

# Journey Through the Bible

## What is the Bible?

**The Bible is the Word of God.** It is God's self-revelation to all of humanity. Even though it was written by human beings between 2,000 and 3,000 years ago, it is the inspired Word of God. God's self-revelation to humanity reached its high point in **Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Savior of the world.**

**The Bible is the best selling book of all time.** It is actually a series of books. There are **46 books in the Old Testament** and **27 books in the New Testament** (for a total of **73**). Everything in the Bible is **Truth** because it was revealed to us by God. The Bible includes history – but it is not a history book. The Bible includes science – but it is not a science book. The Bible includes prose, poetry, narratives, and parables (stories that teach a lesson). Each of these methods was used by the inspired writers to convey the Word of God to all who read it.

The **Old Testament** was written in **Hebrew** during **the 1,000 years before Jesus was born.** The **New Testament** was written in **Greek** during **the 80 years after the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ.** In the **4<sup>th</sup> century** (the year **365** or so) **Saint Jerome** went to **Bethlehem** where he translated the Bible into Latin. This is the version that we refer to as the **“Latin Vulgate.”** All translations of the Bible were made from Saint Jerome's Latin Vulgate until **1943** when **Pope Pius XII** authorized the Biblical scholars to use the ancient Hebrew and Greek manuscripts to prepare an updated translation of the Bible that was completed in **1970.** In **1986** the translation of the New Testament was revised. **NOTE:** *This translation that we use at Mass is the NEW AMERICAN BIBLE.*

## What does the Catholic Church say about the Bible?

In the **Second Vatican Council (1962 to 1965)** the Church stated that, **“The Sacred Scriptures contain the Word of God and, since they are inspired, really are the Word of God.”** They went on to say that, **“This Sacred Synod urges all the Christian faithful to learn by frequent reading of the divine Scriptures the excellent knowledge of Jesus Christ.”** Finally they said, **“Let them remember that prayer should accompany the reading of Sacred Scripture, so that God and man may talk together; for we speak to Him when we pray, and we hear Him when we read the divine sayings.”** *It is important to remember that prayer is an integral part of the study of the Sacred Scriptures.*

# Ten Central Themes of the Bible

- #1) Everything that God created is **good**.
- #2) God has blessed **all life**, but, most especially, **human life**.
- #3) Humanity has a tendency to **sin**. It is part of human nature.
- #4) **God is a loving God**, full of mercy, compassion, and forgiveness. *All we have to do is turn our lives to Him.*
- #5) God makes **promises** to His people – and He keeps them.
- #6) In the **Old Testament**, the *Covenant* (the Law of Moses) binds God to the people of Israel. In the **New Testament**, the *Covenant* (the resurrection of Jesus) binds God to **all people**.
- #7) **When we worship, we pray**. And, when we pray, we give **thanks to God** for the many blessings He has bestowed on us.
- #8) Our life as a people of faith is **Life in Community**.
- #9) God directs all of history, but not always in the way we anticipate. *But we place our trust and faith in His Will.*
- #10) We respond to God's call by being people of Faith. **Faith** is our response to God's **Grace** (God's **Love**) which is freely given to us. Through our **Free Will** we become people of **Faith**. As **Saint James** said: *"Faith without works is dead!"* And as **Dorothy Solle** reminds us..... *"Not just YES and AMEN!"*

# 46 Books of The Old Testament

## The Pentateuch

Genesis  
Exodus  
Leviticus  
Numbers  
Deuteronomy

## The Wisdom Books

Job  
Psalms  
Proverbs  
Ecclesiastes  
Wisdom (**D**)  
Ben Sira / Sirach / Ecclesiasticus (**D**)

## The Historical Books

Joshua  
Judges  
Ruth  
First Book of Samuel  
Second Book of Samuel  
First Book of Kings  
First Book of Chronicles  
Second Book of Chronicles  
Ezra  
Nehemiah  
Tobit (**D**)  
Judith (**D**)  
Esther (**Some D – Greek portions**)  
First Book of Maccabees (**D**)  
Second Book of Maccabees (**D**)

## The Prophetic Books

Isaiah  
Jeremiah  
Lamentations  
Baruch (**D**)  
Ezekiel  
Daniel (**Some D – Greek**)  
Hosea  
Joel  
Amos  
Obadiah  
Jonah  
Micah  
Nahum  
Habakkuk  
Zephaniah  
Haggai  
Zechariah  
Malachi

**“D” = “Deuterocanonical” or “Second Canon”**

*(These Books are not included in Protestant Bibles)*

# The Story of Humanity until the time of Jesus Christ (The Old Testament)

<b>13,800,000,000 B.C.</b>	The Creation of the Universe	<b>(Genesis)</b>
<b>4,543,000,000 B.C.</b>	The Creation of the Earth and other Planets	<b>(Genesis)</b>
<b>200,000 B.C.</b>	The Creation of the First Human Beings <i>Adam and Eve and their sons Cain, Abel, and Seth</i>	<b>(Genesis)</b>
<b>70,000 B.C.</b>	The First Archeological Evidence of the Worship of God <i>(Biblical Figures: Noah and the Ark, the Tower of Babel)</i>	<b>(Genesis)</b>
<b>8,000 B.C.</b>	The First Civilizations begin to develop <i>(Greece, Chaldea/Iraq, Egypt, India, China, and Central America)</i>	
<b>4,000 B.C.</b>	The End of the Prehistoric Age (or the Stone Age)	
<b>3,760 B.C.</b>	The date of Creation for some Orthodox Jews <i>(Year 2020 = 5780)</i>	
<b>2,000 B.C.</b>	Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah (and his brother Joseph)	<b>(Genesis)</b>
<b>1,710 B.C.</b>	The Hebrew people become slaves in Egypt..... <i>for 430 years!</i>	<b>(Genesis)</b>
<b>1,280 B.C.</b>	Moses leads the people in the Exodus (from Egypt to Israel)	<b>(Exodus)</b>
<b>1,240 B.C.</b>	Joshua leads the Hebrews into the Promised Land (Israel)	<b>(Joshua)</b>
<b>1,050 B.C.</b>	Samuel Anoints Saul as King of the Jewish People	<b>(1 Samuel)</b>
<b>1,010 B.C.</b>	Samuel privately Anoints David as King of the Jews	<b>(1 Samuel)</b>
<b>970 B.C.</b>	King Solomon builds the First Temple in Jerusalem	<b>(1 Kings)</b>
<b>587 B.C.</b>	The Jews are Exiled to Babylon and the Temple is destroyed	<b>(2 Kings)</b>
<b>538 B.C.</b>	The Jews return to Israel and they rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem <i>(This marks the beginning of the "Second Temple" period)</i>	<b>(Ezra)</b>
<b>332 B.C.</b>	Israel is conquered by Greece under Alexander the Great	<b>(1 Maccabees)</b>
<b>160 B.C.</b>	The Maccabean Revolt and the Rededication of the Temple	<b>(1 Maccabees)</b>
<b>63 B.C.</b>	Israel is conquered by Rome and Herod is appointed as the King of the Jews	
<b>3 B.C. (or 6 B.C.?)</b>	<b><i>The Birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem</i></b>	

# 27 Books of the New Testament

## **The Gospels**

- Matthew
- Mark
- Luke
- John

## **The Story of the Early Church**

- The Acts of the Apostles

## **The Letters of Saint Paul**

- The Letter to the Romans
- The First Letter to the Corinthians
- The Second Letter to the Corinthians
- The Letter to the Galatians
- The Letter to the Ephesians
- The Letter to the Philippians
- The Letter to the Colossians
- The First Letter to the Thessalonians
- The Second Letter to the Thessalonians
- The First Letter to Timothy
- The Second Letter to Timothy
- The Letter to Titus
- The Letter to Philemon

