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John

Christ Comes to the World

1 Before the world began, the Word* was there. The Word was there with God. The Word was God. **2** He was there with God in the beginning. **3** All things were made through him (*the Word*). Nothing was made without him. **4** In him there was life. That life was light (*understanding, goodness*) for the people of the world. **5** The Light shines in the darkness. The darkness has not defeated* the Light.

6 There was a man named John.* He was sent by God. **7** John came to tell people about the Light (*Christ*). Through John all people could hear about the Light and believe. **8** John was not the Light. But John came to tell people about the Light. **9** The true Light was coming into the world. This is the true Light that gives light to all people.

10 The Word* was already in the world. The world was made through him. But the world (*people*) did not know him. **11** He came to the world that was his own. But his own people did not accept him. **12** Some people did accept him. They believed in him. He gave something to those people who believed. He gave them the right to become children of God. **13** These children were not born like little babies are born. They were not born from the wish or plan of a mother and father. These children were born from God.

14 The Word* became a man and lived among us. We saw his glory—the glory that belongs to the only Son of the Father. The

Word was full of grace (*kindness*) and truth. **15** John told people about him. John said, “This is the One I was talking about. I said, ‘The One who comes after me is more important than I am. He was living before me.’”

16 The Word* (*Christ*) was full of grace and truth. From him we all received more and more blessings. **17** The law was given through Moses. But grace and the way of truth came through Jesus Christ. **18** No man has ever seen God. But the only Son (*Jesus*) is God. He is very close to the Father* (*God*). And the Son has shown us what God is like.

John Tells People About Jesus

(Mt. 3:1–12; Mk. 1:2–8; Lk. 3:15–17)

19 The Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent some priests and Levites* to John.* The Jews sent them to ask, “Who are you?”

20 John spoke freely. John did not refuse to answer. John said clearly, “I am not the Christ.*” That is what John told people.

21 The Jews asked John, “Then who are you? Are you Elijah*?”

John answered, “No, I am not Elijah.”

The Jews asked, “Are you the Prophet*?”

John answered, “No, I am not the Prophet.”

22 Then the Jews said, “Who are you? Tell us about yourself. Give us an answer to tell

But the only Son ... Father Or, “But the only God is very close to the Father.” Some Greek copies say, “But the only Son is very close to the Father.”

Levites Levites were men from the family group of Levi who helped the Jewish priests in the temple.

Christ The “anointed one” (Messiah) or chosen one of God.

Elijah A man that spoke for God about 850 B.C. The Jews thought Elijah would come before the Messiah. See Mal. 4:5–6.

Prophet They probably meant the prophet that God told Moses he would send. See Deut. 18:15–19.

Word The Greek word is “*logos*,” meaning any kind of communication. It could be translated “message.” Here, it means Christ—the way God told people about himself.

defeated Or, “understood.”

John John the Baptizer, the man that told people about Christ’s coming. Read Mt. 3; Lk. 3.

the people who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

²³John told them the words of the prophet* Isaiah:

“I am the voice of a person shouting
in the desert:

‘Make a straight road ready for the Lord.’”

Isaiah 40:3

²⁴These Jews were sent from the Pharisees.* ²⁵These men said to John: “You say you are not the Christ.* You say you are not Elijah* or the Prophet.* Then why do you baptize* people?”

²⁶John answered, “I baptize* people with water. But there is a person here with you that you don’t know. ²⁷That person is the One who comes after me. I am not good enough to untie the strings on his shoes.”

²⁸These things all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan River. This is where John was baptizing* people.

²⁹The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him. John said, “Look, the Lamb of God.* He takes away the sins of the world! ³⁰This is the One I was talking about. I said, ‘A man will come after me, but he is greater than I am, because he was living before me—he has always lived.’” ³¹Even I did not know who he was. But I came baptizing* people with water so that Israel (*the Jews*) could know that Jesus is [the Christ]*.”

^{32–33}Then John said, “I also did not know who the Christ was. But God sent me to baptize* people with water. And God told me, ‘You will see the Spirit.* come down and rest

on a man. That man is the One who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.*” John said, “I have seen this happen. I saw the Spirit come down from heaven. The Spirit looked like a dove and sat on him (*Jesus*). ³⁴So this is what I tell people: ‘He (*Jesus*) is the Son of God.’”

The First Followers of Jesus

³⁵The next day John was there again. John had two of his followers with him. ³⁶John saw Jesus walking by. John said, “Look, the Lamb of God*!”

³⁷The two followers heard John say this, so they followed Jesus. ³⁸Jesus turned and saw the two men following him. Jesus asked, “What do you want?”

The two men said, “*Rabbi*, where are you staying?” (“*Rabbi*” means “Teacher.”)

³⁹Jesus answered, “Come with me and you will see.” So the two men went with Jesus. They saw the place where Jesus stayed. They stayed there with Jesus that day. It was about four o’clock.

⁴⁰These two men followed Jesus after they heard about Jesus from John. One of these two men was named Andrew. Andrew was Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹The first thing Andrew did was to go find his brother, Simon. Andrew said to Simon, “We have found the Messiah.” (“Messiah” means “Christ.*”)

⁴²Then Andrew brought Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked at Simon and said, “You are Simon, the son of John. You will be called Cephas.” (“Cephas” means “Peter.*”)

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. Jesus found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” ⁴⁴Philip was from the town of Bethsaida, the same as Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and told him, “Remember what Moses wrote in the law. Moses wrote about a man that was coming. The prophets* wrote about him too. We have found him. His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph. He is from Nazareth.”

⁴⁶But Nathanael said to Philip, “Nazareth! Can anything good come from Nazareth?”

Philip answered, “Come and see.”

prophet(s) People that spoke for God. Some of them wrote books that are part of the Old Testament.

Pharisees The Pharisees were a Jewish religious group that claimed to follow carefully all Jewish laws and customs.

Christ The “anointed one” (Messiah) or chosen one of God.

Elijah A man that spoke for God about 850 B.C. The Jews thought Elijah would come before the Messiah. See Mal. 4:5–6.

Prophet They probably meant the prophet that God told Moses he would send. See Deut. 18:15–19.

baptize(d), baptizing Greek word meaning to immerse, dip, or bury a person or thing briefly under water.

Lamb of God Name for Jesus. It means that Jesus is like the lambs that were offered for a sacrifice to God.

Spirit, Holy Spirit Also called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, and the Comforter. Joined with God and Christ, he does God’s work among people in the world.

Peter The Greek name “Peter,” like the Aramaic name “Cephas,” means “rock.”

⁴⁷Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him. Jesus said, “This man coming is truly one of God’s people.* There is nothing false in him.”

⁴⁸Nathanael asked, “How do you know me?”

Jesus answered, “I saw you when you were under the fig tree. That was before Philip told you about me.”

⁴⁹Then Nathanael said to Jesus, “Teacher, you are the Son of God. You are the King of Israel (*God’s people*).”

⁵⁰Jesus said to Nathanael, “I told you that I saw you under the fig tree. That is why you believe in me. But you will see much greater things than that!” ⁵¹Jesus also said, “I tell you the truth. You will all see heaven open. You will see ‘angels of God going up and coming down’* on the Son of Man.*”

The Wedding at Cana

2 Two days later there was a wedding in the town of Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there. ²Jesus and his followers were also invited to the wedding. ³At the wedding there was not enough wine. After the wine was all gone, Jesus’ mother said to him, “They have no more wine.”

⁴Jesus answered, “Dear woman, you should not tell me what to do. It is not yet time for me to begin my work.”

⁵Jesus’ mother said to the servants, “Do what Jesus tells you to do.”

⁶In that place there were six large waterpots made of stone. The Jews used waterpots like these in their washing ceremonies.* Each waterpot held about 20 or 30 gallons.

⁷Jesus said to the servants, “Fill those waterpots with water.” So the servants filled the pots to the top.

⁸Then Jesus said to the servants, “Now take out some water. Carry the water to the master of the feast.”

So the servants brought the water to the master. ⁹Then the man in charge of the

wedding feast tasted it, but the water had become wine. The man did not know where the wine came from. But the servants that brought the water knew where it came from. The master of the wedding called the bridegroom.* ¹⁰He said to the bridegroom, “People always serve the best wine first. Later, after the guests have become drunk, people serve the cheaper wine. But you have saved the best wine until now.”

¹¹This was the first miracle* that Jesus did. Jesus did this miracle in the town of Cana in Galilee. So Jesus showed his greatness. And his followers believed in him.

¹²Then Jesus went to the town of Capernaum.* Jesus’ mother and brothers and his followers went with him. They all stayed in Capernaum a few days.

Jesus at the Temple

(Mt. 21:12–13; Mk. 11:15–17; Lk. 19:45–46)

¹³It was almost time for the Jewish Passover.* So Jesus went to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In Jerusalem Jesus went to the temple.* In the temple area Jesus saw men selling cattle, sheep, and doves. Jesus saw other men sitting at tables. These men were exchanging and trading people’s money. ¹⁵Jesus made a whip with some pieces of rope. Then Jesus forced all these men and the sheep and cattle to leave the temple area. Jesus turned over the tables and scattered the money of the men that exchange money. ¹⁶Then Jesus said to the men that were selling pigeons, “Take these things out of here! Don’t make my Father’s house a place for buying and selling!”

¹⁷When this happened the followers of Jesus remembered what was written ¹in the Scriptures*:

“My excitement for your house
will destroy me.”

Psalms 69:9

one of God’s people Literally, “an Israelite.”

‘angels ... coming down’ Quote from Gen. 28:12.

Son of Man A name Jesus used for himself. In Dan. 7:13–14, this is the name for the Messiah, the one God chose to save his people.

washing ceremonies The Jews had religious rules about washing in special ways before eating, before worshiping in the temple, and at other special times.

bridegroom A man that is getting married.

miracle(s) Miracles are amazing works done by God’s power.

Capernaum A town in Galilee where Jesus taught.

Passover An important Jewish holy day. The Jews ate a special meal on this day every year to remember that God freed them from slavery in Egypt in the time of Moses.

temple The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

Scripture(s) Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

¹⁸Some Jews said to Jesus, “Show us a miracle* for a sign. Prove that you have the right to do these things.”

¹⁹Jesus answered, “Destroy this temple and I will build it again in three days.”

²⁰The Jews answered, “People worked 46 years to build this temple! Do you really believe you can build it again in three days?”

²¹(But the temple Jesus meant was his own body. ²²After Jesus was raised from death, his followers remembered that Jesus had said this. So his followers believed the Scripture* [about him], and they believed the words Jesus said.)

²³Jesus was in Jerusalem for the Passover* festival. Many people believed in Jesus because they saw the miracles* he did. ²⁴But Jesus did not trust them. Why? Because Jesus knew the things people were thinking. ²⁵Jesus did not need any person to tell him about people. Jesus knew what was in a person’s mind.

Jesus and Nicodemus

3 There was a man named Nicodemus. Nicodemus was one of the Pharisees.* He was an important Jewish leader. ²One night Nicodemus came to Jesus. Nicodemus said, “Teacher, we know that you are a teacher sent from God. No person can do these miracles* that you do without God’s help.”

³Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth. A person must be born again. If a person is not born again, then that person cannot be in God’s kingdom.”

⁴Nicodemus said, “But if a person is already old, how can he be born again? A person cannot enter his mother’s body again! So a person cannot be born a second time!”

⁵But Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth. A person must be born from water and the Spirit.* If a person is not born from water and the

Spirit, then he cannot enter God’s kingdom. ⁶A person’s body is born from his human parents. But a person’s spiritual life is born from the Spirit. ⁷Don’t be surprised that I told you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows where it wants to go. You hear the wind blow. But you don’t know where the wind comes from or where the wind is going. It is the same with every person that is born from the Spirit.”

⁹Nicodemus asked, “How can all this be possible?”

¹⁰Jesus said, “You are an important teacher of Israel (*the Jews*). But you still don’t understand these things? ¹¹I tell you the truth. We talk about what we know. We tell about what we have seen. But you people don’t accept what we tell you. ¹²I have told you about things here on earth. But you do not believe me. So surely you will not believe me if I tell you about the things of heaven! ¹³The only one that has ever gone up to heaven is the One that came down from heaven—the Son of Man.*

¹⁴“Moses lifted up the snake in the desert.* It is the same with the Son of Man. The Son of Man must be lifted up too. ¹⁵Then every person that believes in the Son of Man can have life forever.”

¹⁶Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son. God gave his Son so that every person that believes in him would not be lost, but have life forever. ¹⁷God sent his Son into the world. God did not send his Son to judge the world guilty. God sent his Son so that the world could be saved through his Son.

¹⁸The person that believes in God’s Son is not judged (*condemned*). But the person that does not believe is already judged. Why? Because that person has not believed in God’s only Son. ¹⁹People are judged by this fact: The Light (*goodness*) has come into the world. But people did not want light. They wanted darkness (*sin*). Why? Because they were doing evil things. ²⁰Every person that does evil hates the light. That person will not come to the

miracle(s) Miracles are amazing works done by God’s power.

Scripture(s) Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

Passover An important Jewish holy day. The Jews ate a special meal on this day every year to remember that God freed them from slavery in Egypt in the time of Moses.

Pharisees The Pharisees were a Jewish religious group that claimed to follow carefully all Jewish laws and customs.

Spirit, Holy Spirit Also called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, and the Comforter. Joined with God and Christ, he does God’s work among people in the world.

Son of Man A name Jesus used for himself. In Dan. 7:13–14, this is the name for the Messiah, the one God chose to save his people.

Moses lifted ... desert When God’s people were dying from snake bites, God told Moses to put a brass snake on a pole for them to look at and be healed. Read Num. 21:4–9.

light. Why? Because then the light will show all the bad things he has done. ²¹But the person that follows the true way comes to the light. Then the light will show that the things that person has done were done through God.*

Jesus and John the Baptizer

²²After this, Jesus and his followers went into the area of Judea. There Jesus stayed with his followers and baptized* people. ²³John was also baptizing people in Aenon. Aenon is near Salim. John was baptizing there because there was plenty of water. People were going there to be baptized. ²⁴(This happened before John was put into prison.)

²⁵Some of John's followers had an argument with another Jew. They were arguing about religious washing.* ²⁶So the followers came to John. They said, "Teacher, remember the man that was with you on the other side of the Jordan River? He is the man you were telling people about. That man is baptizing* people, and many people are going to him."

