior and of the Lord Jesus Christ ^b our hope,

²To Timothy, my true child in the faith:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father ^c and Christ Jesus ^d our Lord.

Correcting False Teachers (Titus 1:10–16)

³As I urged you on my departure to Macedonia, you should stay on at Ephesus to instruct certain men not to teach false doctrines ⁴or devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculation rather than the stewardship of God's work, which is by faith. ^e

⁵The goal of our instruction is the love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and a sincere faith. ⁶Some have strayed from these ways and turned aside to empty talk. ⁷They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not understand what they are saying or that which they so confidently assert.

⁸Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it legitimately. ⁹We realize that law is not enacted for the righteous, but for the lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinful, for the unholy and profane, for killers of father or mother, for murderers, ¹⁰for the sexually immoral, for homosexuals, for slave traders ^f and liars and perjurers, and for anyone else who is averse to sound teaching ¹¹that agrees with the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted.

God's Grace to Paul

¹²And ^gI thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, that He considered me faithful and appointed me to service. ¹³I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a violent man; yet because I had acted in ignorance and unbelief, I

was shown mercy. ¹⁴And the grace of our Lord overflowed to me, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵This is a trustworthy saying, worthy of full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the worst. ¹⁶But for this very reason I was shown mercy, so that in me, the worst of sinners, Jesus Christ ^h might display all His patience ⁱ as an example to those who would believe in Him for eternal life. ¹⁷Now to the King eternal, immortal, and invisible, the only wise God, ^j be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

¹⁸Timothy, my child, I entrust you with this command in keeping with the previous prophecies about you, so that by them you may fight the good fight, ¹⁹holding on to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and thereby shipwrecked their faith. ²⁰Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.

A Call to Prayer

2 First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be offered for everyone— ²for kings and all those in authority—so that we may lead tranquil and quiet lives in all godliness and dignity. ³For ^kthis is good and pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

⁵For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave Himself as a ransom for all—the testimony that was given at just the right time.

⁷For this reason I was appointed as a preacher, an apostle, and a faithful and true teacher of the Gentiles. I am telling the truth in Christ; ^lI am not lying about anything. ⁸Therefore I want the men everywhere ^m to pray, lifting up holy hands, without anger or dissension.

^a 1 CT of Christ Jesus ^b 1 CT and of Christ Jesus ^c 2 CT God the Father ^d 2 Scrivener TR Jesus Christ ^e 4 Literally rather than the stewardship of God in faith ^f 10 Or for kidnappers ^g 12 CT does not include And. ^h 16 NA, SBL, and WH Christ Jesus ⁱ 16 CT might display His perfect patience ^j 17 CT the only God ^k 3 CT does not include For. ^l 7 CT does not include in Christ. ^m 8 Or in every place (of worship)

Instructions to Women

⁹Likewise, I want the women to adorn themselves with respectable apparel, with modesty, and with self-control, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, ¹⁰but with good deeds, as is proper for women who profess to worship God.

¹¹A woman^a must learn in quietness and full submissiveness. ¹²I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man;^b she is to remain quiet. ¹³For Adam was formed first, and then Eve. ¹⁴And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman who was deceived and fell into transgression. ¹⁵Women, however, will be saved^c through childbearing, if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.

Qualifications for Overseers

(Titus 1:5–9; 1 Peter 5:1–4)

3 This is a trustworthy saying: If anyone aspires to be an overseer, he desires a noble task. ²An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife,^d temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³not dependent on wine, not violent, not greedy for money,^e but gentle, peaceable, and free of the love of money.

⁴An overseer must manage his own household well and keep his children under control, with complete dignity. ⁵For if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how can he care for the church of God? ⁶He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same condemnation as the devil. ⁷Furthermore, he must have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the snare of the devil.

Qualifications for Deacons (Acts 6:1–7)

⁸Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued or given to much wine or greedy for money. ⁹They must hold to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰Additionally, they must first be tested. Then, if they are above reproach, let them serve as deacons.

¹¹In the same way, the women^f must be dignified, not slanderers, but temperate and faithful in all things.

¹²A deacon must be the husband of but one wife, a good manager of his children and of his own household. ¹³For those who have served well as deacons acquire for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

The Mystery of Godliness

¹⁴Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these things ¹⁵in case I am delayed, so that you will know how each one must conduct himself in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

¹⁶By common confession, the mystery of godliness is great:

God appeared^g in the flesh,
was vindicated by the Spirit,^h
was seen by angels,
was proclaimed among the nations,
was believed in throughout the world,
was taken up in glory.

A Warning against Apostasy

4 Now the Spirit expressly states that in later times some will abandon the faith to follow deceitful spirits and the teachings of demons, ²influenced by the hypocrisy of liars, whose consciences are seared with a hot iron.

³They will prohibit marriage and require abstinence from certain foods that God has created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. ⁴For every creation of God is good, and nothing that is received with thanksgiving should be rejected, ⁵because it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

A Good Servant of Jesus Christ

⁶By pointing out these things to the brothers, you will be a good servant of Jesus Christ,ⁱ nourished by the words of faith and sound instruction that you have followed.

⁷But reject irreverent, silly myths. Instead, train yourself for godliness. ⁸For physical exercise is of limited value, but godliness is valuable in every way, holding promise^j for the present life and for the one to come. ⁹This is a trustworthy saying, worthy of full acceptance.

^a 11 Or wife; also in verse 12 ^b 12 Or over her husband ^c 15 Literally She, however, will be saved ^d 2 Or faithful to his wife; also in verse 12 ^e 3 CT does not include not greedy for money. ^f 11 Or their wives ^g 16 CT He appeared ^h 16 Or vindicated in spirit ⁱ 6 CT of Christ Jesus ^j 8 GOC and F35 promises

¹⁰To this end we both labor and suffer reproach,^a because we have set our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of everyone, and especially of those who believe. ¹¹Command and teach these things.

¹²Let no one despise your youth, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in spirit,^b in faith, in purity. ¹³Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, and to teaching.

¹⁴Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given you through the prophecy spoken over you at the laying on of the hands of the elders. ¹⁵Be diligent in these matters and absorbed in them, so that your progress will be evident to all. ¹⁶Pay close attention to your life and to your teaching. Persevere in these things, for by so doing you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

Reproof and Respect

5 Do not rebuke an older man, but appeal to him as to a father.

Treat younger men as brothers, ²older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.

Honoring True Widows (*Ruth 1:1–5*)

³Honor the widows who are truly widows. ⁴But if a widow has children or grandchildren, they must first learn to show godliness to their own family and repay their parents, for this is pleasing^c in the sight of God.

⁵The widow who is truly in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day in her petitions and prayers. ⁶But she who lives for pleasure is dead even while she is still alive.

⁷Give these instructions to the believers, so that they will be above reproach. ⁸If anyone does not provide for his own, and especially his own household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

⁹A widow should be enrolled if she is at least sixty years old, faithful to her husband, ¹⁰and well known for good deeds such as bringing up children, entertaining strangers, washing the feet of the saints, imparting relief to the afflicted, and devoting herself to every good work.

¹¹But refuse to enroll younger widows. For when their passions draw them away from Christ, they will want to marry, ¹²and thus will incur judgment because they are setting aside their first faith. ¹³At the same time they will also learn to be idle, going from house to house and being not only idle, but also gossips and busybodies, discussing things they should not mention.

¹⁴So I advise the younger widows to marry, have children, and manage their households, denying the adversary occasion for slander. ¹⁵For some have already turned aside to follow Satan.

¹⁶If any believing man or believing woman has dependent widows, they must assist^d them and not allow the church to be burdened, so that it can help the widows who are truly in need.

Honoring Elders

¹⁷Elders who lead effectively are worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. ¹⁸For the Scripture says, “Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain,”^e and, “The worker is worthy of his wages.”^f

¹⁹Do not entertain an accusation against an elder, except on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁰Those who^g persist in sin should be rebuked in front of everyone, so that the others will stand in fear of sin.

A Charge to Timothy

²¹I solemnly charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ^h and the elect angels to maintain these principles without bias, and to do nothing out of partiality.

²²Do not be too quick in the laying on of hands and thereby share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.

²³Stop drinking only water and use a little wine instead, because of your stomach and your frequent ailments.

²⁴The sins of some men are obvious, going ahead of them to judgment; but the sins of others do not surface until later. ²⁵In the same way, good deeds are obvious, and even the ones that are inconspicuous cannot remain hidden.

^a 10 SBL, MT, and TR; NA, TH, and WH *we labor and strive* ^b 12 CT does not include *in spirit*. ^c 4 GOC and TR *good and pleasing* ^d 16 CT *If any believing woman has dependent widows, she must assist* ^e 18 Deuteronomy 25:4 ^f 18 Luke 10:7; see also Leviticus 19:13 and Deuteronomy 24:14–15. ^g 20 CT *But those who* ^h 21 CT *and Christ Jesus*

Serving with Honor

(Ephesians 6:5–9; Colossians 3:22–25)

6 All who are under the yoke of slavery should regard their masters as fully worthy of honor, so that God's name and our teaching will not be discredited. **2** Those who have believing masters should not show disrespect because they are brothers, but should serve them all the more, since those receiving their good service are beloved believers. Teach and encourage these principles.

Reject False Doctrines

3 If anyone teaches another doctrine and disagrees with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and with godly teaching, **4** he is conceited and understands nothing. Instead, he has an unhealthy interest in controversies and disputes about words, out of which come envy, strife, abusive talk, evil suspicions, **5** and constant friction between men of depraved mind who are devoid of the truth. These men regard godliness as a means of gain. Withdraw yourself from such.^a

Godliness with Contentment

6 Of course, godliness with contentment is great gain. **7** For we brought nothing into the world, so certainly^b we cannot carry anything out of it. **8** But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these.

9 Those who want to be rich, however, fall into temptation and become ensnared by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. **10** For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. By craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

Fight the Good Fight

11 But you, O man of God, flee from these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. **12** Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made the good confession before many witnesses.

13 I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who made the good confession in His testimony before Pontius Pilate: **14** Keep this commandment without stain or reproach until the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ, **15** which the blessed and only Sovereign One—the King of kings and Lord of lords—will bring about in His own time. **16** He alone is immortal and dwells in unapproachable light. No one has ever seen Him, nor can anyone see Him. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.

A Charge to the Rich (Prov. 23:1-5; James 5:1-6)

17 Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be conceited and not to put their hope in the uncertainty of wealth, but in the living God,^c who richly provides all things for us to enjoy. **18** Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, and to be generous and ready to share, **19** treasuring up for themselves a firm foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of eternal life.^d

Guard the Faith

20 O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you. Avoid irreverent, empty chatter and the opposing arguments of so-called “knowledge,” **21** which some have professed and thus swerved away from the faith.

Grace be with you all. Amen.^e

^a 5 CT does not include *Withdraw yourself from such.* ^b 7 CT does not include *certainly.* ^c 17 CT *but in God* ^d 19 CT of *that which is truly life* ^e 21 CT does not include *Amen.*

2 Timothy

Paul's Greeting to Timothy

(1 Timothy 1:1–2)

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ^a by the will of God, according to the promise of life in Christ Jesus,

²To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Faithfulness under Persecution

(Matthew 10:16–25)

³I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience as did my forefathers, as I constantly remember you night and day in my prayers. ⁴Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy.

⁵I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am convinced is in you as well.

⁶For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷For God has not given us a spirit of fear,^b but of power, love, and self-control.

⁸So do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, or of me, His prisoner. Instead, join me in suffering for the gospel by the power of God. ⁹He has saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works, but by His own purpose and by the grace He granted us in Christ Jesus before time began.^c ¹⁰And now He has revealed this grace through the appearing of our Savior, Jesus Christ,^d who has abolished death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the gospel, ¹¹to which I was appointed as a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.^e

¹²For this reason, even though I suffer as I do, I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him^f for that day.

Holding to Sound Teaching

¹³Hold on to the pattern of sound teaching^g you have heard from me, with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴Guard the treasure entrusted to you,^h with the help of the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.

¹⁵You know that everyone in the province of Asiaⁱ has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes.

¹⁶May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he has often refreshed me and was unashamed of my chains. ¹⁷Indeed, when he arrived in Rome, he searched very diligently^j until he found me.

¹⁸May the Lord grant Onesiphorus His mercy on that day. You know very well how much he ministered to me in Ephesus.

Grace and Perseverance (Hebrews 12:1–3)

2 You therefore, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ²And the things that you have heard me say among many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be qualified to teach others as well.

³Endure hardship, therefore,^k like a good soldier of Jesus Christ.^l ⁴A soldier refrains from entangling himself in civilian affairs, in order to please the one who enlisted him. ⁵Likewise, a competitor does not receive the crown unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶The hardworking farmer should be the first to partake of the crops. ⁷Consider what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all things.

⁸Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David, as proclaimed by my gospel, ⁹for which I suffer to the extent of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God cannot be chained! ¹⁰For this reason I endure all things for the sake of the elect, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

^a 1 GOC, CT, and HF of Christ Jesus ^b 7 Or timidity or cowardice ^c 9 Literally before times eternal ^d 10 NA and WH Christ Jesus ^e 11 CT does not include of the Gentiles. ^f 12 Or what He has entrusted to me ^g 13 Literally sound words
^h 14 Or the good deposit entrusted to you ⁱ 15 Literally in Asia; Asia was a Roman province in what is now western Turkey.
^j 17 CT he searched diligently ^k 3 CT Join me in suffering ^l 3 CT of Christ Jesus

11 This is a trustworthy saying:

If we died with Him,
we will also live with Him;

12 if we endure,
we will also reign with Him;

if we deny Him,
He will also deny us;

13 if we are faithless,
He remains faithful;
He cannot^a deny Himself.

The Lord's Approved Workman

14 Remind the believers of these things, charging them before the Lord^b to avoid quarreling over words, which succeeds only in leading the listeners to ruin.

15 Make every effort to present yourself approved to God, an unashamed workman who accurately handles the word of truth.

16 But avoid irreverent, empty chatter, which will only lead to more ungodliness, 17 and the talk of such men will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 who have deviated from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already occurred, and they undermine the faith of some.

19 Nevertheless, God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His,"^c and, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord^d must turn away from iniquity."

20 A large house contains not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay. Some indeed are for honorable use, but others are for common use. 21 So if anyone cleanses himself of what is unfit,^e he will be a vessel for honor: sanctified, useful to the Master, and prepared for every good work.

22 Flee from youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, together with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

23 But reject foolish and ignorant speculation, for you know that it breeds quarreling. 24 And a servant of the Lord must not be quarrelsome, but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, and forbearing. 25 He must gently reprove those who oppose him, in the hope that God may grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth. 26 Then they will come to their senses and escape

the snare of the devil, who has taken them captive to his will.

Evil in the Last Days

3 But understand this: In the last days terrible times will come. 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, without love of good, 4 traitorous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Turn away from such as these!

6 They are the kind who worm their way^f into households and captivate vulnerable women who are weighed down with sins and led astray by various passions, 7 who are always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.

8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses,^g so also these men oppose the truth. They are depraved in mind and disqualified from the faith. 9 But they will not advance much further. For just like Jannes and Jambres, their folly will be plain to everyone.

All Scripture Is God-Breathed (Hebrews 4:12–16)

10 You, however, have observed my teaching, my conduct, my purpose, my faith, my patience, my love, my perseverance, 11 my persecutions, and the sufferings that came upon me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. 12 Indeed, all who desire to live godly lives in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 13 while evil men and imposters go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

14 But as for you, continue in the things you have learned and firmly believed, since you know from whom you have learned them. 15 From infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for instruction, for conviction, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work.

^a 13 NA, TH, and WH for *He cannot* ^b 14 SBL, MT, and TR; NA and WH before *God* ^c 19 Numbers 16:5 (see also LXX)
^d 19 TR of *Christ* ^e 21 Literally *cleanses himself of these* ^f 6 F35 *who press* ^g 8 See Jasher 79:27. *The Book of Jasher* or *the Book of the Upright One* is often cited as *Jasher*.

Preach the Word

4 I charge you, therefore, in the presence of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,^a who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of His appearing and His kingdom: **2**Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and encourage with every form of patient instruction.

3For the time will come when men will not tolerate sound doctrine, but with itching ears they will gather around themselves teachers to suit their own desires. **4**So they will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

5But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

6For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.

7I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. **8**From now on there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but to all who crave His appearing.

Personal Concerns

9Make every effort to come to me quickly, **10**because Demas, in his love of this world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. **11**Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is useful to me in the ministry. **12**Tychicus, however, I have sent to Ephesus.

13When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.

14Alexander the coppersmith did great harm to me. May the Lord repay^b him according to his deeds. **15**You too should beware of him, for he has vigorously opposed our message.

The Lord Remains Faithful

16At my first defense, no one stood with me, but everyone deserted me. May it not be charged against them. **17**But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message would be fully proclaimed, and all the Gentiles would hear it. So I was delivered from the mouth of the lion. **18**And the Lord will rescue me from every evil action and bring me safely into His heavenly kingdom. To Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Final Greetings

(Ephesians 6:21–24; Philippians 4:21–23)

19Greet Prisca^c and Aquila, as well as the household of Onesiphorus.

20Erastus has remained at Corinth, and Trophimus I left sick in Miletus.

21Make every effort to come to me before winter. Eubulus sends you greetings, as do Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brothers.

22The Lord Jesus Christ^d be with your spirit. Grace be with you all. Amen.^e

^a **1** CT *I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus* ^b **14** CT *The Lord will repay* ^c **19** *Prisca* is a variant of *Priscilla*; see Acts 18:2. ^d **22** CT *The Lord* ^e **22** CT does not include *Amen*.

Titus

Paul's Greeting to Titus

(2 Corinthians 8:16–24)

1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness,² in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began.^a **3** In His own time He has made His word evident in the proclamation entrusted to me by the command of God our Savior.

4 To Titus, my true child in our common faith:

Grace, mercy,^b and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.^c

Appointing Elders on Crete

(1 Timothy 3:1–7; 1 Peter 5:1–4)

5 The reason I left you in Crete was that you would set in order what was unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. **6** An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife,^d having children who are believers and who are not open to accusation of indiscretion or insubordination.

7 As God's steward, an overseer must be above reproach—not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not greedy for money. **8** Instead, he must be hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. **9** He must hold firmly to the faithful word as it was taught, so that he can encourage others by sound teaching and refute those who contradict it.

Correcting False Teachers

(1 Timothy 1:3–11)

10 For many are rebellious and full of empty talk and deception, especially those of the circumcision, **11** who must be silenced. For the sake of dishonorable gain, they undermine entire households and teach things they should not. **12** As one of their own prophets has said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."^e

13 This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sternly, so that they will be sound in the faith **14** and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the commands of men who have rejected the truth.