## **Other Letters in the New Testament**

- The Letter to the Hebrews
- The Letter of James
- The First Letter of Peter
- The Second Letter of Peter
- The First Letter of John
- The Second Letter of John
- The Third Letter of John
- The Letter of Jude

## **The Apocalypse**

- The Book of Revelation

## The Story of Christianity during the first 500 years after Jesus (The New Testament)

**3 B.C. (or 6 B.C.)**     *The Birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem*

**A.D. 30**     *The Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus*

**A.D. 30**     Saint Peter and the Apostles spread the Good News of Jesus

**A.D. 37**     Saul (St. Paul) is converted by Jesus and begins his missionary journeys

**A.D. 50**     Saint Paul begins writing his letters that become part of Scripture

**A.D. 64**     Saint Peter is martyred in Rome (by being crucified upside down)

**A.D. 67**     Saint Paul is martyred in Rome (by being beheaded)

**A.D. 70**     The city of Jerusalem, and the Temple, are destroyed by the Romans

**A.D. 70**     The Gospel of Mark is written

**A.D. 85**     The Gospels of Matthew and Luke are written

**A.D. 90**     The Gospel of John is written

**A.D. 135**     Jerusalem is rebuilt as a Roman colony  
*(and the Jews are exiled under penalty of death..... until 1948)*

**A.D. 200**     Tertulian is the first to use the term “New Testament”

**A.D. 365**     St. Jerome translates the Bible into Latin (the “Latin Vulgate”)

**A.D. 380**     Christianity is declared the official religion of the Roman Empire  
*(65 years after the Emperor Constantine became a Christian)*

**A.D. 476**     The Fall of the Roman Empire *(after invasions by neighboring tribes)*

**NOTE: A.D. 570**     Muhammed, the founder of the Muslims, was born in Arabia

# Individuals Mentioned in the Gospels

## A) Mary – but.....which one?

- #1) **Mary, the blessed Virgin Mary.** The Mother of Jesus, our Lord.
- #2) **Mary Magdelene (or Mary of Magdela).** The woman from whom Jesus drove out seven demons. She was one of the first witnesses of the resurrected Christ on that first Easter Sunday morning, and she spoke to Jesus in the garden.
- #3) **Mary of Bethany.** She was the sister of Martha and the sister of Lazarus.
- #4) **Mary, the mother of James and Joses.** She was present on Easter morning.
- #5) **Mary, the wife of Clopas.** She was present at the crucifixion of Jesus.
- #6) **Mary, the mother of John Mark.** She is mentioned in Acts 12:12.
- #7) **Mary of Rome.** She is mentioned in Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans 16:6.

## B) John – but.....which one?

- #1) **John the Baptist.** The son of Elizabeth and Zechariah. He was the one who prepared the way of the Lord, and was later beheaded by King Herod Antipas.
- #2) **John the Evangelist.** The son of Zebedee and Salome. He was the brother of James the Greater, and was one of the Twelve Apostles. He is the writer of the Gospel of John, and is referred to as "the disciple whom Jesus loved."
- #3) **John Mark.** The writer of the Gospel of Mark, the first Gospel to be written.

## C) James – but.....which one?

- #1) **James the Greater, one of the Twelve Apostles.** The brother of John the Evangelist, and also the son of Zebedee and Salome. He was executed by Herod Agrippa I in A.D. 44 by having him "killed by the sword." (*see Acts 12:1-3*)
- #2) **James the Less, also one of the Twelve Apostles.** He was the son of Alphaeus and Mary (#4 above). Sometimes referred to as, "the brother of the Lord" (most likely one of Jesus's cousins). The Letter of James is attributed to him.

**NOTE:** Many Biblical Scholars believe that James, "the brother of the Lord," was actually a third person named James (not one of the two Apostles named James). They also believe that he is the one who wrote the Letter of James. (*Who knows?*)

# Groups of People Mentioned in the Gospels

## The Pharisees

- The **Pharisees** began during time of the **Maccabees** under the reign of John Hyracanus in the years 135 B.C. to 104 B.C.
- **They were guardians of the Law of Moses (the Old Testament).**
- There were about **6,000** Pharisees at the time of Jesus.
- Both **Nicodemus** (*John 3:1*) and **Saint Paul** (*Acts 23:6*) were **Pharisees**.
- The **Pharisees** believed in the resurrection of the dead and in angels.
- The **Pharisees** condemned Jesus for associating with sinners, for healing on the Sabbath, and for not always following their vain traditions.
- The **Pharisees** plotted the death of Jesus, they ordered His arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane, and they ordered a guard to be placed at the tomb.
- **Jesus** challenged the **Pharisees** because many of them were hypocrites, saying one thing, and doing another. (*See Matthew, chapter 23*)

## The Sadducees

- The **Sadducees** came into existence at about the same time as the Pharisees.
- The **Sadducees** were the aristocratic and political party among the Jews.
- They denied the resurrection of the dead, and did not believe in angels.
- They were rivals of the Pharisees, but the two groups put aside their differences to accomplish their goal of killing Jesus.
- **Jesus** also challenged the **Sadducees** for their hypocrisy.

## The Scribes

- The **Scribes** were the students, interpreters, and teachers of the Old Testament. (*They also copied the texts by hand onto papyrus scrolls.*)
- **Jesus** also challenged the **Scribes** for being hypocrites.

## The Levites

- The **Levites** were the descendants of **Levi** (*Jacob's third son from the Book of Genesis*) and they were in charge of the **Temple worship**.

## The Sanhedrin

- The **Sanhedrin** was the religious Jewish "Supreme Court."
- It was made up of **the high priest, the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders**, and they were the ones who convicted **Jesus** of **blasphemy** before sending Him to **Pontius Pilate**. (**NOTE:** *Pilate was the civil governor of Judea, and only the **Romans** could sentence a man to death by crucifixion.*)

# Who was Caesar?....and....Which one?

Caesar was the family name of Julius Caesar who was assassinated in 44 B.C. Beginning with Caesar Augustus in 27 B.C, “Caesar” became the title for the Roman Emperor.

NOTE: “*Caesar Augustus*” literally means, “*Illustrious Emperor.*”

## The Roman Emperors during the time of the New Testament were as follows:

**27 B.C. to A.D. 14**    **Caesar Augustus (formerly known as Octavius)**

He was the Emperor when Jesus was born.

Biblical Reference:    *Luke 2:1*

**A.D. 14 to A.D. 37**    **Tiberias Caesar**

He ruled during the time of the ministry of Jesus.

Biblical Reference:    *Luke 3:1*

**A.D. 37 to A.D. 41**    **Caligula Caesar**

Very little is known about his four year reign.

Biblical Reference:    *None*

**A.D. 41 to A.D. 54**    **Claudius Caesar**

A great famine took place during his time as ruler.  
He was the one who expelled the Jews from Rome.

Biblical Reference:    *Acts 11:28*

*Acts 18:2*

**A.D. 54 to A.D. 68**    **Nero Caesar**

He was the one who ruled at the time of the persecution of Paul and of many other Christians.

Biblical Reference:    *Acts 25:10-12*

*Acts 27:24*

NOTE: Nero is considered by many scholars to be “*the beast*” of the Book of Revelation: **Nero Caesar** = 50+200+6+50+100+60+200 = **666**

# Who was Herod?.....and....Which one?

**Herod was the family name of several Roman kings** who served as Provincial Governors of **Israel** during the New Testament times:

**37 B.C. to 4 B.C. Herod the Great**

He was the Roman ruler of Israel when Jesus was born. He endeared himself to the Jewish people by undertaking a major remodel of the Temple which took 46 years (from approximately 20 B.C. to A.D. 26). He was the one who slaughtered the innocent boy babies (under the age of 2).

Biblical Reference:        *Matthew 2:1-12*

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**4 B.C. to A.D. 6 Archelaus (son of Herod the Great)**

He ruled over Judea and Samaria after his father died.