²⁷John answered, "A man can get only what God gives him. ²⁸You yourselves heard me say, 'I am not the Christ.* I am only the one that God sent to prepare the way for him.' ²⁹The bride always belongs to the bridegroom.* The friend that helps the bridegroom just waits and listens. He's happy just to hear the bridegroom talk. That's how I feel now. I'm so happy that he (*Jesus*) is here. ³⁰He must become more and more important. And I must become less important.

The One That Comes from Heaven

³¹"The One (*Jesus*) that comes from above is greater than all other people. The person that is from the earth belongs to the earth. That person talks about things that are on the earth. But the One (*Jesus*) that comes from

heaven is greater than all other people. ³²He (*Jesus*) tells what he has seen and heard. But people don't accept what he says. ³³The person that accepts what he (*Jesus*) says has given proof that God speaks the truth. ³⁴God sent him (*Jesus*). And he tells the things that God says. God gives [him] the Spirit* fully. ³⁵The Father loves the Son. The Father has given the Son power over everything. ³⁶The person that believes in the Son has life forever. But the person that does not obey the Son will never have that life. God's anger stays with that person."

Jesus Talks to a Woman in Samaria

4 The Pharisees* heard that Jesus was making and baptizing* more followers than John. ²(But really Jesus himself did not baptize people. His followers baptized people for him.) Jesus knew that the Pharisees had heard about him. ³So Jesus left Judea and went back to Galilee. ⁴On the way to Galilee Jesus had to go through the country of Samaria.

⁵In Samaria Jesus came to the town called Sychar. This town is near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there. Jesus was tired from his long trip. So Jesus sat down beside the well. It was about noon. ⁷A Samaritan* woman came to that well to get some water. Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink of water." ⁸(This happened while Jesus' followers went to town to buy some food.)

⁹The Samaritan* woman answered, "I am surprised that you ask me for a drink! You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman!" (Jews are not friends with Samaritans.*)

¹⁰Jesus answered, "You don't know about the thing God gives. And you don't know who I am that asked you for a drink. If you knew these things, you would have asked me and I would have given you living water."

Verses 16–21 Some scholars think verses 16–21 are Jesus' words. Others think John wrote them.

baptize(d), baptizing Greek word meaning to immerse, dip, or bury a person or thing briefly under water.

religious washing The Jews had religious rules about washing in special ways before eating, before worshiping in the temple, and at other special times.

Christ The "anointed one" (Messiah) or chosen one of God.

bridegroom A man that is getting married.

Spirit, Holy Spirit Also called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, and the Comforter. Joined with God and Christ, he does God's work among people in the world.

Pharisees The Pharisees were a Jewish religious group that claimed to follow carefully all Jewish laws and customs.

Samaritan(s) From Samaria. Samaritans were part Jewish, but some Jews did not accept them as pure Jews.

Jews are not friends with Samaritans Or, "Jews don't use things that Samaritans have used."

¹¹The woman said, “Sir, where will you get that living water? The well is very deep, and you have nothing to get water with. ¹²Are you greater than Jacob* our father*? Jacob is the one that gave us this well. He drank from it himself. Also, his sons and all his animals drank water from this well.”

¹³Jesus answered, “Every person that drinks this water will be thirsty again. ¹⁴But the person that drinks the water I give will never be thirsty again. That water I give will become like a spring of water flowing inside that person. That water will bring that person life forever.”

¹⁵The woman said to Jesus, “Sir, give me this water. Then I will never be thirsty again. And I will not have to come back here to get more water.”

¹⁶Jesus told her, “Go get your husband and come back here.”

¹⁷The woman answered, “But I have no husband.”

Jesus said to her, “You are right to say you have no husband. ¹⁸Really you have had five husbands. But the man you live with now is not your husband. You told me the truth.”

¹⁹The woman said, “Sir, I can see that you are a prophet.* ²⁰Our fathers worshiped on this mountain. But you Jews say that Jerusalem is the place where people must worship.”

²¹Jesus said, “Believe me, woman! The time is coming when you will not have to be in Jerusalem or on that mountain to worship the Father (God). ²²You Samaritans* worship something that you don’t understand. We Jews understand what we worship. Salvation comes from the Jews. ²³The time is coming when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. That time is now here. And those are the kind of people the Father wants to be his worshipers. ²⁴God is spirit. So the people that worship God must worship in spirit and truth.”

Jacob Father of twelve sons from whom the twelve family groups of Israel descended.

father(s) Important ancestors of the Jews, especially the leaders of the twelve Jewish family groups.

prophet A person that spoke for God. Prophets could tell things that most people could not know.

Samaritan(s) From Samaria. Samaritans were part Jewish, but some Jews did not accept them as pure Jews.

²⁵The woman said, “I know that the Messiah is coming.” (Messiah is the One called Christ.*) “When the Messiah comes, he will explain everything to us.”

²⁶Then Jesus said, “That person is talking to you now. I am [the Messiah].”

²⁷At that time Jesus’ followers came back from town. They were surprised because they saw Jesus talking with a woman. But none of them asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?”

²⁸Then the woman left her water jar and went back to town. She told the people in town, ²⁹“A man told me everything I have ever done. Come see him. Maybe he is the Christ.*” ³⁰So the people left the town and went to see Jesus.

³¹While the woman was in town, Jesus’ followers were begging him, “Teacher, eat something!”

³²But Jesus answered, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.”

³³So the followers asked themselves, “Did somebody already bring Jesus some food?”

³⁴Jesus said, “My food is to do what the One (God) who sent me wants me to do. My food is to finish the work that he gave me to do. ³⁵When you plant, you always say, ‘Four more months to wait before we gather the grain.’ But I tell you, open your eyes. Look at the people. They are like fields ready for harvesting now. ³⁶Even now, the person that harvests the crop is being paid. He is gathering crops for eternal life. So now the person that plants can be happy together with the person that harvests. ³⁷It is true when we say, ‘One person plants, but another person harvests the crop.’ ³⁸I sent you to harvest a crop that you did not work for. Other people did the work, and you get the profit from their work.”

³⁹Many of the Samaritan* people in that town believed in Jesus. They believed because of what the woman had told them about Jesus. She had told them, “He (Jesus) told me everything I have ever done.” ⁴⁰The Samaritans went to Jesus. They begged Jesus to stay with them. So Jesus stayed there two days. ⁴¹Many more people believed because of the things Jesus said.

Christ The “anointed one” (Messiah) or chosen one of God.

⁴²The people said to the woman, “First we believed in Jesus because of what you told us. But now we believe because we heard him ourselves. We know now that he really is the one that will save the world.”

Jesus Heals an Official's Son

(Mt. 8:5–13; Lk. 7:1–10)

⁴³Two days later Jesus left and went to Galilee. ⁴⁴(Jesus had said before that a prophet* is not respected in his own country.) ⁴⁵When Jesus arrived in Galilee, the people there welcomed him. These people had seen all the things Jesus did at the [Passover*] festival in Jerusalem. These people had been at the festival too.

⁴⁶Jesus went to visit Cana in Galilee again. Cana is where Jesus had changed the water into wine. One of the king's important officials lived in the city of Capernaum. This man's son was sick. ⁴⁷The man heard that Jesus had come from Judea and was now in Galilee. So the man went to Jesus [in Cana]. He begged Jesus to come to Capernaum and heal his son. His son was almost dead. ⁴⁸Jesus said to him, “You people must see miracles* and wonderful works before you will believe in me.”

⁴⁹The king's official said, “Sir, come [to my house] before my little son dies.”

⁵⁰Jesus answered, “Go. Your son will live.”

The man believed what Jesus told him and went home. ⁵¹On the way home the man's servants came and met him. They told him, “Your son is well.”

⁵²The man asked, “What time did my son begin to get well?”

The servants answered, “It was about one o'clock yesterday when the fever left him.”

⁵³The father knew that one o'clock was the same time that Jesus had said, “Your son will live.” So the man and all the people in his home believed in Jesus.

⁵⁴That was the second miracle* that Jesus did after coming from Judea to Galilee.

prophet A person that spoke for God.

Passover An important Jewish holy day. The Jews ate a special meal on this day every year to remember that God freed them from slavery in Egypt in the time of Moses.

miracle(s) Miracles are amazing works done by God's power.

Jesus Heals a Man at a Pool

⁵Later Jesus went to Jerusalem for a special Jewish festival. ²In Jerusalem there is a pool with five covered porches. In the Jewish language* it is called Bethzatha.* This pool is near the Sheep Gate. ³Many sick people were lying on the porches [beside the pool]. Some of the people were blind, some were crippled, and some were paralyzed.* ⁴* ⁵There was a man lying there who had been sick for 38 years. ⁶Jesus saw the man lying there. Jesus knew that the man had been sick for a very long time. So Jesus asked the man, “Do you want to be well?”

⁷The sick man answered, “Sir, there is no person to help me get into the water when the water starts moving. I try to be the first person into the water. But when I try, another person always goes in before I can.”

⁸Then Jesus said, “Stand up! Pick up your bed and walk.” ⁹Then immediately the man was well. The man picked up his bed and started walking.

The day all this happened was a Sabbath day.* ¹⁰So some Jews said to the man that had been healed, “Today is the Sabbath. It is against our law for you to carry your bed on the Sabbath day.”

¹¹But the man answered, “The person (Jesus) that made me well told me, ‘Pick up your bed and walk.’”

¹²The Jews asked the man, “Who is the person that told you to pick up your bed and walk?”

¹³But the man that had been healed did not know who the person was. There were many people in that place, and Jesus had left.

¹⁴Later Jesus found the man at the temple.* Jesus said to him, “See, you are well now. But

Jewish language Hebrew or Aramaic, a language like Hebrew that was spoken by many Jews in the first century.

Bethzatha Also called Bethesda or Bethesda, a pool of water north of the temple in Jerusalem.

Verses 3 and 4 At the end of verse 3 some Greek copies add “and they waited for the water to move.” A few later copies add verse 4: “Sometimes an angel of the Lord came down to the pool and shook the water. After the angel did this, the first person to go into the pool was healed from any sickness he had.”

Sabbath day Saturday, a special day for Jews to rest and honor God.

temple The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

stop sinning or something worse may happen to you!”

¹⁵Then the man left and went back to those Jews. The man told them that Jesus was the one that made him well.

¹⁶Jesus was doing these things (*healing*) on the Sabbath day.* So the Jews began to do bad things to Jesus. ¹⁷But Jesus said to the Jews, “My Father never stops working. And so I work too.”

¹⁸This made these Jews try harder to kill him. [The Jews said], “First this man (*Jesus*) was breaking the law about the Sabbath day.* Then he said that God is his Father! He is making himself equal with God!”

Jesus Has God's Authority

¹⁹But Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth. The Son can do nothing alone. The Son does only what he sees his Father doing. The Son does the same things that the Father does. ²⁰The Father loves the Son, and the Father shows the Son all the things he does. [This man was healed.] But the Father will show the Son greater things than this to do. Then you will all be amazed. ²¹The Father raises dead people and gives them life. In the same way, the Son gives life to the people he wants to.

²²Also, the Father judges no one. But the Father has given the Son power to do all the judging. ²³God did this so that all people will respect the Son the same as they respect the Father. If a person does not respect the Son, then that person does not respect the Father. The Father is the One who sent the Son.

²⁴“I tell you the truth. If a person hears what I say and believes in the One (*God*) who sent me, that person has life forever. That person will not be judged guilty. He has already left death and has entered into life. ²⁵I tell you the truth. An [important] time is coming. That time is already here. People that are dead [in sin] will hear the voice of the Son of God. And the people that [accept the things they] hear [from the Son] will have life forever. ²⁶Life comes from the Father (*God*) himself. So the Father has also allowed the Son (*Jesus*) to give life.

²⁷And the Father has given the Son the power to judge all people. Why? Because that Son is the Son of Man.* ²⁸Don’t be surprised at this. A time is coming when all people that are dead and in their graves will hear his voice. ²⁹Then they will come out of their graves. The people that did good in this life will rise and have life forever. But the people that did evil will rise to be judged guilty.

³⁰“I can do nothing alone. I judge only the way I am told. So my judgment is right. Why? Because I don’t try to please myself. But I want to please the One (*God*) who sent me.

Jesus Continues Talking to the Jewish Leaders

³¹“If I tell people about myself, then people cannot accept those things I say about myself. ³²But there is another person that tells people about me. And I know that the things he says about me are true.

³³“You have sent men to John. And he has told you about the truth. ³⁴I don’t need a man to tell people about me. But I tell you these things so that you can be saved. ³⁵John was like a lamp that burned and gave light. And you were happy to enjoy his light for a while.

³⁶“But I have a proof about myself that is greater than John. The things I do are my proof. These are the things my Father gave me to do. These things show that the Father sent me. ³⁷And the Father that sent me has given proof about me himself. But you have never heard his voice. You have never seen what he looks like. ³⁸The Father’s teaching does not live in you. Why? Because you don’t believe in the One the Father sent. ³⁹You carefully study the Scriptures.* You think that those Scriptures give you life forever. Those same Scriptures tell about me! ⁴⁰But you refuse to come to me to have that life [you want].

⁴¹“I don’t want praise from you or any other human. ⁴²But I know you—I know that you don’t have God’s love in you. ⁴³I have come from my Father—I speak for him. But you don’t accept me. But when another person comes speaking only for himself, you will

Sabbath day Saturday, a special day for Jews to rest and honor God.

Son of Man A name Jesus used for himself. In Dan. 7:13–14, this is the name for the Messiah, the one God chose to save his people.

Scripture(s) Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

accept him. ⁴⁴You like to have praise from each other. But you never try to get the praise that comes from the only God. So how can you believe? ⁴⁵Don't think that I will stand before the Father and say that you are wrong. Moses is the person that says that you are wrong. And Moses is the one that you hoped would save you. ⁴⁶If you really believed Moses, you would believe me. Why? Because Moses wrote about me. ⁴⁷But you don't believe what Moses wrote. So you cannot believe the things I say."

Jesus Feeds More than 5,000 People

(Mt. 14:13–21; Mk. 6:30–44; Lk. 9:10–17)

6 Later, Jesus went across Lake Galilee (Lake Tiberias). ²Many people followed Jesus. They followed him because they saw the ways Jesus showed his power by healing the sick people. ³Jesus went up on the side of the hill. He sat there with his followers. ⁴It was almost the time for the Jewish Passover* festival.

