

The  
most high  
Rules

in the  
Kingdom of Men



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most high  
Rules

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TO ALL PEOPLES, NATIONS, AND LANGUAGES THAT DWELL  
IN ALL THE EARTH PEACE BE MULTIPLIED TO YOU. I THOUGHT  
IT GOOD TO DECLARE THE SIGNS AND WONDERS THAT THE  
MOST HIGH GOD HAS WORKED FOR ME. HOW GREAT ARE  
HIS SIGNS, AND HOW MIGHTY HIS WONDERS! HIS KINGDOM  
IS AN EVERLASTING KINGDOM, AND HIS DOMINION IS FROM  
GENERATION TO GENERATION.

I, NEBUCHADNEZZAR, WAS AT REST IN MY HOUSE, AND  
FLOURISHING IN MY PALACE. I SAW A DREAM WHICH MADE  
ME AFRAID, AND THE THOUGHTS ON MY BED AND THE  
VISIONS OF MY HEAD TROUBLED ME.

THIS IS THE INTERPRETATION, O KING, AND THIS IS THE  
DECREE OF THE MOST HIGH, WHICH HAS COME UPON MY LORD  
THE KING: THEY SHALL DRIVE YOU FROM MEN, YOUR DWELLING  
SHALL BE WITH THE BEASTS OF THE FIELD, AND THEY SHALL  
MAKE YOU EAT GRASS LIKE AN OXEN. THEY SHALL WET YOU  
WITH THE DEW OF HEAVEN, AND SEVEN TIMES SHALL PASS  
OVER YOU, TILL YOU KNOW THAT THE MOST HIGH RULES IN  
THE KINGDOM OF MEN, AND GIVES IT TO WHOMEVER HE  
CHOOSES.

AND AT THE END OF THE TIME I, NEBUCHADNEZZAR, LIFTED MY EYES TO HEAVEN, AND MY UNDERSTANDING RETURNED TO ME, AND I BLESSED THE MOST HIGH AND PRAISED AND HONOURED HIM WHO LIVES FOREVER: FOR HIS DOMINION IS AN EVERLASTING DOMINION, AND HIS KINGDOM IS FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION. ALL THE INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH ARE REPUTED AS NOTHING, HE DOES ACCORDING TO HIS WILL IN THE ARMY OF HEAVEN AND AMONG THE INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH. NO ONE CAN RESTRAIN HIS HAND OR SAY TO HIM, "WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?"

NOW I, NEBUCHADNEZZAR, PRAISE AND HONOUR AND EXTOL THE KING OF HEAVEN, ALL OF WHOSE WORKS ARE TRUTH, AND HIS WAYS JUSTICE. AND THOSE WHO WALK IN PRIDE HE IS ABLE TO PUT DOWN.

## DANIEL, CHAPTER 4

### TESTIMONY OF BABYLON'S KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR

TESTIMONY  
FROM HOLY BOOKS  
OF  
THE LAW & THE PROPHETS



OR the LORD will judge his people and have compassion on his servants, when he sees that *their* power is gone, and *there is* no one *remaining*, bond or free. He will say: 'Where *are* their gods, the rock in which they sought refuge? Who ate the fat of their sacrifices, *and* drank the wine of their drink offering? Let them rise and help you, *and* be your refuge.

**N**ow see that I, *even I, am* he, and *there is* no God besides me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; nor *is there any* who can deliver from my hand. For I raise my hand to heaven, and say, "As I live forever, if I whet my glittering sword, and my hand takes hold on judgement, I will render vengeance to my enemies, and repay those who hate me.

**I** will make my arrows drunk with blood, and my sword shall devour flesh, with the blood of the slain and the captives, from the heads of the leaders of the enemy."

**R**ejoice, O Gentiles, *with* his people; for he will avenge the blood of his servants, and render vengeance to his adversaries; he will provide atonement for his land *and* his people."



**T**HEN Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and spoke, saying: "I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider he has thrown into the sea!

**T**he LORD *is* my strength and song, and he has become my salvation; he *is* my God, and I will praise him; my father's God, and I will exalt him. The LORD *is* a man of war; the LORD *is* his name. Pharaoh's chariots and his army he has cast into the sea; his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea. The depths have covered them; they sank to the bottom like a stone.

**Y**our right hand, O LORD, has become glorious in power; your right hand, O LORD, has dashed the enemy in pieces. And in the greatness of your excellence you have overthrown those who rose against you; you sent forth your wrath; it consumed them like stubble. And with the blast of your nostrils the waters were gathered together; the floods stood upright like a heap; the depths congealed in the heart of the sea.

**T**he enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; my desire shall be satisfied on them. I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.' You blew with your wind, the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters.

**W**ho is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders? You stretched out your right hand; the earth swallowed them.

**Y**ou in your mercy have led forth the people whom you have redeemed; you have guided *them* in your strength to your holy habitation.

**T**he people will hear *and* be afraid; sorrow will take hold of the inhabitants of Philistia. Then the chiefs of Edom will be dismayed; the mighty men of Moab, trembling will take hold of them; all the inhabitants of Canaan will melt away.

**F**ear and dread will fall on them; by the greatness of your arm they will be *as* still as a stone, till your people pass over, O LORD, till the people pass over whom you have purchased.