15 To the pure, all things are pure; but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure. Indeed, both their minds and their consciences are defiled. **16** They profess to know God, but by their actions they deny Him. They are detestable, disobedient, and unfit for any good deed.

Teaching Sound Doctrine

2 But as for you, speak the things that are consistent with sound doctrine.

2 Older men are to be temperate, dignified, self-controlled, and sound in faith, love, and perseverance.

3 Older women, likewise, are to be reverent in their behavior, not slanderers or addicted to much wine, but teachers of good. **4** In this way they can train the young women to love their husbands and children, **5** to be self-controlled, pure, managers of their households, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be discredited.

6 In the same way, urge the younger men to be self-controlled.

7 In everything, show yourself to be an example by doing good works. In your teaching show integrity, dignity, incorruptibility,^f **8** and wholesome speech that is above reproach, so that anyone who opposes us will be ashamed, having nothing bad to say about us.^g

9 Slaves are to submit to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, **10** not stealing from them, but showing all good faith, so that in every respect they will adorn the teaching about God our Savior.

^a 2 Literally *before times eternal* ^b 4 CT does not include *mercy*. ^c 4 CT and *Christ Jesus our Savior* ^d 6 Or *faithful to his wife* ^e 12 This quote, also known as the Epimenides paradox, has been attributed to the Cretan philosopher Epimenides of Knossos. ^f 7 CT does not include *incorruptibility*. ^g 8 TR *about you*

God's Grace Brings Salvation

¹¹For the saving grace of God has appeared to everyone.^a ¹²It instructs us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live sensible, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³as we await the blessed hope and glorious appearance of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.^b

¹⁴He gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

¹⁵Speak these things as you encourage and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

Heirs of Grace

3 Remind the believers to submit to rulers and authorities, to be obedient and ready for every good work, ²to malign no one, and to be peaceable and gentle, showing full consideration to everyone.

³For at one time we too were foolish, disobedient, misled, and enslaved to all sorts of desires and pleasures—living in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.

⁴But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, ⁵He saved us, not by the righteous deeds we had done, but according to His mercy, through the washing of new birth^c and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This is the Spirit He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been

justified by His grace, we would become heirs with the hope of eternal life. ⁸This saying is trustworthy. And I want you to emphasize these things, so that those who have believed God will take care to devote themselves to good deeds. These things are excellent and profitable for the people.

Avoid Divisions

(Romans 16:17–20)

⁹But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, arguments, and quarrels about the law, because these things are pointless and worthless.

¹⁰Reject a divisive man after a first and second admonition, ¹¹knowing that such a man is corrupt and sinful; he is self-condemned.

Final Remarks and Greetings

¹²As soon as I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, make every effort to come to me at Nicopolis, because I have decided to winter there. ¹³Do your best to equip Zenas the lawyer and Apollos, so that they will have everything they need.

¹⁴And our people must also learn to devote themselves to good works in order to meet the pressing needs of others, so that they will not be unfruitful.

¹⁵All who are with me send you greetings.

Greet those who love us in the faith.

Grace be with all of you. Amen.^d

^a ¹¹ CT *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to everyone*

^d ¹⁵ CT does not include *Amen*.

^b ¹³ WH *Christ Jesus* ^c ⁵ Or *of regeneration*

Philemon

Greetings from Paul and Timothy (*Philippians 1:1–2; Colossians 1:1–2*)

¹Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus,^a and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our beloved fellow worker, ²to Apphia our beloved,^b to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church that meets at your^c house:

³Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philemon's Faith and Love

⁴I always thank my God, remembering you in my prayers, ⁵because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints. ⁶I pray that your partnership in the faith may become effective as you fully acknowledge every good thing that is ours in Christ Jesus.^d ⁷We take^e great joy and encouragement in your love, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints.

Paul's Appeal for Onesimus

⁸So although in Christ I am bold enough to order you to do what is proper, ⁹I prefer to appeal on the basis of love. For I, Paul, am now aged, and a prisoner of Jesus Christ^f as well.

¹⁰I appeal to you for my child Onesimus,^g whose father I became while I was in my^h chains. ¹¹Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me. ¹²I am sending back for you to receiveⁱ him who is my very heart.

¹³I would have liked to keep him with me, so that on your behalf he could minister to me in my chains for the gospel. ¹⁴But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that your goodness will not be out of compulsion, but by your own free will. ¹⁵For perhaps this is why he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for good— ¹⁶no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a beloved brother. He is especially beloved to me, but even more so to you, both in person and in the Lord.

¹⁷So if you consider me a partner, receive him as you would receive me. ¹⁸But if he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge it to my account. ¹⁹I, Paul, write this with my own hand. I will repay it—not to mention that you owe me your very self.

²⁰Yes, brother, let me have some benefit^j from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in the Lord.^k

²¹Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

²²In the meantime, prepare a guest room for me, because I hope that through your prayers I will be restored to you.

Additional Greetings

²³Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings, ²⁴as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

²⁵The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ^l be with your spirit. Amen.^m

a 1 F35 *Jesus Christ* **b** 2 CT *our sister* **c** 2 *You and Your* are singular throughout this letter, except in verses 3, 22, and 25.
d 6 CT *in Christ* **e** 7 CT *I take* **f** 9 CT *of Christ Jesus* **g** 10 *Onesimus* means *useful* (see verse 11) or *beneficial* (see verse 20).
h 10 CT does not include *my*. **i** 12 CT *I am sending back to you* **j** 20 Greek *onaimên*, a play on the name *Onesimus*
k 20 CT *in Christ* **l** 25 NA, SBL, and WH *of the Lord Jesus Christ; F35 of our Lord Jesus* **m** 25 NA, SBL, and WH do not include *Amen*.

Hebrews

The Supremacy of the Son

(Colossians 1:15–23)

1 On many past occasions and in many different ways, God spoke to our fathers through the prophets. ²But in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son,^a whom He appointed heir of all things, and through whom He made the universe.^b

³The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His nature, upholding all things by His powerful word. After He had provided purification for our sins,^c He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. ⁴So He became as far superior to the angels as the name He has inherited is excellent beyond theirs. ⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say:

"You are My Son;
today I have become Your Father"^d?

Or again:

"I will be His Father,
and He will be My Son"^e?

⁶And again, when God brings His firstborn into the world, He says:

"Let all God's angels worship Him."^f

⁷Now about the angels He says:

"He makes His angels winds,
His servants flames of fire."^g

⁸But about the Son He says:

"Your throne, O God, endures forever and
ever,
and justice is the scepter of Your
kingdom."^h

⁹You have loved righteousness
and hated wickedness;
therefore God, Your God, has anointed You
above Your companions with the oil
of joy."ⁱ

¹⁰And:

"In the beginning, O Lord, You laid the
foundations of the earth,
and the heavens are the work of Your
hands.

¹¹They will perish, but You remain;
they will all wear out like a garment.

¹²You will roll them up like a robe;
they will be changed;^j
but You remain the same,
and Your years will never end."^k

¹³Yet to which of the angels did God ever say:

"Sit at My right hand
until I make Your enemies a footstool for
Your feet"^l?

¹⁴Are not the angels^m ministering spirits sent to
serve those who will inherit salvation?

Salvation Confirmed

2 We must pay closer attention, therefore, to
what we have heard, so that we do not drift
away. ²For if the message spoken by angels was
binding, and every transgression and disobedience
received its just punishment, ³how shall we
escape if we neglect such a great salvation?

This salvation was first announced by the Lord,
was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,
⁴and was affirmed by God through signs, wonders,
various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit
distributed according to His will.

Jesus like His Brothers

⁵For it is not to angels that He has subjected the
world to come, about which we are speaking.

⁶But somewhere it is testified in these words:

"What is man that You are mindful of him,
or the son of man that You care for him?

⁷You made him a little lowerⁿ than the angels;
You crowned him with glory and honor,^o
⁸and placed everything under his feet."^p

^a 2 Or in His Son ^b 2 Or the world; literally the ages ^c 3 CT for sins ^d 5 Psalm 2:7; literally today I have begotten You

^e 5 2 Samuel 7:14; 1 Chronicles 17:13 ^f 6 Deuteronomy 32:43 (see DSS and LXX) ^g 7 Psalm 104:4 (see also LXX)

^h 8 Literally the scepter of justice is the scepter of Your kingdom ⁱ 9 Psalm 45:6–7 ^j 12 NA, SBL, and WH like a garment
they will be changed ^k 12 Psalm 102:25–27 ^l 13 Psalm 110:1 ^m 14 Literally Are they not all ⁿ 7 Or a little while

lower; also in verse 9 ^o 7 WH and TR include and set him over the works of Your hands. ^p 8 Psalm 8:4–6 (see also LXX)

When God subjected all things to him, He left nothing outside of his control. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him.⁹ But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because He suffered death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting for God, for whom and through whom all things exist, to make the author^a of their salvation perfect through suffering. ¹¹For both the One who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. ¹²He says:

“I will proclaim Your name to My brothers;
I will sing Your praises in the assembly.”^b

¹³And again:

“I will put My trust in Him.”^c

And once again:

“Here am I, and the children God has given Me.”^d

¹⁴Now since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity, so that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death, that is, the devil,¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

¹⁶For surely it is not the angels He helps, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷For this reason He had to be made like His brothers in every way, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, in order to make atonement^e for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because He Himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted.

Jesus Our Apostle and High Priest

3 Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, set your focus on Jesus Christ,^f the apostle and high priest whom we confess. ²He was faithful to the One who appointed Him, just as Moses was faithful in all God’s house.^g

³For Jesus has been counted worthy of greater glory than Moses, just as the builder of a house

has greater honor than the house itself. ⁴And every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.

⁵Now Moses was faithful as a servant in all God’s house,^h testifying to what would be spoken later.

⁶But Christ is faithful as the Son over God’s house. And we are His house, if we hold firmly to the endⁱ our confidence and the hope of which we boast.

Do Not Harden Your Hearts

(Psalm 95:1–11)

⁷Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says:

“Today, if you hear His voice,

⁸ do not harden your hearts,
as you did in the rebellion,
in the day of testing in the wilderness,

⁹ where your fathers tested and tried Me,
and for forty years saw My works.

¹⁰Therefore I was angry with that generation,
and I said,

“Their hearts are always going astray,
and they have not known My ways.”^j

¹¹So I swore on oath in My anger,

“They shall never enter My rest.”^k

The Peril of Unbelief

¹²See to it, brothers, that none of you has a wicked heart of unbelief that turns away from the living God. ¹³But exhort one another daily, as long as it is called today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.

¹⁴We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly to the end the assurance we had at first.

¹⁵As it has been said:

“Today, if you hear His voice,
do not harden your hearts,
as you did in the rebellion.”^k

¹⁶For some heard and rebelled, but not all those Moses led out of Egypt.^l ¹⁷And with whom was God angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? ¹⁸And to whom did He swear that they would never enter His rest? Was it not to those who disobeyed? ¹⁹So we see that it was because of their unbelief that they were unable to enter.

^a 10 Or pioneer or founder ^b 12 Psalm 22:22 (see also LXX) ^c 13 Isaiah 8:17 ^d 13 Isaiah 8:18 ^e 17 Or to make propitiation ^f 1 CT on Jesus; TR on Christ Jesus ^g 2 Literally just as Moses in all His house; SBL just as Moses in His house ^h 5 Numbers 12:7 ⁱ 6 NE, WH, MT, and TR; other CT do not include the end. ^j 11 Psalm 95:7–11 (see also LXX) ^k 15 Psalm 95:7–8 ^l 16 CT, GOC, ALT, and F35 For who were the ones who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt?

The Sabbath Rest*(Genesis 2:1–3; Exodus 16:22–30)*

4 Therefore, while the promise of entering His rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be deemed to have fallen short of it. ²For we also received the good news just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, since they did not share the faith of those who comprehended it.^a

³Now we who have believed enter that rest. As for the others, it is just as God has said:

“So I swore on oath in My anger,
“They shall never enter My rest.”^b

And yet His works have been finished since the foundation of the world. ⁴For somewhere He has spoken about the seventh day in this manner: “And on the seventh day God rested from all His works.”^c ⁵And again, as He says in the passage above: “They shall never enter My rest.”

⁶Since, then, it remains for some to enter His rest, and since those who formerly heard the good news did not enter because of their disobedience, ⁷God again designated a certain day as “Today,” when a long time later He spoke through David as was just stated: “Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.”^d

⁸For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day. ⁹There remains, then, a Sabbath rest for the people of God. ¹⁰For whoever enters God’s rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from His. ¹¹Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following the same pattern of disobedience.

The Living Word*(2 Timothy 3:10–17)*

¹²For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it pierces even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight; everything is uncovered and exposed before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

¹⁴Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we profess.

¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who was tempted in every way that we are, yet was without sin. ¹⁶Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

The Perfect High Priest *(Psalm 110:1–7)*

5 Every high priest is appointed from among men to represent them in matters relating to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ²He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and misguided, since he himself is beset by weakness. ³That is why he is obligated to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people.

⁴No one takes this honor upon himself; he must be called by God, just as Aaron was. ⁵So also Christ did not take upon Himself the glory of becoming a high priest, but He was called by the One who said to Him:

“You are My Son;
today I have become Your Father.”^e

⁶And in another passage God says:

“You are a priest forever
in the order of Melchizedek.”^f

⁷During the days of Jesus’ earthly life, He offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the One who could save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence. ⁸Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from what He suffered. ⁹And having been made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him ¹⁰and was designated by God as high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

Milk and Solid Food*(1 Corinthians 3:1–9)*

¹¹We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain, because you are dull of hearing. ¹²Although by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to reteach you the basic principles of God’s word.^g You need milk, not solid food!

¹³For everyone who lives on milk is still an infant, inexperienced in the message of righteousness. ¹⁴But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained their senses to distinguish good from evil.

^a 2 Literally *not having been united in the faith of those who heard* ^b 3 Psalm 95:11; also in verse 5 ^c 4 Genesis 2:2
^d 7 Psalm 95:7–8 ^e 5 Psalm 2:7; literally *today I have begotten You* ^f 6 Psalm 110:4 ^g 12 Or *of the oracles of God*

A Call to Maturity

6 Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works,^a and of faith in God, ²instruction about baptisms,^b the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. ³And this we will do, if God permits.

⁴It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age— ⁶and then have fallen away—to be restored to repentance, because they themselves are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting Him to open shame.

⁷For land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is tended receives the blessing of God. ⁸But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless, and its curse is imminent. In the end it will be burned.

⁹Even though we speak like this, beloved, we are convinced of better things in your case—things that accompany salvation. ¹⁰For God is not unjust. He will not forget your work and the labor of love^c you have shown for His name as you have ministered to the saints and continue to do so.

¹¹We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. ¹²Then you will not be sluggish, but will imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

God's Unchangeable Promise

¹³When God made His promise to Abraham, since He had no one greater to swear by, He swore by Himself, ¹⁴saying, "I will surely bless you and multiply your descendants."^d ¹⁵And so Abraham, after waiting patiently, obtained the promise.

¹⁶Men indeed^e swear by someone greater than themselves, and their oath serves as a confirmation to end all argument. ¹⁷So when God wanted to make the unchanging nature of His purpose very clear to the heirs of the promise, He guaranteed it with an oath. ¹⁸Thus by two unchangeable

things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be strongly encouraged.

¹⁹We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, ²⁰where Jesus our forerunner has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever in the order of Melchizedek.

Melchizedek and Abraham (Genesis 14:17–24)

7 This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High.^f He met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, ²and Abraham apportioned to him a tenth of everything. First, his name means "king of righteousness." Then also, "king of Salem" means "king of peace." ³Without father or mother or genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, like the Son of God, he remains a priest for all time.

⁴Consider how great Melchizedek was: Even the patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth of the plunder. ⁵Now the law commands the sons of Levi who become priests to collect a tenth from the people—that is, from their brothers—though they too are descended from Abraham. ⁶But Melchizedek, who did not trace his descent from Levi, collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. ⁷And indisputably, the lesser is blessed by the greater.

⁸In the case of the Levites, mortal men collect the tenth; but in the case of Melchizedek, it is affirmed that he lives on. ⁹And so to speak, Levi, who collects the tenth, paid the tenth through Abraham. ¹⁰For when Melchizedek met Abraham, Levi was still in the loins of his ancestor.

A Superior Priesthood

¹¹Now if perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood (for on this basis the people received the law), why was there still need for another priest to appear—one in the order of Melchizedek and not in the order of Aaron? ¹²For when the priesthood is changed, the law must be changed as well.

¹³He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. ¹⁴For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, a tribe as to which Moses said nothing about priesthood.^g

^a 1 Or from acts that lead to death ^b 2 Or cleansing rites ^c 10 CT your work and the love ^d 14 Genesis 22:17 ^e 16 CT does not include indeed. ^f 1 Genesis 14:18 ^g 14 CT about priests

¹⁵And this point is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, ¹⁶one who has become a priest not by a law of succession, but by the power of an indestructible life. ¹⁷For it is testified:^a

“You are a priest forever
in the order of Melchizedek.”^b

¹⁸So the former commandment is set aside because it was weak and useless ¹⁹(for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.

²⁰And none of this happened without an oath. For others became priests without an oath, ²¹but Jesus became a priest with an oath by the One who said to Him:

“The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind:
‘You are a priest forever in the order of
Melchizedek.’”^c

²²Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.

²³Now there have been many other priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office. ²⁴But because Jesus lives forever, He has a permanent priesthood. ²⁵Therefore He is able to save completely^d those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to intercede for them.

²⁶Such a high priest truly befits us—One who is holy, innocent, undefiled, set apart from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. ²⁷Unlike the other high priests, He does not need to offer daily sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the sins of the people; He sacrificed for sin once for all when He offered up Himself. ²⁸For the law appoints as high priests men who are weak; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.

Christ's Eternal Priesthood

8 The point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, ²and who ministers in the sanctuary and true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man. ³And since every high priest is appointed to offer

both gifts and sacrifices, it was necessary for this One also to have something to offer.

⁴For^e if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are already priests who offer gifts according to the law. ⁵The place where they serve is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: “See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.”^f

The New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:26–40)

⁶Now, however, Jesus has received a much more excellent ministry, just as the covenant He mediates is better and is founded on better promises. ⁷For if that first covenant had been without fault, no place would have been sought for a second. ⁸But God found fault with the people and said:

“Behold, the days are coming,
declares the Lord,
when I will make a new covenant
with the house of Israel
and with the house of Judah.
⁹It will not be like the covenant
I made with their fathers
when I took them by the hand
to lead them out of the land of Egypt,
because they did not abide by My covenant,
and I disregarded them,
declares the Lord.