⁵Jesus looked up and saw many people coming toward him. Jesus said to Philip, "Where can we buy enough bread for all these people to eat?" ⁶(Jesus asked Philip this question to test him. Jesus already knew what he planned to do.)

⁷Philip answered, "We would all have to work a month to buy enough bread for each person here to have only a little piece!"

⁸Another follower there was Andrew. Andrew was Simon Peter's brother. Andrew said, ⁹"Here is a boy with five loaves of barley bread and two little fish. But that is not enough for so many people."

¹⁰Jesus said, "Tell the people to sit down." This was a very grassy place. There were about 5,000 men that sat down there. ¹¹Then Jesus held the loaves of bread. Jesus thanked God for the bread and gave it to the people that were waiting to eat. He did the same with the fish. Jesus gave the people as much as they wanted.

¹²All the people had enough to eat. When they finished, Jesus said to his followers, "Gather the pieces of fish and bread that were

not eaten. Don't waste anything." ¹³So the followers gathered up the pieces that were left. The people had started eating with only five loaves of barley bread. But the followers filled twelve large baskets with the pieces of food that were left.

¹⁴The people saw this miracle* that Jesus did. The people said, "He must truly be the Prophet* that is coming into the world."

¹⁵Jesus knew that the people wanted him to become king. The people planned to come get Jesus and make him their king. So Jesus left and went into the hills alone.

Jesus Walks on the Water

(Mt. 14:22–27; Mk. 6:45–52)

¹⁶That evening Jesus' followers went down to the lake (*Lake Galilee*). ¹⁷It was dark now and Jesus had not yet come back to them. The followers got into a boat and started going across the lake to Capernaum. ¹⁸The wind was blowing very hard. The waves on the lake were becoming bigger. ¹⁹They rowed the boat about three or four miles. Then they saw Jesus. He was walking on the water. He was coming to the boat. The followers were afraid. ²⁰But Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. It's me." ²¹After Jesus said this, the followers were happy to take Jesus into the boat. Then the boat came to land at the place where they wanted to go.

The People Seek Jesus

²²The next day came. Some people had stayed on the other side of the lake. These people knew that Jesus did not go with his followers in the boat. The people knew that Jesus' followers had left in the boat alone. And they knew that it was the only boat that was there. ²³But then some boats from Tiberias came. The boats landed near the place where the people had eaten [the day before]. This was where they had eaten the bread after the Lord (*Jesus*) gave thanks. ²⁴The people saw that Jesus and his followers were not there now. So the people got into the boats and went to Capernaum. They wanted to find Jesus.

Passover An important Jewish holy day. The Jews ate a special meal on this day every year to remember that God freed them from slavery in Egypt in the time of Moses.

miracle(s) Miracles are amazing works done by God's power.

Prophet They probably meant the prophet that God told Moses he would send. See Deut. 18:15–19.

Jesus, the Bread of Life

²⁵The people found Jesus on the other side of the lake. They asked Jesus, “Teacher, when did you come here?”

²⁶Jesus answered, “Why are you looking for me? Are you looking for me because you saw me do miracles* that prove my power? No! I tell you the truth. You are looking for me because you ate the bread and you were satisfied (*full*). ²⁷Earthly food spoils and ruins. So don’t work to get that kind of food. But work to get the food that stays good always and gives you life forever. The Son of Man* will give you that food. God the Father showed that he is with the Son of Man.”

²⁸The people asked Jesus, “What are the things God wants us to do?”

²⁹Jesus answered, “The work God wants you to do is this: to believe in the One that God sent.”

³⁰So the people asked, “What miracle* will you do to prove that you are the One God sent? If we can see you do a miracle, then we will believe you. What will you do? ³¹Our fathers (*ancestors*) ate the manna (*food*) God gave them in the desert. This is written in the Scriptures*: ‘God gave them bread from heaven to eat.’*”

³²Jesus said, “I tell you the truth. Moses was not the one that gave your people bread from heaven. But my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³What is the bread of God? God’s bread is the One that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

³⁴The people said, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

³⁵Then Jesus said, “I am the bread that gives life. The person that comes to me will never be hungry. The person that believes in me will never be thirsty. ³⁶I told you before that you have seen me, and still you don’t believe.

³⁷The Father gives me my people. Every one of those people will come to me. I will always accept every person that comes to me. ³⁸I

came down from heaven to do what God wants me to do. I did not come to do what I want to do. ³⁹I must not lose any person that God has given me. But I must raise up those people on the last day. This is what the One who sent me wants me to do. ⁴⁰Every person that sees the Son and believes in him has life forever. I will raise up that person on the last day. This is what my Father wants.”

⁴¹Some Jews began to complain about Jesus. They complained because Jesus said, “I am the bread that comes down from heaven.”

⁴²The Jews said, “This is Jesus. We know his father and mother. Jesus is only Joseph’s son. How can he say, ‘I came down from heaven’?”

⁴³But Jesus said, “Stop complaining to each other. ⁴⁴The Father is the One who sent me. And the Father is the One who brings people to me. I will raise up those people on the last day. If the Father does not bring a person to me, then that person cannot come to me. ⁴⁵It is written in the prophets*: ‘God will teach all the people.’* People listen to the Father and learn from him. Those people come to me. ⁴⁶I don’t mean that anyone has seen the Father. The only person that has ever seen the Father is the One that came from God. That person has seen the Father. ⁴⁷I tell you the truth. If a person believes, then that person has life forever. ⁴⁸I am the bread that gives life. ⁴⁹Your ancestors* ate the manna (*food*) God gave them in the desert. But it didn’t keep them from dying. ⁵⁰Here is the bread that comes down from heaven. If a person eats this bread, he will never die. ⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If a person eats this bread, then that person will live forever. This bread is my body. I will give my body so that the people in the world can have life.”

⁵²Then the Jews began to argue among themselves. They said, “How can this man give us his body to eat?”

⁵³Jesus said, “I tell you the truth. You must eat the body of the Son of Man.* And you must drink his blood. If you don’t do this,

miracle(s) Miracles are amazing works done by God’s power.

Son of Man A name Jesus used for himself. In Dan. 7:13–14, this is the name for the Messiah, the one God chose to save his people.

Scripture(s) Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

‘God gave ... eat’ Quote from Ps. 78:24.

prophet(s) People that spoke for God. Some of them wrote books that are part of the Old Testament.

‘God ... people’ Quote from Isa. 54:13.

ancestors Literally, “fathers,” meaning a person’s parents, grandparents, and all the people they are descended from.

then you don't have real life in you. ⁵⁴The person that eats my body and drinks my blood has eternal life. I will raise up that person on the last day. ⁵⁵My body is true food. My blood is true drink. ⁵⁶If a person eats my body and drinks my blood, then that person lives in me, and I live in that person. ⁵⁷The Father sent me. The Father lives, and I live because of the Father. So the person that eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸I am not like the bread that our ancestors* ate in the desert. They ate that bread. But, like all people, they died. I am the bread that came down from heaven. The person that eats this bread will live forever." ⁵⁹Jesus said all these things while he was teaching in the synagogue* in the city of Capernaum.

Many Followers Leave Jesus

⁶⁰The followers of Jesus heard this. Many of the followers said, "This teaching is hard to accept. Who can accept this teaching?"

⁶¹Jesus knew that his followers were complaining about this. So Jesus said, "Is this teaching a problem for you? ⁶²Then will it also be a problem for you to see the Son of Man* going back to the place where he came from? ⁶³It is not the body that gives a person life. It is the spirit that gives life. The things I told you are spirit. And so these things give life. ⁶⁴But some of you don't believe." (Jesus knew the people that did not believe. Jesus knew this from the beginning. And Jesus knew the person that would turn against him.) ⁶⁵Jesus said, "That is why I said, 'If the Father does not let a person come to me, then that person cannot come.'"

⁶⁶After Jesus said these things, many of his followers left him. They stopped following Jesus.

⁶⁷Jesus asked the twelve apostles,* "Do you want to leave too?"

⁶⁸Simon Peter answered Jesus, "Lord, where would we go? You have the things that give life forever. ⁶⁹We believe in you. We know that you are the Holy One from God."

⁷⁰Then Jesus answered, "I chose all twelve of you. But one of you is a devil." ⁷¹Jesus was talking about Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. Judas was one of the twelve apostles*. But later Judas would turn against Jesus.

Jesus and His Brothers

7 After this, Jesus traveled around the country of Galilee. Jesus did not want to travel in Judea, because the Jewish leaders there wanted to kill him. ²It was time for the Jewish Festival of Shelters.* ³So Jesus' brothers said to him, "You should leave here and go to the festival in Judea. Then your followers there can see the miracles* you do. ⁴If a person wants the people to know him, then that person must not hide the things he does. Show yourself to the world. Let them see these things (miracles) you do." ⁵(Even Jesus' brothers did not believe in him.) ⁶Jesus said to his brothers, "The right time for me has not yet come. But any time is right for you to go. ⁷The world cannot hate you. But the world hates me. Why? Because I tell the people in the world that they do evil things. ⁸So you go to the festival. I will not go to the festival now. The right time for me has not yet come." ⁹After Jesus said this, he stayed in Galilee.

¹⁰So Jesus' brothers left to go to the festival. After they left, Jesus went too. But Jesus did not let people see him. ¹¹At the festival the Jewish leaders were looking for Jesus. The Jews said, "Where is that man?"

¹²There was a large group of people there. Many of these people were talking secretly to each other about Jesus. Some people said, "He is a good man." But other people said, "No, he fools the people." ¹³But none of the people were brave enough to talk about Jesus openly. The people were afraid of the Jewish leaders.

ancestors Literally, "fathers," meaning a person's parents, grandparents, and all the people they are descended from.

synagogue(s) Synagogues were places where Jews gathered for prayer, study of the Scriptures, and other public meetings.

Son of Man A name Jesus used for himself. In Dan. 7:13–14, this is the name for the Messiah, the one God chose to save his people.

apostles The men Jesus chose to be his special helpers.

Festival of Shelters A special week each year when the Jews lived in tents to remember that their people wandered in the desert 40 years during the time of Moses.

miracle(s) Miracles are amazing works done by God's power.

Jesus Teaches in Jerusalem

¹⁴The festival* was about half finished. Then Jesus went to the temple* area and began to teach. ¹⁵The Jews were amazed. They said, “This man has never studied in school. How did he learn so much?”

¹⁶Jesus answered, “The things I teach are not my own. My teaching comes from him (God) who sent me. ¹⁷If a person wants to do what God wants, then that person will know that my teaching comes from God. That person will know that this teaching is not my own. ¹⁸Any person that teaches his own ideas is trying to get honor for himself. But a person that tries to bring honor to the one that sent him—that person speaks the truth. There is nothing false in him. ¹⁹Moses gave you the law.* Right? But none of you obey that law. Why are you trying to kill me?”

²⁰The people answered, “A demon* is making you crazy! We are not trying to kill you.”

²¹Jesus said to them, “I did one miracle* [on a Sabbath day*] and you were all surprised. ²²But you obey the law Moses gave you the law about circumcision*—and sometimes you do it on a Sabbath day. (Really, Moses is not the one that gave you circumcision. Circumcision came from our people [that lived before Moses].) Yes, you often circumcise babies on a Sabbath day. ²³This shows that a person can be circumcised on a Sabbath day to obey the law of Moses. So why are you angry at me for healing a person’s whole body on the Sabbath day? ²⁴Stop judging by the way things look. Be fair and judge by what is really right.”

The People Wonder If Jesus Is the Christ

²⁵Then some of the people that lived in Jerusalem said, “This is the man they are

trying to kill. ²⁶But he is teaching where everyone can see and hear him. And no person is trying to stop him from teaching. Maybe the leaders have decided that he really is the Christ.* ²⁷But we know where this man’s home is. And when the real Christ comes, no person will know where he comes from.”

²⁸Jesus was still teaching in the temple* area. Jesus said, “Yes, you know me and you know where I am from. But I have not come by my own authority. I was sent by the One (God) who is true. You don’t know him. ²⁹But I know him and I am from him. He sent me.”

³⁰When Jesus said this, the people tried to get him. But no person was able to touch Jesus. It was not yet the right time [for Jesus to be killed]. ³¹But many of the people believed in Jesus. The people said, “We are waiting for the Christ* to come. When the Christ comes, will he do more miracles* than this man (Jesus) has done? No! [So this man must be the Christ.]”

The Jewish Leaders Try to Arrest Jesus

³²The Pharisees* heard these things the people were saying about Jesus. So the leading priests and the Pharisees sent some temple police to arrest Jesus. ³³Then Jesus said, “I will be with you people a little while longer. Then I will go back to the One (God) who sent me. ³⁴You will look for me, but you will not find me. And you cannot come where I am.”

³⁵These Jews said to each other, “Where will this man go that we cannot find him? Will he go to the Greek cities where our people live? Will he teach the Greek people there? ³⁶This man (Jesus) says, ‘You will look for me but you will not find me.’ He also says, ‘You cannot come where I am.’ What does this mean?”

Jesus Talks About the Holy Spirit

³⁷The last day of the festival came. It was the most important day. On that day Jesus stood and said with a loud voice, “If a person is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸If a person believes in me, rivers of living water will flow out from his heart. That is what the

festival The Festival of Shelters. See verse 2.

temple The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

law Moses gave God’s people the law that God gave him on Mount Sinai. Read Ex. 34:29–32.

demon(s) Demons are evil spirits from the devil.

miracle(s) Miracles are amazing works done by God’s power.

Sabbath day Saturday, a special day for Jews to rest and honor God.

circumcision Cutting off the foreskin. This was done to every Jewish baby boy. It was a mark of the agreement God made with Abraham. Read Gen. 17:9–14.

Christ The “anointed one” (Messiah) or chosen one of God.

Pharisees The Pharisees were a Jewish religious group that claimed to follow carefully all Jewish laws and customs.

Scriptures* say.” ³⁹Jesus was talking about the [Holy] Spirit.* The Spirit had not yet been given to people, because Jesus had not yet [died and] been raised to glory. But later, those people that believed in Jesus would receive the Spirit.