**Y**ou will bring them in and plant them in the mountain of your inheritance, *in* the place, O LORD, *which* you have made for your own dwelling, the sanctuary, O Lord, *which* your hands have established. The LORD shall reign forever and ever."



LESSED are you, LORD God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever. Yours, O LORD, *is* the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all *that is* in heaven and in earth *is yours*; yours *is* the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head over all.

**B**oth riches and honour *come* from you, and you reign over all. In your hand *is* power and might; in your hand *it is* to make great and to give strength to all. Now therefore, our God, we thank you and praise your glorious name.

**B**ut who *am I*, and who *are* my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things *come* from you, and of your own we have given you. For we *are* aliens and pilgrims before you, as *were* all our fathers; our days on earth *are* as a shadow, and without hope. O LORD our God, all this abundance that we have prepared to build you a house for your holy name is from your hand, and *is* all your own.

**I** know also, my God, that you test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of my heart I have willingly offered all these *things*; and now with joy I have seen your people, who are present here to offer willingly to you."



OW there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that *there is* none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?"

SO Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? Have you not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But now, stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse you to your face!" And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has *is* in your power; only do not lay a hand on his *person*." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

NOw the LORD blessed the latter *days* of Job more than his beginning; for he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys. He also had seven sons and three daughters. After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children and grandchildren *for* four generations. So Job died, old and full of days.



**T**HEN the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: "Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me: Would you indeed annul my judgement? Would you condemn me that you may be justified?"

**H**ave you an arm like God? Or can you thunder with a voice like his? Then adorn yourself *with* majesty and splendour, and array yourself with glory and beauty. Disperse the rage of your wrath; look on everyone *who is* proud, and humble him. Look on everyone *who is* proud, *and* bring him low; tread down the wicked in their place. Hide them in the dust together, bind their faces in hidden *darkness*. Then I will also confess to you that your own right hand can save you."

**T**hen Job answered the LORD and said: "I know that you can do everything, and that no purpose *of yours* can be withheld from you. *You asked*, 'Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. Listen, please, and let me speak; *you said*, 'I will question you, and you shall answer me.' I have heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you. Therefore I abhor *myself*, and repent in dust and ashes."

Job, Chapters 40 & 42



THE lofty looks of man shall be humbled, the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day of the LORD of hosts *shall come* upon everything proud and lofty, upon everything lifted up—and it shall be brought low—upon all the cedars of Lebanon *that are* high and lifted up, and upon all the oaks of Bashan; upon all the high mountains, and upon all the hills *that are* lifted up; upon every high tower, and upon every fortified wall; upon all the ships of Tarshish, and upon all the beautiful sloops.

THE loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be brought low; the LORD alone will be exalted in that day, but the idols he shall utterly abolish.

THEY shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, from the terror of the LORD and the glory of his majesty, when he arises to shake the earth mightily.

IN that day a man will cast away his idols of silver and his idols of gold, which they made, *each* for himself to worship, to the moles and bats, to go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the crags of the rugged rocks, from the terror of the LORD and the glory of his majesty, when he arises to shake the earth mightily.



IN the year that King Uzziah died, [739BC] I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of his *robe* filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: "**Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!**" And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. So I said: "Woe *is* me, for I am undone! Because I *am* a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."

Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal *which* he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth *with it*, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged." Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here *am* I! Send me."

And he said, "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.' Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and return and be healed."



IMMEDIATELY I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and *one* sat on the throne. And he who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and *there was* a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. Around the throne *were* twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads. And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire *were* burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. Before the throne *there was* a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, *were* four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. The first living creature *was* like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature *was* like a flying eagle. *The* four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!**"

**W**henever the living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power; for you created all things, and by your will they exist and were created."



WHO has directed the Spirit of the LORD, or *as* his counsellor has taught him? With whom did he take counsel, and *who* instructed him, and taught him in the path of justice? Who taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding? Behold, the nations *are* as a drop in a bucket, and are counted as the small dust on the scales; look, he lifts up the isles as a very little thing. And Lebanon *is* not sufficient to burn, nor its beasts sufficient for a burnt offering. All nations before him *are* as nothing, and they are counted by him less than nothing and worthless.

TO whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare to him? The workman moulds an image, the goldsmith overspreads it with gold, and the silversmith casts silver chains. Whoever *is* too impoverished for *such* a contribution chooses a tree *that* will not rot; he seeks for himself a skilful workman to prepare a carved image *that* will not totter.

HAVE you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? *It is* he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants *are* like grasshoppers, who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.

**H**e brings the princes to nothing; he makes the judges of the earth useless. Scarcely shall they be planted, scarcely shall they be sown, scarcely shall their stock take root in the earth, when he will also blow on them, and they will wither, and the whirlwind will take them away like stubble. "To whom then will you liken me, or to *whom* shall I be equal?" says the Holy One.

**L**ift up your eyes on high, and see who has created these *things*, who brings out their host by number; he calls them all by name, by the greatness of his might and the strength of *his* power; not one is missing.

**W**hy do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel: "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my just claim is passed over by my God"? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.

**H**e gives power to the weak, and to *those who have* no might he increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, But those who wait on the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.