¹⁰For this is the covenant I will make
with the house of Israel
after those days,
declares the Lord.
I will put My laws in their minds
and inscribe them on their hearts.
And I will be their God,
and they will be My people.
¹¹No longer will each one teach his neighbor^g
or his brother,
saying, ‘Know the Lord,’
because they will all know Me,
from the least of them to the greatest.
¹²For I will forgive their iniquities
and will remember their sins and lawless
acts^h no more.”ⁱ

¹³By speaking of a new covenant,^j He has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear.

^a ¹⁷ Literally *For He testifies*; CT *For it is testified (of Him)* ^b ¹⁷ Psalm 110:4 ^c ²¹ Psalm 110:4; CT does not include *in the order of Melchizedek*. ^d ²⁵ Or *forever* ^e ⁴ CT *Now* ^f ⁵ Exodus 25:40; see also Exodus 26:30. ^g ¹¹ Or *his fellow citizen* ^h ¹² CT does not include *and lawless acts*. ⁱ ¹² Jeremiah 31:31–34 (see also LXX) ^j ¹³ Literally *In saying new*; here and in Hebrews 9:1 and 18, *covenant* is included for clarity but is not contained in the Greek. A broader interpretation could also include *priesthood* or *tabernacle*.

The Earthly Tabernacle

(Exodus 40:1–33; Acts 7:44–47)

9 Now even^a the first covenant^b had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary. **2**A tabernacle was prepared. In its first room were the lampstand, the table, and the consecrated bread.^c This was called the Holy Place. **3**Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place,^d **4**containing the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant. Inside the ark were the gold jar of manna, Aaron's staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant. **5**Above the ark were the cherubim of glory, overshadowing the mercy seat.^e But we cannot discuss these things in detail now.

6When everything had been prepared in this way, the priests entered regularly into the first room to perform their sacred duties. **7**But only the high priest entered the second room, and then only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance.

8By this arrangement the Holy Spirit was showing that the way into the Most Holy Place^f had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still standing. **9**It is an illustration for the present time, because the gifts and sacrifices being offered were unable to cleanse the conscience of the worshiper. **10**They consist only in food and drink and special washings and^g external regulations imposed until the time of reform.

Redemption through His Blood

11But when Christ came as high priest of the good things to come,^h He went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made by hands and is not a part of this creation. **12**He did not enter by the blood of goats and calves, but He entered the Most Holy Place once for all by His own blood, thus securing eternal redemption.

13For if the blood of bulls and goatsⁱ and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that their bodies are clean, **14**how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit^j

offered Himself unblemished to God, purify your^k consciences from works of death, so that we may serve the living God!

15Therefore Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, now that He has died to redeem them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

16In the case of a will,^l it is necessary to establish the death of the one who made it, **17**because a will does not take effect until the one who made it has died; it cannot be executed while he is still alive.

18That is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood. **19**For when Moses had proclaimed every commandment of the law to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats,^m along with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll and all the people, **20**saying, "This is the blood of the covenant, which God has commanded you to keep."ⁿ

21In the same way, he sprinkled with blood the tabernacle and all the vessels used in worship. **22**According to the law, in fact, nearly everything must be purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

23So it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. **24**For Christ did not enter a man-made copy of the true sanctuary, but He entered heaven itself, now to appear on our behalf in the presence of God.

25Nor did He enter heaven to offer Himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. **26**Otherwise, Christ would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But now He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

27Just as man is appointed to die once, and after that to face judgment, **28**so also Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many; and He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who eagerly await Him.

a 1 SBL *Now* **b** 1 Literally *the first*; also in verse 18; see the footnote for Hebrews 8:13. **c** 2 Or *the Bread of the Presence* **d** 3 Or *the Holy of Holies* **e** 5 Or *atonement cover* **f** 8 Or *the Holy Place*; also in verses 12 and 25 **g** 10 CT does not include *and*. **h** 11 NA, SBL, and WH *that have come* **i** 13 CT of *goats and bulls* **j** 14 F35 *the Holy Spirit* **k** 14 NA, SBL, and WH *our* **l** 16 Greek *diathēkē* is also translated as *covenant* throughout this chapter. **m** 19 SBL does not include *and* **n** 20 Exodus 24:8

Christ's Perfect Sacrifice*(Psalm 40:1–17)*

10 For the law is only a shadow of the good things to come, not the realities themselves. The same sacrifices offered year after year can never^a make perfect those who draw near to worship. ²If it could, would not the offerings have ceased? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt the guilt of their sins.

³Instead, those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, ⁴because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. ⁵Therefore, when Christ came into the world, He said:

“Sacrifice and offering You did not desire,
but a body You prepared for Me.

⁶In burnt offerings and sin offerings
You took no delight.

⁷Then I said, ‘Here I am, it is written about Me
in the scroll:

I have come to do Your will, O God.’”^b

⁸In the passage above He says, “Sacrifice and offering,^c burnt offerings and sin offerings You did not desire, nor did You delight in them” (although they are offered according to the law). ⁹Then He adds, “Here I am, I have come to do Your will, O God.”^d He takes away the first to establish the second. ¹⁰And by that will, we have been sanctified through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

¹¹Day after day every priest stands to minister and to offer again and again the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹²But when this Priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God. ¹³Since that time, He waits for His enemies to be made a footstool for His feet, ¹⁴because by a single offering He has made perfect for all time those who are being sanctified.

¹⁵The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First He says:

¹⁶“This is the covenant I will make with them
after those days, declares the Lord.

I will put My laws in their hearts
and inscribe them on their minds.”^e

¹⁷Then He adds:

“Their sins and lawless acts
I will remember no more.”^f

¹⁸And where these have been forgiven, an offering for sin is no longer needed.

A Call to Persevere *(Jude 1:17–23)*

¹⁹Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place^g by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way opened for us through the curtain of His body,^h ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

²³Let us hold resolutely to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to spur one another on to love and good deeds. ²⁵Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have made a habit, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

²⁶If we deliberately go on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no further sacrifice for sins remains, ²⁷but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume all adversaries. ²⁸Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹How much more severely do you think one deserves to be punished who has trampled on the Son of God, profaned the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

³⁰For we know Him who said, “Vengeance is Mine; I will repay, says the Lord,”ⁱ and again, “The Lord will judge His people.”^j ³¹It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

³²Remember the early days that you were in the light.^k In those days, you endured a great conflict in the face of suffering. ³³Sometimes you were publicly exposed to ridicule and persecution; at other times you were partners with those who were so treated. ³⁴You sympathized with me in my chains^l and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, knowing that you yourselves had a better and permanent possession in heaven.^m

^a 1 GOC, NA, F35, SBL, and TR *It can never, by the same sacrifices offered year after year*, ^b 7 Psalm 40:6–8 (see also LXX)

^c 8 CT *Sacrifices and offerings* ^d 9 CT does not include *O God*. ^e 16 Jeremiah 31:33 ^f 17 Jeremiah 31:34 ^g 19 *Or the Holy Place* ^h 20 *Literally through the veil that is His flesh* ⁱ 30 Deuteronomy 32:35 (see also LXX); CT does not include *says the Lord*. ^j 30 Deuteronomy 32:36; Psalm 135:14 ^k 32 *Or Remember when you were first enlightened*.

^l 34 CT *with those in prison* ^m 34 CT does not include *in heaven*.

³⁵So do not throw away your confidence; it holds a great reward. ³⁶You need to persevere, so that after you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised. ³⁷For,

“In just a little while,
He who is coming will come and will not delay.

³⁸But the righteous will live by faith;^a
and if he shrinks back,
I will take no pleasure in him.”^b

³⁹But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

Faith and Assurance (*Gen. 1:1–2; John 1:1–5*)

11 Now faith is the assurance of what we hope for and the certainty of what we do not see. ²This is why the ancients were commended.

³By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

The Faith of Abel, Enoch, Noah (*Genesis 4–9*)

⁴By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous when God gave approval to his gifts. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.

⁵By faith Enoch was taken up^c so that he did not see death: “He could not be found, because God had taken him away.”^d For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.

⁶And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who approaches Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.

⁷By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in godly fear built an ark to save his family. By faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

The Faith of Abraham and Sarah
(*Genesis 15–22; Romans 4:1–12*)

⁸By faith Abraham, when called to go to the place^e he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, without knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he dwelt in the promised

land as a stranger in a foreign country. He lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

¹¹By faith Sarah, even though she was beyond the proper age, received power and^f was enabled to conceive a child, because she considered Him faithful who had promised. ¹²And so from one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

¹³All these people died in faith, without having received the things they were promised. However, they saw them and welcomed them from afar. And they acknowledged^g that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

¹⁴Now those who say such things show that they are seeking a country of their own. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶Instead, they were longing for a better country, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

¹⁷By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac on the altar. He who had received the promises was ready to offer his one and only son,^h ¹⁸even though God had said to him, “Through Isaac your offspring will be reckoned.”ⁱ ¹⁹Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and in a sense, he did receive Isaac back from death.

The Faith of Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph
(*Genesis 27–50*)

²⁰By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning the future.

²¹By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph’s sons and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff.

²²By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites and gave instructions about his bones.

The Faith of Moses (*Ex. 2–15; Acts 7:20–22*)

²³By faith Moses’ parents hid him for three months after his birth, because they saw that he

^a 38 CT *But My righteous one will live by faith.* ^b 38 Habakkuk 2:3–4 (see also LXX) ^c 5 Literally transferred or translated ^d 5 Genesis 5:24 (see also LXX) ^e 8 CT *a place* ^f 11 CT *even though she was barren and beyond the proper age,* ^g 13 TR includes *and confessed.* ^h 17 Or *only begotten son* or *unique son* ⁱ 18 Genesis 21:12

was a beautiful child, and they were unafraid of the king's edict.

²⁴By faith Moses, when he was grown, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. ²⁵He chose to suffer oppression with God's people rather than to experience the fleeting enjoyment of sin. ²⁶He valued disgrace for Christ above the treasures of Egypt,^a for he was looking ahead to his reward.

²⁷By faith Moses left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw Him who is invisible. ²⁸By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch Israel's own firstborn.

²⁹By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to follow,^b they were drowned.

The Faith of Many (*Joshua–Malachi*)

³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days.

³¹By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies in peace, did not perish with those who were disobedient.

³²And what more shall I say? Time will not allow me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets, ³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched the raging fire, and escaped the edge of the sword; who gained strength from weakness, became mighty in battle, and put foreign armies to flight.

³⁵Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused their release, so that they might gain a better resurrection. ³⁶Still others endured mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment.

³⁷They were stoned, they were sawed in two, they were put to the test,^c they were put to death by the sword. They went around in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, oppressed, and mistreated. ³⁸The world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and hid in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹These were all commended for their faith, yet they did not receive what was promised. ⁴⁰God had planned something better for us, so that together with us they would be made perfect.

A Call to Endurance (*2 Timothy 2:1–13*)

12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off every encumbrance and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with endurance the race set out for us. ²Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author^d and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

God Disciplines His Sons

⁴In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

⁵And you have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons:

"My son, do not take lightly the discipline of the Lord,
and do not lose heart when He rebukes you.

⁶For the Lord disciplines the one He loves,
and He chastises every son He receives."^e

⁷Endure suffering as discipline;^f God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? ⁸If you do not experience discipline like everyone else, then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. ⁹Furthermore, we have all had earthly fathers who disciplined us, and we respected them. Should we not much more submit to the Father of our spirits and live?

¹⁰Our fathers disciplined us for a short time as they thought best, but God disciplines us for our good, so that we may share in His holiness. ¹¹No discipline seems enjoyable at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it yields a harvest of righteousness and peace^g to those who have been trained by it.

¹²Therefore strengthen your limp hands and weak knees.^h ¹³Make straight paths for your feet,ⁱ so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

^a ²⁶ TR in Egypt ^b ²⁹ Literally *made an attempt* ^c ³⁷ NE, MT, and TR; NA and SBL do not include *they were put to the test*. ^d ² Or *pioneer* or *founder* ^e ⁶ Literally *and He flogs every son He receives*; Proverbs 3:11–12 (see also LXX)

^f ⁷ GOC, ALT, F35, and TR *If you are enduring discipline* ^g ¹¹ Or *it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness* ^h ¹² Isaiah 35:3 ⁱ ¹³ Proverbs 4:26 (see also LXX)

A Call to Holiness (1 Peter 1:13–21)

¹⁴Pursue peace with everyone, as well as holiness, without which no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God, and that no root of bitterness^a springs up to cause trouble and defile many. ¹⁶See to it that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his birthright. ¹⁷For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected. He could find no ground for repentance, though he sought the blessing with tears.

An Unshakable Kingdom

(Exodus 20:18–21; Deuteronomy 5:22–33)

¹⁸For you have not come to a mountain that^b can be touched and that is burning with fire; to blackness, darkness,^c and storm; ¹⁹to a trumpet blast or to a voice that made its hearers beg that no further word be spoken. ²⁰For they could not bear what was commanded: “If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned.”^d ²¹The sight was so terrifying that even Moses said, “I am trembling with fear.”^e

²²Instead, you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to myriads of angels ²³in joyful assembly, to the congregation of the firstborn, enrolled in heaven. You have come to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word^f than the blood of Abel.

²⁵See to it that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if the people did not escape when they refused Him who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject Him who warns us from heaven? ²⁶At that time His voice shook the earth, but now He has promised, “Once more I will shake not only the earth, but heaven as well.”^g ²⁷The words “Once more” signify the removal of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that the unshakable may remain.

²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving an unshakable kingdom, let us be filled with gratitude, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.^h ²⁹“For our God is a consuming fire.”ⁱ

^a 15 See Deuteronomy 29:18. ^b 18 CT literal to something that ^c 18 CT gloom ^d 20 Exodus 19:12–13; TR includes or shot through with an arrow. ^e 21 Deuteronomy 9:19 ^f 24 TR better things ^g 26 Haggai 2:6 ^h 28 CT godly fear and awe ⁱ 29 Deuteronomy 4:24 ^j 4 CT for ^k 5 Deuteronomy 31:6, 8; Joshua 1:5 ^l 6 Psalm 118:6 (see also LXX) ^m 9 TR carried about ⁿ 15 WH does not include therefore.

Brotherly Love

13 Continue in brotherly love. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those in prison as if you were bound with them, and those who are mistreated as if you were suffering with them.

⁴Marriage should be honored by all and the marriage bed kept undefiled; but^j God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers.

Christ’s Unchanging Nature

⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, for God has said:

“Never will I leave you,
never will I forsake you.”^k

⁶So we say with confidence:

“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.
What can man do to me?”^l

⁷Remember your leaders who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

⁹Do not be carried away^m by all kinds of strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace and not by foods of no value to those devoted to them. ¹⁰We have an altar from which those who serve at the tabernacle have no right to eat.

¹¹Although the high priest brings the blood of animals into the Holy Place as a sacrifice for sin, the bodies are burned outside the camp. ¹²And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate, to sanctify the people by His own blood. ¹³Therefore let us go to Him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace He bore. ¹⁴For here we do not have a permanent city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

Sacrifice, Obedience, and Prayer

¹⁵Through Jesus, therefore,ⁿ let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise, the fruit of lips that confess His name. ¹⁶And do not neglect to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

¹⁷Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they watch over your souls as those who must give an account. To this end, allow them to lead with joy and not with grief, for that would be of no advantage to you.

¹⁸Pray for us; we are convinced that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way. ¹⁹And I especially urge you to pray that I may be restored to you soon.

Benediction and Farewell

²⁰Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, ²¹equip you with every good work^a to

do His will. And may He accomplish in you^b what is pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.^c Amen.

²²I urge you, brothers, to bear with my word of exhortation, for I have only written to you briefly.

²³Be aware that our brother Timothy has been released. If he arrives soon, I will come with him to see you.

²⁴Greet all your leaders and all the saints.

Those from Italy send you greetings.

²⁵Grace be with all of you. Amen.^d

James

A Greeting from James

(Jude 1:1–2)

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

To the twelve tribes of the Dispersion:^a

Greetings.

Rejoicing in Trials

(Philippians 1:12–20)

²Consider it pure joy, my brothers, when you encounter trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴Allow perseverance to finish its work, so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

⁵Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. ⁶But he must ask in faith, without doubting, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷That man should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸He is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

⁹The brother in humble circumstances should exult in his high position. ¹⁰But the one who is rich should exult in his low position, because he will pass away like a flower of the field. ¹¹For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its flower falls and its beauty is lost. So too, the rich man will fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

¹²Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that the Lord^b has promised to those who love Him.

Good and Perfect Gifts

¹³When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone. ¹⁴But each one is

tempted when by his own evil desires he is lured away and enticed. ¹⁵Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

¹⁶Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, with whom there is no change or shifting shadow.^c ¹⁸He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we would be a kind of firstfruits of His creation.^d

Hearing and Doing

¹⁹So then, my beloved brothers, everyone^e should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger, ²⁰for man’s anger does not bring about the righteousness that God desires. ²¹Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and every expression of evil, and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save your souls.

²²Be doers of the word, and not hearers only. Otherwise, you are deceiving yourselves. ²³For anyone who hears the word^f but does not carry it out is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror, ²⁴and after observing himself goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵But the one who looks intently into the perfect law of freedom, and continues to do so—not being a forgetful hearer, but an effective doer—he will be blessed in what he does.

²⁶If anyone among you^g considers himself religious and yet does not bridle his tongue, he deceives his heart and his religion is worthless. ²⁷Pure and undefiled religion before our God and Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

A Warning against Favoritism

2 My brothers, as you hold out your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, do not show favoritism.

^a **1** Literally *To the twelve tribes in the Diaspora*. Originally referring to the Jewish people living outside the land of Israel, the *Diaspora* is applied here to the Jewish believers scattered abroad. ^b **12** CT *He* ^c **17** *Or no change or shadow of turning.* ^d **18** *Or of His creatures.* ^e **19** CT *My beloved brothers, understand this: Everyone* ^f **23** F35 *law* ^g **26** CT *does not include among you.*

²Suppose a man comes into your meeting^a wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. ³If you lavish attention on the man in fine clothes and say, “Here is a seat of honor,” but say to the poor man, “You must stand” or “Sit here under my footstool,”^b ⁴have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

⁵Listen, my beloved brothers: Has not God chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom He promised those who love Him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you and drag you into court? ⁷Are they not the ones who blaspheme the noble name by which you have been called?^c

⁸If you really fulfill the royal law stated in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,”^d you are doing well. ⁹But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

¹⁰Whoever keeps the whole law but stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. ¹¹For He who said, “Do not commit adultery,”^e also said, “Do not murder.”^f If you do not commit adultery, but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

¹²Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom. ¹³For judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Faith and Works (Galatians 3:1–9)

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers, if someone claims to have faith, but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? ¹⁵Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶If one of you tells him, “Go in peace; stay warm and well fed,” but does not provide for his physical needs, what good is that? ¹⁷So too, faith by itself, if it does not result in action,^g is dead.