The People Argue About Jesus

⁴⁰The people heard these things that Jesus said. Some of the people said, “This man really is the Prophet.*”

⁴¹Other people said, “He is the Christ.*”

Other people said, “The Christ will not come from Galilee.” ⁴²The Scriptures* say that the Christ will come from the family of David.* And the Scriptures say that the Christ will come from Bethlehem, the town where David lived.” ⁴³So the people did not agree with each other about Jesus. ⁴⁴Some of the people wanted to arrest Jesus. But no person tried to do this.

The Jewish Leaders Refuse to Believe

⁴⁵The temple* police went back to the leading priests and the Pharisees.* The priests and the Pharisees asked, “Why did you not bring Jesus?”

⁴⁶The temple police answered, “The things he says are greater than the words of any person we’ve ever heard!”

⁴⁷The Pharisees* answered, “So Jesus has fooled you too! ⁴⁸Have any of the leaders believed in Jesus? No! Have any of us Pharisees believed in him? No! ⁴⁹But those people [out there] know nothing about the law.* They are under God’s curse!”

⁵⁰But Nicodemus was there in that group. Nicodemus was the one that had gone to see Jesus before.* Nicodemus said, ⁵¹“Our law

will not let us judge a person without hearing him. We cannot judge him until we know what he has done.”

⁵²The Jewish leaders answered, “Are you from Galilee too? Study the Scriptures.* You will learn that no prophet* comes from Galilee.”

[The oldest and best Greek copies of John do not have verses 7:53–8:11]

The Woman Caught in Adultery

⁵³All the Jewish leaders left and went home.

8 Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.* ²Early in the morning Jesus went back to the temple* area. All the people came to Jesus. Jesus sat and taught the people. ³The teachers of the law and the Pharisees* brought a woman there. The woman had been caught doing the sin of adultery.* These Jews forced the woman to stand before the people. ⁴They said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught having sex with a man that is not her husband. ⁵The law of Moses commands that we kill with rocks every woman that does this. What do you say we should do?” ⁶The Jews were using this question to trick Jesus. They wanted to catch Jesus saying something wrong. Then they could have a charge against him. But Jesus knelt down and started writing on the ground with his finger. ⁷The Jewish leaders continued to ask Jesus their question. So Jesus stood up and said, “Is there any person here that has never sinned? That person without sin can throw the first rock at this woman.” ⁸Then Jesus knelt down again and wrote on the ground.

⁹The people that heard Jesus began to leave one by one. The older men left first, and then the others. Jesus was left there alone with the woman. She was standing before him. ¹⁰Jesus looked up again and asked her, “Woman, all of those people are gone. None of them judged you guilty?”

prophet A person that spoke for God.

Mount of Olives A hill east of the city of Jerusalem where a person could look down into the temple area.

adultery Breaking a marriage promise by sexual sin.

Scripture(s) Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

Spirit, Holy Spirit Also called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, and the Comforter. Joined with God and Christ, he does God’s work among people in the world.

Prophet They probably meant the prophet that God told Moses he would send. See Deut. 18:15–19.

Christ The “anointed one” (Messiah) or chosen one of God.

David King of Israel about 1000 years before Christ.

temple The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

Pharisees The Pharisees were a Jewish religious group that claimed to follow carefully all Jewish laws and customs.

law The law of Moses.

Nicodemus was the one ... before The story about Nicodemus going and talking to Jesus is in Jn. 3:1–21.

¹¹The woman answered, “None of them judged me, sir.”

Then Jesus said, “So I also don’t judge you. You can go now, but don’t sin again.”

Jesus Is the Light of the World

¹²Later, Jesus talked to the people again. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. The person that follows me will never live in darkness. That person will have the light that gives life.”

¹³But the Pharisees* said to Jesus, “When you talk about yourself, you are the only one to say that these things are true. So we cannot accept these things you say.”

¹⁴Jesus answered, “Yes, I am saying these things about myself. But people can believe these things I say. Why? Because I know where I came from. And I know where I am going. But you don’t know where I came from or where I am going. ¹⁵You judge me the way people judge other people. I don’t judge any person. ¹⁶But if I judge, my judging is true. Why? Because when I judge I am not alone. The Father who sent me is with me. ¹⁷Your own law says that when two witnesses say the same thing, then you must accept what they say. ¹⁸I am one of the witnesses that speaks about myself. And the Father who sent me is my other witness.”

¹⁹The people asked, “Where is your father?”

Jesus answered, “You don’t know me or my Father. But if you knew me, then you would know my Father too.” ²⁰Jesus said these things while he was teaching in the temple* area. He was near the place where all the people came to give money. But no person arrested him. The right time for Jesus had not yet come.

The Jewish Leaders Don’t Understand Jesus

²¹Again, Jesus said to the people, “I will leave you. You will look for me, but you will die with your sin. You cannot come where I am going.”

²²So the Jewish leaders asked themselves, “Will Jesus kill himself? Is that why he said, ‘You cannot come where I am going’?”

²³But Jesus said to those Jews, “You people are from here below. But I am from above. You belong to this world, but I don’t belong to this world. ²⁴I told you that you would die with your sins. Yes, you will die with your sins, if you don’t believe that I AM.*”

²⁵The Jews asked, “Then who are you?”

Jesus answered, “I am what I have told you from the beginning. ²⁶I have many things I could say to judge you. But I tell people only the things I have heard from the One that sent me. And he speaks the truth.”

²⁷These Jews did not understand who Jesus was talking about. Jesus was telling them about the Father (*God*). ²⁸So Jesus said to them, “You will lift up (*kill*) the Son of Man.* Then you will know that I AM.* You will know that these things I do are not by my own authority (*power*). You will know that I say only the things that the Father has taught me. ²⁹The One (*God*) who sent me is with me. I always do what pleases him. So he has not left me alone.” ³⁰While Jesus was saying these things, many people believed in him.

Jesus Talks About Freedom from Sin

³¹So Jesus said to the Jews that believed in him, “If you continue to obey my teaching, then you are truly my followers. ³²Then you will know the truth. And the truth will make you free.”

³³The Jews answered, “We are Abraham’s* people. And we have never been slaves. So why do you say that we will be free?”

³⁴Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth. Every person that sins is a slave. Sin is his master. ³⁵A slave does not stay with a family forever. But a son belongs to the family forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, then you will be truly free. ³⁷I know you are Abraham’s* people. But you want to kill me. Why? Because you don’t want to accept my teaching. ³⁸I am telling you what my Father has shown me. But you do the things that your father has told you.”

I AM This is like the name of God used in Ex. 3:14, but it can also mean “I am he (the Christ).”

Son of Man A name Jesus used for himself. In Dan. 7:13-14, this is the name for the Messiah, the one God chose to save his people.

Abraham The most respected ancestor of the Jews.

Pharisees The Pharisees were a Jewish religious group that claimed to follow carefully all Jewish laws and customs.

temple The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

³⁹The Jews said, “Our father* is Abraham.*” Jesus said, “If you were really Abraham’s children, then you would do the things Abraham did. ⁴⁰I am a man who has told you the truth I heard from God. But you are trying to kill me. Abraham did nothing like that. ⁴¹So you are doing the things your own father did.”

But the Jews said, “We are not like children that never knew who their father was. God is our Father. He is the only Father we have.”

⁴²Jesus said to those Jews, “If God were really your Father, then you would love me. I came from God, and now I am here. I did not come by my own authority. God sent me. ⁴³You don’t understand these things I say. Why? Because you cannot accept my teaching. ⁴⁴Your father is the devil. You belong to him. You want to do what he wants. The devil was a murderer from the beginning. He was always against the truth. There is no truth in him. He is like the lies he tells. Yes, the devil is a liar. He is the father of lies. ⁴⁵I speak the truth. That is why you don’t believe me. ⁴⁶Can any of you prove that I am guilty of sin? If I tell the truth, then why don’t you believe me? ⁴⁷The person that belongs to God accepts what God says. But you don’t accept what God says, because you don’t belong to God.”

Jesus Talks About Himself and Abraham

⁴⁸The Jews answered, “We say you are a Samaritan.* We say a demon* is making you crazy! Are we not right when we say these things?”

⁴⁹Jesus answered, “I have no demon* in me. I give honor to my Father. But you give no honor to me. ⁵⁰I am not trying to get honor for myself. There is One who wants this honor for me. He is the judge. ⁵¹I tell you the truth. If a person continues to obey my teaching, then that person will never die.”

⁵²The Jews said to Jesus, “Now we know that you have a demon* in you! Even

Abraham* and the prophets* died. But you say, ‘The person that obeys my teaching will never die.’ ⁵³Do you think you are greater than our father Abraham? Abraham died. And the prophets died too. Who do you think you are?”

⁵⁴Jesus answered, “If I give honor to myself, then that honor is worth nothing. The One that gives me honor is my Father. And you say that he is your God. ⁵⁵But you don’t really know him. I know him. If I said I did not know him, then I would be a liar like you are liars. But I do know him. And I obey what he says. ⁵⁶Your father* Abraham* was very happy that he would see the day when I came. He saw that day and was happy.”

⁵⁷The Jews said to Jesus, “What? You have never seen Abraham*! You are not even 50 years old!”

⁵⁸Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth. Before Abraham* was born, I AM.*” ⁵⁹When Jesus said this, the people picked up rocks to throw at him. But Jesus hid, and then he left the temple* area.

Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

9 While Jesus was walking, he saw a blind man. This man had been blind since the time he was born. ²Jesus’ followers asked him, “Teacher, this man was born blind. But whose sin made him be born blind? His own sin, or his parents’ sin?”

³Jesus answered, “It is not this man’s sin or his parents’ sin that made him be blind. This man was born blind so that God could use him to show what great things God can do. ⁴While it is daytime, we must continue doing the work of the One that sent me. The night is coming. And no person can work at night. ⁵While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

⁶After Jesus said this, Jesus spit on the dirt and made some mud with it. Jesus put the mud on the man’s eyes. ⁷Jesus told the man, “Go and wash in the pool Siloam.” (Siloam means “Sent.”) So the man went to the pool. He

father(s) Important ancestors of the Jews, especially the leaders of the twelve Jewish family groups.

Abraham The most respected ancestor of the Jews.

Samaritan(s) From Samaria. Samaritans were part Jewish, but some Jews did not accept them as pure Jews.

demon(s) Demons are evil spirits from the devil.

prophet(s) People that spoke for God. Some of them wrote books that are part of the Old Testament.

I AM This is like the name of God used in Ex. 3:14.

temple The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

washed and came back. Now he was able to see.

⁸Some people had seen this man begging before. These people and the man's neighbors said, "Look! Is this the same man that always sits and begs?"

⁹Some people said, "Yes! He is the one." But other people said, "No, he is not the same man. He only looks like him."

So the man himself said, "I am the man [that was blind before]."

¹⁰The people asked, "What happened? How did you get your sight?"

¹¹The man answered, "The man that people call Jesus made some mud. He put the mud on my eyes. Then Jesus told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went to Siloam and washed. And then I could see."

¹²The people asked the man, "Where is this man (*Jesus*)?"

The man answered, "I don't know."

Some Pharisees Question the Man Jesus Healed

¹³Then the people brought the man to the Pharisees.* This was the man that had been blind. ¹⁴Jesus had made mud and healed the man's eyes. The day Jesus did this was a Sabbath day.* ¹⁵So now the Pharisees asked the man, "How did you get your sight?"

The man answered, "He put mud on my eyes. I washed, and now I can see."

¹⁶Some of the Pharisees* said, "This man (*Jesus*) does not obey the law about the Sabbath day.* So he is not from God."

Other men said, "But a person that is a sinner cannot do miracles* like these." These Jews could not agree with each other.

¹⁷The Jewish leaders asked the man again, "This man (*Jesus*) healed you, and you can see. What do you say about him?"

The man answered, "He is a prophet.**"

¹⁸The Jews still did not believe that this really happened to the man. They did not

believe that this man was blind and was now healed. But later they sent for the man's parents. ¹⁹They asked his parents, "Is this your son? You say that he was born blind. So why can he see now?"

²⁰The parents answered, "We know that this man is our son. And we know that he was born blind. ²¹But we don't know why he can see now. We don't know who healed his eyes. Ask him. He is old enough to answer for himself."

²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. The Jewish leaders had already decided that they would punish any person that said Jesus was the Christ.* They would put those people out of the synagogue.* ²³That is why his parents said, "He is old enough. Ask him."

²⁴So the Jewish leaders called the man that had been blind. They told the man to come in again. They said, "You should give God the glory [by telling the truth]. We know that this man (*Jesus*) is a sinner."

²⁵The man answered, "I don't know if he is a sinner. But I do know this: I was blind, and now I can see."

²⁶The Jewish leaders asked, "What did he (*Jesus*) do to you? How did he heal your eyes?"

²⁷The man answered, "I have already told you that. But you would not listen to me. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his followers too?"

²⁸The Jewish leaders [became angry and] said some very bad things to the man. Then they said, "You are a follower of that man (*Jesus*). We are followers of Moses. ²⁹We know that God spoke to Moses. But we don't even know where this man (*Jesus*) comes from!"

³⁰The man answered, "This is a very strange thing. You don't know where Jesus comes from. But he healed my eyes. ³¹We all know that God does not listen to sinners. But God will listen to a person that worships and obeys him. ³²This is the first time that any person ever healed a man that was born blind. ³³This man (*Jesus*) must be from God. If he were not from God, he could not do anything [like this]."

Pharisees The Pharisees were a Jewish religious group that claimed to follow carefully all Jewish laws and customs.

Sabbath day Saturday, a special day for Jews to rest and honor God.

miracle(s) Miracles are amazing works done by God's power.

prophet A person that spoke for God.

Christ The "anointed one" (Messiah) or chosen one of God.

synagogue(s) Synagogues were places where Jews gathered for prayer, study of the Scriptures, and other public meetings.

³⁴The Jewish leaders answered, “You were born full of sin! Are you trying to teach us?” And the Jewish leaders forced the man to leave.

Spiritual Blindness

³⁵Jesus heard that the Jewish leaders had forced the man to leave. Jesus found the man and said to him, “Do you believe in the Son of Man*?”

³⁶The man asked, “Who is the Son of Man, sir? Tell me, so I can believe in him!”

³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have already seen him. The Son of Man is the one talking with you now.”

³⁸The man answered, “Yes, I believe, Lord!” Then the man bowed and worshiped Jesus.