Biblical Reference:        *Matthew 2:22*

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**4 B.C. to A.D. 39 Herod Antipas (son of Herod the Great)**

He ruled over Galilee and was the one who beheaded John the Baptist – because John opposed his marriage to Herodias, the wife of his brother, Philip.

Biblical Reference:    *Matthew 14:1-12,*  
*Mark 6:14-29,    Luke 3:1,    Luke 3:10-20*

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**4 B.C. to A.D. 34 Philip the Tetrarch (son of Herod the Great)**

He was the (former) husband of Herodias.

Biblical Reference:    *Matthew 14:3,    Mark 6:17*

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**A.D. 41 to A.D. 44 Herod Agrippa I (grandson of Herod the Great)**

He was the one who executed Saint James the Greater. Herod Agrippa I was then slain by an angel of the Lord.

Biblical Reference:    *Acts 12:1-23*

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**A.D. 53 to A.D. 93 Herod Agrippa II (son of Herod Agrippa I)**

He was the one who listened to Saint Paul when he was brought to trial (this was before Paul was sent to Rome).

Biblical Reference:    *Acts 25:13 to 26:32*

# The Gospel According to Mark

Most Biblical scholars believe that **Mark** was the **first Gospel that was written** and it was probably written in about **A.D. 70**. The **Gospel of Mark** is the shortest of the four Gospels, and it contains only 16 chapters. Most of the writing of **Mark** is included in one of the other three Gospels, but with a different emphasis in the writing. Each Gospel writer wrote to a particular group of people, but their message is the same: Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Savior of the World!

**Mark**, also known as **John Mark**, was the cousin of Barnabas and he followed both **Peter** and **Paul**. He is first mentioned in **Acts 12:12**. (*NOTE: Neither Mark nor Luke were Apostles of Jesus; only Matthew and John were Apostles.)*

**Mark** was writing to a community that was predominantly **Gentile (non-Jewish)** Christians in **Rome**. As a result, Mark makes fewer references to the Old Testament (as compared to Matthew). **Mark** makes no mention of the birth of Jesus, and he leaves out many of the parables, miracles, and teaching stories of Jesus that are included in the other three Gospels.

**The focus of Mark's Gospel is the focus of the teachings of Jesus: the Kingdom of God.** **Mark** begins his Gospel by saying, *"This is the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God."* The first words of Jesus in Mark's Gospel are, *"This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel."* Towards the end of his Gospel, **Mark** quotes the Roman centurion at the foot of the cross who proclaims, *"Truly this man was the Son of God!"* (These two quotes are often referred to as the *"Son of God bookends."*)

**In the first eight chapters of the Gospel of Mark, the humanity of Jesus is emphasized in His ministry.** We read of His joy, His suffering, and even His anger. Quite often Jesus refers to Himself as the "Son of Man" because the people were not yet ready to accept that He was the Son of God. *However, as we know, Jesus is both true God and true man.* It is not until **chapter eight** that we hear the famous words of Saint Peter, as he proclaims to Jesus, *"You are the Messiah!"*

**There are two different endings to the Gospel of Mark,** and why there are two endings is a point of major discussion and debate among Biblical scholars. Most Bibles include the **"Longer Ending"** first, followed by the **"Shorter Ending."** *However, both versions conclude with Jesus commissioning (sending) His disciples out to teach everyone the Good News of Jesus Christ.*

# Outline of the Gospel of Mark

## Chapter 1

- The Preaching of John the Baptist
- Jesus is Baptized in the Jordan River
- Jesus is tempted by the Devil in the Desert
- Jesus calls His first Disciples
- Jesus performs miracles (primarily healing the sick)

## Chapter 2

- Jesus heals the paralyzed man
- Jesus calls Levi, the Tax Collector (also known as Matthew)

## Chapter 3

- The Mercy of Jesus
- Jesus calls His Twelve Apostles
- Jesus speaks about His family – and who His family members are

## Chapter 4

- Jesus begins to speak in parables
- Jesus calms the storm at sea

## Chapter 5

- Jesus performs more healings and cures more of the sick
- Jesus speaks of the Mission of the Twelve
- The Death of John the Baptist

## Chapter 6

- Jesus Feeds the five thousand
- Jesus walks on the water

## Chapter 7

- Jesus heals many people – as a sign of faith

## Chapter 8

- Jesus feeds the Four Thousand
- Peter's confession about Jesus – and who He really is
- Jesus predicts His Passion for the first time
- Jesus presents the conditions for Discipleship

## **Chapter 9**

- The Transfiguration (Jesus with Moses and Elijah)
- Jesus speaks of the coming of Elijah
- Jesus predicts His Passion for the second time
- Jesus tells His Disciples who is the greatest in the Kingdom of God

## **Chapter 10**

- Jesus speaks about marriage and divorce
- Jesus blesses the children
- Jesus encounters the rich man (and Jesus gives him some advice)
- Jesus predicts His Passion for the third time

## **Chapter 11**

- Jesus enters Jerusalem (Palm Sunday)
- Jesus cleanses the Temple (of those selling animals and changing money)

## **Chapter 12**

- Jesus responds to questions about the Resurrection
- Jesus tells His followers of the Greatest Commandment
- Jesus witnesses the poor widow contributing to the Temple treasury

## **Chapter 13**

- Jesus speaks of the coming destruction of the Temple – and the signs
- Jesus tells his Disciples of the Coming of the Son of Man

## **Chapter 14**

- Jesus is anointed in Bethany
- The Last Supper
- The Agony in the Garden
- Jesus is arrested and appears before the Sanhedrin
- Peter denies Jesus – three times

## **Chapter 15**

- Jesus is crucified and dies on the cross
- Jesus is buried in the tomb

## **Chapter 16**

- Jesus rises from the dead
- Jesus ascends into heaven

## CHAPTER 1

- *“The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.”*
- **John the Baptist** follows the prophecy of **Malachi 3:1** and **Isaiah 40:3** by preparing the way of the Lord and by proclaiming a **Baptism** of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
- **John** baptizes **Jesus**, and the voice of **God** comes from above saying, *“You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”*
- **Jesus** is led into the desert for forty days, and is tempted by **Satan**.
- **Jesus** speaks His first words: *“This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel.”*
- **Jesus** calls His first disciples: **Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John**.
- **Jesus** cures a man who has an **unclean spirit**, and the people were amazed.
- **Jesus** cures **Simon’s mother-in-law**.
- **Jesus** goes on to heal many other people who were ill or possessed.
- **Jesus** leaves **Capernaum** and preaches throughout the whole of **Galilee**.
- **Jesus** heals a man with **leprosy**.

## CHAPTER 2

- **Jesus** returns to His home in **Capernaum** and he heals a **paralyzed man** (who is carried by four men). **Jesus** also forgives the man’s sins, and the scribes accuse **Jesus** of **blasphemy**.
- **Jesus** calls **Levi (Matthew)** from his customs post with two simple words: *“Follow me.”* **Jesus** then eats in the house of **Levi** along with other sinners.
- The **Pharisees** ask **Jesus** about fasting, and **Jesus** tells them that they must become new wineskins, ready to receive the new wine (i.e., **Jesus’** message).
- The **Pharisees** again challenge **Jesus**, this time in regards to observing the **Sabbath**. **Jesus** replies, *“The Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath.”*

## CHAPTER 3

- **Jesus** heals a **man with a withered hand** – on the **Sabbath** – again angering the **Pharisees**. They now start to plan to put **Jesus** to death.
- **Jesus** heals many more people from a boat in the **Sea of Galilee**.
- **Jesus** appoints the **twelve Apostles** so that they might be with Him and he might send them forth to preach and have the authority to drive out demons.
- **Jesus** is challenged by His **relatives** and the scribes.
- **Jesus** responds to their challenges. He then makes reference to *“the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, will never have forgiveness.”*
- **Jesus’** mother and brothers arrive, and **Jesus** responds to the people with, *“Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”*

## CHAPTER 4

- **Jesus** tells the parable of **the sower**, and **the ground** on which the seed falls.
- **Jesus** explains the parable to the **Twelve apostles** and points out that **the sower sows the word**. *Who is ready to hear the word and accept it?*
- **Jesus** tells the **parable** of the **lamp** and the importance of **light**.
- **Jesus** tells the **parable of the seed that grows**, but we do not know how. It is the same with **the kingdom of God** – *it grows until the final judgment.* (**NOTE: This parable is only in the Gospel of Mark.**)
- **Jesus** tells the **parable of the mustard seed** – the smallest of all the seeds.
- **Jesus** calms the **storm at sea**, and strengthens the faith of those in the boat.