¹⁸But someone will say, “You have faith and I have deeds.” Show me your faith apart from your deeds,^h and I will show you my faith by my deeds. ¹⁹You believe that God is one.ⁱ Good for you! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

²⁰ Foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is dead?^j ²¹Was not our father Abraham justified by what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²²You see that his faith was working with his actions, and his faith was perfected by what he did. ²³And the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,”^k and he was called a friend of God.^l ²⁴As you can see, then,^m a man is justified by his deeds and not by faith alone.

²⁵In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute justified by her actions when she welcomed the spiesⁿ and sent them off on another route? ²⁶For as^o the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

Taming the Tongue (Psalm 64:1–10)

3 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. ²We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to control his whole body.

³Indeed, when^p we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can guide the whole animal. ⁴Consider ships as well. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot is inclined.

⁵In the same way, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it boasts of great things. Consider how small a spark sets a great forest ablaze. ⁶The tongue also is a fire, a world of wickedness among the parts of the body. It pollutes the whole person, sets the course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.^q

⁷All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man,⁸ but no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil,^r full of deadly poison.

⁹With the tongue we bless our God^s and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God’s likeness. ¹⁰Out of the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, this should not be! ¹¹Can both fresh water and salt water^t

^a 2 Greek *your synagogue* ^b 3 CT “Sit at my feet” ^c 7 Or *the noble name invoked upon you or the noble name of Him to whom you belong* ^d 8 Leviticus 19:18 ^e 11 Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18 ^f 11 Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17 ^g 17 Literally *if it does not have works* ^h 18 Literally *Show me your faith from your deeds*; CT *Show me your faith without deeds*; TR *Show me your faith without your deeds* ⁱ 19 Or *that there is one God* ^j 20 CT *is worthless* ^k 23 Genesis 15:6 ^l 23 See Isaiah 41:8. ^m 24 CT does not include *then*. ⁿ 25 Literally *messengers* ^o 26 CT *As* ^p 3 CT *When or If* ^q 6 Greek *Gehenna* ^r 8 CT *a restless evil* ^s 9 CT *our Lord* ^t 11 Literally *Can both fresh and bitter*

flow from the same spring? ¹²My brothers, can a fig tree grow olives, or a grapevine bear figs? In the same way, no spring can produce both salt water and fresh water.^a

The Wisdom from Above

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good conduct, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴But if you harbor bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast in it or deny the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every evil practice.

¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peace-loving, gentle, accommodating, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial, and sincere. ¹⁸Peacemakers who sow in peace reap the fruit of righteousness.^b

A Warning against Pride

4 What causes conflicts and quarrels among you? Don't they come from the passions at war within you?^c ²You crave what you do not have; you kill and covet, but are unable to obtain it. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³And when you do ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may squander it on your pleasures.

⁴You adulterers and adulteresses!^d Do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore, whoever chooses to be a friend of the world renders himself^e an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you think the Scripture says without reason that the Spirit^f who dwells^g in us yearns with envy? ⁶But He gives us more grace. This is why it says:

“God opposes the proud,
but gives grace to the humble.”^h

Drawing Near to God

⁷Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Grieve, mourn, and weep. Turn

your laughter to mourning, and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you.

¹¹Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother andⁱ judges him speaks against the law and judges it. And if you judge the law, you are not a practitioner of the law, but a judge of it. ¹²There is only one Law-giver,^j the One who is able to save and destroy. But who are you to judge the other?^k

Do Not Boast about Tomorrow

(Proverbs 27:1)

¹³Come now, you who say, “Today and^l tomorrow let us go^m to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business, and make a profit.”

¹⁴You do not even know what will happen tomorrow! What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

¹⁵Instead, you ought to say, “If the Lord is willing, let us live” and do this or that.” ¹⁶As it is, you boast in your proud intentions. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷Anyone, then, who knows the right thing to do, yet fails to do it, is guilty of sin.

A Warning to the Rich

(Proverbs 23:1–5; 1 Timothy 6:17–19)

5 Come now, you who are rich, weep and wail over the misery to come upon you. ²Your riches have rotted and moths have eaten your clothes. ³Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and consume your flesh like fire.

You have hoarded treasure in the last days.

⁴Look, the wages you withheld from the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of Hosts.

⁵You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts as^o in the day of slaughter. ⁶You have condemned and murdered the righteous, who did not resist you.

Patience in Suffering (Job 1:1–5)

⁷Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer awaits the precious fruit of the soil—how patient he is for the fall

^a 12 CT Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water ^b 18 Literally But the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those making peace. ^c 1 Literally passions warring among your members? ^d 4 See Hosea 3:1; CT You adulteresses! ^e 4 Or is appointed ^f 5 Or the spirit ^g 5 CT He caused to dwell ^h 6 Proverbs 3:34 (see also LXX) ⁱ 11 CT or ^j 12 CT, F35, and GOC include and judge. ^k 12 CT to judge your neighbor? ^l 13 CT and Scrivener TR or ^m 13 CT, GOC, and Scrivener TR we will go ⁿ 15 GOC, CT, and Scrivener TR we will live ^o 5 CT does not include as.

and spring rains.^a ⁸You, too, be patient and strengthen your hearts, because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹Do not complain about one another, brothers, so that you will not be judged.^b Look, the Judge is standing at the door!

¹⁰My brothers,^c as an example of patience in affliction, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹See how blessed we consider those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen the outcome from the Lord. He is^d full of compassion and mercy.

¹²Above all, my brothers, do not swear, not by heaven or earth or by any other oath. Simply let your "Yes" be yes, and your "No," no, so that you will not fall into hypocrisy.^e

The Prayer of Faith

¹³Is any one of you suffering? He should pray. Is anyone cheerful? He should sing praises. ¹⁴Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the

church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵And the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick. The Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.

¹⁶Confess your trespasses^f to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power to prevail. ¹⁷Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. ¹⁸Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth yielded its crops.

Restoring a Sinner

¹⁹Brothers,^g if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, ²⁰consider this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul^h from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

^a 7 Literally for it until it receives the early and the late rain ^b 9 TR condemned ^c 10 CT and F35 Brothers ^d 11 CT and TR The Lord is ^e 12 CT and Scrivener TR under judgment ^f 16 CT Therefore confess your sins ^g 19 CT My brothers ^h 20 CT his soul

1 Peter

A Greeting from Peter (2 Peter 1:1–2)

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,
To the elect who are exiles of the Dispersion throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, chosen^a 2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father and sanctified by the Spirit for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by His blood:

Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

A Living Hope

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By His great mercy He has given us new birth^b into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, reserved in heaven for you, **5** who through faith are shielded by God's power for the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in various trials **7** so that the proven character of your faith—more precious than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, honor, and glory^c at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

8 Though you have not known^d Him, you love Him; and though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and rejoice with an inexpressible and glorious joy, **9** now that you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who foretold the grace to come to you searched and investigated carefully, **11** trying to determine the time and setting to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.

12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you,^e when they foretold the things now announced by those who

preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

A Call to Holiness (Hebrews 12:14–17)

13 Therefore prepare your minds for action.^f Be sober-minded. Set your hope fully on the grace to be given you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. **14** As obedient children, do not conform to the passions of your former ignorance. **15** But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do, **16** for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."^g

17 Since you call on a Father who judges each one's work impartially, conduct yourselves in reverent fear during your stay as foreigners. **18** For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life you inherited from your forefathers, **19** but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or spot. **20** He was known before the foundation of the world, but was revealed in the last times for your sake.

21 Through Him you believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and glorified Him; and so your faith and hope are in God.

The Enduring Word (Isaiah 40:6–8)

22 Since you have purified your souls by obedience to the truth through the Spirit^h so that you have a genuine love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from a pure heart.ⁱ **23** For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and forever^j enduring word of God. **24** For,

"All flesh is like grass,
and all the glory of man^k like the flowers
of the field;

the grass withers and the flowers fall,
25 but the word of the Lord stands forever."^l

And this is the word that was proclaimed to you.

^a **1** Literally *To the elect sojourners of the Diaspora of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia*. These provinces were located in what is now Turkey. ^b **3** Or *has caused us to be born again or has begotten us again* ^c **7** CT and F35 *praise, glory, and honor* ^d **8** CT and TR *have not seen* ^e **12** TR *us* ^f **13** Literally *Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind* ^g **16** Leviticus 11:44–45; Leviticus 19:2 ^h **22** CT does not include *through the Spirit*. ⁱ **22** SBL, NE, and WH *from the heart* ^j **23** CT does not include *forever*. ^k **24** CT *and all its glory* ^l **25** Isaiah 40:6–8

The Living Stone and Chosen People

(Isaiah 28:14–22; 1 Corinthians 3:10–15;
Ephesians 2:19–22)

2 Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander. ²Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow,^a ³if indeed^b you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴As you come to Him, the living stone, rejected by men but chosen and precious in God's sight, ⁵you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house,^c a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture:

"See, I lay in Zion a stone,
a chosen and precious cornerstone;
and the one who believes in Him
will never be put to shame."^d

⁷To you who believe, then, this stone is precious. But to those who are disobedient,^e

"The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,"^f

⁸and,

"A stone of stumbling
and a rock of offense."^g

They stumble because they disobey the word—and to this they were appointed.

⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, to proclaim the virtues of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.^h

¹¹Beloved, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from the desires of the flesh, which war against your soul. ¹²Conduct yourselves with such honor among the Gentiles that, though they slander you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us.

Submission to Authorities (Romans 13:1–7)

¹³Thereforeⁱ submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to the king as the supreme authority, ¹⁴or to governors as those sent by him to punish those who do

wrong and to praise those who do right. ¹⁵For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorance of foolish men.

¹⁶Live in freedom, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. ¹⁷Treat everyone with high regard: Love the brotherhood of believers,^j fear God, honor the king.

¹⁸Servants, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect,^k not only to those who are good and gentle, but even to those who are unreasonable. ¹⁹For if anyone endures the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God, this is to be commended. ²⁰How is it to your credit if you are beaten for doing wrong and you endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.

Christ's Example of Suffering (Isaiah 53:1–8)

²¹For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us,^l leaving you an example, that you should follow in His footsteps:

²²"He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in His mouth."^m

²³When they heaped abuse on Him,
He did not retaliate;
when He suffered, He made no threats,
but entrusted Himself to Him who judges
justly.

²⁴He Himself bore our sinsⁿ
in His body on the tree,
so that we might die to sin
and live to righteousness.
"By His stripes you are healed."^o

²⁵For "you were like sheep going astray,"^p but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your^q souls.

Wives and Husbands

(Song of Solomon 1:1–17; Ephesians 5:22–33)

3 Wives, in the same way, submit yourselves to your husbands, so that even if they refuse to believe the word, they will be won over without words by the behavior of their wives ²when they see your pure and reverent demeanor.

³Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair or gold jewelry or fine clothes, ⁴but from the inner disposition of

^a 2 GOC, CT, and F35 include *in your salvation*. ^b 3 CT *now that* ^c 5 CT *house to be* ^d 6 Isaiah 28:16 (see also LXX) ^e 7 CT *to those who do not believe* ^f 7 Psalm 118:22 ^g 8 Isaiah 8:14 ^h 10 Hosea 2:23 ⁱ 13 CT does not include *Therefore*. ^j 17 Literally *Love the brotherhood* ^k 18 *Or in all fear* ^l 21 CT *for you* ^m 22 Isaiah 53:9 ⁿ 24 Isaiah 53:4 (see also LXX) ^o 24 Isaiah 53:5 ^p 25 Isaiah 53:6 ^q 25 F35 *our*

your heart, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet^a spirit, which is precious in God's sight. ⁵For this is how the holy women of the past adorned themselves. They put their hope in God and were submissive to their husbands, ⁶just as Sarah obeyed Abraham and called him lord. And you are her children if you do what is right and refuse to give way to fear.

⁷Husbands, in the same way, dwell with your wives in an understanding manner. Treat them with honor as a delicate vessel and as fellow heirs of the gracious gift of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

Turning from Evil

⁸Finally, all of you, be like-minded and sympathetic, love as brothers, be tenderhearted and courteous.^b ⁹Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, knowing that^c to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. ¹⁰For,

“Whoever would love life
and see good days
must keep his tongue from evil
and his lips from deceitful speech.

¹¹He must turn from evil and do good;
he must seek peace and pursue it.

¹²For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and His ears are inclined to their prayer.

But the face of the Lord is against
those who do evil.”^d

¹³Who can harm you if you are imitators of^e what is good?

Suffering for Righteousness

¹⁴But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear what they fear; do not be shaken.”^f ¹⁵But in your hearts sanctify the Lord God.^g Always be prepared to give a defense to everyone who asks you the reason for the hope that is in you. But respond with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶keeping a clear conscience, so that those who slander you as evildoers^h may be put to shame by your good behavior in Christ. ¹⁷For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

¹⁸For Christ also sufferedⁱ for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you/ to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit, ¹⁹in whom^k He also went and preached to the spirits in prison ²⁰who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built.

In the ark a few people, only eight souls, were saved through water. ²¹And this water symbolizes the baptism that now saves us also^l —not the removal of dirt from the body, but the pledge of^m a clear conscience toward God—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers subject to Him.

Living for God's Glory

(1 Corinthians 10:23–33)

4 Therefore, since Christ suffered for usⁿ in His body, arm yourselves with the same resolve, because anyone who has suffered in his body is done with sin. ²Consequently, he does not live out his remaining time on earth for human passions, but for the will of God. ³For we have spent enough of our past lifetime^o carrying out the same desires as the Gentiles: living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing, and detestable idolatry.

⁴Because of this, they consider it strange of you not to plunge with them into the same flood of reckless indiscretion, and they heap abuse on you. ⁵But they will have to give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶That is why the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead,^p so that they might be judged as men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

⁷The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear-minded and sober, so that you can pray.^q ⁸Above all, love one another deeply, because love will cover over^r a multitude of sins.^s ⁹Show hospitality to one another without complaining.

¹⁰As good stewards of the manifold grace of God, each of you should use whatever gift he has received to serve one another. ¹¹If anyone speaks, he should speak as one conveying the words of

^a 4 WH *quiet and gentle* ^b 8 CT *and humble* ^c 9 CT *blessing, because* ^d 12 Psalm 34:12–16 (see also LXX) ^e 13 CT *zealous for* ^f 14 Or “Do not fear their threats; do not be shaken.” Isaiah 8:12 ^g 15 CT *But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord.* This sentence may also be included with the quotation from the previous verse; see Isaiah 8:13. ^h 16 CT does not include *as evildoers*. ⁱ 18 NE and WH *died* ^j 18 GOC, F35, and TR *us* ^k 19 Or *in the Spirit, 19 in which* ^l 21 CT *you also* ^m 21 Or *appeal for* ⁿ 1 CT does not include *for us*. ^o 3 CT *For you have spent enough time in the past* ^p 6 Or *to those who are dead* ^q 7 Literally *for the sake of your prayers* ^r 8 CT and F35 *covers over* ^s 8 See Proverbs 10:12.

God. If anyone serves, he should serve with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory and the power forever and ever.^a Amen.

Suffering as Christians

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial that has come upon you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice that you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed at the revelation of His glory.

¹⁴If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. Indeed, on their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.^b ¹⁵Indeed, none of you should suffer as a murderer or thief or wrongdoer, or even as a meddler. ¹⁶But if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but glorify God in this matter.^c ¹⁷For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who disobey the gospel of God? ¹⁸And,

“If it is hard for the righteous to be saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the
sinner?”^d

¹⁹So then, those who suffer according to God’s will should entrust their souls to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

Instructions to Elders

(1 Timothy 3:1–7; Titus 1:5–9)

5 As a fellow elder, a witness of Christ’s sufferings, and a partaker of the glory to be revealed, I appeal to the elders^e among you: ²Be shepherds of God’s flock that is among you, watching over them^f not out of compulsion, but willingly;^g not out of greed, but out of eagerness; ³not lording it over those entrusted to you, but

being examples to the flock. ⁴And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

Cast Your Cares on Him

⁵Young men, in the same way, submit yourselves to your elders. And all of you, clothe yourselves with humility, being subject to one another,^h because,

“God opposes the proud,
but gives grace to the humble.”ⁱ

⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, so that in due time He may exalt you. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

⁸Be sober-minded and alert.^j Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, standing firm in your faith and in the knowledge that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering.

Benediction and Farewell

¹⁰And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ Jesus,^k will Himself restore you, secure you, strengthen you, and establish you. ¹¹To Him be the glory and^l the power forever and ever.^m Amen.

¹²Through Silvanus,ⁿ whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it.

¹³The church in Babylon,^o chosen together with you, sends you greetings, as does my son Mark.

¹⁴Greet one another with a kiss of love.

Peace to all of you who are in Christ Jesus.^p Amen.^q

^a 11 F35 does not include *and ever*. ^b 14 CT does not include *Indeed, on their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified*. ^c 16 NA28, MT, and TR; NA27, SBL, TH, and WH *glorify God in that name or glorify God that you bear that name*. ^d 18 Proverbs 11:31 (see also LXX). ^e 1 NA27, SBL, TH, NE, and WH *I appeal therefore to the elders*. ^f 2 NE and WH do not include *watching over them*. ^g 2 WH, MT, and TR; NA, SBL, and TH *but willingly, as God would have you*. ^h 5 CT *with humility toward one another*. ⁱ 5 Proverbs 3:34 (see also LXX). ^j 8 F35 and TR *alert, because*. ^k 10 CT *in Christ*. ^l 11 CT does not include *the glory and*. ^m 11 NA and WH do not include *and ever*. ⁿ 12 That is, Silas. ^o 13 Literally *She in Babylon*. ^p 14 NA, SBL, TH, and WH *in Christ*. ^q 14 CT does not include *Amen*.

2 Peter

A Greeting from Peter

(1 Peter 1:1–2)

1 Simon^a Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:

²Grace and peace be multiplied to you through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

Partakers of the Divine Nature

³His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own^b glory and excellence. ⁴Through these He has given us His precious and magnificent ^c promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, now that you have escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

⁵For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; ⁶and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. ⁸For if you possess these qualities and continue to grow in them, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹But whoever lacks these traits is near-sighted to the point of blindness, having forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

¹⁰Therefore, brothers, strive to make your calling and election sure. For if you practice these things you will never stumble, ¹¹and you will receive a lavish reception into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

¹²Therefore I will not neglect to^d remind you of these things, even though you know them and are established in the truth you now have. ¹³I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of my body,^e ¹⁴because I know

that this tent will soon be laid aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. ¹⁵And I will make every effort to ensure that after my departure, you will be able to recall these things at all times.