³⁹Jesus said, “I came into this world so that the world could be judged. I came so that blind people* could see. And I came so that people who think they see will become blind.”

⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees* were near Jesus. They heard Jesus say this. They asked, “What? Are you saying that we are blind too?”

⁴¹Jesus said, “If you were really blind (*without understanding*), you would not be guilty of sin. But you say that you see (*know what you are doing*). So you are guilty.”

The Shepherd and His Sheep

10 Jesus said, “I tell you the truth. When a man enters the sheep pen, he should use the gate. If he climbs in some other way, then he is a robber. He is trying to steal the sheep. ²But the man that takes care of the sheep enters through the gate. He is the shepherd. ³The man that guards the gate opens the gate for the shepherd. And the sheep listen to the voice of the shepherd. The shepherd calls his own sheep, using their names, and he leads them out. ⁴The shepherd brings all of his sheep out. Then he goes ahead of them and leads them. The sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵But sheep will never

follow a person they don’t know. They will run away from that person, because they don’t know his voice.” ⁶Jesus told the people this story. But the people did not understand what the story meant.

Jesus Is the Good Shepherd

⁷So Jesus said again, “I tell you the truth. I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All the people that came before I came were thieves and robbers. The sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. The person that enters through me will be saved. That person will be able to come in and go out. He will find everything he needs. ¹⁰A thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy. But I came to give life—life that is full and good.

¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep. ¹²The worker that is paid to keep the sheep is different from the shepherd. The paid worker does not own the sheep. So when the worker sees a wolf coming, he runs away and leaves the sheep alone. Then the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them. ¹³The man runs away because he is only a paid worker. He does not really care for the sheep.

^{14–15}“I am the shepherd that cares for the sheep (*people*). I know my sheep like the Father knows me. And my sheep know me like I know the Father. I give my life for these sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep too. They are not in this flock here. I must lead them also. They will listen to my voice. In the future there will be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷The Father loves me because I give my life. I give my life so that I can get it back again. ¹⁸No person takes my life away from me. I give my own life freely. I have the right to give my life. And I have the right to get it back again. This is what the Father told me.”

¹⁹Again the Jews did not agree with each other because of these things Jesus said. ²⁰Many of these Jews said, “A demon* has come into him and made him crazy. Why listen to him?”

²¹But other Jews said, “These things we are hearing are not coming from someone that is crazy with a demon*. Can a demon heal the eyes of blind people? No!”

Son of Man A name Jesus used for himself. In Dan. 7:13–14, this is the name for the Messiah, the one God chose to save his people.

blind people Now Jesus is talking about people that are spiritually blind, not physically blind.

Pharisees The Pharisees were a Jewish religious group that claimed to follow carefully all Jewish laws and customs.

demon(s) Demons are evil spirits from the devil.

The Jewish Leaders Against Jesus

²²It was winter, and the time came for the Festival of Dedication* at Jerusalem. ²³Jesus was in the temple* area at Solomon's Porch.* ²⁴The Jewish leaders gathered around Jesus. They said, "How long will you make us wonder about you? If you are the Christ,* then tell us clearly."

²⁵Jesus answered, "I told you already, but you did not believe. I do miracles* in my Father's name. Those miracles show who I am. ²⁶But you don't believe. Why? Because you are not my sheep (*people*). ²⁷My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give my sheep eternal life. They will never die. And no person can take them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father gave my sheep to me. He is greater than all. No person can steal my sheep out of my Father's hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one."

³¹Again the Jews there picked up rocks to kill Jesus. ³²But Jesus said to them, "I have done many good things from the Father. You have seen those things. Which of those good things are you killing me for?"

³³The Jews answered, "We are not killing you for any good thing you did. But you say things that are against God. You are only a man, but you say you are the same as God! That is why we are trying to kill you with rocks!"

³⁴Jesus answered, "It is written in your law, 'I (*God*) said you are gods.'* ³⁵This Scripture* called those people gods—the people that received God's message. And Scripture is always true. ³⁶So why do you say that I am saying things that are against God because I said, 'I am God's Son'? I am the one God chose and sent into the world. ³⁷If I don't do what my Father does, then don't believe what I say. ³⁸But if I do the same things my Father does, then you should believe in the things I do. You might not believe in me, but you

should believe in the things I do. Then you will know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father."

³⁹The Jewish leaders tried to get Jesus again. But Jesus escaped from them.

⁴⁰Then Jesus went back across the Jordan River. Jesus went to the place where John* was baptizing* before. Jesus stayed there, ⁴¹and many people came to him. The people said, "John never did a miracle.* But everything John said about this man (*Jesus*) is true."

⁴²And many people there believed in Jesus.

The Death of Lazarus

11 There was a man named Lazarus who was sick. He lived in the town of Bethany. This is the town where Mary and her sister Martha lived. ²(Mary is the same woman that later put perfume on the Lord (*Jesus*) and wiped his feet with her hair.) Mary's brother was Lazarus, the man that was now sick. ³So Mary and Martha sent a person to tell Jesus, "Lord, your dear friend Lazarus is sick."

⁴When Jesus heard this he said, "The end of this sickness will not be death. But this sickness is for the glory of God. This has happened to bring glory to the Son of God." ⁵(Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.) ⁶When Jesus heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was for two more days. ⁷Then Jesus said to his followers, "We should go back to Judea."

⁸The followers answered, "But teacher, those Jews in Judea tried to kill you with stones. That was only a short time ago. Now you want to go back there?"

⁹Jesus answered, "There are twelve hours of light in the day. Right? If a person walks in the day, then he will not stumble and fall. Why? Because he can see with the light of this world. ¹⁰But when a person walks at night he stumbles. Why? Because there is no light to help him see."

¹¹After Jesus said these things, he said, "Our friend Lazarus is now sleeping. But I am going there to wake him."

Festival of Dedication Hanukkah, a special week celebrated by the Jews in December.

temple The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

Solomon's Porch An area on the east side of the temple. It was covered by a roof.

Christ The "anointed one" (Messiah) or chosen one of God.

miracle(s) Miracles are amazing works done by God's power.

'I ... gods' Quote from Ps. 82:6.

Scripture Part of the Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

John John the Baptizer, the man that told people about Christ's coming. Read Mt. 3; Lk. 3.

baptizing Greek word meaning to immerse, dip, or bury a person or thing briefly under water.

¹²The followers answered, “But Lord, if he can sleep, he will be well.”

¹³Jesus meant that Lazarus was dead. But Jesus’ followers thought Jesus meant that Lazarus was really sleeping. ¹⁴So then Jesus said clearly, “Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵And I am glad that I was not there. I am happy for you, because now you will believe in me. We will go to him now.”

¹⁶Then Thomas (the one called Didymus) said to the other followers, “We will go too. We will die with Jesus in Judea.”

Jesus in Bethany

¹⁷Jesus arrived in Bethany. Jesus found that Lazarus had already been dead and in the tomb* for four days. ¹⁸Bethany was about two miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁹Many Jews had come to Martha and Mary. They came to comfort them about their brother Lazarus.

²⁰Martha heard that Jesus was coming. She went out to greet Jesus. But Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But I know that even now God will give you anything you ask.”

²³Jesus said, “Your brother will rise and be alive again.”

²⁴Martha answered, “I know that he will rise to live again when people are resurrected (*raised from death*) on the last day.”

²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection.* I am life. The person that believes in me will have life again after he dies. ²⁶And the person that lives and believes in me will never really die. Martha, do you believe this?”

²⁷Martha answered, “Yes, Lord. I believe that you are the Christ,* the Son of God. You are the One that was coming to the world.”

Jesus Cries

²⁸After Martha said these things, she went back to her sister Mary. Martha talked to Mary alone. Martha said, “The Teacher (*Jesus*) is here. He is asking for you.” ²⁹When

Mary heard this, she stood up and went quickly to Jesus. ³⁰Jesus had not yet come into the village. He was still at the place where Martha met him. ³¹The Jews who had come were with Mary in the house. They were comforting her. They saw Mary stand and leave quickly. They thought that she was going to the tomb* of Lazarus. They thought she was going there to cry. So they followed her. ³²Mary went to the place where Jesus was. When she saw Jesus, she bowed at his feet. Mary said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

³³Jesus saw that Mary was crying. Jesus saw the Jews that came with her. They were crying too. Jesus felt very upset. He was deeply troubled. ³⁴Jesus asked, “Where did you put him (*Lazarus*)?”

They said, “Lord, come and see.”

³⁵Jesus cried.

³⁶And the Jews said, “Look! Jesus loved Lazarus very much!”

³⁷But some of these Jews said, “Jesus healed the eyes of the blind man. Why didn’t Jesus help Lazarus and stop him from dying?”

³⁸Again Jesus felt very upset.

Jesus Makes Lazarus Alive Again

Jesus came to the tomb* where Lazarus was. The tomb was a cave with a large stone covering the entrance. ³⁹Jesus said, “Move the stone away.”

Martha said, “But Lord, it has been four days since Lazarus died. There will be a bad smell.” Martha was the sister of the dead man (*Lazarus*).

⁴⁰Then Jesus said to Martha, “Remember what I told you? I said that if you believed, then you would see the glory of God.”

⁴¹So they moved the stone away from the entrance. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you heard me. ⁴²I know that you always hear me. But I said these things because of the people here around me. I want them to believe that you sent me.” ⁴³After Jesus said this he called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴The dead man (*Lazarus*) came out. His hands and feet were wrapped with pieces of cloth. He had a handkerchief covering his face.

tomb A grave dug in a wall of rock.

resurrection Being raised from death to live again.

Christ The “anointed one” (Messiah) or chosen one of God.

Jesus said to the people, “Take the cloth off of him and let him go.”

The Jewish Leaders Plan to Kill Jesus

(Mt. 26:1–5; Mk. 14:1–2; Lk. 22:1–2)

⁴⁵There were many Jews that came to visit Mary. They saw what Jesus did. And many of these Jews believed in Jesus. ⁴⁶But some of the Jews went to the Pharisees.* They told the Pharisees what Jesus did. ⁴⁷Then the leading priests and Pharisees called a meeting of the Jewish council. They said, “What should we do? This man (*Jesus*) is doing many miracles.* ⁴⁸If we let him continue doing these things, all the people will believe in him. Then the Romans will come and take away our temple* and our nation.”

⁴⁹One of the men there was Caiaphas. He was the high priest* that year. Caiaphas said, “You people know nothing! ⁵⁰It is better for one man to die for the people than for the whole nation to be destroyed. But you don’t realize this.”

⁵¹Caiaphas did not think of this himself. He was high priest* that year. So he was really prophesying* that Jesus would die for the Jewish people. ⁵²Yes, Jesus would die for the Jewish people. But Jesus would also die for God’s other children that were scattered in all the world. He would die to bring them all together and make them one people.

⁵³That day the Jewish leaders began planning to kill Jesus. ⁵⁴So Jesus stopped traveling around openly among the Jews. Jesus left [Jerusalem] and went to a place near the desert. Jesus went to the town called Ephraim. Jesus stayed there with his followers.

⁵⁵It was almost time for the Jewish Passover* festival. Many people from the country went to Jerusalem before the Passover. They went to do the special things to make themselves pure [for the Passover]. ⁵⁶The

people looked for Jesus. They stood in the temple* area and asked each other, “Is he (*Jesus*) coming to the festival? What do you think?” ⁵⁷But the leading priests and the Pharisees* had given a special order about Jesus. They said that if any person knew where Jesus was, the person must tell them. Then the leading priests and the Pharisees could arrest Jesus.

Jesus in Bethany with His Friends

(Mt. 26:6–13; Mk. 14:3–9)

12 Six days before the Passover* festival, Jesus went to Bethany. Bethany is the town where Lazarus lived. (Lazarus is the man Jesus raised from death.) ²In Bethany they had a dinner for Jesus. Martha served the food. Lazarus was one of the people eating with Jesus. ³Mary brought in a pint of very expensive perfume made from pure nard.* Mary poured the perfume on Jesus’ feet. Then she wiped his feet with her hair. And the sweet smell from the perfume filled the whole house.

⁴Judas Iscariot was there. Judas was one of Jesus’ followers. (He was the one that would later be against Jesus.) [Judas did not like what Mary did.] Judas said, ⁵“That perfume was worth 300 silver coins.* It should have been sold, and the money should have been given to the poor people.” ⁶But Judas did not really care about poor people. Judas said this because he was a thief. Judas was the one that kept the money box [for the group of followers]. And Judas often stole money from the box.

⁷Jesus answered, “Don’t stop her. It was right for her to save this perfume for today—the day for me to be prepared for burial. ⁸The poor people will always be with you. But you will not always have me.”

The Plot Against Lazarus

⁹Many of the Jews heard that Jesus was in Bethany. So they went there to see Jesus. They also went there to see Lazarus. Lazarus was the one Jesus raised from death. ¹⁰So the leading priests made plans to kill Lazarus too.

Pharisees The Pharisees were a Jewish religious group that claimed to follow carefully all Jewish laws and customs.

miracle(s) Miracles are amazing works done by God’s power.

temple The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

high priest The most important Jewish priest and leader.

prophesying To prophesy means to speak for God.

Passover An important Jewish holy day. The Jews ate a special meal on this day every year to remember that God freed them from slavery in Egypt in the time of Moses.

nard An expensive oil from the root of the nard plant.

silver coins One coin, a Roman denarius, was the average pay for one day’s work.

¹¹Because of Lazarus, many Jews were leaving [their leaders] and believing in Jesus. That is why the Jewish leaders wanted to kill Lazarus too.

Jesus Enters Jerusalem

(Mt. 21:1–11; Mk. 11:1–11; Lk. 19:28–40)

¹²The next day the people in Jerusalem heard that Jesus was coming there. These were the many people that had come to the Passover* festival. ¹³The people took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Jesus. The people shouted,

“‘Praise* Him!

Welcome! God bless the One that comes
in the name of the Lord!’

Psalm 118:25–26

God bless the King of Israel!”

¹⁴Jesus found a donkey and rode on it. This was like the Scripture* says:

¹⁵ “Do not be afraid, city of Zion*!

Look! Your king is coming.

He is riding on a young donkey.”

Zechariah 9:9

¹⁶The followers of Jesus did not understand at that time what was happening. But after Jesus was raised to glory, they understood that these things were written about him. Then the followers remembered that they had done these things for him.