OR thus says the LORD, who created the heavens, who is God, who formed the earth and made it, who has established it, who did not create it in vain, who formed it to be inhabited: "I *am* the LORD, and *there is* no other. I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth; I did not say to the seed of Jacob, 'Seek me in vain'; I, the LORD, speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.

**A**ssemble yourselves and come; draw near together, you *who have* escaped from the nations. They have no knowledge, who carry the wood of their carved image, and pray to a god *that* cannot save.

**T**ell and bring forth *your case*; yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? *Who* has told it from that time? *Have* not I, the LORD? And *there is* no other God besides me, a just God and a Saviour; *there is* none besides me.

**L**ook to me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I *am* God, and *there is* no other. I have sworn by myself; the word has gone out of my mouth *in* righteousness, and shall not return, that to me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall take an oath. "



LISTEN to me, my people; and give ear to me, O my nation: For law will proceed from me, and I will make my justice rest as a light of the peoples. My righteousness *is* near, my salvation has gone forth, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands will wait upon me, and on my arm they will trust. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look on the earth beneath. For the heavens will vanish away like smoke, the earth will grow old like a garment, and those who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will not be abolished. Listen to me, you who know righteousness, you people in whose heart *is* my law: Do not fear the reproach of men, nor be afraid of their insults. For the moth will eat them up like a garment, and the worm will eat them like wool; but my righteousness will be forever, and my salvation from generation to generation."

**A**wake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD! Awake as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. *Are you not the arm that cut Rahab apart, and wounded the serpent? Are you not the one who dried up the sea, the waters of the great deep; that made the depths of the sea a road for the redeemed to cross over? So the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness; sorrow and sighing shall flee away.*



**I**NCLINE your ear, and come to me. Hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you—the sure mercies of David. Indeed I have given him *as* a witness to the people, a leader and commander for the people. Surely you shall call a nation you do not know, and nations *who* do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, and the Holy One of Israel; for he has glorified you."

**S**EEK the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

"**F**OR my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, nor *are* your ways my ways," says the LORD. "For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

**F**OR as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it."



OR our transgressions are multiplied before you, and our sins testify against us; for our transgressions *are* with us, and *as for* our iniquities, we know them: in transgressing and lying against the LORD, and departing from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood. Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands afar off; for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. So truth fails, and he *who* departs from evil makes himself a prey.

Then the LORD saw *it*, and it displeased him that *there was* no justice. He saw that *there was* no man, and wondered that *there was* no intercessor; therefore his own arm brought salvation for him; and his own righteousness, it sustained him. For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak.

According to *their* deeds, accordingly he will repay, fury to his adversaries, recompense to his enemies; the coastlands he will fully repay. So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun; when the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him. "The Redeemer will come to Zion, and to those who turn from transgression in Jacob," says the LORD.



**T**HEN Daniel answered, and said before the king, "Let your gifts be for yourself, and give your rewards to another; yet I will read the writing to the king, and make known to him the interpretation.

**O** king, the Most High God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father a kingdom and majesty, glory and honour. And because of the majesty that he gave him, all peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him. Whomever he wished, he executed; whomever he wished, he kept alive; whomever he wished, he set up; and whomever he wished, he put down.

**B**ut when his heart was lifted up, and his spirit was hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him. Then he was driven from the sons of men, his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling *was* with the wild donkeys. They fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till he knew that the Most High God rules in the kingdom of men, and appoints over it whomever he chooses.

**B**ut you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, although you knew all this. And you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven. They have brought the vessels of his house before you, and you and your lords, your wives and your concubines, have drunk wine from them.

**A**nd you have praised the gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, which do not see or hear or know; and the God who *holds* your breath in his hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified.

**T**hen the fingers of the hand were sent from him, and this writing was written [the writing on the wall]. And this is the inscription that was written: **MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN**. This *is* the interpretation of *each* word.

**MENE:** God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it;

**TEKEL:** You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting;

**PERES:** Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians."

**T**hen Belshazzar gave the command, and they clothed Daniel with purple and *put* a chain of gold around his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom. That very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was slain. And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, *being* about sixty-two years old.



**PROCLAIM** this among the nations: "Prepare for war! Wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near, let them come up. Beat your ploughshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears; let the weak say, 'I *am* strong.'"

**A**ssemble and come, all you nations, and gather together all around. Cause your mighty ones to go down there, O LORD. "Let the nations be awakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; for the winepress is full, the vats overflow—for their wickedness *is* great."

**M**ultitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD *is* near in the valley of decision. The sun and moon will grow dark, and the stars will diminish their brightness. The LORD also will roar from Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; the heavens and earth will shake; but the LORD will be a shelter for his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.

"**S**o you shall know that I *am* the LORD your God, dwelling in Zion my holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be holy, and no aliens shall ever pass through her again."



**N**OW it shall come to pass in the latter days *that* the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it. Many nations shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; he will teach us his ways, and we shall walk in his paths." For out of Zion the law shall go forth, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

**H**e shall judge between many peoples, and rebuke strong nations afar off; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make *them* afraid; for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.

**F**or all people walk each in the name of his god, but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever. "In that day," says the LORD, "I will assemble the lame, I will gather the outcast and those whom I have afflicted; I will make the lame a remnant, and the outcast a strong nation; so the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion from now on, even forever. "

Micah, Chapter 4



**T**HEN the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision and make *it* plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. For the vision *is* yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. Behold the proud, his soul is not upright in him; but the just shall live by his faith. Indeed, because he transgresses by wine, *he is* a proud man, and he does not stay at home. Because he enlarges his desire as hell, and he *is* like death, and cannot be satisfied, he gathers to himself all nations and heaps up for himself all peoples."