Eyewitnesses of His Majesty

(Matthew 17:1–13; Mark 9:1–13; Luke 9:28–36)

¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ¹⁷For He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to Him from the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”^f ¹⁸And we ourselves heard this voice from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹We also have the word of the prophets as confirmed beyond doubt. And you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture comes from one’s own interpretation. ²¹For no such prophecy was ever brought forth by the will of man, but holy^g men of God spoke as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Deliverance from False Prophets

(Jude 1:3–16)

2 Now there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. ²Many will follow in their depravity,^h and because of them the way of truth will be defamed. ³In their greed, these false teachers will exploit you with deceptive words. The longstanding verdict against them remains in force, and their destruction will not sleep.ⁱ

^a 1 Literally *Simeon*; Scrivener TR *Simon* ^b 3 Or to His own ^c 4 TR *magnificent and precious* ^d 12 CT *I will always*
^e 13 Literally *as long as I am in this tent* ^f 17 Matthew 17:5; see also Mark 9:7 and Luke 9:35. ^g 21 CT does not include *holy*. ^h 2 TR *destructive ways* ⁱ 3 NA, SBL, TH, TR, and WH *does not sleep*

4For if God did not spare the angels when they sinned, but cast them deep into hell,^a placing them in chains^b of darkness to be held for judgment; 5if He did not spare the ancient world when He brought the flood on its ungodly people, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, among the eight; 6if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction,^c reducing them to ashes as an example of what is coming on the ungodly;^d 7and if He rescued Lot, a righteous man distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless 8(for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)— 9if all this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment.

10Such punishment is specially reserved for those who indulge the corrupt desires of the flesh and despise authority. Bold and self-willed, they are unafraid to slander glorious beings.^e

11Yet not even angels, though greater in strength and power, dare to bring such slanderous charges against them before the Lord.^f

12These men are like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be captured and destroyed. They blaspheme in matters they do not understand, and like such creatures, they will be destroyed.^g 13They will receive the wages^h of their wickedness.

They consider it a pleasure to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deception as they feast with you. 14Their eyes are full of adultery; their desire for sin is never satisfied; they seduce the unstable. They are accursed children with hearts trained in greed.

15They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Bosor,ⁱ who loved the wages of wickedness. 16But he was rebuked for his transgression by a donkey, otherwise without speech, that spoke with a man's voice and restrained the prophet's madness.

17These men are springs without water and clouds^j driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is forever^k reserved for them. 18With lofty but empty words, they appeal to the sensual passions of the flesh and entice those who have truly escaped^l from others who live in error. 19They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves to depravity. For a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.

20If indeed they have escaped the corruption of the world through the knowledge of the^m Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, only to be entangled and overcome by it again, their final condition is worse than it was at first. 21It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness than to have known it and then to turn away from the holy commandment passed on to them. 22Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its vomit,"ⁿ and, "A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud."

The Coming Judgment

(Genesis 7:1–24; Jude 1:17–23)

3 Beloved, this is now my second letter to you. Both of them are reminders to stir you to wholesome thinking 2by recalling what was foretold by the holy prophets and commanded by our Lord and Savior through your apostles.

3Most importantly, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, following^o their own evil desires.^p 4"Where is the promise of His coming?" they will ask. "Ever since our fathers fell asleep, everything continues as it has from the beginning of creation."

5But they deliberately overlook the fact that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water, 6through which^q the world of that time perished in the flood. 7And by His word,^r the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

The Day of the Lord (Zephaniah 1:7–18;

Malachi 4:1–6; 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11)

8Beloved, do not let this one thing escape your notice: With the Lord a day is like a thousand

^a 4 Greek *cast them into Tartarus*; see the First Book of Enoch (1 Enoch 13:1–11 and 1 Enoch 20:1–4). ^b 4 TH and WH in *pits* ^c 6 WH does not include *to destruction*. ^d 6 Or *on future generations of the ungodly* ^e 10 Or *to blaspheme angelic majesties* ^f 11 SBL does not include *before the Lord*. ^g 12 CT and HF *they too will be destroyed* ^h 13 NA, SBL, and WH *The harm they will suffer is the wages* ⁱ 15 NA, SBL, MT, and TR; WH *Beor* ^j 17 CT *mists* ^k 17 CT does not include *forever*. ^l 18 CT *who are just escaping* ^m 20 Some CT *our* ⁿ 22 Proverbs 26:11 ^o 3 CT *scoffing (and) following* ^p 3 See Jude 1:18. ^q 6 NA *through whom* ^r 7 CT and Scrivener TR *by that same word*

years, and a thousand years are like a day.^a ⁹The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise as some understand slowness, but is patient with us,^b not wanting anyone to perish but everyone to come to repentance.

¹⁰But the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.^c The heavens will disappear with a roar, the elements will be destroyed^d by fire, and the earth and its works will be burned up.^e

¹¹Since everything will be destroyed, then,^f what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to conduct yourselves in holiness and godliness ¹²as you anticipate and hasten the coming of the day of God, when the heavens will be destroyed by fire and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³But in keeping with God's promise, we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

Final Exhortations

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, as you anticipate these things, make every effort to be found at peace—spotless and blameless in His sight.^g

¹⁵Consider also that our Lord's patience brings salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom God gave him. ¹⁶He writes this way in all his letters,^h speaking in them about such matters. Some parts of his letters are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort,ⁱ as they do the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

¹⁷Therefore, beloved, since you already know these things, be on your guard so that you will not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure standing. ¹⁸But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity.

Amen.^j

a ⁸ See Psalm 90:4. **b** ⁹ CT with you **c** ¹⁰ CT does not include *in the night*. **d** ¹⁰ Or *dissolved*; also in verses 11 and 12 **e** ¹⁰ Some CT will be laid bare or will be exposed or will be disclosed; SBL, NE, and WH will be found, i.e., will be unable to hide. **f** ¹¹ CT destroyed in this way **g** ¹⁴ Or to be found by Him in peace, without spot and without blemish. **h** ¹⁶ Or in all the letters **i** ¹⁶ NA28 will distort **j** ¹⁸ NE, WH, and NA28 do not include Amen.

1 John

The Word of Life

(Luke 24:36–49; John 20:19–23)

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our own eyes, which we have gazed upon and touched with our own hands—this is the Word of life. ²And this is the life that was revealed; we have seen it and testified to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us.

³We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And this fellowship of ours is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴We write these things to you^a so that our^b joy may be complete.

Walking in the Light (John 8:12–29)

⁵And this is the message^c we have heard from Him and announce to you: God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say we have fellowship with Him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷But^d if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ^e His Son cleanses us from all sin.

⁸If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar, and His word is not in us.

Jesus Our Advocate

2 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate before the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ²He Himself is the atoning sacrifice^f for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

³By this we can be sure that we have come to know Him: if we keep His commandments. ⁴If

anyone says, “I know Him,” but does not keep His commandments, he is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵But if anyone keeps His word, the love of God has been truly perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him: ⁶Whoever claims to abide in Him must walk as Jesus walked.

A New Commandment

⁷Brothers,^g I am not writing to you a new commandment, but an old one, which you have had from the beginning. This commandment is the message you have heard from the beginning.^h

⁸Then again, I am also writing to you a new commandment, which is true in Him and also in you. For the darkness is fading and the true light is already shining.

⁹If anyone claims to be in the light but hates his brother, he is still in the darkness. ¹⁰Whoever loves his brother remains in the light, and there is no cause of stumbling in him. ¹¹But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness. He does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

¹²I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven through His name.

¹³I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who is from the beginning.

I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.ⁱ

I am writing^j to you, children, because you know the Father.

¹⁴I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who is from the beginning.

I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Do Not Love the World

¹⁵Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world—the

^a 4 CT does not include *to you*. ^b 4 ALT and Scrivener TR *your* ^c 5 GOC and Stephanus TR *the promise* ^d 7 NA28 does not include *But*. ^e 7 CT of Jesus ^f 2 Or *the propitiation* ^g 7 CT Beloved ^h 7 CT does not include *from the beginning*. ⁱ 13 Or *you have overcome evil*; also in verse 14 ^j 13 CT and GOC *I have written*

desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷The world is passing away, along with its desires; but whoever does the will of God remains forever.

Beware of Antichrists

¹⁸Children, it is the last hour; and just as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have appeared. This is how we know it is the last hour. ¹⁹They went out from us, but they did not belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us. But their departure made it clear that none of them belonged to us.

²⁰You, however, have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.^a ²¹I have not written to you because you lack knowledge of the truth, but because you have it, and because no lie comes from the truth. ²²Who is the liar, if it is not the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, who denies the Father and the Son. ²³Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father.^b

Remain in Christ

²⁴As for you, then,^c let what you have heard from the beginning remain in you. If it does, you will also remain in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵And this is the promise that He Himself made to us: eternal life.

²⁶I have written these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. ²⁷And as for you, the anointing you received from Him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But just as the same^d true and genuine anointing teaches you about all things, so you must remain^e in Him as you have been taught.

²⁸And now, little children, remain in Christ,^f so that when He appears, we may be confident and unashamed before Him at His coming.

²⁹If you know that He is righteous, you also know that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of Him.

Children of God

3 Behold what manner of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called

children of God.^g The reason the world does not know you is that it did not know Him. ²Beloved, we are now children of God, and what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when Christ appears,^h we will be like Him, for we will see Him as He is. ³And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as Christ is pure.ⁱ

⁴Everyone who practices sin practices lawlessness as well. Indeed, sin is lawlessness.^j ⁵But you know that Christ appeared to take away our^k sins, and in Him there is no sin. ⁶No one who remains in Him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has seen Him or known Him.

⁷Little children,^l let no one deceive you: The one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as Christ is righteous.^m ⁸The one who practices sin is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the very start. This is why the Son of God was revealed, to destroy the works of the devil.

⁹Anyone born of God refuses to practice sin, because God's seed abides in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. ¹⁰By this the children of God are distinguished from the children of the devil: Anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is anyone who does not love his brother.

Love One Another

(John 13:31–35; Romans 12:9–13)

¹¹This is the message you have heard from the beginning: We should love one another. ¹²Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did Cain slay him? Because his own deeds were evil, while those of his brother were righteous. ¹³So do not be surprised, my brothers,ⁿ if the world hates you.

¹⁴We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. The one who does not love his brother^o remains in death. ¹⁵Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that eternal life does not reside in a murderer.

¹⁶By this we know what love is:^p Jesus laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives

^a 20 NA, SBL, and WH literal and all of you know. ^b 23 CT and TR include but whoever confesses the Son has the Father as well. ^c 24 CT does not include then. ^d 27 CT just as His ^e 27 CT (so) remain ^f 28 Literally remain in Him

^g 1 CT includes And that is what we are! ^h 2 Literally when He appears or when it appears ⁱ 3 Literally just as He is pure ^j 4 Or is violation of the Law ^k 5 CT does not include our. ^l 7 NA28 Young children in training ^m 7 Literally He is righteous ⁿ 13 CT surprised, brothers ^o 14 CT does not include his brother. ^p 16 Scrivener TR what the love of God is

for our brothers. ¹⁷If anyone with earthly possessions sees his brother in need, but withholds his compassion from him, how can the love of God abide in him?

¹⁸My^a little children, let us love not in word and speech, but in action and truth. ¹⁹And by this we know that we belong to the truth, and assure^b our hearts in His presence: ²⁰Even if our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts, and He knows all things.

²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us,^c we have confidence before God, ²²and we will receive from Him whatever we ask, because we keep His commandments and do what is pleasing in His sight. ²³And this is His commandment: that we should believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and we should love one another just as He commanded.^d ²⁴Whoever keeps His commandments remains in God, and God in him. And by this we know that He remains in us: by the Spirit He has given us.

Testing the Spirits

4 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God. For many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you will know^e the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh^f is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and which is already in the world at this time.

⁴You, little children, are from God and have overcome them, because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. ⁵They are of the world. That is why they speak from the world's perspective, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. That is how we know the Spirit^g of truth and the spirit of deception.

Love Comes from God

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

⁹This is how God's love was revealed among us: God sent His one and only^h Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. ¹⁰And love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as the atoning sacrificeⁱ for our sins.

¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God remains in us, and His love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we remain in Him, and He in us: He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world.

¹⁵If anyone confesses that Jesus^j is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶And we have come to know and believe the love that God has for us. God is love; whoever abides in love abides in God, and God^k in him. ¹⁷In this way, love has been perfected among us, so that we may have confidence on the day of judgment; for in this world we are just like Him.

¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear involves punishment. The one who fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹We love Him^l because He first loved us.

²⁰If anyone says, "I love God," but hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, how can he love God, whom he has not seen?^m ²¹And we have this commandment from Him: Whoever loves God must love his brother as well.

Overcoming the World

5 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father also loves those born of Him.ⁿ ²By this we know that we love the children of God: when we love God and keep His commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome, ⁴because everyone born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world: our^o faith.

⁵Who then overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. ⁶This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus

^a 18 CT does not include *My*. ^b 19 CT *we will know... and will assure* ^c 21 WH does not include *us*. ^d 23 CT and TR *commanded us* ^e 2 Literally *By this is known* ^f 3 CT *does not confess Jesus* ^g 6 Or *spirit* ^h 9 Or *only begotten or unique* ⁱ 10 Or *as a propitiation* ^j 15 WH *Jesus Christ* ^k 16 Literally *and God abides* ^l 19 CT does not include *Him*. ^m 20 CT *whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen*. ⁿ 1 Literally *and everyone loving the One having begotten also loves the one having been begotten from Him*. ^o 4 ALT and HF *your*

Christ—not by water alone, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies to this, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there are three that testify:^a ⁸the Spirit, the water, and the blood—and these three are in agreement.

God's Testimony about His Son

⁹Even if we accept human testimony, the testimony of God is greater. For this is the testimony that God has given about His Son. ¹⁰Whoever believes in the Son of God has this testimony within him; whoever does not believe God has made Him out to be a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given about His Son.

¹¹And this is that testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

Effective Prayer

¹³I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life and that you may believe in the name of the Son of God.^b ¹⁴And this is the confidence that we have before Him: If we

ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we already possess what we have asked of Him.

¹⁶If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he should ask God, who will give life to those who commit this kind of sin. There is a sin that leads to death; I am not saying he should ask regarding that sin. ¹⁷All unrighteousness is sin, yet there is sin that does not lead to death.

The True God

¹⁸We know that anyone born of God does not keep on sinning; the one who was born of God protects himself,^c and the evil one^d cannot touch him. ¹⁹We know that we are of God, and that the whole world is under the power of the evil one. ²⁰And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true—in His Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

²¹Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.^e

^a ⁷ TR and GOC *three that testify in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are One.* ⁸ *And there are three that testify on earth:* ^b ¹³ CT does not include *and that you may believe in the name of the Son of God.* ^c ¹⁸ CT the *One who was born of God protects him or God protects the one born of Him* ^d ¹⁸ Or *evil*; similarly in verse 19 ^e ²¹ CT does not include *Amen*.

2 John

A Greeting from the Elder

(3 John 1:1–4)

¹The elder,

To the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in the truth—and not I alone, but also all who know the truth— ²because of the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever:

³Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ,^a the Son of the Father, will be with us in truth and love.

Walking in the Truth

(John 8:30–47)

⁴I was overjoyed to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father has commanded us. ⁵And now I urge you, dear lady—not as a new commandment to you,^b but one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. ⁶And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the very commandment you have heard from the beginning, that you must walk in love.

Beware of Deceivers

⁷For many deceivers have entered^c into the world, refusing to confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. ⁸Watch yourselves, so that you do not lose what we have worked for,^d but that you may be fully rewarded. ⁹Anyone who transgresses^e without remaining in the teaching of Christ does not have God. Whoever remains in the teaching of Christ^f has both the Father and the Son.

¹⁰If anyone comes to you but does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your home or even greet him. ¹¹Whoever greets such a person shares in his evil deeds.

Conclusion (3 John 1:13–14)

¹²I have many things to write to you, but I would prefer not to do so with paper and ink. Instead, I hope to come and speak with you face to face,^g so that our^h joy may be complete.

¹³The children of your elect sister send you greetings. Amen.ⁱ

^a 3 CT and from Jesus Christ ^b 5 Literally not as a new commandment I am writing to you ^c 7 CT have gone out
^d 8 TH, NE, and WH what you have worked for ^e 9 CT runs ahead ^f 9 CT in His teaching ^g 12 Literally mouth to mouth
^h 12 SBL and WH your ⁱ 13 CT does not include Amen.

3 John

A Greeting from the Elder

(2 John 1:1–3)

¹The elder,

To the beloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth:

²Beloved, I pray that in every way you may prosper and enjoy good health, as your soul also prospers. ³For I was overjoyed when the brothers came and testified about your devotion to the truth, in which you continue to walk. ⁴I have no greater joy^a than to hear that my children are walking in truth.^b

Gaius Commended for Hospitality

⁵Beloved, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and for those who are^c strangers to you. ⁶They have testified to the church about your love. You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God. ⁷For they went out on behalf of the Name,^d accepting nothing from the Gentiles. ⁸Therefore we ought to receive^e such men, so that we may be fellow workers for the truth.

Diotrephes and Demetrius

⁹I have written to the church about this,^f but Diotrephes, who loves to be first, will not accept our instruction. ¹⁰So if I come, I will call attention to his malicious slander against us. And unsatisfied with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers and forbids those who want to do so, even putting them out of the church.

¹¹Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God.

¹²Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself. We also testify for him, and you know^g that our testimony is true.

Conclusion (2 John 1:12–13)

¹³I have many things to write,^h but I would prefer not to do so with pen and ink. ¹⁴Instead, I hope to see you soon and speak with you face to face.ⁱ Peace to you.

The friends here send you greetings.

Greet each of our friends there by name.

^a ⁴ WH grace ^b ⁴ CT in the truth ^c ⁵ CT even though they are ^d ⁷ Scrivener TR His name ^e ⁸ CT to support ^f ⁹ Literally I have written to the church; CT I have written something to the church ^g ¹² F35 we know ^h ¹³ CT to write to you
ⁱ ¹⁴ Literally and we will speak mouth to mouth; some translators begin a new verse (15) after face to face.