People Tell About Jesus

¹⁷There were many people with Jesus when he raised Lazarus from death and told him to come out of the tomb.* Now those people were telling other people about what Jesus did. ¹⁸Many people went out to meet Jesus, because they heard that Jesus did this miracle.*

Passover An important Jewish holy day. The Jews ate a special meal on this day every year to remember that God freed them from slavery in Egypt in the time of Moses.

Praise Literally, “Hosanna,” a Hebrew word used in praying to God for help. Here, it was probably a shout of celebration used in praising God or his Messiah.

Scripture Part of the Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

city of Zion Literally, “daughter of Zion,” meaning Jerusalem.

tomb A grave dug in a wall of rock.

miracle(s) Miracles are amazing works done by God’s power.

¹⁹So the Pharisees* said to each other, “Look! Our plan is not working. All the people are following him!”

Jesus Talks About Life and Death

²⁰There were some Greek people there too. These were some of the people that went to Jerusalem to worship at the Passover* festival.

²¹These Greek people went to Philip. (Philip was from Bethsaida, in Galilee.) The Greek people said, “Sir, we want to meet Jesus.”

²²Philip went and told Andrew. Then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

²³Jesus said to them, “Now is the time for the Son of Man* to receive his glory. ²⁴I tell you the truth. A grain of wheat must fall to the ground and die. Then it grows and makes many seeds. But if it never dies, then it will always be only a single seed. ²⁵The person that loves his own life will lose it. But the person that hates his life in this world will keep it. He will have life forever. ²⁶The person that serves me must follow me. Then my servant will be with me everywhere I am. My Father will give honor to people that serve me.

Jesus Talks About His Death

²⁷“Now I am very troubled. What should I say? Should I say, ‘Father save me from this time [of suffering]’? No, I came to this time so that I could suffer. ²⁸Father, do what will bring you glory!”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have already brought glory to myself. I will do it again.”

²⁹The people standing there heard the voice. Those people said it was thunder.

But other people said, “An angel spoke to Jesus!”

³⁰Jesus said to the people, “That voice was for you and not for me. ³¹Now is the time for the world to be judged. Now the ruler of this world (*the devil*) will be thrown out. ³²I will be lifted up from the earth. And when this

Pharisees The Pharisees were a Jewish religious group that claimed to follow carefully all Jewish laws and customs.

Son of Man A name Jesus used for himself. In Dan. 7:13–14, this is the name for the Messiah, the one God chose to save his people.

happens, I will bring all people to me.” ³³Jesus said this to show how he would die.

³⁴The people said, “But our law says that the Christ* will live forever. So why do you say, ‘The Son of Man* must be lifted up’? Who is this ‘Son of Man’?”

³⁵Then Jesus said, “The light will be with you for only a short time more. So walk while you have the light. Then the darkness (*sin*) will not catch you. The person that walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. ³⁶So put your trust in the light while you still have it. Then you will become sons of light.” When Jesus finished saying these things, he left. Jesus went to a place where the people could not find him.

Some Jews Refuse to Believe in Jesus

³⁷Jesus did all these many miracles.* The people saw these things, but they still did not believe in him. ³⁸This was to make clear the full meaning of what Isaiah the prophet* said:

“Lord, who believed the things we told them?
Who has seen the Lord’s power?”

Isaiah 53:1

³⁹This is why the people could not believe. Because Isaiah also said,

⁴⁰ “God made the people blind.

God closed their minds.

God did this so that they will not

see with their eyes
and understand with their minds.

God did this so that they would not turn
and be healed.” *Isaiah 6:10*

⁴¹Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus’ glory. So Isaiah spoke about him.

⁴²But many people believed in Jesus. Even many of the Jewish leaders believed in Jesus. But they were afraid of the Pharisees.* So they did not say openly that they believed. They were afraid that they would be put out of the

synagogue.* ⁴³These men loved praise from people more than praise from God.

Jesus’ Teaching Will Judge People

⁴⁴Then Jesus said loudly, “The person that believes in me is really believing in the One (*God*) who sent me. ⁴⁵The person that sees me is really seeing the One who sent me. ⁴⁶I am light, and I came into this world. I came so that every person that believes in me would not stay in darkness.

⁴⁷“I did not come into the world to judge people. I came to save the people in the world. So I am not the one that judges the people who hear my teaching but don’t obey. ⁴⁸There is a judge for the person that refuses to believe in me and does not accept what I say. The message I have taught will judge that person on the last day. ⁴⁹Why? Because the things I taught were not from myself. The Father (*God*) who sent me told me what to say and what to teach. ⁵⁰And I know that eternal life comes from what the Father commands. So the things I say are what the Father told me to say.”

Jesus Washes His Followers’ Feet

13 It was almost time for the Jewish Passover* festival. Jesus knew that it was time for him to leave this world. It was now time for Jesus to go back to the Father. Jesus had always loved those people in the world who were his. Now was the time Jesus showed them his love the most.

²Jesus and his followers were at the evening meal. The devil had already persuaded Judas Iscariot to turn against Jesus. (Judas was the son of Simon.) ³The Father had given Jesus power over everything. Jesus knew this. Jesus also knew that he had come from God. And he knew that he was going back to God. ⁴While they were eating, Jesus stood up and took off his robe. Jesus got a towel and wrapped the towel around his waist. ⁵Then Jesus poured

Christ The “anointed one” (Messiah) or chosen one of God.

Son of Man A name Jesus used for himself. In Dan. 7:13–14, this is the name for the Messiah, the one God chose to save his people.

miracle(s) Miracles are amazing works done by God’s power.

prophet A person that spoke for God. Sometimes a prophet told things that would happen in the future.

Pharisees The Pharisees were a Jewish religious group that claimed to follow carefully all Jewish laws and customs.

synagogue(s) Synagogues were places where Jews gathered for prayer, study of the Scriptures, and other public meetings.

Passover An important Jewish holy day. The Jews ate a special meal on this day every year to remember that God freed them from slavery in Egypt in the time of Moses.

water into a pitcher. He began to wash the followers' feet. He dried their feet with the towel that was wrapped around his waist.

⁶Jesus came to Simon Peter. But Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, you should not wash my feet."

⁷Jesus answered, "You don't know what I am doing now. But later you will understand."

⁸Peter said, "No! You will never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "If I don't wash your feet, then you cannot be one of my people."

⁹Simon Peter answered, "Lord, after you wash my feet, wash my hands and my head too!"

¹⁰Jesus said, "After a person has a bath, his whole body is clean. He needs only to wash his feet. And you men are clean, but not every one of you." ¹¹Jesus knew who would turn against him. That is why Jesus said, "Not every one of you is clean."

¹²Jesus finished washing their feet. Then he put on his clothes and went back to the table. Jesus asked, "Do you understand what I did for you?" ¹³You call me 'Teacher.' And you call me 'Lord.' And this is right, because that is what I am. ¹⁴I am your Lord and Teacher. But I washed your feet [like a servant]. So you also should wash each other's feet. ¹⁵I did this as an example for you. So you should do [for each other] like I did for you. ¹⁶I tell you the truth. A servant is not greater than his master. The person that is sent to do something is not greater than the one that sent him. ¹⁷If you know these things, you will be happy if you do them.

¹⁸"I am not talking about all of you. I know the people I have chosen. But what the Scripture* said must happen: 'The man that shared my food has turned against me.'* ¹⁹I am telling you this now before it happens. Then when it happens you will believe that I AM.* ²⁰I tell you the truth. The person that accepts anyone I send also accepts me. And the person that accepts me also accepts the One who sent me."

Scripture Part of the Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

'has turned against me' Literally, 'has lifted up his heel against me.' Quote from Ps. 41:9.

I AM This is like the name of God used in Ex. 3:14, but it can also mean "I am he (the Christ)."

Jesus Tells Who Will Be Against Him

(Mt. 26:20–25; Mk. 14:17–21; Lk. 22:21–23)

²¹After Jesus said these things, he felt very troubled. Jesus said openly, "I tell you the truth. One of you will be against me."

²²Jesus' followers all looked at each other. They did not understand who the person was that Jesus was talking about. ²³One of the followers was next to Jesus and was leaning close to him. This was the follower that Jesus loved. ²⁴Simon Peter made signs to this follower to ask Jesus who the person was that he was talking about.

²⁵That follower leaned closer to Jesus and asked, "Lord, who is it that will be against you?"

²⁶Jesus answered, "I will dip this bread into the dish. The man I give it to is the man that will turn against me." So Jesus took a piece of bread. He dipped it and gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. ²⁷When Judas took the bread, Satan (*the devil*) entered him. Jesus said to Judas. "The thing that you will do—do it quickly!" ²⁸None of the men at the table understood why Jesus said this to Judas. ²⁹Judas was the one that kept the money box [for the group]. So some of the followers thought that Jesus meant for Judas to go and buy some things they needed for the feast. Or they thought that Jesus wanted Judas to go give something to the poor people.

³⁰Judas accepted the bread Jesus gave him. Then Judas went out. It was night.

Jesus Talks About His Death

³¹When Judas was gone, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man* receives his glory. And God receives glory through the Son of Man. ³²If God receives glory through him, then God will give glory to the Son through himself. God will give him glory quickly."

³³Jesus said, "My children, I will be with you only a short time more. You will look for me. And what I told the Jewish leaders, I tell you now: Where I am going you cannot come.

³⁴"I give you a new command: Love each other. You must love each other like I loved you. ³⁵All people will know that you are my followers if you love each other."

Son of Man A name Jesus used for himself. In Dan. 7:13–14, this is the name for the Messiah, the one God chose to save his people.

Jesus Says that Peter Will Deny Him*(Mt. 26:31–35; Mk. 14:27–31; Lk. 22:31–34)*

³⁶Simon Peter asked Jesus, “Lord, where are you going?”

Jesus answered, “Where I am going you cannot follow now. But you will follow later.”

³⁷Peter asked, “Lord, why can’t I follow you now? I am ready to die for you!”

³⁸Jesus answered, “Will you really give your life for me? I tell you the truth. Before the rooster crows, you will say three times that you don’t know me.”

Jesus Comforts His Followers

14 Jesus said, “Don’t be troubled. Trust in God. And trust in me. ²There are many rooms in my Father’s house. I would not tell you this if it were not true. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³After I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back. Then I will take you with me, so that you can be where I am. ⁴You know the way to the place where I am going.”

⁵Thomas said, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going. So how can we know the way?”

⁶Jesus answered, “I am the way. I am the truth and the life. The only way to the Father is through me. ⁷If you really knew me, then you would know my Father too. But now you know the Father. You have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to Jesus, “Lord, show us the Father. That is all we need.”

⁹Jesus answered, “Philip, I have been with you for a long time. So you should know me. The person that has seen me has seen the Father too. So why do you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you truly believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The things I have told you don’t come from me. The Father lives in me, and he is doing his own work. ¹¹Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or believe because of the miracles* I have done. ¹²I tell you the truth. The person that believes in me will do the same things I have done. Yes! He will do even greater things than I have done. Why? Because I am going to the Father. ¹³And if you ask for anything in my name, I will do it

for you. Then the Father’s glory will be shown through the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it.

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

¹⁵“If you love me, then you will do the things I command. ¹⁶I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper.* He will give you this Helper to be with you forever. ¹⁷The Helper is the Spirit of truth.* The world cannot accept him. Why? Because the world does not see him or know him. But you know him. He lives with you, and he will live in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you all alone like children without parents. I will come back to you. ¹⁹In a very short time the people in the world will not see me any more. But you will see me. You will live because I live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in the Father. You will know that you are in me and I am in you. ²¹If a person knows my commands and obeys those commands, then that person truly loves me. And my Father will love the person that loves me. And I will love that person. I will show myself to him.”

²²Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But Lord, why do you plan to show yourself to us, but not to the world?”

²³Jesus answered, “If any person loves me, then he will obey my teaching. My Father will love that person. My Father and I will come to that person and live with him. ²⁴But the person that does not love me does not obey my teaching. This teaching that you hear is not really mine. It is from my Father who sent me.

²⁵“I have told you all these things while I am with you. ²⁶But the Helper* will teach you everything. The Helper will cause you to remember all the things I told you. This Helper is the Holy Spirit* that the Father will send in my name.

²⁷“I leave you peace. It is my own peace I give you. I give you peace in a different way than the world does. So don’t be troubled. Don’t be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, ‘I

Helper Or, “Comforter,” the Holy Spirit.

Spirit of truth The Holy Spirit. It was his work to help Jesus’ followers understand God’s truth. See Jn. 16:13.

Spirit, Holy Spirit Also called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, and the Comforter. Joined with God and Christ, he does God’s work among people in the world.

miracle(s) Miracles are amazing works done by God’s power.

am leaving, but I will come back to you.’ If you loved me, then you would be happy that I am going back to the Father. Why? Because the Father is greater than I am. ²⁹I have told you this now, before it happens. Then when it happens, you will believe. ³⁰I will not talk with you much longer. The ruler of this world (*the devil*) is coming. He has no power over me. ³¹But the world must know that I love the Father. So I do exactly what the Father told me to do.

“Come now. We will leave this place.”

Jesus Is Like a Vine

15 Jesus said, “I am the true vine; my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch* of mine that does not make fruit.* And he trims and cleans every branch that makes fruit, so that it will make even more fruit. ³You are already clean because of the teaching I have told you. ⁴Continue in me and I will continue in you. No branch can make fruit alone. It must continue in the vine. It is the same with you. You cannot make fruit alone. You must continue in me.

⁵“I am the vine and you are the branches. If a person continues in me and I continue in that person, then that person will make much fruit. But without me that person can do nothing. ⁶If a person does not continue in me, then he is like a branch that is thrown away. That branch dies. People pick up dead branches, throw them into the fire, and burn them.

⁷“Continue in me and follow my teachings. If you do this, then you can ask for anything you want, and it will be given to you. ⁸You should make much fruit and show that you are my followers. This brings glory to my Father. ⁹I loved you like the Father loved me. Now continue in my love. ¹⁰I have obeyed my Father’s commands, and I continue in his love. In the same way, if you obey my commands, you will continue in my love. ¹¹I have told you these things so that you can have the true happiness that I have. I want you to be completely happy. ¹²This is what I command

you: Love each other like I have loved you.