**O**LORD, I have heard your speech *and* was afraid; LORD, revive your work in the midst of the years! In the midst of the years make *it* known; in wrath remember mercy. God came from Teman, the Holy One from Mount Paran. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise. *His* brightness was like the light; he had rays *flashing* from his hand, and there his power *was* hidden. Before him went pestilence, and fever followed at his feet.

**H**e stood and measured the earth; he looked and startled the nations. And the everlasting mountains were scattered, the perpetual hills bowed. His ways *are* everlasting. I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction; the curtains of the land of Midian trembled. O LORD, were *you* displeased with the rivers, *was* your anger against the rivers, *was* your wrath against the sea, that you rode on your horses, your chariots of salvation?

**Y**our bow was made quite ready; oaths were sworn over *your* arrows. You divided the earth with rivers. The mountains saw you *and* trembled; the overflowing of the water passed by. The deep uttered its voice, *and* lifted its hands on high. The sun and moon stood still in their habitation; at the light of your arrows they went, at the shining of your glittering spear. You marched through the land in indignation; you trampled the nations in anger. You went forth for the salvation of your people, for salvation with your Anointed. You struck the head from the house of the wicked, by laying bare from foundation to neck. You thrust through with his own arrows the head of his villages. They came out like a whirlwind to scatter me; their rejoicing was like feasting on the poor in secret. You walked through the sea with your horses, through the heap of great waters.

**W**hen I heard, my body trembled; my lips quivered at *the* voice; rottenness entered my bones; and I trembled in myself, that I might rest in the day of trouble. When he comes up to the people, he will invade them with his troops. Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; though the labour of the olive may fail, and the fields yield no food; though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls—yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.



OUR words have been harsh against me," says the LORD, "yet you say, 'What have we spoken against You?' You have said, 'It is useless to serve God; what profit *is it* that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked as mourners before the LORD of hosts? So now we call the proud blessed, for those who do wickedness are raised up; they even tempt God and go free.'"

Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD listened and heard *them*; so a book of remembrance was written before him for those who fear the LORD and who meditate on his name.

"They shall be mine," says the LORD of hosts, "on the day that I make them my jewels. And I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him." Then you shall again discern between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.



**“F**or behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, and all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up,” says the LORD of hosts, “that will leave them neither root nor branch. But to you who fear my name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in his wings; and you shall go out and grow fat like stall-fed calves. You shall trample the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day that I do *this*,” says the LORD of hosts.

**“R**emember the Law of Moses, my servant, which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, *with the statutes and judgements*. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”

Malachi, Chapters 3 & 4



The  
most high  
Rules

in the  
Kingdom of Men



TESTIMONY  
FROM PSALMS  
OF  
THE HOLY BIBLE



WHY do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, **saying**, "Let us break their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us."

He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision. Then he shall speak to them in his wrath, and distress them in his deep displeasure: "Yet I have set my King on my holy hill of Zion."

"I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to me, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; you shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.'"

Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in him.



HE heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows his handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. **There is** no speech nor language **where** their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tabernacle for the sun, which **is** like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, **and** rejoices like a strong man to run its race. Its rising **is** from one end of heaven, and its circuit to the other end; and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

**T**he law of the LORD **is** perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD **is** sure, making wise the simple; the statutes of the LORD **are** right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD **is** pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD **is** clean, enduring forever; the judgements of the LORD **are** true **and** righteous altogether. More to be desired **are** **they** than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them your servant is warned, **and** in keeping them **there is** great reward. Who can understand **his** errors? Cleanse me from secret **faults**. Keep back your servant also from presumptuous **sins**; let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.



**BLESSED is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

**W**hen I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was turned into the drought of summer. I acknowledged my sin to you, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to you in a time when you may be found; surely in a flood of great waters they shall not come near him. You are my hiding place; you shall preserve me from trouble; you shall surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah

**I** will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with my eye. Do not be like the horse or like the mule, which have no understanding, which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, else they will not come near you.

**M**any sorrows shall be to the wicked; but he who trusts in the LORD, mercy shall surround him. Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous; and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

A decorative initial letter 'B' in a blue and gold color scheme, set against a brown square background.

BY the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; he lays up the deep in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spoke, and it was **done**; he commanded, and it stood fast.

**T**he LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he makes the plans of the peoples of no effect. The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people he has chosen as his own inheritance. The LORD looks from heaven; he sees all the sons of men. From the place of his dwelling he looks on all the inhabitants of the earth; he fashions their hearts individually; he considers all their works.

**N**o king is saved by the multitude of an army; a mighty man is not delivered by great strength. A horse is a vain hope for safety; neither shall it deliver **any** by its great strength. Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his mercy, to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine. Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name. Let your mercy, O LORD, be upon us, just as we hope in you.



**G**OD is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; **though** its waters roar **and** be troubled, **though** the mountains shake with its swelling.

**T**here is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, the holy **place** of the tabernacle of the Most High. God **is** in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn.