Jude

A Greeting from Jude

(James 1:1)

¹Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James,

To those who are called, sanctified^a by God the Father, and kept in Jesus Christ:

²Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

God's Judgment on the Ungodly

(2 Peter 3:1–7)

³Beloved, although I made every effort to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt it necessary to write and urge you to contend earnestly for the faith entrusted once for all to the saints. ⁴For certain men have crept in among you unnoticed—ungodly ones who were designated long ago for condemnation. They turn the grace of our God into a license for immorality, and they deny God^b our only Master and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵Although you are fully aware of this, I want to remind you that after the Lord^c had delivered His people out of the land of Egypt, He destroyed those who did not believe. ⁶And the angels who did not stay within their own domain but abandoned their proper dwelling—these He has kept in eternal chains under darkness, bound for judgment on that great day. ⁷In like manner, Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, who indulged in sexual immorality and pursued strange flesh, are on display as an example of those who sustain the punishment of eternal fire.

⁸Yet in the same way these dreamers defile their bodies, reject authority, and slander glorious beings. ⁹But even the archangel Michael, when he disputed with the devil over the body of Moses, did not presume to bring a slanderous charge against him, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”^d

¹⁰These men, however, slander what they do not understand, and like irrational animals, they will be destroyed by the things they do instinctively.

¹¹Woe to them! They have traveled the path of Cain; they have rushed for profit into the error of Balaam; they have perished in Korah's rebellion.

¹²These men are hidden reefs^e in your love feasts, shamelessly feasting with you but shepherding only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried along by the wind; fruitless trees in autumn, twice dead after being uprooted. ¹³They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever.

¹⁴Enoch, the seventh from Adam, also prophesied about them:

“Behold, the Lord is coming
with myriads of His holy ones

¹⁵to execute judgment on everyone,
and to convict all the ungodly among them^f
of every ungodly act of wickedness
and every harsh word spoken against Him
by ungodly sinners.”^g

¹⁶These men are discontented grumblers, following after their own lusts; their mouths spew arrogance; they flatter others for their own advantage.

A Call to Persevere

(Hebrews 10:19–39; 2 Peter 3:1–7)

¹⁷But you, beloved, remember what was foretold by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ ¹⁸when they said to you, “In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow after their own ungodly desires.”^h ¹⁹These are the ones who cause divisions,ⁱ who are worldly and devoid of the Spirit.

²⁰But you, beloved, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy

^a 1 CT loved ^b 4 CT and GOC do not include God. ^c 5 SBL and NA28 after Jesus ^d 9 This account is attributed by Origen to the Testament of Moses, also called the Assumption of Moses. ^e 12 Or are blemishes ^f 15 CT does not include among them. ^g 15 See the First Book of Enoch (1 Enoch 1:9). ^h 18 See 2 Peter 3:3. ⁱ 19 Scrivener TR who separate themselves

Spirit, ²¹keep yourselves in the love of God as you await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you eternal life.

²²And indeed, have mercy on some, making a distinction;^a ²³save others with fear^b by snatching them from the fire,^c hating even the clothing stained by the flesh.

Doxology (*Romans 14:24–26*)

²⁴Now to Him who is able to keep them from stumbling and to present them^d unblemished in His glorious presence, with great joy— ²⁵to the only wise^e God our Savior be glory, majesty, dominion and authority^f both now and for all eternity.

Amen.

^a 22 CT have mercy on those who doubt ^b 23 CT does not include with fear. ^c 23 CT includes and to still others show mercy tempered with fear. ^d 24 CT and Scrivener TR you from stumbling and present (you) ^e 25 CT does not include wise. ^f 25 CT includes through Jesus Christ our Lord before all time.

Revelation

Prologue (Daniel 12:1–13)

1 This is the revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants what must soon^a come to pass. He made it known by sending His angel to His servant John,² who testifies to everything he saw.^b This is the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

³ Blessed is the one who reads aloud^c the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear and obey what is written in it, because the time is near.

John Greets the Seven Churches

⁴ John,

To the seven churches in the province of Asia:^d

Grace and peace to you from God who^e is and was and is to come, and from the seven spirits^f before His throne,⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To Him who loves us and has washed^g us from our sins by His blood, ⁶who has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and power forever and ever!^h Amen.

⁷ Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him—even those who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. So shall it be! Amen.

⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega,ⁱ” says the Lord God, who is and was and is to come—the Almighty.

John’s Vision on Patmos

⁹ I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance that are in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and my testimony about Jesus Christ.^j ¹⁰ On the Lord’s day I was in the Spirit,

and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, ¹¹saying,^k “Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: ^lto Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.”

¹² And there I turned^m to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned, I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³and among the sevenⁿ lampstands was One like the Son of Man,^o dressed in a long robe, with a golden sash around His chest. ¹⁴ The hair of His head was white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes were like a blazing fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like polished bronze refined in a furnace, and His voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶ He held in His right hand seven stars, and a sharp double-edged sword came from His mouth. His face was like the sun shining at its brightest.

¹⁷ When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. But He placed His right hand on me and said,^p “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last, ¹⁸the Living One. I was dead, and behold, now I am alive forever and ever. Amen.^q And I hold the keys of Death and of Hades.^r

¹⁹ Therefore^s write down the things you have seen, the things that are, and the things that will happen after this. ²⁰ This is the mystery of the seven stars you saw in My right hand and of the seven golden lampstands:^t The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

To the Church in Ephesus

(Acts 19:8–12; Ephesians 1:1–2)

2 “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of Him who holds the seven stars in His right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands.

^a 1 Or suddenly or quickly ^b 2 ALT and F35 saw, what is now, and what must take place after this. ^c 3 Or who reads ^d 4 Literally in Asia; Asia was a Roman province in what is now western Turkey. ^e 4 ALT, F35, CT, and TR from Him who ^f 4 Or the sevenfold Spirit ^g 5 CT has released ^h 6 WH does not include and ever. ⁱ 8 TR includes the Beginning and the End. ^j 9 CT about Jesus ^k 11 TR saying, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,” and, ^l 11 TR includes in Asia. ^m 12 ALT, CT, and TR Then I turned ⁿ 13 NA, SBL, and WH do not include seven. ^o 13 Or one like a son of man; see Daniel 7:13. ^p 17 TR said to me ^q 18 CT and GOC do not include Amen. ^r 18 TR of Hades and of Death ^s 19 TR does not include Therefore. ^t 20 ALT, F35, and TR lampstands that you saw

2I know your deeds, your labor, and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate those who are evil, and you have tested and exposed as liars those who falsely claim to be apostles. 3Without growing weary, you have persevered and endured many things^a for the sake of My name.

4But I have this against you: You have abandoned your first love. 5Therefore, keep in mind how far you have fallen. Repent and perform the deeds you did at first. But if you do not repent, I will come to you quickly^b and remove your lampstand from its place.

6But you have this to your credit: You hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

7He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who overcomes, I will grant the right to eat from the tree of life in the Paradise of God.

To the Church in Smyrna

8To the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

These are the words of the First and the Last, who died and returned to life.

9I know your works and^c your affliction and your poverty—though you are rich! And I am aware of the slander of those who falsely claim to be Jews, but are in fact a synagogue of Satan.

10Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison to test you, and you will suffer tribulation for ten days. Be faithful even unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

11He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who overcomes will not be harmed by the second death.

To the Church in Pergamum

12To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

These are the words of the One who holds the sharp, double-edged sword.

13I know your works and where you live, where the throne of Satan sits. Yet you hold

to My name and did not deny your faith in Me in^d the days of My faithful witness Antipas, who was killed among you where Satan dwells.

14But I have a few things against you, because some of you hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to place a stumbling block before the Israelites so they would eat food sacrificed to idols and commit sexual immorality. 15In the same way, some of you also hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. 16Therefore^e repent! Otherwise I will come to you shortly and wage war against them with the sword of My mouth.

17He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who overcomes, I will give^f the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone inscribed with a new name, known only to the one who receives it.

To the Church in Thyatira (Acts 16:11–15)

18To the angel of the church in Thyatira write:

These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like a blazing fire and whose feet are like polished bronze.

19I know your deeds—your love, your faith, your service, your perseverance—and your latest deeds are greater than your first.

20But I have this^g against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads My servants to be sexually immoral and to eat food sacrificed to idols. 21Even though I have given her time to repent of her immorality, she is unwilling.

22Behold, I will cast her onto a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her will suffer great tribulation unless they repent of her^h deeds. 23Then I will strike her children dead, and all the churches will know that I am the One who searches minds and hearts, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.

24But I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned the so-called deep things of Satan: I will place no further burden upon you

^a 3 ALT and F35 *endured many things and persevered* ^b 5 CT does not include *quickly*. ^c 9 CT does not include *your works and*; also in verse 13. ^d 13 CT *even in* ^e 16 ALT, F35, TH, and TR do not include *Therefore*. ^f 17 ALT, F35, and TR *I will give the right to eat* ^g 20 GOC and TR *a few things* ^h 22 TR *their*

²⁵than to hold fast to what you have until I come. ²⁶And to the one who overcomes and continues in My work until the end, I will give authority over the nations. ²⁷He will rule them with an iron scepter and shatter them like pottery^a—just as I have received authority from My Father. ²⁸And I will give him the morning star.

²⁹He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

To the Church in Sardis

3 “To the angel of the church in Sardis write:

These are the words of the One who holds the seven spirits^b of God and the seven stars.

I know your deeds; you have a reputation^c for being alive, yet you are dead. ²Wake up and strengthen^d what remains, which is about to die; for I have found your deeds incomplete in the sight of My^e God. ³Remember, then, what you have received and heard.^f Keep it and repent. If you do not wake up, I will come upon you^g like a thief, and you will not know the hour when I will come upon you.

⁴But you do have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments, and because they are worthy, they will walk with Me in white. ⁵Like them, he who overcomes will be dressed in white. And I will never blot out^h his name from the Book of Life, but I will confess his name before My Father and His angels.

⁶He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

To the Church in Philadelphia

⁷To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

These are the words of the One who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What He opens no one can shut (except Him who opens) and no one can open.ⁱ

⁸I know your deeds. Behold, I have placed before you an open door, which no one can shut. I know that you have only a little strength, yet you have kept My word and have not denied My name. ⁹As for those who

belong to the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews but are liars instead, I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and they will know that I love you.

¹⁰Because you have kept My command to persevere, I will also keep you from the hour of testing that is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. ¹¹I am coming^j soon.^k Hold fast to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. ¹²The one who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will never again leave it. Upon him I will write the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God (the new Jerusalem that comes down out of heaven from My God), and My new name.

¹³He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

To the Church in Laodicea (*Colossians 2:1–5*)

¹⁴To the angel of the church in Laodicea^l write:

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Originator^m of God’s creation.

¹⁵I know your deeds; you are neither cold nor hot. How I wish you were one or the other! ¹⁶So because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to vomit you out of My mouth!

¹⁷You say, ‘I am rich; I have grown wealthy and need nothing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, white garments so that you may be clothed and your shameful nakedness not exposed, and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. ¹⁹Those I love, I rebuke and discipline. Therefore be earnest and repent.

²⁰Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and dine with him, and he with Me. ²¹To the one who overcomes, I will grant the right to sit with Me on My throne, just as I overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

^a 27 Psalm 2:9 (see also LXX) ^b 1 Or the sevenfold Spirit ^c 1 ALT and HF a name ^d 2 ALT and HF keep ^e 2 TR does not include My. ^f 3 ALT does not include and heard. ^g 3 CT does not include upon you. ^h 5 Or scrape off ⁱ 7 See Isaiah 22:22; CT and TR What He opens no one can shut, and what He shuts no one can open. ^j 11 TR Behold, I am coming ^k 11 Or suddenly or quickly ^l 14 TR of the Laodiceans ^m 14 Or Beginning or Ruler

²²He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

The Throne in Heaven

4 After this I looked and saw a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had previously heard speak to me like a trumpet was saying, “Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after these things.”

²And^a at once I was in the Spirit, and I saw a throne standing in heaven, with someone seated on it. ³He looked like^b jasper and carnelian, and a rainbow that gleamed like an emerald encircled the throne. ⁴Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and on these thrones sat^c twenty-four elders dressed in white, with golden crowns on their heads.

Worship of the Creator

⁵From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings, and peals of thunder. Before the throne burned seven torches of fire. These are the seven spirits^d of God. ⁶And before the throne was something like a sea of glass, as clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, covered with eyes in front and back. ⁷The first living creature was like a lion, the second like a calf, the third had the face of a man,^e and the fourth was like an eagle in flight. ⁸And each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around and within. Day and night they never stop saying:

“Holy, Holy, Holy,^f
is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!”

⁹And whenever the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to the One seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰the twenty-four elders fall down before the One seated on the throne, and they worship Him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

¹¹“Worthy are You, our Lord and God,^g the Holy One,^h
to receive glory and honor and power,
for You created all things;
by Your will they exist and were created.”

The Lamb Takes the Scroll

5 Then I saw a scroll in the right hand of the One seated on the throne. It had writing on both sides and was sealed with seven seals. ²And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?”

³But no one in heaven aboveⁱ or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or look inside it. ⁴And I began to weep bitterly, because no one was found worthy to open^j the scroll or look inside it.

⁵Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

⁶Then I saw a Lamb who appeared to have been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which represent the seven spirits^k of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷And He came and took the scroll from the right hand of the One seated on the throne.

⁸When He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp, and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹And they sang a new song:

“Worthy are You to take the scroll and open
its seals,
because You were slain,
and by Your blood You purchased us for God
from^l every tribe and tongue and people
and nation.

¹⁰You have made them^m to be kingsⁿ
and priests to serve our God,
and they will reign upon^o the earth.”

The Lamb Exalted

¹¹Then I looked, and I heard the voices of many angels encircling the throne and the living creatures and the elders, and their number was myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands. ¹²In a loud voice they were saying:

a 2 CT does not include *And*. **b** 3 CT *And the One seated there looked like* **c** 4 TR on these thrones I saw seated
d 5 Or *This is the sevenfold Spirit* **e** 7 ALT, F35, TR, GOC, and CT *a face like a man* **f** 8 F35 and HF *Holy, holy, holy; Holy, holy, holy; Holy, holy, holy* **g** 11 TR does not include *and God*. **h** 11 CT and TR do not include *the Holy One*. **i** 3 GOC, ALT, CT, F35, and TR do not include *above*. **j** 4 F35 and TR include *and read*. **k** 6 Or *the sevenfold Spirit* **l** 9 CT *You purchased for God those from* **m** 10 TR *us* **n** 10 CT *a kingdom* **o** 10 Or *they will reign over; WH they reign upon; TR we will reign upon*

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and riches
and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and blessing!”

13 And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

“To Him who sits on the throne
and to the Lamb
be praise and honor and glory and power
forever and ever. Amen!^a”

14 And the four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.^b

The First Seal: The White Horse

6 Then I watched as the Lamb opened one of the seven^c seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, “Come and see!^d”

2 So I saw^e a white horse, and its rider held a bow. And he was given a crown, and he rode out to overcome and conquer.

The Second Seal: War

3 And when the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, “Come!^f”

4 Then another horse went forth. It was bright red, and its rider was granted permission to take away peace from the earth and to make men slay one another. And he was given a great sword.

The Third Seal: Famine

5 And when the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come and see!^g”

And I saw a black horse, and its rider held in his hand a pair of scales. 6 And I heard^h a voice from among the four living creatures, saying, “A quart of wheat for a denarius,ⁱ and three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not harm the oil and wine.”

The Fourth Seal: Death

7 And when the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the fourth^j living creature say, “Come and see!”

8 Then I saw a pale green horse. Its rider’s name was Death, and Hades followed close behind. And he was given^k authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill by sword, by famine, by plague, and by the beasts of the earth.

The Fifth Seal: The Martyrs

9 And when the Lamb opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony of the Lamb^l that they had upheld. 10 And they cried out in a loud voice, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge those who dwell upon the earth and avenge our blood?”

11 Then each of them was given a white robe and told to rest a little while longer until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers, were killed, just as they had been killed.

The Sixth Seal: Terror

12 And I watched as the Lamb opened the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black like sackcloth of goat hair, and the whole^m moon turned blood red, 13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth like unripe figs dropping from a tree shaken by a great wind. 14 The sky receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved from its place.

15 Then the kings of the earth, the nobles, the commanders, the rich,ⁿ the mighty, and every slave and^o free man hid in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains. 16 And they said to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us^p from the face of the One seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb. 17 For the great day of His^q wrath has come, and who is able to withstand it?”

144,000 Sealed

7 And^r after this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back its four winds so that no wind would blow on land or sea or on any tree. 2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, with the seal of the living God. And he called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm

^a 13 GOC, CT, and TR do not include *Amen*. ^b 14 TR includes *Him who lives forever and ever*. ^c 1 TR does not include *seven*. ^d 1 CT does not include *and see*; also in verse 7. ^e 2 CT and TR I *looked and saw*; similarly in verse 8 ^f 3 TR includes *and see*. ^g 5 GOC, ALT, CT, and F35 “*Come!*” Then I *looked* ^h 6 CT includes *what sounded like*. ⁱ 6 Greek *A choenix of wheat for a denarius*; A choenix was a Greek dry measure equivalent to 1.92 pints or 0.91 liters. A denarius was customarily a day’s wage for a laborer; see Matthew 20:2. ^j 7 GOC, CT, F35, and TR *the voice of the fourth* ^k 8 CT and TR *they were given* ^l 9 CT and TR do not include *of the Lamb*. ^m 12 ALT, F35, and TR do not include *whole*. ⁿ 15 TR *the rich, the commanders* ^o 15 ALT, F35, and TR *and every* ^p 16 See Hosea 10:8. ^q 17 CT *Their* ^r 1 CT does not include *And*.

the land and the sea: ³“Do not harm the land or sea or trees until we have placed a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.”

⁴And I heard the number of those who were sealed, 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel:

⁵From the tribe of Judah 12,000 were sealed,
from the tribe of Reuben 12,000,
from the tribe of Gad 12,000,

⁶from the tribe of Asher 12,000,
from the tribe of Naphtali 12,000,
from the tribe of Manasseh 12,000,

⁷from the tribe of Simeon 12,000,
from the tribe of Levi 12,000,
from the tribe of Issachar 12,000,

⁸from the tribe of Zebulun 12,000,
from the tribe of Joseph 12,000,
and from the tribe of Benjamin 12,000.

Praise from the Great Multitude

⁹After this I looked and saw a multitude too large to count, from every nation and tribe and people and tongue, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰And they cried out in a loud voice:

“Salvation to our God,
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb!”

¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. And they fell facedown before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me: “These in white robes,” he asked, “who are they, and where have they come from?”

¹⁴“Sir,” I answered, “you know.”