¹³The greatest love a person can show is to die for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do the things I tell you to do. ¹⁵I don’t call you servants now. A servant does not know what his master is doing. But now I call you friends because I have told you everything I heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me; I chose you. And I gave you this work: to go and make fruit. I want this fruit to continue in your life. Then the Father will give you anything you ask for in my name. ¹⁷This is my command: Love each other.

Jesus Warns His Followers

¹⁸“If the world hates you, remember that the world hated me first. ¹⁹If you belonged to the world, then the world would love you like it loves its own people. But I have chosen you out of the world. So you don’t belong to the world. That is why the world hates you. ²⁰Remember the lesson I told you: A servant is not greater than his master. If people did wrong to me, then they will do wrong to you too. And if people obeyed my teaching, then they will obey yours too. ²¹People will do all this to you because of me. They don’t know the One who sent me. ²²If I had not come and spoken to the people of the world, then they would not be guilty of sin. But now I have spoken to them. So they have no excuse for their sin. ²³Any person that hates me also hates my Father. ²⁴I did things among those people that no other person has ever done. If I had not done those things, they would not be guilty of sin. But they have seen those things I did. And still they hate me and my Father. ²⁵But this happened so that what is written in their law would be true: ‘They hated me for no reason.’*

²⁶“I will send you the Helper* from the Father. The Helper is the Spirit of truth* who comes from the Father. When he comes, he will tell about me. ²⁷And you will tell people about me too, because you have been with me from the beginning.

‘They hated me for no reason’ These words could be from Ps. 35:19 or Ps. 69:4.

Helper Or, “Comforter,” the Holy Spirit.

Spirit of truth The Holy Spirit. It was his work to help Jesus’ followers understand God’s truth. See Jn. 16:13.

branch The “branches” are Jesus’ followers. See verse 5.

make fruit This means the way Jesus’ followers must live to show that they belong to him. See verses 7–10.

16 “I have told you these things so that people will not be able to destroy your faith. ²People will make you leave their synagogues.* Yes, a time is coming when people will think that killing you would be doing service for God. ³People will do these things because they have not known the Father, and they have not known me. ⁴I have told you these things now. So when the time comes for these things to happen, you will remember that I warned you.

The Work of the Holy Spirit

“I did not tell you these things at the beginning, because I was with you then. ⁵Now I am going back to the One who sent me. But none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶You are filled with sadness because I have told you these things. ⁷But I tell you the truth. It is better for you that I go away. Why? Because when I go away I will send the Helper* to you. But if I did not go away, then the Helper would not come. ⁸When the Helper comes, he will prove to the people of the world the truth about these things: about sin, about being right with God, and about judgment. ⁹The Helper will prove that people have sin, because they don’t believe in me. ¹⁰He will prove to them about [my] being right with God, because I am going to the Father. You will not see me then. ¹¹And the Helper will prove to the world the truth about judgment, because the ruler of this world (*the devil*) is already judged.

¹²“I have many more things to say to you. But those things are too much for you to accept now. ¹³But when the Spirit of truth* comes, he will lead you into all truth. The Spirit of truth will not speak his own words. He will speak only what he hears. He will tell you the things that will happen. ¹⁴The Spirit of truth will bring glory to me. How? He will get things from me and tell them to you. ¹⁵All the things that the Father has are mine. That is why I said that the Spirit will get things from me and tell them to you.

synagogue(s) Synagogues were places where Jews gathered for prayer, study of the Scriptures, and other public meetings.

Helper Or, “Comforter,” the Holy Spirit.

Spirit of truth The Holy Spirit. It was his work to help Jesus’ followers understand God’s truth. See Jn. 16:13.

Sadness Will Change to Happiness

¹⁶“After a short time you won’t see me. Then after another short time you will see me again.”

¹⁷Some of the followers said to each other, “What does Jesus mean when he says, ‘After a short time you won’t see me. Then after another short time you will see me again’? And what does he mean when he says, ‘Because I am going to the Father’?” ¹⁸The followers asked, “What does he mean by ‘a short time’? We don’t understand what he is saying.”

¹⁹Jesus saw that the followers wanted to ask him about this. So Jesus said to the followers, “Are you asking each other what I meant when I said, ‘After a short time you won’t see me. Then after another short time you will see me again’? ²⁰I tell you the truth. You will cry and be sad, but the world will be happy. You will be sad, but your sadness will change to happiness. ²¹When a woman gives birth to a baby, she has pain, because her time has come. But when her baby is born, she forgets the pain. She forgets because she is so happy that a child has been born into the world. ²²It is the same with you. Now you are sad. But I will see you again and you will be truly happy. You will have a happiness that no one can take away. ²³In that day you will not ask me for anything. I tell you the truth. My Father will give you anything you ask for in my name. ²⁴You have never asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive. And you will be truly happy.

Victory over the World

²⁵“I have told you these things, using words that hide the meaning. But the time will come when I will not use words like that to tell you things. I will speak to you in plain words about the Father. ²⁶In that day you will ask the Father for things in my name. I am saying that I will not need to ask the Father for you. ²⁷No! The Father himself loves you. He loves you because you have loved me. And he loves you because you have believed that I came from God. ²⁸I came from the Father into the world. Now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father.”

²⁹Then the followers of Jesus said, “You are speaking clearly to us now. You are not using words that are hard to understand. ³⁰We can

see now that you know all things. You can answer a person's question even before he asks it. This makes us believe that you came from God."

³¹Jesus said, "So now you believe? ³²Listen to me. A time is coming when you will be scattered. Each of you will be scattered to his own home. That time is now here. You will leave me. I will be alone. But I am never really alone, because the Father is with me.

³³"I told you these things so that you can have peace in me. In this world you will have trouble. But be brave! I have defeated the world!"

Jesus Prays for His Followers

17 After Jesus said these things he looked toward heaven. Jesus prayed, "Father, the time has come. Give glory to your Son so that the Son can give glory to you. ²You gave the Son power over all people so that the Son could give eternal life to all those people you have given to him. ³And this is eternal life: that people can know you, the only true God, and that people can know Jesus Christ, the One you sent. ⁴I finished the work you gave me to do. I brought you glory on earth. ⁵And now, Father, give me glory with you. Give me the glory I had with you before the world was made.

⁶"You gave me some men from the world. I have shown them what you are like. Those men belonged to you, and you gave them to me. They have obeyed your teaching. ⁷Now they know that everything you gave me comes from you. ⁸I gave these men the teachings that you gave me. They accepted those teachings. They know that I truly came from you. And they believed that you sent me. ⁹I pray for them now. I am not praying for the people in the world. But I am praying for these men you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And my glory is seen in these men. ¹¹Now I am coming to you. I will not stay in the world now. But these men are still in the world. Holy Father, keep them safe. Keep them safe by the power of your name (the name you gave me), so that they will be one, the same as you and I are one. ¹²While I was with them, I kept them safe. I kept them safe by the power of your name—the name you gave me. I protected

them. And only one of them was lost—the man (*Judas*) that chose to be lost. He was lost so that what was said in the Scriptures* would happen.

¹³"I am coming to you now. But I pray these things while I am still in the world. I say these things so that these men can have the true happiness that I have. I want them to be completely happy. ¹⁴I have given them your teaching. And the world has hated them. The world hated these men, because they don't belong to the world, the same as I don't belong to the world. ¹⁵I am not asking you to take them out of the world. But I am asking that you keep them safe from the Evil One (*the devil*). ¹⁶They don't belong to the world, the same as I don't belong to the world. ¹⁷Make them ready for your service through your truth. Your teaching is truth. ¹⁸I have sent them into the world, the same as you sent me into the world. ¹⁹I am making myself ready to serve. I do this for them, so that they can truly be ready for your service.

²⁰"I pray for these men. But I am also praying for all people that will believe in me because of the teaching of these men. ²¹Father, I pray that all people that believe in me can be one. You are in me and I am in you. I pray that these people can also be one in us, so that the world will believe that you sent me. ²²I have given these people the glory that you gave me. I gave them this glory so that they can be one, the same as you and I are one. ²³I will be in them, and you will be in me. So they will be completely one. Then the world will know that you sent me. And the world will know that you loved these people the same as you loved me.

²⁴"Father, I want these people that you have given me to be with me in every place I am. I want them to see my glory. This is the glory you gave me because you loved me before the world was made. ²⁵Father, you are the One who is good. The world does not know you, but I know you. And these people know that you sent me. ²⁶I showed them what you are like. And again I will show them what you are like. Then they will have the same love that you have for me. And I will live in them."

Scripture(s) *Holy Writings—the Old Testament.*

Jesus Is Arrested

(Mt. 26:47–56; Mk. 14:43–50; Lk. 22:47–53)

18 When Jesus finished praying, he left with his followers. They went across the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden [of olive trees]. Jesus and his followers went there.

²Judas knew where this place was, because Jesus met there often with his followers. Judas was the one that turned against Jesus. ³So Judas led a group of soldiers to the garden. Judas also brought some guards from the leading priests and the Pharisees.* They were carrying torches, lanterns, and weapons.

⁴Jesus knew everything that would happen to him. Jesus went out and asked, “Who are you looking for?”

⁵The men answered, “Jesus from Nazareth.”

Jesus said, “I am Jesus.” (Judas, the one that turned against Jesus, was standing there with them.) ⁶When Jesus said, “I am Jesus,” the men moved back and fell to the ground.

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

The men said, “Jesus from Nazareth.”

⁸Jesus said, “I told you that I am Jesus. So if you are looking for me, then let these other men go free.” ⁹This happened so that the words Jesus said before would be true: “I have not lost any of the men you gave me.”

¹⁰Simon Peter had a sword. He took out the sword and struck the servant of the high priest.* Peter cut off the servant’s right ear. (The servant’s name was Malchus.) ¹¹Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword back in its place! I must accept the cup* [of suffering] the Father has given me.”

Jesus Is Brought Before Annas

(Mt. 26:57–58; Mk. 14:53–54; Lk. 22:54)

¹²Then the soldiers with their commander and the Jewish guards arrested Jesus. They tied Jesus ¹³and brought him to Annas. Annas

Pharisees The Pharisees were a Jewish religious group that claimed to follow carefully all Jewish laws and customs.

high priest The most important Jewish priest and leader.

cup Jesus is talking about the bad things that will happen to him. Accepting these things will be very hard, like drinking a cup of something that tastes very bad.

was the father-in-law of Caiaphas. Caiaphas was the high priest* that year. ¹⁴Caiaphas was the one who had told the other Jewish leaders that it would be better if one man died for all the people.

Peter Lies About Knowing Jesus

(Mt. 26:69–70; Mk. 14:66–68; Lk. 22:55–57)

¹⁵Simon Peter and another one of Jesus’ followers went with Jesus. This follower knew the high priest.* So he went with Jesus into the yard of the high priest’s house. ¹⁶But Peter waited outside near the door. The follower that knew the high priest came back outside. He spoke to the girl that opened the gate for people. Then he brought Peter inside. ¹⁷The girl at the gate said to Peter, “Are you also one of the followers of that man (Jesus)?”

Peter answered, “No, I am not!”

¹⁸It was cold, so the servants and guards had built a fire. They were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter was standing with these men.

The High Priest Questions Jesus

(Mt. 26:59–66; Mk. 14:55–64; Lk. 22:66–71)

¹⁹The high priest* asked Jesus questions about his followers. He asked Jesus questions about the things Jesus taught. ²⁰Jesus answered, “I have always spoken openly to all people. I always taught in the synagogues* and in the temple* area. All the Jews come together there. I never said anything in secret. ²¹So why do you question me? Ask the people that heard my teaching. They know what I said.”

²²When Jesus said this, one of the guards standing there hit him. The guard said, “You should not talk to the high priest* like that!”

²³Jesus answered, “If I said something wrong, then tell everyone here what was wrong. But if the things I said are right, then why do you hit me?”

²⁴So Annas sent Jesus to Caiaphas the high priest.* Jesus was still tied.

synagogue(s) Synagogues were places where Jews gathered for prayer, study of the Scriptures, and other public meetings.

temple The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

Peter Lies Again

(Mt. 26:71–75; Mk. 14:69–72; Lk. 22:58–62)

²⁵Simon Peter was standing [at the fire], keeping himself warm. The other men said to Peter, “Are you one of the followers of that man (*Jesus*)?”

But Peter denied it. He said, “No, I am not.”

²⁶One of the servants of the high priest* was there. This servant was a relative to the man whose ear Peter had cut off. The servant said, “I think I saw you with him (*Jesus*) in the garden!”

²⁷But again Peter said, “No, I was not with him!” And at that same time a rooster crowed.

Jesus Is Brought Before Pilate

(Mt. 27:1–2, 11–31; Mk. 15:1–20; Lk. 23:1–25)

²⁸Then the guards took Jesus from Caiaphas’ house to the [Roman governor’s] palace. It was early in the morning. The Jews there would not go inside the palace. They did not want to make themselves unclean,* because they wanted to eat the Passover* meal. ²⁹So Pilate went outside to the Jews. He asked, “What do you say this man has done wrong?”

³⁰The Jews answered, “He is a bad man. That is why we brought him to you.”

³¹Pilate said to the Jews, “You Jews take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.”

The Jewish leaders answered, “But your law does not allow us to punish a person by killing him.” ³²(This happened so that what Jesus said about how he would die would be true.)

³³Then Pilate went back inside the palace. Pilate called Jesus to him. He asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

³⁴Jesus said, “Is that your own question, or did other people tell you about me?”

³⁵Pilate said, “I am not a Jew! It was your own people and their leading priests that brought you before me. What have you done wrong?”

³⁶Jesus said, “My kingdom does not belong to this world. If it belonged to this world, then

my servants would fight so that I would not be given to the Jewish leaders. But my kingdom is from another place.”

³⁷Pilate said, “So you are a king!”

Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. That is true. I was born for this: to tell people about the truth. That is why I came into the world. And every person that belongs to the truth listens to me.”

³⁸Pilate said, “What is truth?” When Pilate said this, he went out to the Jewish leaders again. Pilate said to them, “I can find nothing to charge against this man. ³⁹But it is one of your customs for me to free one prisoner to you at the time of the Passover.* Do you want me to free this ‘king of the Jews’?”

⁴⁰They yelled back, “No, not him! Let Barabbas go free!” (Barabbas was a rebel.)