## CHAPTER 5

- **Jesus** heals a man with an **unclean spirit** by driving the unclean spirit into a herd of **swine**, who then run into the sea and drown themselves.
- **Jesus** heals **the daughter of Jairus**, and He heals **the woman with the hemorrhage**.

## CHAPTER 6

- **Jesus** is rejected by the people of **Nazareth**. *“Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary?”* And Jesus replies, *“A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house.”*
- **Jesus** sends the **Twelve** out, **two by two**, with authority over unclean spirits.
- **King Herod** hears about Jesus, and **Herod** says, *“It is John whom I beheaded. He has been raised up.”*
- Next we hear of how **John the Baptist** was beheaded by **King Herod**.
- The **apostles** return to Jesus and He invites them to, *“Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.”*
- **Jesus** feeds the **five thousand** with **five loaves of bread** and **two fish**.
- **Jesus** walks on the water. *“Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid.”*
- **Jesus** heals more people in the area of **Gennesaret**.

## CHAPTER 7

- **Jesus** is challenged by the **Pharisees** because of the way His disciples do not follow the traditions in the way in which they wash their hands. Jesus responds by saying, *“You disregard God’s commandment but cling to human tradition.”* Jesus then goes on to rebuke the dietary laws of the Jewish people and **He declares all foods to be clean**.
- **Jesus** heals **the daughter of the Greek woman** (a Syrophenician by birth).
- **Jesus** heals **the deaf man** who had a **speech impediment**.

## CHAPTER 8

- **Jesus** feeds the **four thousand** with **seven loaves of bread** and **a few fish**.
- The **Pharisees** ask for a sign from heaven to test Jesus. But **Jesus** refuses.
- **Jesus** warns His disciples about the **Pharisees** and **King Herod**.
- **Jesus** heals the **blind man** at **Bethsaida**.
- **Jesus** questions the disciples by asking them, “**Who do people say that I am?**” They answer, “*Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others one of the prophets.*” And then Jesus asks them, “**But who do you say that I am?**” Peter says in reply, “*You are the Messiah.*”
- **Jesus** predicts **His passion and death** for the **first time**.
- **Jesus** tells His disciples what they must do if they wish to follow Him. “*Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.*”

## CHAPTER 9

- **Jesus** is transfigured before **Peter, James, and John**, and **Jesus** is joined by **Elijah** and **Moses**. **Peter** offers to build three tents – one for each of them.
- The voice of God said, “*This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him.*”
- **Jesus** tells them that **Elijah** has come (He is referring to **John the Baptist**).
- **Jesus** heals the boy who is possessed by the mute spirit. When alone with the disciples **Jesus** says, “*This kind can only come out through prayer.*”
- **Jesus** predicts **His passion and death** for the **second time**.
- When **Jesus** hears His disciples arguing among themselves, He says, “*If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.*”
- **Jesus** tells His disciples, “*For whoever is not against us is for us.*”
- **Jesus** instructs His followers **not** to lead others into sin.
- **Jesus** says that, “*Everyone will be salted with fire.*” And He concludes with, “*Keep salt in yourselves and you will have peace with one another.*”

## CHAPTER 10

- **Jesus** teaches about **marriage** and **the prohibition against divorce**.
- **Jesus** blesses the children and encourages His followers to “*accept the kingdom of God like a child.*”
- **Jesus** challenges the **rich man** and says, “*Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then, come follow me.*”
- **Jesus** predicts **His passion and death** for the **third time**.
- **James** and **John** ask for prominent places in the **kingdom of heaven**.
- **Jesus** heals the blind beggar, **Bartimaeus**.

## CHAPTER 11

- **Jesus** enters into **Jerusalem** riding on the back of a colt (*Palm Sunday*).
- **Jesus** cleanses the **Temple** of the merchants and money-changers.
- The chief priests, the scribes, and the elders question the **authority** of **Jesus**.

## CHAPTER 12

- **Jesus** tells the parable of the **tenants in the vineyard**.
- **Jesus** responds to the question about paying taxes to **Caesar** (the Emperor).
- The **Sadducees**, who say there is no resurrection, question **Jesus** by giving the example of the woman who was married to seven brothers.
- One of the scribes asks **Jesus**, “*Which is the first of all the commandments?*” **Jesus** answers with **two commandments**.
- **Jesus** warns the people about the **pride of the scribes**.
- **Jesus** points out how the **poor widow** contributes to the Temple treasury.

## CHAPTER 13

- **Jesus** foretells **the destruction of the Temple**.
- **Jesus** speaks of the **signs** that will come **before** His **Second Coming**.
- **Jesus** warns that there will be **persecution** of those who preach the **Gospel**.
- **Jesus** then warns of the great **tribulation** that is to come.
- **Jesus** then speaks specifically of **the Son of Man coming in the clouds**.
- **Jesus** teaches the lesson of the **fig tree**: “*My words will not pass away.*”
- **Jesus** says, “*No one knows the final day or hour. Only the Father knows.*”

## CHAPTER 14

- The **chief priests** and the **scribes** conspire against **Jesus**.
- **Jesus** is anointed the **woman** in the house of **Simon the leper** in **Bethany**.
- **Judas** plans his betrayal of **Jesus** to the **chief priests** (for money).
- **Jesus** sends His apostles to prepare the **Passover** meal.
- **Jesus** gives **Holy Communion** at the **Last Supper**. Then, after singing a hymn, they go out to the **Mount of Olives**.
- **Jesus** predicts **Peter’s denial** of Him.
- **Jesus** and His disciples pray in the garden of **Gethsemane**.
- **Jesus** is betrayed by **Judas**, and is arrested by the **chief priests**.
- **Jesus** is led to the **high priest** and the **Sanhedrin** (*the religious and legal Jewish Court*) and they try to find evidence against **Jesus**. But there is none.
- The **high priest** asks **Jesus**, “*Are you the Messiah, the son of the Blessed One?*” And **Jesus** answers, “*I am*” and is charged with blasphemy.
- Three times **Peter** denies that he knows **Jesus**. Then **Peter** breaks down.

## CHAPTER 15

- **Jesus** is handed over to **Pontius Pilate**. *NOTE: Pilate* was the **procurator (provincial officer - appointed by Rome)** over the province of **Judea**.
- After much hesitation, **Pilate** has **Jesus** scourged and then sentences Him to death by crucifixion.
- **Jesus** is mocked by the soldiers, given a crown of thorns to wear, and then led out to be crucified.
- **Jesus** is brought to the place of **Golgotha** (*Place of the Skull*) where He is crucified, sometime between nine in the morning and noon.
- At **three** in the afternoon **Jesus** gives a loud cry and breathes His last.
- The **centurion** looks up and says, *“Truly this man was the Son of God.”*
- **Jesus** is buried in the tomb belonging to **Joseph of Arimathea**.
- **Mary Magdalene** and **Mary (the mother of Jesus)** watch where He is laid.