**T**he nations raged, the kingdoms were moved; he uttered his voice, the earth melted. The LORD of hosts **is** with us; the God of Jacob **is** our refuge.

**C**ome, behold the works of the LORD, who has made desolations in the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; he burns the chariot in the fire.

**B**e still, and know that I **am** God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth! The LORD of hosts **is** with us; the God of Jacob **is** our refuge.



HE Mighty One, God the LORD, has spoken and called the earth from the rising of the sun to its going down. Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God will shine forth. Our God shall come, and shall not keep silent; a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous all around him. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people: "Gather my saints together to me, those who have made a covenant with me by sacrifice." Let the heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is Judge.

Offer to God thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High. "Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me." But to the wicked God says: "What **right** have you to declare my statutes, or take my covenant in your mouth, seeing you hate instruction and cast my words behind you? When you saw a thief, you consented with him, and have been a partaker with adulterers. You give your mouth to evil, and your tongue frames deceit. You sit **and** speak against your brother; you slander your own mother's son. These **things** you have done, and I kept silent; you thought that I was altogether like you; **but** I will rebuke you, and set **them** in order before your eyes. Now consider this, you who forget God, lest I tear **you** in pieces, and **there be** none to deliver: Whoever offers praise glorifies me; and to him who orders **his** conduct **aright** I will show the salvation of God."

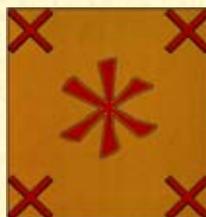


**A**E give thanks to you, O God, we give thanks! For your wondrous works declare **that** your name is near. "When I choose the proper time, I will judge uprightly. The earth and all its inhabitants are dissolved; I set up its pillars firmly. I said to the boastful, 'Do not deal boastfully,' and to the wicked, 'Do not lift up the horn. Do not lift up your horn on high; do **not** speak with a stiff neck.'"

**F**or exaltation **comes** neither from the east nor from the west nor from the south. But God **is** the Judge: he puts down one, and exalts another. For in the hand of the LORD **there is** a cup, and the wine is red; it is fully mixed, and he pours it out; surely its dregs shall all the wicked of the earth drain **and** drink down. But I will declare forever, I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.

"**A**ll the horns of the wicked I will also cut off, **but** the horns of the righteous shall be exalted."

Psalms 75





LORD God, to whom vengeance belongs—O God, to whom vengeance belongs, shine forth! Rise up, O Judge of the earth; render punishment to the proud. LORD, how long will the wicked, how long will the wicked triumph? They utter speech, **and** speak insolent things; all the workers of iniquity boast in themselves. They break in pieces your people, O LORD, and afflict your heritage. They slay the widow and the stranger, and murder the fatherless.

**Y**et they say, "The LORD does not see, nor does the God of Jacob understand." Understand, you senseless among the people; and **you** fools, when will you be wise? He who planted the ear, shall he not hear? He who formed the eye, shall he not see? He who instructs the nations, shall he not correct, he who teaches man knowledge?

**T**he LORD knows the thoughts of man, that they **are** futile. Blessed **is** the man whom you instruct, O LORD, and teach out of your law, that you may give him rest from the days of adversity, until the pit is dug for the wicked. For the LORD will not cast off his people, nor will he forsake his inheritance. But judgement will return to righteousness, and all the upright in heart will follow it.

**W**ho will rise up for me against the evildoers? Who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity? Unless the LORD **had been** my help, my soul would soon have settled in silence. If I say, "My foot slips," your mercy, O LORD, will hold me up. In the multitude of my anxieties within me, your comforts delight my soul. Shall the throne of iniquity, which devises evil by law, have fellowship with you? They gather together against the life of the righteous, and condemn innocent blood. But the LORD has been my defence, and my God the rock of my refuge. He has brought on them their own iniquity, and shall cut them off in their own wickedness; the LORD our God shall cut them off.

Psalms 94



**F**OR all the gods of the peoples **are** idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Honour and majesty **are** before him; strength and beauty **are** in his sanctuary. Give to the LORD, O families of the peoples, give to the LORD glory and strength. Give to the LORD the glory **due** his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before him, all the earth. Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns; the world also is firmly established, it shall not be moved; he shall judge the peoples righteously." He shall judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

Psalms 96



THE LORD reigns; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad! Clouds and darkness surround him; righteousness and justice **are** the foundation of his throne. A fire goes before him, and burns up his enemies round about. His lightnings light the world; the earth sees and trembles. The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory. Let all be put to shame who serve carved images, who boast of idols. Worship him, all **you** gods.

Zion hears and is glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoice because of your judgements, O LORD. For you, LORD, **are** most high above all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

You who love the LORD, hate evil! He preserves the souls of his saints; he delivers them out of the hand of the wicked. Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart.

Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holy name.



THE LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble! He dwells **between** the cherubim; let the earth be moved! The LORD is great in Zion, and he is high above all the peoples. Let them praise your great and awesome name—he is holy.

The King's strength also loves justice; you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob. Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his footstool—he is holy.

Moses and Aaron were among his priests, and Samuel was among those who called upon his name; they called upon the LORD, and he answered them. He spoke to them in the cloudy pillar; they kept his testimonies and the ordinance he gave them.