19 Then Pilate ordered that Jesus be taken away and be whipped. ²The soldiers used some thorny branches to make a crown. They put this crown of thorns on Jesus’ head. Then the soldiers put a purple robe around Jesus. ³The soldiers came to Jesus many times and said, “Hello, O king of the Jews!” They hit Jesus in the face.

⁴Again Pilate came out and said to the Jewish leaders, “Look! I am bringing Jesus out to you. I want you to know that I find nothing I can charge against him.” ⁵Then Jesus came out. He was wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to the Jews, “Here is the man!”

⁶When the leading priests and the Jewish guards saw Jesus they yelled, “Kill him on a cross! Kill him on a cross!”

But Pilate answered, “You take him and nail him to a cross yourselves. I find nothing I can charge against him.”

⁷The Jewish leaders answered, “We have a law that says he must die, because he said that he is the Son of God.”

⁸When Pilate heard this, he was more afraid. ⁹Pilate went back inside the palace. He asked Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus did not answer him. ¹⁰Pilate said, “You refuse to speak to me? Remember, I have the power to make you free. I also have the power to kill you on a cross.”

¹¹Jesus answered, “The only power you have over me is the power given to you by

high priest The most important Jewish priest and leader.

unclean Going into a non-Jewish place would ruin the special cleansing the Jews had done. See Jn. 11:55.

Passover An important Jewish holy day. The Jews ate a special meal on this day every year to remember that God freed them from slavery in Egypt in the time of Moses.

God. So the man who gave me to you is guilty of a greater sin.”

¹²After this, Pilate tried to let Jesus go free. But the Jewish leaders yelled, “Any person who makes himself a king is against Caesar.* So if you let this man (*Jesus*) go free, that means you are not Caesar’s friend.”

¹³Pilate heard what these Jews said. So he brought Jesus out to the place called “The Stone Pavement.” (In the Jewish language* the name is “Gabbatha.”) Pilate sat down on the judge’s seat there. ¹⁴It was now almost noon on Preparation day* of Passover* week. Pilate said to the Jews, “Here is your king!”

¹⁵They yelled, “Take him away! Take him away! Kill him on a cross!”

Pilate asked them, “Do you want me to kill your king on a cross?”

The leading priests answered, “The only king we have is Caesar*!”

¹⁶So Pilate gave Jesus to them to be killed on a cross.

Jesus Is Killed on a Cross

(Mt. 27:32-44; Mk. 15:21-32; Lk. 23:26-43)

The soldiers took Jesus. ¹⁷Jesus carried his own cross. He went out to a place called “The Place of the Skull.” (In the Jewish language* the name of this place is “Golgotha.”) ¹⁸At Golgotha they nailed Jesus to the cross. They also put two other men on crosses. They put the men on each side of Jesus with Jesus in the middle. ¹⁹Pilate wrote a sign and put it on the cross. The sign said, “JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.” ²⁰The sign was written in the Jewish language, in Latin, and in Greek. Many of the Jews read the sign, because this place where they killed Jesus on the cross was near the city. ²¹The leading Jewish priests said to Pilate, “Don’t write, ‘The King of the Jews.’ But write, ‘This man said, I am the King of the Jews.’”

²²Pilate answered, “I will not change what I have written.”

²³After the soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross, they took his clothes. They divided his clothes into four parts. Each soldier got one part. They also took his tunic.* It was all one piece of cloth woven from top to bottom. ²⁴So the soldiers said to each other, “We should not tear this into parts [to divide it]. We should choose lots* to see who will get it.” This happened so that it would be like the Scripture* said:

“They divided my clothes among them.
And they threw lots* for my clothing.”

Psalm 22:18

So the soldiers did this.

²⁵Jesus’ mother stood near his cross. His mother’s sister was also standing there with Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. ²⁶Jesus saw his mother. He also saw the follower that he loved very much standing there. He said to his mother, “Dear woman, here is your son.” ²⁷Then Jesus said to the follower, “Here is your mother.” So after that, this follower took Jesus’ mother to live in his home.

Jesus Dies

(Mt. 27:45-56; Mk. 15:33-41; Lk. 23:44-49)

²⁸Later, Jesus knew that everything had been done. To make the Scriptures* happen he said, “I am thirsty.”* ²⁹There was a jar full of vinegar there. So the soldiers soaked a sponge in it. They put the sponge on a branch of a hyssop plant. Then they lifted it to Jesus’ mouth. ³⁰Jesus tasted the vinegar. Then he said, “It is finished.” Jesus bowed his head and died.

³¹This day was Preparation day.* The next day was a special Sabbath day.* The Jewish leaders did not want the bodies to stay on the cross on the Sabbath day. So they asked Pilate

Caesar The name given to the emperor (ruler) of Rome.

Jewish language Hebrew or Aramaic, a language like Hebrew that was spoken by many Jews in the first century.

Preparation day Friday, the day before the Sabbath day.

Passover An important Jewish holy day. The Jews ate a special meal on this day every year to remember that God freed them from slavery in Egypt in the time of Moses.

tunic A piece of clothing like a long undershirt.

lots Rocks or sticks used like dice for making a choice.

Scripture Part of the Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

Scripture(s) Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

“I am thirsty” See Ps. 22:15; 69:21.

Sabbath day Saturday, a special day for Jews to rest and honor God.

to order that the legs of the men be broken [to make them die sooner]. And they asked that the bodies of the men be taken down from the crosses. ³²So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man on the cross beside Jesus. Then they broke the legs of the other man on the cross beside Jesus. ³³But when the soldiers came close to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead. So they did not break his legs. ³⁴But one of the soldiers stuck his spear into Jesus' side. Blood and water came out. ³⁵(The one who saw this happen has told about it. He told about it so that you also can believe. The things he says are true. He knows that he tells the truth.) ³⁶These things happened to give full meaning to the Scriptures* that said: "None of his bones will be broken"* ³⁷and, "People will look at the one they stuck [with the spear]."*

Jesus Is Buried

(Mt. 27:57–61; Mk. 15:42–47; Lk. 23:50–56)

³⁸Later, a man named Joseph from Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. (Joseph was a follower of Jesus. But he did not tell people, because he was afraid of the Jewish leaders.) Pilate said that Joseph could take the body of Jesus. So Joseph came and took Jesus' body away. ³⁹Nicodemus went with Joseph. Nicodemus was the man who had come to Jesus before and talked to him at night. Nicodemus brought about 100 pounds* of spices. This was a mixture of myrrh and aloes.* ⁴⁰These two men took Jesus' body. They wrapped it in pieces of linen cloth with the spices. (This is how the Jews bury people.) ⁴¹In the place where Jesus was killed on the cross, there was a garden. In the garden there was a new tomb.* No person had ever been buried there before. ⁴²The men put Jesus in that tomb because it was near, and the Jews were preparing to start their Sabbath day.*

Scripture(s) Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

"None ... broken" Quote from Ps. 34:20. The idea is from Ex. 12:46; Num. 9:12.

"People ... spear" Quote from Zech. 12:10.

100 pounds 100 Roman pounds, equal to about 75 pounds today.

myrrh and aloes Sweet-smelling spices used for perfume and also to prepare a body to be buried.

tomb A grave dug in a wall of rock.

Sabbath day Saturday, a special day for Jews to rest and honor God.

Some Followers Find Jesus' Tomb Empty

(Mt. 28:1–10; Mk. 16:1–8; Lk. 24:1–12)

20 Early on Sunday morning Mary Magdalene went to the tomb* [where Jesus' body was]. It was still dark. Mary saw that the large stone [that covered the entrance] was moved away. ²So Mary ran to Simon Peter and the other follower (the one Jesus loved very much). Mary said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb. We don't know where they put him."

³So Peter and the other follower started going to the tomb.* ⁴They were both running, but the other follower ran faster than Peter. So the other follower reached the tomb first. ⁵The follower bent down and looked in. He saw the pieces of linen cloth lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came from behind him. Peter went into the tomb. He saw the pieces of linen lying there. ⁷He also saw the cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up and laid in a different place from the pieces of linen. ⁸Then the other follower went in. This was the follower that had reached the tomb first. He saw what had happened and believed. ⁹(These followers did not yet understand from the Scriptures* that Jesus must rise from death.)

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

(Mk. 16:9–11)

¹⁰Then the followers went back home. ¹¹But Mary stood outside the tomb,* crying. While she was crying, she bent down and looked inside the tomb. ¹²Mary saw two angels dressed in white. They were sitting where Jesus' body had been. One angel was sitting where Jesus' head had been, and the other angel was sitting where Jesus' feet had been.

¹³The angels asked Mary, "Woman, why are you crying?"

Mary answered, "Some people have taken away [the body of] my Lord. I don't know where they put him." ¹⁴When Mary said this she turned around and saw Jesus standing there. But she did not know that it was Jesus.

¹⁵Jesus asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?"

Mary thought that this was the man that takes care of the garden. So Mary said to him,

“Did you take Jesus away, sir? Tell me where you put him. I will go and get him.”

¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

Mary turned toward Jesus and said in the Jewish language,* “*Rabboni*.” (This means “Teacher.”)

¹⁷Jesus said to her, “Don’t hold me. I have not yet gone back up to the Father. But go to my brothers (*followers*) and tell them this: ‘I am going back to my Father and your Father. I am going back to my God and your God.’”

¹⁸Mary Magdalene went to the followers and told them, “I saw the Lord!” And she told them the things Jesus said to her.

Jesus Appears to His Followers

(Mt. 28:16–20; Mk. 16:14–18; Lk. 24:36–49)

¹⁹The day was Sunday. That same evening the followers were together. The doors were locked, because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Then Jesus came and stood among them. Jesus said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁰After Jesus said this, he showed the followers his hands and his side. The followers were very happy when they saw the Lord.

²¹Then Jesus said again, “Peace be with you! The Father sent me. In the same way, I now send you.” ²²After Jesus said that, he breathed on the followers. Jesus said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.* ²³If you forgive people’s sins, then their sins are forgiven. If you don’t forgive people’s sins, then their sins are not forgiven.”

Jesus Appears to Thomas

²⁴Thomas (called Didymus) was not with the followers when Jesus came. Thomas was one of the twelve. ²⁵The other followers told Thomas, “We saw the Lord.” Thomas said, “I will not believe it until I see the nail holes in his hands. And I will not believe until I put my finger where the nails were and put my hand into his side.”

²⁶A week later the followers were in the house again. Thomas was with them. The

doors were locked, but Jesus came and stood among them. Jesus said, “Peace be with you!”

²⁷Then Jesus said to Thomas, “Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand here in my side. Stop doubting and start believing.”

²⁸Thomas said to Jesus, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹Jesus said to Thomas, “You believe because you see me. Those people that believe without seeing me will be truly blessed.”

Why John Wrote This Book

³⁰Jesus did many other miracles* that his followers saw. Those miracles are not written in this book. ³¹But these things are written so that you can believe that Jesus is the Christ,* the Son of God. Then, by believing, you can have life through his name.

Jesus Appears to Seven Followers

21 Later, Jesus showed himself again to his followers. This was by Lake Tiberias (*Galilee*). This is how it happened: ²Some of the followers were together. They were Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the two sons of Zebedee, and two other followers. ³Simon Peter said, “I am going out to fish.”

The other followers said, “We will go with you.” So all the followers went out and got into the boat. They fished that night but caught nothing.

⁴Early the next morning Jesus stood on the shore. But the followers did not know it was Jesus. ⁵Then Jesus said to the followers, “Friends, have you caught any fish?”

The followers answered, “No.”

⁶Jesus said, “Throw your net into the water on the right side of your boat. You will find some fish there.” So the followers did this. They caught so many fish that they could not pull the net back into the boat.

⁷The follower that Jesus loved said to Peter, “That man is the Lord (*Jesus*)!” Peter heard him say, “That man is the Lord.” Peter put his coat around himself. (Peter had taken his clothes off [to work].) Then he jumped into the

Jewish language Hebrew or Aramaic, a language like Hebrew that was spoken by many Jews in the first century.

Spirit, Holy Spirit Also called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, and the Comforter. Joined with God and Christ, he does God’s work among people in the world.

miracle(s) Miracles are amazing works done by God’s power.

Christ The “anointed one” (Messiah) or chosen one of God.

water. ⁸The other followers went to shore in the boat. They pulled the net full of fish. They were not very far from shore, only about 100 yards. ⁹When the followers stepped out of the boat and onto the shore, they saw a fire of hot coals. There were fish on the fire and some bread there too. ¹⁰Then Jesus said, “Bring some of the fish that you caught.”

¹¹Simon Peter went into the boat and pulled the net to the shore. It was full of big fish. There were 153. The fish [were very heavy], but the net did not tear. ¹²Jesus said to them, “Come and eat.” None of the followers would ask him, “Who are you?” They knew he was the Lord. ¹³Jesus walked to the food. He took the bread and gave it to them. Jesus also got the fish and gave it to them.

¹⁴This was now the third time Jesus showed himself to his followers after he was raised from death.

Jesus Talks to Peter

¹⁵When they finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these [other men love me]?”

Peter answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Then Jesus said to Peter, “Take care of my lambs.*”

¹⁶Again Jesus said to Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?”

Peter answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Then Jesus said to Peter, “Take care of my sheep.*”

¹⁷A third time Jesus said, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was sad because Jesus asked him three times, “Do you love me?” Peter said, “Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you!”

Jesus said to Peter, “Take care of my sheep.* ¹⁸I tell you the truth. When you were young, you tied your own belt and went where you wanted. But when you are old, you will put out your hands and another person will tie you. That person will lead you where you don’t want to go.” ¹⁹(Jesus said this to show how Peter would die to give glory to God.) Then Jesus said to Peter, “Follow me!”

²⁰Peter turned and saw the follower that Jesus loved walking behind them. (This was the follower that had leaned against Jesus at the supper and said, “Lord, who will turn against you?”) ²¹When Peter saw this follower behind them he asked Jesus, “Lord, what about him?”

²²Jesus answered, “Maybe I want him to live until I come. That should not be important to you. You follow me!”

²³So a story spread among the brothers (*followers*). They were saying that this follower [that Jesus loved] would not die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die. He only said, “Maybe I want him to live until I come. That should not be important to you.”

²⁴That follower is the one that is telling these things. He is the one that has now written these things. We know that what he says is true.

²⁵There are many other things that Jesus did. If every one of these things were written down, I think the whole world would not be big enough for all the books that would be written.