## CHAPTER 16

- **Mary Magdalene**, **Mary the mother of James**, and **Salome** bring spices to anoint the body of **Jesus**. On entering the tomb, they see a **young man** sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe. He says to them, *“Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Behold the place where they laid Him.”*

## THE LONGER ENDING (a continuation of Chapter 16)

- **Jesus** appears to **Mary Magdalene**, out of whom He had driven **seven demons**. She went out and told His companions who were mourning and weeping. When they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe.
- **Jesus** appears to **two of His disciples** who were walking to the country. But the other disciples did not believe them, either.
- **Jesus** appears to the remaining eleven apostles and tells them, *“Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature.”*
- After He spoke to them, **Jesus was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God**. And the disciples went forth and preached everywhere, while **the Lord** worked with them and **confirmed the word through accompanying signs**.

## THE SHORTER ENDING

- *“And they reported all the instructions briefly to Peter’s companions. Afterwards Jesus Himself, through them, sent forth from east to west the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation. Amen.”*

# The Gospel According to Matthew

The **Gospel of Matthew**, though placed first in the New Testament, was most likely written some fifteen years after the Gospel of Mark, in approximately the year **A.D. 85** or so. **Matthew** was a **tax collector** and was **one of the twelve Apostles** called by Jesus. **Matthew** saw **Jesus** as a **preacher** and a **teacher of Scripture**, so he quotes the words of Jesus quite frequently.

**Matthew** wrote to a community of **Jewish** people in **Antioch** (in modern day **Turkey**) who had been converted to **Christianity**. As a result, **Matthew** utilizes many quotes from the **Old Testament** to indicate how **Jesus** fulfills the promises that had been made by God to the Hebrew people and had been revealed by the prophets, especially **Isaiah** and **Jeremiah**.

**Matthew** was called by Jesus in chapter 9, verse 9, when Jesus used two simple words: *“Follow me.”* In chapter 10 **Matthew** is named as one of the **Twelve Apostles**. *In the Gospels of Mark and Luke Matthew is referred to as Levi.*

**Matthew’s Gospel** has many similarities to the Gospel of Mark, but **Matthew** goes into much greater detail in many areas, and he includes many miracles, parables, and prayers that are not included in the Gospel of Mark. (**NOTE: The Gospel of Mark has only 16 chapters, while the Gospel of Matthew has 28!**)

**Some key passages to note that are included in the Gospel of Matthew but are NOT included in the Gospel of Mark:**

## CHAPTER 1

- The Genealogy of Jesus (tracing His ancestors to Abraham)
- The appearance of the Angel of the Lord to St. Joseph

## CHAPTER 2

- Christmas! And the visit of the Magi (travelling from the east) to Bethlehem
- The flight of the Holy Family to Egypt (and the slaughter of the boy babies)

## CHAPTER 3

- The preaching of John the Baptist (Repentance and Conversion)

## CHAPTER 4

- Jesus goes to the desert to pray – and He is tempted three times by Satan

## CHAPTER 5

- The Sermon on the Mount (the Beatitudes)
- Jesus teaches about marriage and divorce.... and an “unlawful” marriage

## CHAPTER 6

- Jesus’s teachings about Prayer (and His giving us “The Lord’s Prayer”)

## **CHAPTER 7**

- Jesus tells us to: “Ask, and you will receive.....seek and you will find.....knock and the door will be opened.....”)

## **CHAPTER 8**

- Jesus cures Simon Peter’s mother-in-law

## **CHAPTER 9**

- Matthew the tax collector is called by Jesus with two words: “Follow me.”

## **CHAPTER 10**

- Jesus calls – and commissions – His Twelve Apostles

## **CHAPTER 12**

- The true family of Jesus (who are His brothers and sisters?)

## **CHAPTER 13**

- The parables of the seed, the soil, and the weeds

## **CHAPTER 14**

- Jesus walks on the water – this time Simon Peter walks with Him

## **CHAPTER 16**

- Peter’s “Confession” (his true belief) about Jesus
- Jesus says, “You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church!”)

## **CHAPTER 18**

- Jesus responds to the question, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of God?”
- Jesus tells the Parable of the Lost Sheep
- Jesus is present “where two or more are gathered in my name.”

## **CHAPTER 19**

- Again Jesus teaches about marriage and divorce and an “unlawful” marriage
- Jesus encounters the rich young man..... who has a question for Jesus

## **CHAPTER 20**

- The parable of the workers in the vineyard (“The last shall be first.....”)

## **CHAPTER 21**

- Jesus enters Jerusalem (on Palm Sunday)
- Jesus cleanses the Temple area (“This is my Father ‘s House”)

## **CHAPTER 22**

- Jesus gives the Greatest Commandment... the Commandment of Love

## **CHAPTER 23**

- Jesus denounces the hypocrisy of the Scribes and the Pharisees

## **CHAPTER 25**

- Jesus tells the parables of the ten virgins and the talents of the servants
- The Final Judgment of the Nations (The story of the sheep and the goats)

## **CHAPTER 28**

- Jesus rises from the dead on that first Easter Sunday morning
- Jesus commissions (sends forth) His disciples to proclaim the Good News!

## CHAPTER 1

- This chapter begins with the genealogy of Jesus, tracing His ancestors from **Abraham**, the Father of the Jewish people, to **Joseph**, the husband of Mary. (NOTE: *The Gospel of Luke traces Joseph's ancestors back to Adam.*)
- The **angel of the Lord** appears to **Joseph** in a dream and tells him, "*Do not be afraid to take Mary, your wife, into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She is to bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.*"
- This fulfills the prophecy of **Isaiah**, chapter 7: "*Behold, the virgin will be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel.*"

## CHAPTER 2

- The **magi** from the east follow the star and arrive in Jerusalem. They inquire of **King Herod** as to the whereabouts of the newborn **king of the Jews**.
- **Herod** has no idea where the king of the Jews is to be born, so he asks the chief priests and the scribes. They refer to the prophet **Micah** and they answer, "*in Bethlehem, of Judea... since from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.*"
- The magi find the baby **Jesus** and present their gifts of **gold, frankincense, and myrrh** and then return to their home country by another route.
- **Joseph** is warned in a dream by **the angel of the Lord** to flee to **Egypt**, and the **Holy Family** stays there until the death of **King Herod**. This is to fulfill the prophecy of **Hosea**, chapter 11, "*Out of Egypt I have called my son.*"
- **King Herod** orders the massacre of the infants, fulfilling the prophecy of **Jeremiah** which refers to, "*Rachel weeping for her children, and she would not be consoled, since they were no more.*"
- Upon the death of **Herod**, the **Holy Family** returns to **Israel**. However, **Archelaus**, the **son of Herod the Great**, is now on the throne, so they continue north to the region of **Galilee** and settle in the town of **Nazareth**.

## CHAPTER 3

- **John the Baptist** is preaching in the desert in **Judea**, proclaiming his message: "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!*"
- **John the Baptist** is clear in his words to the people that he is not the Messiah, but he told the people that there is **One** who is coming after him.
- **John** baptizes **Jesus** in the **Jordan River**, and He sees **the Spirit of God** descending **like a dove** and coming upon Him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "*This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.*"

## CHAPTER 4

- **Jesus** is led by **the Spirit** into the desert, and there He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards He was hungry.
- Three times the devil (**Satan**) tempted **Jesus**, and each time **Jesus** resists.
- **Jesus** begins His ministry in **Galilee**, where He lived in **Capernaum** by the **Sea of Galilee**.
- **Jesus** preaches a message that is similar to that of **John the Baptist**: *“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”*
- **Jesus** calls His first disciples, **Simon**, and his brother **Andrew**, with the words, *“Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.”*
- **Jesus** calls **James** and **John**, the sons of **Zebedee**, and they follow Him.
- **Jesus** preaches throughout **Galilee**, proclaiming the **Gospel of the kingdom**, and cures every disease and illness among the people.