You answered them, O LORD our God; you were to them God-Who-Forgives, though you took vengeance on their deeds.

Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy.

Psalms 99





**T**HE LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not always strive **with us**, nor will he keep **his anger** forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, **so** great is his mercy toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, **so** far has he removed our transgressions from us.

**A**s a father pities **his** children, **so** the LORD pities those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we **are** dust. **As for** man, his days **are** like grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourishes. For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more. But the mercy of the LORD **is** from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to such as keep his covenant, and to those who remember his commandments to do them.

**T**he LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.

**B**less the LORD, you his angels, who excel in strength, who do his word, heeding the voice of his word. Bless the LORD, all **you** his hosts, **you** ministers of his, who do his pleasure. Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!



LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of your possessions—this great and wide sea, in which **are** innumerable teeming things, living things both small and great. There the ships sail about; **there is** that Leviathan which you have made to play there. These all wait for you, that you may give **them** their food in due season. **What** you give them they gather in; you open your hand, they are filled with good. You hide your face, they are troubled; you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. You send forth your Spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth.

**M**ay the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works. He looks on the earth, and it trembles; he touches the hills, and they smoke. I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.

**M**ay my meditation be sweet to him; I will be glad in the LORD. May sinners be consumed from the earth, and the wicked be no more. Bless the LORD, O my soul! Praise the LORD!

**O**h, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! Sing to him, sing psalms to him; talk of all his wondrous works! Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD!



THE LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, till I make your enemies your footstool." The LORD shall send the rod of your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of your enemies!

Your people **shall be** volunteers in the day of your power; in the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, you have the dew of your youth. The LORD has sworn and will not relent, "You **are** a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

The Lord **is** at your right hand; he shall execute kings in the day of his wrath. He shall judge among the nations, he shall fill **the places** with dead bodies, he shall execute the heads of many countries. He shall drink of the brook by the wayside; therefore he shall lift up the head.

Psalms 110



RAISE the LORD! I will praise the LORD with **my** whole heart, in the assembly of the upright and **in** the congregation. The works of the LORD **are** great, studied by all who have pleasure in them.

**H**is work **is** honourable and glorious, and his righteousness endures forever. He has made his wonderful works to be remembered; the LORD **is** gracious and full of compassion.

**H**e has given food to those who fear him; he will never be mindful of his covenant. He has declared to his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations.

**T**he works of his hands **are** verity and justice; all his precepts **are** sure. They stand fast forever and ever, **and are** done in truth and uprightness.

**H**e has sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever: holy and awesome **is** his name.

**T**he fear of the LORD **is** the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do **his commandments**. His praise endures forever.

**P**raise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD! Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore! From the rising of the sun to its going down the LORD'S name **is** to be praised.

**T**he LORD **is** high above all nations, his glory above the heavens. Who **is** like the LORD our God, who dwells on high, who humbles himself to behold **the things that are** in the heavens and in the earth?



LORD, you have searched me and known **me**. You know my sitting down and my rising up; you understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. For **there is** not a word on my tongue, **but** behold, O LORD, you know it altogether. You have hedged me behind and before, and laid your hand upon me. **Such** knowledge **is** too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot **attain** it. Where can I go from your Spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend into heaven, you **are** there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, you **are there**. If I take the wings of the morning, **and** dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," even the night shall be light about me; indeed, the darkness shall not hide from you, but the night shines as the day; the darkness and the light **are** both alike **to you**.

**F**or you formed my inward parts; you covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise you, for I am fearfully **and** wonderfully made; marvellous are your works, and **that** my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was made in secret, **and** skilfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when **as yet there were** none of them.



ALL your works shall praise you, O LORD, and your saints shall bless you. They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and talk of your power, to make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion **endures** throughout all generations.

**T**he LORD upholds all who fall, and raises up all **who are** bowed down. The eyes of all look expectantly to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

**T**he LORD is righteous in all his ways, gracious in all his works. The LORD is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth.

**H**e will fulfil the desire of those who fear him; he also will hear their cry and save them. The LORD preserves all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.

**M**y mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD, and all flesh shall bless his holy name forever and ever.



The  
most high  
Rules

in the  
Kingdom of Men

TESTIMONY  
FROM GOSPELS  
&  
NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLES



WHEN Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of him went out through all the surrounding region. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. So he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read.

And he was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach the gospel to **the** poor; he has sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to **the** captives and recovery of sight to **the** blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD." [The time of God's grace.]

Then he closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Luke, Chapter 4



WHEN the Son of Man [Christ the Messiah] comes in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides **his** sheep from the goats. And he will set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

Then the King will say to those on his right hand, 'Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; I **was** naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to me.'

Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed **you**, or thirsty and give **you** drink? When did we see you a stranger and take **you** in, or naked and clothe **you**? Or when did we see you sick, or in prison, and come to you?'

And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did **it** to one of the least of these my brethren, you did **it** to me.'

Then he will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave me no food; I was thirsty and you gave me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take me in, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

Then they also will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?'

Then he will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do **it** to one of the least of these, you did not do **it** to me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, **that** he said to his disciples, "You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified."

Matthew, Chapter 25



IN the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him nothing was made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own did not receive him. But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in his name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness of him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for he was before me.'" And of his fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.



AND behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead **men**. But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead, and indeed he is going before you into Galilee; there you will see him. Behold, I have told you."