So he replied, “These are the ones who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵For this reason,

they are before the throne of God
and serve Him day and night in His temple;
and the One seated on the throne
will spread His tabernacle over them.

¹⁶‘Never again will they hunger,
and never will they thirst;
nor will the sun beat down upon them,
nor any scorching heat.’^a

¹⁷For the Lamb in the center of the throne
shepherds them.^b

‘He will lead them to springs of living
water,’^c

and ‘God will wipe away every tear from
their eyes.’^d”

The Seventh Seal

8 When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. ²And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and they were given seven trumpets.

³Then another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, along with the prayers of all the saints, on the golden altar before the throne.

⁴And the smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, rose up before God from the hand of the angel.

⁵Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it to the earth; and there were peals of thunder, rumblings,^e flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

The First Four Trumpets

⁶And the seven angels with the seven trumpets prepared to sound them.

⁷Then the first angel sounded his trumpet, and hail and fire mixed with blood were hurled down upon the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, along with a third of the trees^f and all the green grass.

⁸Then the second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a great burning mountain^g was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned to blood, ⁹a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

¹⁰Then the third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star burning like a torch fell from heaven and landed on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. ¹¹The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters turned bitter like wormwood oil,^h and many people died from the bitter waters.

a 16 Isaiah 49:10 **b** 17 See Psalm 23:1; ALT, CT, and TR will be their shepherd **c** 17 Isaiah 49:10 **d** 17 Isaiah 25:8
e 5 ALT, F35, and TR rumblings, peals of thunder **f** 7 TR upon the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up
g 8 GOC, CT, and TR a great mountain burning with fire **h** 11 Literally became wormwood

12Then the fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and a third of the sun and moon and stars were struck. A third of the stars were darkened, a third of the day was without light, and a third of the night as well.

13And as I observed, I heard an eagle^a flying overhead, calling in a loud voice, "Woe! Woe! Woe to those who dwell on the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the remaining three angels!"

The Fifth Trumpet

9 Then the fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from heaven to earth, and it was given the key to the pit of the Abyss. ²The star opened the pit of the Abyss, and smoke rose out of it like the smoke of a burning^b furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke from the pit.

³And out of the smoke, locusts descended on the earth, and they were given power like that of the scorpions of the earth. ⁴They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. ⁵The locusts were not given power to kill them, but only to torment them for five months, and their torment was like the stinging of a scorpion. ⁶In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will long to die, but death will escape them.

⁷And the locusts looked like horses prepared for battle, with something like crowns of gold on their heads; and their faces were like the faces of men. ⁸They had hair like that of women, and teeth like those of lions. ⁹They also had thoraxes like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the roar of many horses and chariots rushing into battle. ¹⁰They had tails with stingers like scorpions, which had the power to injure people for five months. ¹¹They were ruled by a king, the angel of the Abyss. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon,^c and in Greek it is Apollyon.^d

12The first woe has passed. Behold, two woes are still to follow.

The Sixth Trumpet

13Then the sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice from the four horns^e of the golden altar before God ¹⁴saying to the sixth angel with

the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."

15So the four angels who had been prepared for this hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind. ¹⁶And the number of mounted troops was myriads of myriads;^f I heard their number.

17Now the horses and riders in my vision looked like this: The riders had breastplates the colors of fire, sapphire, and sulfur. The heads of the horses were like the heads of lions, and out of their mouths proceeded fire, smoke, and sulfur. ¹⁸A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues^g of fire, smoke, and sulfur that proceeded from their mouths. ¹⁹For the power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; indeed, their tails were like snakes, having heads with which to inflict harm.

20Now the rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the works of their hands. They did not stop worshiping demons and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk. ²¹Furthermore, they did not repent of their murder, sorcery, sexual immorality, and theft.

The Angel and the Small Scroll (Ezekiel 3:1–15)

10 Then I saw a mighty^h angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head. His face was like the sun, and his legs were like pillars of fire. ²He held in his hand a scroll,ⁱ which lay open. He placed his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land. ³Then he cried out in a loud voice like the roar of a lion. And when he cried out, the seven thunders sounded their voices.

⁴When the seven thunders had spoken,^j I was about to put it in writing. But I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said, and do not write it down."

5Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land lifted up his right hand^k to heaven. ⁶And he swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and everything in it, the earth and everything in it, and the sea and everything in it: "There will be no more delay!

^a 13 TR *angel* ^b 2 CT and TR *great* ^c 11 Abaddon means *Destruction*. ^d 11 Apollyon means *Destroyer*. ^e 13 SBL, TH, and WH the horns ^f 16 CT and TR two hundred million ^g 18 TR *things* ^h 1 GOC, CT, and TR another mighty ⁱ 2 ALT, CT, F35, and TR *small scroll*; also in verse 10 ^j 4 TR *had sounded their voices* ^k 5 TR *his hand*

⁷But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he begins to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be fulfilled, just as He proclaimed to His servants the prophets.”

⁸Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me again, saying, “Go, take the small scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel standing on the sea and on the land.”

⁹And I went to the angel and said, “Give me the small scroll.”

“Take it and eat it,” he said. “It will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.”^a

¹⁰So I took the scroll from the angel’s hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach turned bitter.

¹¹And they told me, “You must prophesy again about many peoples and nations and tongues and kings.”

The Two Witnesses

11 Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff and was told,^b “Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the number of worshipers there. ²But exclude the courtyard outside the temple. Do not measure it, because it has been given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for 42 months. ³And I will empower my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.”

⁴These witnesses are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord^c of the earth.^d ⁵If anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouths and devours their enemies. In this way, anyone who wants to harm them must be killed. ⁶These witnesses have power to shut the sky so that no rain will fall during the days of their prophecy, and power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they wish.

The Witnesses Killed and Raised

⁷When the two witnesses have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will wage war with them, and will overpower

and kill them. ⁸Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city—figuratively called Sodom and Egypt—where their^e Lord was also crucified.

⁹For three and a half days all peoples and tribes and tongues and nations will view their bodies and will not permit them to be laid in a tomb.^f ¹⁰And those who dwell on the earth will gloat over them, and will celebrate and give^g one another gifts, because these two prophets had tormented them.

¹¹But after the three and a half days, the breath of life from God entered the two witnesses, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell upon those who saw them. ¹²And I heard^h a loud voice from heaven saying, “Come up here.” And they went up to heaven in a cloud as their enemies watched them.

¹³And in that dayⁱ there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand were killed in the quake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

¹⁴The second woe has passed. Behold, the third woe is coming shortly.

The Seventh Trumpet

¹⁵Then the seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and loud voices called out in heaven:

“The kingdom of the world
has become the kingdom^j of our Lord
and of His Christ,
and He will reign forever and ever.”

¹⁶And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God^k fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷saying:

“We give thanks to You, O Lord God Almighty,
the One who is and who was,^l
because You have taken Your great power
and have begun to reign.

¹⁸The nations were enraged,^m
and Your wrath has come.

The time has come to judge the deadⁿ
and to reward Your servants the prophets,
as well as the saints and those who fear Your
name,
both small and great—
and to destroy those who destroy the
earth.”

^a ⁹ See Num. 5:24 and Ezek. 3:3. ^b ¹ F35 and Scrivener TR *the angel stood and said* ^c ⁴ TR *the God* ^d ⁴ See Zech. 4:14. ^e ⁸ TR *our* ^f ⁹ TR *in tombs* ^g ¹⁰ GOC, ALT, CT, F35, and TR *send* ^h ¹² CT and TR *they heard or the witnesses heard* ⁱ ¹³ CT and TR *hour* ^j ¹⁵ TR *The kingdoms of the world have become (the kingdoms)* ^k ¹⁶ RP 2018 *before the throne of God* ^l ¹⁷ GOC, F35, and TR include *and who is to come*. ^m ¹⁸ See Psalm 2:1. ⁿ ¹⁸ GOC *nations*; see Daniel 12:2.

¹⁹Then the temple of God in heaven was opened, and the ark of the covenant of the Lord^a appeared in His temple. And there were flashes of lightning, and rumblings, and peals of thunder,^b and a great hailstorm.

The Woman and the Dragon

12 And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed in the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. ²She was pregnant and crying out in the pain and agony of giving birth.

³Then another sign appeared in heaven: a huge red dragon with seven heads, ten horns, and seven royal crowns on his heads. ⁴His tail swept a third of the stars from the sky, hurling them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, ready to devour her child as soon as she gave birth.

⁵And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter.^c And her child was caught up to God and to His throne. ⁶And the woman fled into the wilderness, where God had prepared a place for her to be nourished for 1,260 days.

The War in Heaven

⁷Then a war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. ⁸But the dragon was not strong enough, and no longer was any place found in heaven for him and his angels. ⁹And the great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

¹⁰And I heard a loud voice in heaven saying:

“Now have come the salvation and the power
and the kingdom of our God,
and the authority of His Christ.
For the accuser of our brothers has been
thrown down—
he who accuses them day and night before
our God.

¹¹They have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony.

And they did not love their lives
so as to shy away from death.

¹²Therefore rejoice, O heavens,
and you who dwell in them!
But woe to^d the earth and the sea;
with great fury the devil has come down
to you,
knowing he has only a short time.”

The Woman Persecuted

¹³And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. ¹⁴But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle to fly from the presence of the serpent to her place in the wilderness, where she was nourished for a time, and times, and half a time.

¹⁵Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river to overtake the woman and sweep her away in the torrent. ¹⁶But the earth helped the woman and opened its mouth to swallow up the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth. ¹⁷And the dragon was enraged at the woman and went to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.^e

And I stood on the shore of the sea.^f

The Beast from the Sea (Daniel 7:1–8)

13 Then I saw a beast with ten horns and seven heads rising out of the sea. There were ten royal crowns on its horns and blasphemous names^g on its heads. ²The beast I saw was like a leopard, with the feet of a bear and the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.

³One^h of the heads of the beast appeared to have been mortally wounded. But the mortal wound was healed, and the whole world marveled and followed the beast. ⁴They worshiped the dragon who had given authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who can wage war against it?”

⁵The beast was given a mouth to speak arrogant and blasphemous words,ⁱ and authority to make war^j for 42 months. ⁶And the beast opened its mouth to speak blasphemy^k against God and to

^a 19 ALT, CT, and TR the ark of His covenant ^b 19 GOC, ALT, CT, and TR include and an earthquake. ^c 5 See Psalm 2:9 (see also LXX). ^d 12 TR to the inhabitants of ^e 17 TR of Jesus Christ ^f 17 CT literal And he stood on the sand of the sea. Some texts number this sentence as verse 18; others include it with Revelation 13:1. ^g 1 TH and TR a blasphemous name ^h 3 TR I saw that one ⁱ 5 Literally to speak great things and blasphemy; CT and TR literal to speak great things and blasphemies ^j 5 CT and TR to act or to continue ^k 6 CT blasphemies

slander His name and His tabernacle—those who dwell in heaven.

⁷Then the beast was permitted to wage war against the saints and to conquer them, and it was given authority over every tribe and people^a and tongue and nation.⁸And all who dwell on the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written from the foundation of the world in the Book of Life belonging to the Lamb who was slain.^b

⁹He who has an ear, let him hear:

¹⁰“If anyone is destined for captivity, there he will go;^c
if anyone kills^d by the sword,
by the sword he must be killed.”^e

Here is a call for the perseverance and faith of the saints.

The Beast from the Earth

¹¹Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. This beast had two horns like a lamb, but spoke like a dragon. ¹²And this beast exercised all the authority of the first beast and caused the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose mortal wound had been healed.

¹³And the second beast performed great signs, even causing fire from heaven to come down upon the earth^f in the presence of the people. ¹⁴Because of the signs it was given to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived my own people who dwell^g on the earth, telling them to make an image to the beast that had been wounded by the sword and yet had lived. ¹⁵The second beast was permitted to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship it to be killed.

The Mark of the Beast

¹⁶And the second beast required all people, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, ¹⁷so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark—the name of the beast or the number of its name.

¹⁸Here is a call for wisdom: Let the one who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and that number is 666.^h

The Lamb and the 144,000

14 Then I looked and saw the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000 who had His name and His Father’s name written on their foreheads. ²And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of many waters and the loud rumbling of thunder. And the sound I heard was like harpists strumming their harps.

³And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. And no one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. ⁴These are the ones who have not been defiled with women, for they are virgins. They follow the Lamb wherever He goes. They have been redeemed by Jesusⁱ from among men as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. ⁵And no lie^j was found in their mouths, for^k they are blameless.^l

The Three Angels and Babylon’s Fall

⁶Then I saw an angel^m flying overhead, with the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation and tribe and tongue and people. ⁷And he said in a loud voice, “Fear the Lordⁿ and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come. Worship the One who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and the springs of waters.”

⁸Then a second^o angel followed, saying, “Fallen^p is Babylon the great,^q who has made all the nations drink the wine of the passion of her immorality.”

⁹And a third angel followed them, calling out in a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰he too will drink the wine of God’s anger, poured undiluted into the cup of His wrath. And he will be tormented in fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. ¹¹And the smoke of their torment rises forever and ever. Day and night there is no rest for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name.”

^a ⁷ F35 and TR do not include *and people*. ^b ⁸ Or *written in the Book of Life belonging to the Lamb who was slain from the foundation of the world*. ^c ¹⁰ CT and TR *into captivity he will go* ^d ¹⁰ Most CT *if anyone is to die* ^e ¹⁰ See Jeremiah 15:2. ^f ¹³ CT and TR *to come down to the earth* ^g ¹⁴ GOC, ALT, CT, and TR *those who dwell* ^h ¹⁸ Some manuscripts *616* ⁱ ⁴ GOC, ALT, CT, and TR do not include *by Jesus*. ^j ⁵ TR *no deceit* ^k ⁵ CT does not include *for*. ^l ⁵ TR includes *before the throne of God*. ^m ⁶ GOC, ALT, CT, F35, and TR *another angel* ⁿ ⁷ ALT, CT, F35, and TR *Fear God* ^o ⁸ TR *Then another* ^p ⁸ GOC, ALT, CT, F35, and TR *Fallen, fallen* ^q ⁸ TR *the great city*; see Isaiah 21:9 and Revelation 18:2.

12 Here is a call for the perseverance of the saints, who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

13 And I heard a voice from heaven telling me to write, “Blessed are the dead—those who die in the Lord from this moment on.”

“Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labors, and^a their deeds will follow them.”

The Harvest of the Earth

14 And I looked and saw a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was One like the Son of Man,^b with a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand.

15 Then another angel came out of the temple, crying out in a loud voice to the One seated on the cloud, “Swing Your sickle and reap, because the time has come to harvest, for the crop of the earth is ripe.” **16** So the One seated on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.

17 Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. **18** Still another angel, with authority over the fire, came from the altar and called out with a loud cry^c to the angel with the sharp sickle, “Swing your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the vine of the earth, because its grapes are ripe.”

19 So the angel swung his sickle over the earth and gathered the grapes of the earth, and he threw them into the great winepress of God’s wrath. **20** And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and the blood that flowed from it rose as high as the bridles of the horses for a distance of 1,600 stadia.^d

The Song of Moses and the Lamb

(Deuteronomy 32:1–47)

15 Then I saw another great and marvelous sign in heaven: seven angels with the seven final plagues, with which the wrath of God is completed.

2 And I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, beside which stood those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name. They were holding harps from God,

and they sang the song of God’s servant Moses and of the Lamb:

“Great and wonderful are Your works,
O Lord God Almighty!

Just and true are Your ways,
O King of the nations!^e

4 Who will not fear You, O Lord,
and glorify Your name?

For You alone are holy.

All nations will come and worship before You,
for Your righteous acts have been
revealed.”

Preparation for Judgment

5 After this I looked, and the temple—the tabernacle of the Testimony—was opened in heaven.

6 And out of the temple^f came the seven angels with the seven plagues, dressed in clean and bright linen and girded with golden sashes around their chests.

7 Then one of the four living creatures gave the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever. **8** And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power; and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven^g angels were completed.

The First Six Bowls of Wrath

16 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple^h saying to the seven angels, “Go, pour out on the earth the sevenⁱ bowls of God’s wrath.”

2 So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and loathsome, malignant sores broke out on those who had the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.

3 And the second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it turned to blood like that of the dead, and every living^j thing in the sea died.

4 And the third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and springs of water, and they turned to blood. **5** And I heard the angel of the waters say:

“Righteous are You, O Holy One,^k
who is and was,
because You have brought these
judgments.

^a 13 CT for ^b 14 Or one like a son of man; see Daniel 7:13. ^c 18 NA, SBL, and WH in a loud voice ^d 20 1,600 stadia is approximately 184 miles or 296 kilometers. ^e 3 SBL and WH King of the ages; TR King of the saints ^f 6 F35 out of heaven ^g 8 F35 does not include seven. ^h 1 ALT does not include from the temple. ⁱ 1 ALT does not include seven. ^j 3 ALT and HF do not include living. ^k 5 TR O Lord

6For they have spilled the blood of saints and prophets,
and You have given them blood to drink,
as they deserve.”

7And I heard^a the altar reply:

“Yes, Lord God Almighty,
true and just are Your judgments.”

8Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was given power to scorch the people with fire. 9And the people were scorched by intense heat, and men cursed^b the name of God, who had authority over these plagues. Yet they did not repent and give Him glory.

10And the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness, and men began to gnaw their tongues in anguish 11and curse the God of heaven for their pains and sores. Yet they did not repent of their deeds.

12And the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings of the East.

13And I saw three unclean spirits that looked like frogs coming out of the mouths of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet. 14These are demonic spirits that perform signs and go out to all the kings of the earth, to assemble them for battle on that^c great day of God the Almighty.

15“Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who remains awake and clothed, so that he will not go naked and let his shame be exposed.”

16And they assembled the kings in the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

The Seventh Bowl of Wrath

17Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came from the throne in the temple of heaven,^d saying, “It is done!”

18And there were flashes of lightning, and peals of thunder, and rumblings,^e and a great earthquake the likes of which had not occurred since men were upon the earth—so mighty was the great quake. 19The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. And God remembered Babylon the great and gave her the cup of the wine of the fury of His wrath.

20Then every island fled, and no mountain could be found. 21And great hailstones weighing almost a hundred pounds each^f rained down on them from above. And men cursed God for the plague of hail, because it was so horrendous.

The Woman on the Beast

17 Then one of the seven angels with the seven bowls came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters. 2The kings of the earth were immoral with her, and those who dwell on the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her immorality.”

3And the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, where I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. 4The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls. She held in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality. 5And on her forehead a mysterious name was written:

BABYLON THE GREAT,
THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES
AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

The Mystery Explained

6I could see that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints and witnesses for Jesus. And I was utterly amazed at the sight of her.