## CHAPTER 5

- **Jesus** gives the **Sermon on the Mount** (*the Beatitudes*).
- **Jesus** compares **salt** to **light**, and says, *“your light must shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.”*
- **Jesus** tells the people that He did not come to abolish the law or the prophets. *“I came not to abolish, but to fulfill.”*
- **Jesus** teaches the people about the evil of **anger**, about the evil of **adultery**, and about how **divorce** is not part of God’s plan for His people.  
(*NOTE: Here in Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus makes an exception for divorce, and that is in the case of a marriage that is “unlawful” in the eyes of God.*)
- **Jesus** teaches about the taking of oaths and about those who seek retaliation.
- **Jesus** then challenges the people to *“love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you.”*

## CHAPTER 6

- **Jesus** teaches about the importance of **giving alms** – *in secret!*
- **Jesus** teaches about **prayer** – again, *not just so that others may see.*
- **Jesus** teaches the people **The Lord’s Prayer**.
- **Jesus** teaches about **fasting** – once again, *not for others to see.*
- **Jesus** teaches about storing up **treasure in heaven** – rather than on earth. *“For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.”*
- **Jesus** compares the **eye** to the lamp (or light) of the body.
- **Jesus** tells the people that, *“You cannot serve both God and money.”*
- **Jesus** reminds the people of the importance of relying on God. He tells the people, *“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.”*

## CHAPTER 7

- **Jesus** tells us, *“Stop judging, that you may not be judged.”*
- **Jesus** challenges the **hypocrites** to look at their own lives before giving advice to others (*we must first consider the wooden beam in our own eyes*).
- **Jesus** tells us, *“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you.”*
- **Jesus** gives His followers the **Golden Rule**: *“Do to others whatever you would have them do to you.”* (*where have we heard that before?*)
- **Jesus** tells his disciples, *“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.”*
- **Jesus** instructs us to have a **strong foundation in our faith**, just as one needs a strong foundation in building a house (using **rock** as the foundation).
- The crowds were astonished at the teaching of **Jesus**, *“for He taught them as one having authority, not as the scribes.”*

## CHAPTER 8

- **Jesus** heals the **leper** by saying, *“I do will it. Be made clean.”*
- **Jesus** heals the centurion’s son. (*A centurion is a military officer, not a member of the Jewish community.*) **Jesus** was amazed at his faith and He says, *“Amen I say to you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith.”*
- **Jesus** cures **Peter’s mother-in-law**. (*Obviously Peter was married.*)
- **Jesus** drives out **demons** by using His words.
- **Jesus** challenges the people to follow Him – without delays or excuses.
- **Jesus** calms the **storm at sea**, and His disciples ask, *“What sort of man is this, whom even the winds and the sea obey?”*
- **Jesus** drives some demons into a **herd of swine** (who then drown in the sea).

## CHAPTER 9

- **Jesus** heals the **paralytic**, and irritates the scribes who charge Him with blasphemy. But, upon seeing the miracle, **the crowds glorify God**.
- **Jesus** calls **Matthew** from his customs post with the words, *“Follow me.”*
- The **Pharisees** challenge **Jesus’ disciples**, but **Jesus** responds with, *“I desire mercy, not sacrifice. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”*
- **Jesus** answers questions about **fasting**.
- **Jesus** heals the **official’s daughter**, and the **woman with the hemorrhage**.
- **Jesus** heals **two blind men** and a **demoniac who could not speak**.
- **Jesus** reminds His disciples, *“The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.”*

## CHAPTER 10

- **Jesus** calls His **twelve disciples** and names them as **apostles**.  
(**Disciple** = *Follower of Jesus*) (Apostle = *One who is sent by Jesus*)
- **Jesus** commissions (*sends out*) **the twelve** to proclaim the message that, ***“The kingdom of heaven is at hand.”***
- **Jesus** warns His disciples that there will be coming persecutions, but they are not to worry about what they are to say. ***“For it will not be you who speak but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.”***
- **Jesus** tells his disciples to have **courage under persecution**.
- **Jesus** admits that His message will cause **division**, and He states clearly that, ***“I have come not to bring peace, but the sword.”***
- **Jesus** challenges us to make Him first in our lives, and that, ***“Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”***

## CHAPTER 11

- **John** is in prison (*arrested by Herod Antipas, the son of Herod the Great*), and **John** asks if **Jesus** is the one to come, or should he look for another.
- **Jesus** testifies about **John**, and **Jesus** compares **John** to the prophet **Elijah**.
- **Jesus** challenges the people of the unrepentant towns, including Capernaum.
- **Jesus** gives praise to **His Father** for His revelations to ***“the childlike.”***
- **Jesus** tells His disciples, ***“Come to me all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest..... For my yolk is easy, and my burden light.”***

## CHAPTER 12

- **Jesus** is challenged by the **Pharisees** because His disciples were picking and eating heads of grain on the **Sabbath**. **Jesus** reminds the Pharisees of what **King David** did when he was hungry. **Jesus** then repeats the words, ***“I desire mercy, not sacrifice... For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”***
- **Jesus** heals **a man with a withered hand**, and he is challenged again by the **Pharisees** for healing someone (*that is, doing work*) on the **Sabbath**.
- **Jesus** fulfills the words of the prophet **Isaiah** – **Jesus** is the **chosen servant**.
- The **Pharisees** charge **Jesus** with using the power of **Beelzebul**, the prince of darkness, in order to drive out demons. But **Jesus** corrects them.
- The **Pharisees** demand a sign, but **Jesus** tells them that, ***“No sign will be given except the sign of Jonah the prophet.”***
- **Jesus** speaks of the return of unclean spirits, and He is telling the people that the refusal of this generation to accept Him will make things worse for them.
- **Jesus** is visited by His family, and He tells His followers that, ***“For whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother, and sister, and mother.”***

## CHAPTER 13

- **Jesus** tells the parable of **the sower and the seed**. The seed that fell on rich soil produced fruit. And Jesus says, *“Whoever has ears ought to hear.”*
- **Jesus** explains the parable to His disciples, comparing the various types of ground on which the seed falls. *“But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it.”*
- **Jesus** then tells the parable of **the weeds that are planted by a man’s enemy** among his wheat. **The two must grow together until the harvest.**
- Jesus tells the parable of the **mustard seed**, comparing it to the **kingdom of heaven**. And He then compares the **kingdom of heaven** to **yeast**.
- **Jesus** then explains the parable of **the weeds planted among the wheat**, comparing the harvest to **the end of the age**, and the harvesters are **angels**.
- Jesus tells **more parables**, such as comparing the **kingdom of heaven** to a **treasure** buried in a field, and to a merchant who is searching for **fine pearls**, and to a **net that is thrown into the sea**.
- **Jesus** is then **rejected** in His home town of **Nazareth**.

## CHAPTER 14

- **Herod the tetrarch** (*the son of Herod the Great*) has **John the Baptist** beheaded because **John** challenged the king for taking his brother’s wife as his own wife. This takes place at Herod’s birthday celebration.
- **Jesus feeds the five thousand men** (not counting women and children) with **five loaves of bread, and two fish**.
- Jesus walks on the water of the Sea of Galilee, and **Peter** has his faith tested.
- When **Peter** begins to sink, Jesus asks, *“O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”* And then **Jesus** stretches out His hand and rescues him.
- Those in the boat respond by saying, *“Truly you are the Son of God.”*
- **Jesus** heals all who reach out to Him, even those who **touch his cloak**.

## CHAPTER 15

- The **Pharisees** and the **scribes** challenge Jesus about the actions of His disciples, and Jesus responds by saying, *“It is not what enters one’s mouth that defiles that person, but what comes out of the mouth that defiles one.”*
- A **woman from Cana** reaches out to Jesus, on behalf of her daughter.
- Jesus responds with the words, *“O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.”* And her daughter was healed from that hour.
- **Jesus** cures many more people, and **they glorify the God of Israel**.
- **Jesus feeds four thousand men** (not counting women and children) with **seven loaves of bread, and a few fish**.