**T**hen the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth.

**G**o therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, **even** to the end of the age." Amen.



OW when they had left the multitude, they took him [Jesus] along in the boat as he was. And other little boats were also with him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. But he was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" Then he arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. But he said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey him!"

Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes. And when he had come out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones. When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshipped him. And he cried out with a loud voice and said, "What have I to do with you, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore you by God that you do not torment me."

**F**or he said to him, "Come out of the man, unclean spirit!" Then he asked him, "What is your name?" And he answered, saying, "My name is Legion; for we are many." Also he begged him earnestly that he would not send them out of the country. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. So all the demons begged him, saying, "Send us to the swine, that we may enter them." And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea.

**S**o those who fed the swine fled, and they told it in the city and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that had happened. Then they came to Jesus, and saw the one **who had been** demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. And those who saw it told them how it happened to him **who had been** demon-possessed, and about the swine. Then they began to plead with him to depart from their region. And when he got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged him that he might be with him. However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how he has had compassion on you." And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marvelled.



WHEN it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food." But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." And they said to him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." He said, "Bring them here to me." Then he commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And he took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he sent the multitudes away. And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. Now when evening came, he was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."



OW it happened on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come out of every town of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was **present** to heal them. Then behold, men brought on a bed a man who was paralysed, whom they sought to bring in and lay before him. And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with **his** bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus. When he saw their faith, he said to him, "Man, your sins are forgiven you." And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? **Who can forgive sins but God alone?**"

**B**ut when Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered and said to them, "Why are you reasoning in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise up and walk'? **But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins**"—he said to the man who was paralysed, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." Immediately he rose up before them, took up what he had been lying on, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. And they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen strange things today!"



OW a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been **in that condition** a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath. The Jews [the religious leaders] therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry **your** bed." He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'" Then they asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?" But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in **that** place. Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you." The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill him, because he had done these things on the Sabbath. But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working." Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill him, because he not only broke the Sabbath, **but also said that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.**



**T**HEN Jesus, again groaning in himself, came to the tomb [of his friend Lazarus who had just died]. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been **dead** four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?"

**T**hen they took away the stone **from the place** where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up **his** eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. And I know that you always hear me, but because of the people who are standing by I said **this**, that they may believe that you sent me."

**N**ow when he had said these things, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with grave-clothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

**T**hen many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in him. But some of them went away to the Pharisees and told them the things Jesus did. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, "What shall we do? For this man works many signs. "



WHEN Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads." So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do you want me to do?" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought **him** into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." So the Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for **one** called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting **his** hand on him, so that he might receive his sight."

Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of mine to bear my name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for my name's sake."

And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately there fell from his eyes **something** like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized. So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus. Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

Then all who heard were amazed, and said, "Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?" But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this **Jesus** is the Christ.



OR the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world his invisible **attributes** are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, **even** his eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify **him** as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonour their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them up to vile passions.

**A**nd do you think this, O man, you who judge those practising such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgement of God? Or do you despise the riches of his goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

**B**ut in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgement of God, who "will render to each one according to his deeds": eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honour, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek [Gentiles]; but glory, honour, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God.

**T**herefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in his sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by his blood, through faith, to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time his righteousness, that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.



HE first man [Adam] **was** of the earth, **made** of dust; the second man [Jesus Christ] **is** the Lord from heaven. As **was** the **man** of dust, so also **are** those **who are made** of dust; and as **is** the heavenly **man**, so also **are** those **who are** heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the **man** of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly **man**.

**N**ow this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

**F**or this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal **must** put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O Death, where **is** your sting? O Hades, where **is** your victory?"

**T**he sting of death **is** sin, and the strength of sin **is** the law. But thanks **be** to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.



O the saints and faithful brethren in Christ **who are** in Colosse: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**H**e is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he may have the pre-eminence.

**F**or it pleased **the Father that** in him all the fullness should dwell, and by him to reconcile all things to himself, by him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of his cross.

**A**nd you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now he has reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in his sight—if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.



WE are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, **which is** manifest evidence of the righteous judgement of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; since **it is** a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, and to **give** you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power, when he comes, in that Day, to be glorified in his saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

**N**ow, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.

**L**et no one deceive you by any means; for **that Day will not come** unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?

**A**nd now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains **will do so** until he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of his mouth and destroy with the brightness of his coming.

**T**he coming of the **lawless one** is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

II Thessalonians, Chapters 1 & 2

A decorative initial letter 'B' in a blue and gold color scheme, set against a dark blue background. The letter is ornate with flourishes.

UT know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was. But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of **them** all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

II Timothy, Chapter 3



OD, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by **his** Son, whom he has appointed heir of all things, through whom also he made the worlds; who being the brightness of **his** glory and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as he has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For to which of the angels did he ever say: "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? And again: "I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son"? But when he again brings the firstborn into the world, he says: "Let all the angels of God worship him." And of the angels he says: "Who makes his angels spirits and his ministers a flame of fire." But to the Son **he** says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of your Kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness more than your companions." And: "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak you will fold them up, and they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will not fail."



WHEN they said to him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he sent." Therefore they said to him, "What sign will you perform then, that we may see it and believe you? What work will you do? Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

Then they said to him, "Lord, give us this bread always." And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me shall never hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe.