7“Why are you so amazed?” said the angel. “I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and ten horns.

8The beast that you saw—it was, and now is no more, but is about to come up out of the Abyss and go to its destruction. And those who dwell on the earth whose names were not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world will marvel when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet will be.

9This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. 10There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. But when he does come, he must remain for only a little while.

^a 7 TR I heard another from ^b 9 CT and TR they cursed ^c 14 CT on the ^d 17 CT does not include of heaven.

^e 18 CT and TR list these events in different orders. ^f 21 Greek great hail as of a talent; that is, hailstones weighing approximately 75.4 pounds or 34.2 kilograms each

¹¹The beast that was, and now is not, is an eighth king, who belongs to the other seven and is going into destruction. ¹²The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but will receive one hour of authority as kings, along with the beast. ¹³These kings have one purpose: to yield their power and authority to the beast.

The Victory of the Lamb

¹⁴They will make war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will triumph over them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and He will be accompanied by His called and chosen and faithful ones.”

¹⁵Then the angel said to me, “The waters you saw, where the prostitute was seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues. ¹⁶And the ten horns and the beast that you saw will hate the prostitute. They will leave her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and burn her with fire. ¹⁷For God has put it into their hearts to carry out His purpose by uniting to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. ¹⁸And the woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.”

Babylon Is Fallen (Isaiah 21:1–10)

18 After this I saw another^a angel descending from heaven with great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his glory. ²And he cried out in a mighty voice:

“Fallen^b is Babylon the great!^c

She has become a lair for demons
and a haunt for every unclean spirit
and every unclean and detestable bird.^d

³All the nations have drunk^e the wine
of the passion of her immorality.

The kings of the earth were immoral with her,
and the merchants of the earth have grown
wealthy
from the extravagance of her luxury.”

⁴Then I heard another voice from heaven say:

“Come out of her, My people,^f
so that you will not share in her sins
or contract any of her plagues.

⁵For her sins are piled up to^g heaven,
and God has remembered her iniquities.

⁶Give back to her as she has done to others;
pay her back double for what she has
done;

mix her a double portion in her own cup.

⁷As much as she has glorified herself and lived
in luxury,
give her the same measure of torment and
grief.^h

In her heart she says, ‘I sit as queen;

I am not a widow and will never see grief.’

⁸Therefore her plagues will come in one day—
death and grief and famine—
and she will be consumed by fire,
for mighty is the Lord God who judges
her.”

Lament over Babylon

⁹Then the kings of the earth who committed sexual immorality and lived in luxury with her will weepⁱ and wail at the sight of the smoke rising from the fire that consumes her.^j ¹⁰In fear of her torment, they will stand at a distance and cry out:

“Woe, woe to the great city,
the mighty city of Babylon!

For in a single hour
your judgment has come.”

¹¹And the merchants of the earth will weep^k and mourn over her, because there is no one left to buy their cargo— ¹²cargo of gold, silver, precious stones, and pearls; of fine linen, purple, silk, and scarlet; of all kinds of citron wood and every article of ivory, precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; ¹³of cinnamon,^l incense, myrrh, and frankincense; of wine, olive oil, fine flour, and wheat; of cattle, sheep, horses, and carriages; of bodies and souls of slaves. ¹⁴And they will say:^m

“The fruit of your soul’s desire
has departed from you;
all your luxury and splendor have vanished,
never to be seen again.”

¹⁵The merchants who sold these things and gained their wealth from her will stand at a distance, in fear of her torment. They will weep and mourn, ¹⁶saying:

a 1 Stephanus TR *an* **b** 2 GOC, ALT, CT, F35, and TR *Fallen, fallen* **c** 2 See Isaiah 21:9 and Revelation 14:8. **d** 2 NE, WH, MT, and TR; other CT *a haunt for every unclean spirit, every unclean bird, and every detestable beast* **e** 3 SBL and WH *have fallen by* **f** 4 See Jeremiah 51:45. **g** 5 Stephanus TR *have reached as far as* **h** 7 F35 does not include *and grief*. **i** 9 GOC and TR *weep for her* **j** 9 Literally *when they see the smoke of her burning*; also in verse 18 **k** 11 ALT, CT, F35, and TR *earth weep* **l** 13 CT includes *spice*. **m** 14 Literally *And*:

“Woe, woe to the great city,
clothed in fine linen and purple and
scarlet,
adorned with gold and precious stones
and pearls!

17 For in a single hour
such fabulous wealth has been destroyed!”

Every shipmaster, passenger, and sailor, and all
who make their living from the sea, will stand
at a distance ¹⁸and cry out at the sight of the
smoke rising from the fire that consumes her.
“What city was ever like this great city?” they will
exclaim.

19 Then they will throw dust on their heads as
they weep and mourn and cry out:

“Woe, woe to the great city,
where all who had ships on the sea
were enriched by her wealth!
For in a single hour
she has been destroyed.”

20 Rejoice over her, O heaven,
and you saints and apostles^a and prophets,
because God has pronounced for you
His judgment against her.

The Doom of Babylon

21 Then a mighty angel picked up a stone the
size of a great millstone and cast it into the sea,
saying:

“With such violence^b
the great city of Babylon will be cast
down,
never to be seen again.

22 And the sound of harpists and musicians,
of flute players and trumpeters,
will never ring out in you again.

Nor will any craftsmen of any trade
be found in you again,
nor the sound of a millstone
be heard in you again.

23 The light of a lamp
will never shine in you again,
and the voices of a bride and bridegroom
will never call out in you again.

For your merchants were the great ones of
the earth,
because all the nations were deceived by
your sorcery.”

24 And there was found in her the blood of proph-
ets and saints, and of all who had been slain on
the earth.

Rejoicing in Heaven

19 After this I heard a sound like the roar of
a great multitude in heaven, shouting:

“Hallelujah!”^c

Salvation and glory and power belong to our
God!^d

2 For His judgments are true and just.
He has judged the great prostitute
who corrupted the earth with her
immorality.

He has avenged the blood of His servants
that was poured out by her hand.”

3 And a second time they called out:

“Hallelujah!

Her smoke rises forever and ever.”

4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living
creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits
on the throne, saying:

“Amen, Hallelujah!”

5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying:

“Praise our God,
all you who serve Him,
and those who fear Him,
small and great alike!”

The Marriage of the Lamb

6 And I heard a sound like the roar of a great mul-
titude, like the rushing of many waters, and like
a mighty rumbling of thunder, crying out:

“Hallelujah!

For the Lord our God^e the Almighty reigns.

7 Let us rejoice and be glad
and give Him the glory.

For the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and His bride has made herself ready.

8 She was given clothing of fine linen,
bright and pure.”^f

For the fine linen she wears is the righteous acts
of the saints.

9 Then the angel told me to write, “Blessed are
those who are invited to the marriage supper of

^a 20 TR *holy apostles* ^b 21 F35 *With violence* ^c 1 Hallelujah is a transliteration of the Hebrew *Hallelu YAH*,
meaning *Praise the LORD*; also in verses 3, 4, and 6. ^d 1 TR *to the Lord our God* ^e 6 GOC, SBL, and TR *the Lord God*
^f 8 TR *pure and bright*

the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.”

¹⁰So I fell at his feet to worship him. But he told me, “Do not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who rely on the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

The Rider on the White Horse

¹¹Then I saw heaven standing open, and there before me was a white horse. And its rider is called Faithful and True. With righteousness He judges and wages war. ¹²He has eyes like blazing fire, and many royal crowns on His head. He has names written on Him, and a name written that only He Himself knows.^a ¹³He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood,^b and His name is The Word of God.

¹⁴The armies of heaven, dressed in fine linen, white and pure, follow Him on white horses. ¹⁵And from His mouth proceeds a sharp double-edged^c sword with which to strike down the nations, and He will rule them with an iron scepter.^d He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶And He has a name written on His robe and on His thigh:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Defeat of the Beast and False Prophet

¹⁷Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out in a loud voice to all the birds flying overhead, “Come, gather together for the great supper of God,^e ¹⁸so that you may eat the flesh of kings and commanders and mighty men, of horses and riders, of everyone both^f slave and free, both^g small and great.”

¹⁹Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies assembled to wage war against the One seated on the horse, and against His army. ²⁰But the beast was captured along with the false prophet, who on its behalf had performed signs deceiving those who had the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. Both the beast and the false prophet were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. ²¹And the rest were killed with the sword that proceeded from the mouth of the One seated on the horse.

And all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

Satan Bound

20 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven with the key to the Abyss, holding in his hand a great chain. ²He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent who is the devil and Satan, he who deceives the whole world,^h and bound him for a thousand years. ³And he threw him into the Abyss, shut it, and sealed it over him, so that he could not deceive the nations until the thousand years were complete. Andⁱ after that, he must be released for a brief period of time.

⁴Then I saw the thrones, and those seated on them had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image, and had not received its mark on their foreheads or hands. And they came to life and reigned with Christ for the^j thousand years.

⁵The rest of the dead did not come back to life until the thousand years were complete. This is the first resurrection. ⁶Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection! The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

Satan Cast into the Lake of Fire

⁷When^k the thousand years are complete, Satan will be released from his prison, ⁸and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—to assemble them for battle. Their number is like the sand of the seashore.

⁹And they marched across the broad expanse of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. But fire came down from God out of heaven^l and consumed them. ¹⁰And the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur, into which the beast and the false prophet had already been thrown. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

^a 12 CT He has a name written on Him that only He Himself knows ^b 13 WH sprinkled with blood ^c 15 CT and TR do not include double-edged. ^d 15 See Psalm 2:9 (see also LXX). ^e 17 ALT and TR the supper of the great God ^f 18 Stephanus TR does not include both. ^g 18 ALT, CT, and TR do not include both. ^h 2 CT and TR do not include he who deceives the whole world. ⁱ 3 CT does not include And. ^j 4 GOC, ALT, CT, F35, and Scrivener TR a ^k 7 ALT and HF After ^l 9 CT came down from heaven

Judgment before the Great White Throne

11 Then I saw a great white throne and the One seated on it. Earth and heaven^a fled from His presence, and no place was found for them. **12** And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne.

And books were opened, and one of them was the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their deeds, as recorded in the books. **13** The sea gave up its dead, and Death and Hades gave up their dead, and each one was judged according to his deeds.

14 Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death—the lake of fire.^b **15** And if anyone was found whose name was not written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

A New Heaven and a New Earth (Isaiah 65:17–25)

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth,^c for the first heaven and earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. **21** I saw^d the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven^e saying:

“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man,
and He will dwell with them.

They will be His people,
and God Himself will be with them.^f

4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes,^g

and there will be no more death
or mourning or crying or pain,
for the former things have passed away.”

5 And the One seated on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” Then He said to me,^h “Write this down, for these words are true and faithful.ⁱ” **6** And He told me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give freely from the spring of the water of life. **7** The one who overcomes will inherit all things, and I will be his God, and he will be My son.

8 But to the cowardly and unbelieving and sinful/ and abominable and murderers and sexually immoral and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur. This is the second death.”

The New Jerusalem

9 Then one of the seven angels with the seven bowls full of the seven final plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.”

10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the great^k holy city of Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, **11** shining with the glory of God. Its radiance was like a most precious jewel, like a jasper, as clear as crystal. **12** The city had a great and high wall with twelve gates inscribed with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel, and twelve angels at the gates. **13** There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south, and three on the west. **14** The wall of the city had twelve foundations bearing the names^l of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

15 The angel who spoke with me had a golden measuring rod to measure the city and its gates and walls. **16** The city lies foursquare, with its width the same as its length. And he measured the city with the rod, and all its dimensions were equal—12,000 stadia^m in length and width and height. **17** And he measured its wall to be 144 cubits,ⁿ by the human measure the angel was using.

18 The wall was made of jasper, and the city itself of pure gold, as pure as glass. **19** The foundations of the city walls were adorned with every kind of precious stone:

The first foundation was jasper,
the second sapphire,
the third chalcedony,
the fourth emerald,
20 the fifth sardonyx,
the sixth carnelian,
the seventh chrysolite,
the eighth beryl,
the ninth topaz,

a **11** F35 *Heaven and earth* **b** **14** TR does not include *the lake of fire*. **c** **1** See Isaiah 65:17 and Isaiah 66:22 (see also LXX). **d** **2** TR I, John, saw **e** **3** CT *from the throne* **f** **3** TR, NA, and TH include *as their God*. **g** **4** Isaiah 25:8 **h** **5** CT does not include *to me*. **i** **5** CT *faithful and true* **j** **8** GOC, CT, and TR do not include *and sinful*. **k** **10** GOC, ALT, CT, and HF do not include *great*. **l** **14** Literally *the twelve names*; TR *the names* **m** **16** 12,000 stadia is approximately 1,380 miles or 2,220 kilometers. **n** **17** 144 cubits is approximately 216 feet or 65.8 meters. The measure could indicate either height or thickness.

the tenth chrysopraxe,
the eleventh jacinth,
and the twelfth amethyst.

²¹And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, with each gate consisting of a single pearl. The main street of the city was pure gold, as clear as glass.

²²But I saw no temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, because the glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its lamp. ²⁴By its light the nations will walk, and into it the kings of the earth will bring their glory and the honor of the nations.^a ²⁵Its gates will never be shut at the end of the day, because there will be no night there.

²⁶And into the city will be brought the glory and honor of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who practices an abomination or a lie, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

The River of Life

22 Then the angel showed me a pure river^b of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²down the middle of the main street of the city. On either side of the river stood a tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit and yielding a fresh crop for each month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

³No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be within the city, and His servants will worship Him. ⁴They will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. ⁵There will be no more night in the city, and they will have no need for the light of a lamp or of the sun. For the Lord God will shine on them, and they will reign forever and ever.

Jesus Is Coming

⁶Then the angel said to me, "These words are faithful and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets,^c has sent His angel to show His servants what must soon^d take place."

⁷"Behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of prophecy in this book.^e"

⁸And I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had shown me these things. ⁹But he said to me, "Do not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God!"

¹⁰Then he told me, "Do not seal up the words of prophecy in this book, because the time is near.

¹¹Let the unrighteous continue to be unrighteous, and the vile continue to be vile; let the righteous continue to practice righteousness, and the holy continue to be holy."

¹²"Behold,^f I am coming soon, and My reward is with Me, to give to each one according to what he has done. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.^g"

¹⁴Blessed are those who do His commandments,^h so that they may have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by its gates. ¹⁵But outside are the dogs, the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

¹⁶"I, Jesus, have sent My angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the bright Morning Star."

¹⁷The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" Let the one who hears say, "Come!" And let the one who is thirsty come, and the one who desires the water of life drink freely.

Nothing May Be Added or Removed

¹⁸I testify to everyone who hears the words of prophecy in this book: If anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plaguesⁱ described in this book. ¹⁹And if anyone takes away from the words of this book of prophecy, may God^j take away his share in the tree of life^k and the holy city, which are described in this book.

²⁰He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Yes,^l come, Lord Jesus!^m

²¹The grace of the Lord Jesus Christⁿ be with all the saints.^o

Amen.^p

^a ²⁴ CT does not include *and the honor of the nations*; TR *their glory and honor* ^b ¹ GOC, ALT, CT, and HF *a river*
^c ⁶ TR *the holy prophets* ^d ⁶ Or *suddenly or quickly*; similarly in verses 7, 12, and 20 ^e ⁷ Or *scroll*; also in verses 9, 10,
18, 19 ^f ¹² TR *And behold* ^g ¹³ ALT, F35, and TR *the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last* ^h ¹⁴ CT *Blessed are*
those who wash their robes ⁱ ¹⁸ ALT and F35 *the seven plagues* ^j ¹⁹ CT and TR *God will* ^k ¹⁹ TR *Book of Life*
^l ²⁰ CT does not include *Yes*. ^m ²⁰ ALT *Lord Jesus Christ* ⁿ ²¹ Most CT of the *Lord Jesus*; TR of our *Lord Jesus Christ*
^o ²¹ SBL, WH, NE, and TR do not include *the saints*. ^p ²¹ SBL, WH, NE, and NA do not include *Amen*.

Table of Weights and Measures

Lengths

Finger	0.73 inches	1.85 centimeters	Jeremiah 52:21
Handbreadth (4 fingers)	2.92 inches	7.42 centimeters	Exodus 25:25
Span	9 inches	22.86 centimeters	Exodus 28:16
Cubit	18 inches	45.72 centimeters	Genesis 6:15
Long Cubit	21 inches	53.34 centimeters	Ezekiel 40:5
Rod (6 long cubits)	10.5 feet	3.20 meters	Ezekiel 40:5
Fathom	6 feet	1.83 meters	Acts 27:28
Stadion	607 feet	185 meters	Luke 24:13

Weights

Gerah (1/20 shekel)	0.0201 ounces	0.57 grams	Exodus 30:13
Beka (1/2 shekel)	0.201 ounces	5.70 grams	Genesis 24:22
Pim (2/3 shekel)	0.268 ounces	7.60 grams	1 Samuel 13:21
Shekel (20 gerahs)	0.402 ounces	11.4 grams	Genesis 23:15
Mina (50 shekels)	1.256 pounds	0.57 kilograms	Ezra 2:69
Talent (60 minas)	75.4 pounds	34.2 kilograms	Exodus 25:39
Litra (Roman Pound)	12 ounces	340 grams	John 19:39

Liquid Measures

Log	0.33 quarts	0.31 liters	Leviticus 14:10
Hin (12 logs)	0.98 gallons	3.7 liters	Numbers 15:4
Bath (6 hins)	5.8 gallons	22 liters	1 Kings 5:11
Homer (10 baths)	58 gallons	220 liters	Ezekiel 45:11
Cor (10 baths)	58 gallons	220 liters	Ezekiel 45:14
Bath (NT)	8.7 gallons	32.9 liters	Luke 16:6
Metretes (NT)	10.4 gallons	39.4 liters	John 2:6

Dry Measures

Cab (1/18 ephah)	1.1 dry quarts	1.2 liters	2 Kings 6:25
Omer (1/10 ephah)	2.0 dry quarts	2.2 liters	Exodus 16:16
Seah (1/3 ephah)	6.7 dry quarts	7.3 liters	Genesis 18:6
Ephah (10 omers)	0.624 bushels	22 liters	Exodus 16:36
Lethech (5 ephahs)	3.12 bushels	110 liters	Hosea 3:2
Homer (10 ephahs)	6.24 bushels	220 liters	Leviticus 27:16
Cor (10 ephahs)	6.24 bushels	220 liters	1 Kings 4:22
Cor (NT)	10 bushels	350 liters	Luke 16:7