## CHAPTER 16

- The **Pharisees** and the **Sadducees** ask **Jesus** for a sign, and He responds by saying, *“No sign will be given except the sign of Jonah.”*
- **Jesus** warns His disciples to *“beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.”* He was referring to **their teaching** (not the yeast of bread).
- **Jesus** asks His disciples, *“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”*
- **Simon Peter** replies, *“You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”*
- Jesus then tells Peter, *“You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.”*
- **Jesus predicts His passion and death for the first time.**
- Jesus tells His disciples, *“Whoever wishes to come after me, must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.”*

## CHAPTER 17

- The **transfiguration** of **Jesus** takes place in view of Peter, James, and John.
- The voice of God says, *“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him.”*
- **Jesus** speaks of **the return of Elijah** that the scribes were expecting, but **Jesus** tells them, *“Elijah has already come.”* The disciples realize that He was speaking of **John the Baptist**.
- **Jesus** heals the **boy who is possessed by a demon**.
- **Jesus predicts His passion and death for the second time.**
- **Jesus and Peter** pay the **Temple Tax** with the coin from the fish’s mouth.

## CHAPTER 18

- When asked about who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, **Jesus** responds by saying, *“Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.”*
- **Jesus** then instructs His disciples **to avoid leading others to sin**.
- He then uses a couple of extreme examples when He tells them that **they must avoid anything that leads them to sin**.
- Jesus tells the **parable of the lost sheep**.
- **Jesus** gives advice as to how to handle a brother who sins. He concludes by saying, *“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”*
- **Jesus** tells the **parable of the servant** who is forgiven much, but then will not forgive another servant who owes him a much smaller debt. Jesus concludes by saying, *“So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart.”*

## CHAPTER 19

- **Jesus** responds to a **question by the Pharisees**, and He teaches about the sanctity of **marriage**, with only one allowance for divorce: *“unless the marriage is unlawful.”* (This is the basis for Catholic Church annulments,)
- Despite the challenges of the disciples, **Jesus blesses the children**.
- Jesus encounters the **rich young man** who desires to gain eternal life. And Jesus tells him that there is one thing he must do. *“If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”*

## CHAPTER 20

- **Jesus** tells the parable of the **workers in the vineyard** who are hired at various times of the day. **Jesus** justifies the wages paid by the **landowner** by saying, *“Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last.”*
- **Jesus** predicts **His passion and death** for the **third time**.
- The mother of the sons of **Zebedee (James and John)** has a specific request of Jesus – for her two sons. And **Jesus** responds by challenging His disciples to follow Him, and He tells them, *“Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”*
- **Jesus** heals **two blind men** who cry out to **Jesus** in a spirit of **faith**.

## CHAPTER 21

- **Jesus** makes His triumphant entry into **Jerusalem**, and the people cry out, *“Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest.”*
- **NOTE:** *“Hosanna”* is Hebrew for, *“Oh Lord, grant salvation.”*
- **Jesus** cleanses the **Temple** by turning over the tables of the **money changers** and those who were selling **doves**. And He quotes the prophets **Isaiah** and **Jeremiah** by saying, *“My house shall be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a dean of thieves.”*
- **Jesus** curses the fig tree, and then challenges the people to have faith. He tells them, *“Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive.”*
- The **chief priests** and the **elders** question the authority of Jesus, and **Jesus** responds by asking them about the source of the baptism of John the Baptist.
- **Jesus** tells the parable of the **two sons** who receive **labor requests** from their father. *Here Jesus emphasizes the importance of conversion.*
- **Jesus** tells the parable of the **tenants** in the vineyard who ignore the owner’s servants and then **kill his son**. **Jesus** tells them that, *“the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who produce its fruit.”*

## CHAPTER 22

- **Jesus** tells the parable of the **wedding feast**, and how those who were invited did not attend. A man attended the wedding feast who was not dressed in a **wedding garment**, and he is challenged for his lack of respect.
- The **Pharisees** try to trap **Jesus** with a question about **paying taxes to the emperor**. **Jesus** responds by saying, *“Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.”*
- The **Sadducees** then question **Jesus** about the concept of **resurrection**, by asking Him what happens to a **woman** who had been **married to seven brothers**. **Jesus** responds by saying, *“At the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage but are like the angels in heaven.”*
- The **Pharisees** test **Jesus** by asking Him which commandment in the law is the greatest. **Jesus** responds by saying, *“You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”* Then He adds, *“The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*
- **Jesus** then asks the **Pharisees** about the **Messiah** and His relation to **King David**. The **Pharisees** respond by saying that the **Messiah** is **David’s son**. **Jesus** then asks, *“If David calls Him Lord, how can this be his son?”*

## CHAPTER 23

- **Jesus** recognizes the authority of the **scribes** and the **Pharisees**, but He advises His disciples to simply listen to the words of the scribes and the Pharisees, but **not to follow their example**. **Jesus** says, *“For they preach, but they do not practice.”*
- Seven times **Jesus** challenges the **scribes** and the **Pharisees** about their actions, and each time He begins with the words, *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites!”*
- **Jesus** laments over the city of **Jerusalem**, and says, *“how many times have I yearned to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her young under her wings, but you were unwilling.”* **NOTE:** *This passage is not included in any of the readings at Mass – but I am not sure why it isn’t.*

## CHAPTER 24

- **Jesus** predicts the **destruction of the Temple**.
- **Jesus** tells the people what to look for when the **end times** come, but he warns them not to be deceived by the **false Messiahs** and wars that will come about. He tells the people, *“For these things must happen, but it will not yet be the end.”* **Jesus** says the end will come, *“And this Gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the world as a witness to all nations, and then the end will come.”*
- **Jesus** speaks of the **great tribulation** – the *“desolating abomination spoken of through Daniel the prophet standing in the holy place.”*
- And **Jesus** says, *“For just as lightning comes from the east and is seen as far as the west, so with the coming of the Son of Man be.”*
- **Jesus** then speaks of the coming of the **Son of Man** by saying, *“And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming upon the clouds of heaven and great glory.”*
- And **Jesus** explains the lesson of the **fig tree** by saying, *“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”*
- So – when will all of this happen? **Jesus** says, *“But of that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.”* And He tells His followers, *“Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.”*
- **Jesus** then speaks of the **faithful or unfaithful servant**, and how blessed the servant is who is found by the master **to be doing what is right**.

## CHAPTER 25

- **Jesus** tells the **parable of the ten virgins**, five of whom were foolish, and five were wise. The message of this parable is, *“Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”*
- **Jesus** tells the **parable of the master** who entrusted the **talents** to his **three servants**, and how each of them used what was given to them. The lesson is, *“For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.”*
- **Jesus** speaks of the **Judgment of the Nations** when *“The Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, and He will sit upon His glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before Him.”*
- And He will separate them, *“as a shepherd separates sheep from goats.”*
- And He will say to the righteous ones, *“Amen I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”*

## CHAPTER 26

- The chief priests and the elders of the people assemble in the palace of the high priest, **Caiaphas**, and they consult together to arrest **Jesus**.
- **Jesus** is anointed in **Bethany**, by a woman who had costly perfumed oil. This takes place in the house of **Simon the leper**. Then **Jesus** says, *“The poor you will always have with you; but you will not always have me.”* And **Jesus** says, *“What she has done will be spoken of, in memory of her.”*
- **Judas** betrays **Jesus** for thirty pieces of silver.
- **Jesus** celebrates the **Passover** (*the Feast of Unleavened Bread*).
- **Jesus** predicts His betrayal by **Judas**.
- At the **Last Supper**, **Jesus** gives His disciples **Holy Communion** for the first time. Then, after singing a hymn, they go to the **Mount of Olives**.
- **Jesus** and His disciples go to the garden of **Gethsemane** where **Jesus** prays to His **Father** (and the disciples fall asleep).
- **Jesus** is arrested by the chief priests and the elders (by the kiss of **Judas**).
- **Jesus** is led before the **Sanhedrin** (*the Jewish Supreme Court*) led by **Caiaphas**, the high priest and **Jesus** is charged with **blasphemy**.
- **Peter** denies **Jesus** three times. Then the cock (rooster) crows. **Peter** then goes out and begins to weep bitterly.