All that the Father gives me will come to me, and the one who comes to me I will by no means cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. This is the will of the Father who sent me, that of all he has given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of him who sent me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

**T**he Jews then complained about him, because he said, "I am the bread which came down from heaven." And they said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that he says, 'I have come down from heaven'?"

**J**esus therefore answered and said to them, "Do not murmur among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father, except he who is from God; he has seen the Father.

**M**ost assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in me has everlasting life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die.

**I** am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."

John, Chapter 6



OW as he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what **will be** the sign of your coming, and of the end of the age?" And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all **these things** must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

**F**or nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these **are** the beginning of sorrows. Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.

**T**hen many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

**F**or then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened. Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand.

**T**herefore if they say to you, 'Look, he is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, he is in the inner rooms!' do not believe it. For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.

**I**mmediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."



BELoved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Saviour, knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."

For this they wilfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgement and perdition of ungodly men. But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

**T**herefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner **of persons** ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

**T**herefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by him in peace, without spot and blameless; and consider **that** the longsuffering of our Lord **is** salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable **people** twist to their own destruction, as **they do** also the rest of the Scriptures.

**Y**ou therefore, beloved, since you know **this** beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him **be** the glory both now and forever. Amen.

A decorative initial letter 'B' in a blue and gold color scheme, set against a brown square background.

ELOVED, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the **spirit** of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are of the world. Therefore they speak **as** of the world, and the world hears them. We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

**I**f we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which he has testified of his Son. He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of his Son. And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I John, Chapters 4 & 5

A decorative initial letter 'B' in a blue and gold color scheme, set against a brown square background.

BELoved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgement on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against him." These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage. But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit. But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Jude

The  
most high  
Rules

in the  
Kingdom of Men



TESTIMONY

FROM

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST



HE Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants—things which must shortly take place. And he sent and signified it by his angel to his servant John, who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.

**B**lessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

**J**ohn, to the seven churches which are in Asia [modern Turkey]: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To him who loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and has made us kings and priests [or a kingdom of priests] to his God and Father, to him **be** glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

**B**ehold, he is coming with clouds, and every eye will see him, even they who pierced him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of him. Even so, Amen.

**“**I am the Alpha and the Omega, **the** Beginning and **the** End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."



HE angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven and swore by him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer, but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as he declared to his servants the prophets.

Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth." So I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book." And he said to me, "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth." Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter. And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."

Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "**The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever!**" And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshipped God, saying: "We give you thanks, O Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was and who is to come, because you have taken your great power and reigned.

**T**he nations were angry, and your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that you should reward your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth."

**T**hen I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

**A**nd they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

**T**herefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

Revelation, Chapters 10 – 12





AFTER these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great [the world's last political, economic, military, & religious system] is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury."

And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her. In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, 'I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.' Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her." Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore."

**T**he sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore. The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived. And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth."

**A**fter these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honour and power **belong** to the Lord our God! For true and righteous **are** his judgements, because he has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and he has avenged on her the blood of his servants **shed** by her." Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!" And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshipped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!" Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you his servants and those who fear him, both small and great!" And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"



OW I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And he who sat on him **was** called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes **were** like a flame of fire, and on his head **were** many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except himself. He **was** clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed him on white horses.

**N**ow out of his mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it he should strike the nations. And he himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he has on **his** robe and on his thigh a name written:

### **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.**

**T**hen I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all **people**, free and slave, both small and great." And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him who sat on the horse and against his army.

**T**hen the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshipped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

**T**hen I saw a great white throne and him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

**A**nd I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is **the Book** of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

**T**hen Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation, Chapters 19 & 20



WHEN he said to me, "These words **are** faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to show his servants the things which must shortly take place.

"**B**ehold, I am coming quickly [suddenly]! Blessed **is** he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

**N**ow I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. Then he said to me, "See **that you do not do that**. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."

**a**nd he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand. He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still."

"**a**nd behold, I am coming quickly [suddenly], and **my reward is** with me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, **the Beginning and the End**, the First and the Last."



**BLESSED** are those who do his commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

**B**ut outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practises a lie.

**“I** Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.”

**A**nd the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

**F**or I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and **from** the things which are written in this book.

**H**e who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly [suddenly]." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

AND IT CAME TO PASS, WHEN JOSHUA WAS BY JERICO, THAT HE LIFTED HIS EYES AND LOOKED, AND BEHOLD, A MAN STOOD OPPOSITE HIM WITH HIS SWORD DRAWN IN HIS HAND.

AND JOSHUA WENT TO HIM AND SAID TO HIM, "ARE YOU FOR US OR FOR OUR ADVERSARIES?"

SO HE SAID, "NO, BUT AS COMMANDER OF THE ARMY OF THE LORD I HAVE NOW COME." AND JOSHUA FELL ON HIS FACE TO THE EARTH AND WORSHIPPED, AND SAID TO HIM, "WHAT DOES MY LORD SAY TO HIS SERVANT?"

THEN THE COMMANDER OF THE LORD'S ARMY SAID TO JOSHUA, "TAKE YOUR SANDAL OFF YOUR FOOT, FOR THE PLACE WHERE YOU STAND IS HOLY."

## JOSHUA, CHAPTER 5