## CHAPTER 27

- **Jesus** is taken before **Pontius Pilate**, the Roman governor.
- **Judas** regrets what he has done and attempts to return the thirty pieces of silver. When the chief priest and the elders refuse to accept the money, **Judas** flings the money into the Temple and hangs himself.
- **Jesus** refuses to answer the questions of **Pontius Pilate**.
- The crowd chooses **Barabbas** over **Jesus**, and **Jesus** is then sentenced to death by crucifixion.
- The soldiers mock **Jesus**, and give Him a scarlet military cloak to wear. The soldiers then weave a **crown of thorns** and place it on **Jesus**'s head. **Jesus** is then led out to be crucified.
- At the place called **Golgotha** (*the Place of the Skull*), **Jesus** is crucified.
- Above His head was a sign that read, *“This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”*
- From noon onward, darkness came over the whole land until three o'clock.
- At three o'clock, **Jesus** cries out, *“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”* which means, *“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”* (See Psalm 22)
- **Jesus** cries out again in a loud voice, and He gives up His spirit.
- **Jesus** is buried in the tomb of **Joseph of Arimathea**.
- Guards are then placed at the tomb so the body of **Jesus** is not stolen.

## CHAPTER 28

- On **Easter Sunday** morning – the first day of the week – **Mary Magdalene** and the other **Mary** (*the mother of James and Joseph*) come to see the tomb.
- There is a great earthquake, and an **angel of the Lord** descends from heaven and rolls back the stone. The guards are shaken, and the angel says to the women, ***“Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus, the crucified. He is not here, for He has been raised, just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay. Then go quickly and tell His disciples that He has been raised from the dead, and He is going before you to Galilee.”***
- Jesus meets the women on their way, and greeted them, and says to them, ***“Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”***
- The soldiers who were supposed to be guarding the tomb are given a large sum of money to lie about the disciples coming in the night and stealing the body of Jesus.
- The remaining **eleven disciples** return to **Galilee** and they see **Jesus**. Then **Jesus** approached and gave them the **Great Commissioning** by saying to them, ***“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold I am with you always, until the end of the age.”***

# The Gospel According to Luke

The **Gospel of Luke** was written at about the same time as the Gospel of Matthew, that being **some time between 75 and 85 A.D.** Luke was a **physician** and a companion and fellow worker of **Saint Paul**. He is mentioned in three of Paul's letters: *Colossians 4:14* *2 Timothy 4:11* *Philemon, verse 24*

**Luke** begins his Gospel by stating that he is writing to an individual referred to as, "**most excellent Theophilus**" (a Greek name which means a "**friend of God**" or a "**lover of God**"). **Luke** was a **Gentile** and a **Christian** from **Antioch in Syria**, and his readers were primarily **Gentiles** (*non-Jews*). We are unable to determine precisely the place of Luke's writing or his readership, but they most likely were people who spoke **Greek** (*since they understood "Theophilus"*).

**Luke** portrays Christianity not as a political movement, nor as a sect organized for a select few, but a **religious faith open to all**. His portrait of **Jesus** manifests **the Savior's concern for humanity** and His identification with the poor, the outcast, and the criminals of society. In Luke's Gospel **Jesus** shows a special concern for **the marginal people in His society** (*the economic poor, women, tax collectors, and sinners*) and He urges the rich to share their goods with the poor.

In the "**Infancy Narrative**" (*the story of Christmas*) **Luke** includes a lot of information that is not included in the Gospel of Matthew, such as the **Annunciation, Mary's visit with Elizabeth**, and **the shepherds in the field**. In addition, **Luke** includes the only event recorded in the Gospels that takes place during the childhood of Jesus: **the Finding of the child Jesus in the Temple**. Some of **the parables** that are included in the **Gospel of Luke**, but not in the other three Gospels, are as follows: (a) The Good Samaritan, (b) The Rich Fool who stores up treasure for himself, (c) The Lost Sheep, (d) The Prodigal Son, (e) The Rich Man and Lazarus, and (f) The Pharisee and the Tax Collector. While Matthew gives us the **Beatitudes** in his "*Sermon on the Mount*," **Luke** gives us the **Beatitudes** in his "*Sermon on the Plain*." **Luke's** Gospel is the only Gospel that records the appearance of the **resurrected Christ** to the **two disciples** on the road to **Emmaus**, and **Luke** also writes in great detail of the **Ascension of Jesus into heaven**. (*In Mark's Gospel, the Ascension is mentioned only briefly.*)

When **Luke** finished writing His Gospel, he wrote a **second book** about the early days of the Church, and this book is entitled the **Acts of the Apostles**. Once again, he begins by addressing his book to **Theophilus**, a "**friend of God**."

## CHAPTER 1

- **Luke** begins his Gospel by addressing “*most excellent Theophilus*” a term that means “friend of God.” **Luke** has decided to write down everything about Jesus “*in an orderly sequence for you.*”
- **Zechariah** (the priest) and his wife **Elizabeth** receive the news from the angel **Gabriel** that they are to become the parents of **John the Baptist**, despite their advanced age. When **Zechariah** comes out of the temple, he is unable to speak to the people, and they realize that he has seen a vision in the sanctuary. **Elizabeth** then went into seclusion for five months.
- In the sixth month the angel **Gabriel** appears to **Mary** and greets her with the words, “*Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you.*” The angel **Gabriel** then announces that Mary “*will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you will name Him Jesus.*” When **Mary** asks how this is possible, since she is not yet married, the angel tells her that, “*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.*”
- **Mary** sets off to visit her relative **Elizabeth**, and **Elizabeth** greets **Mary** with the words, “*Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.*”
- **Mary** responds with the prayer known as the *Canticle of Mary* (also known as the *Magnificat*).
- **John the Baptist** is born to **Elizabeth** and **Zechariah** and immediately Zechariah’s mouth is opened and his tongue is freed, and he can speak again.
- **Zechariah** then proclaims the prayer known as the *Canticle of Zechariah*.

## CHAPTER 2

- **Mary and Joseph** travel to **Bethlehem**, the City of David, to be enrolled in the census decreed by **Caesar Augustus**.
- **Jesus is born**. He is wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger.
- The **angels** appear to the **shepherds** and they announce, “*For today in the City of David a Savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord.*”
- **Eight days** later **Jesus** is circumcised and named, just as the angel had said.
- **Forty days** after His birth, **Mary and Joseph** take **Jesus** to the Temple to consecrate Him to the Lord. (*The Feast of the Presentation, February 2<sup>nd</sup>.*)
- The **Holy Family** returns to **Nazareth** where “*the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him.*”
- **At age twelve**, **Jesus** travels with His parents to **Jerusalem** for the **Feast of Passover**. After three days, the boy **Jesus** is found in the **Temple**, sitting in the midst of the **teachers**, listening to them and asking them questions.

## CHAPTER 3

- **John the Baptist** receives the **Word of God**, and **John** goes throughout the whole region of the **Jordan**, proclaiming a **Baptism of repentance** for the forgiveness of sins. (*He is written of in the Book of the prophet Isaiah.*)
- **John** challenges the crowds by calling them “*a brood of vipers!*” and he advises them to share what they have with the poor.
- **Luke** tells us that, “*Even tax collectors came to be Baptized.*”
- When asked if he is the Messiah, **John** answers, “*I am Baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of His sandals. He will Baptize you with fire and the Holy Spirit.*”
- **Herod** the tetrarch has **John** put in prison because **John** was challenging **Herod** for taking **Herodias**, his brother’s wife, as his own wife.
- **Jesus** is **Baptized** in the Jordan River by **John**. The **Holy Spirit** descended upon Him in the form of a **dove**, and the **voice of God** came from heaven saying, “*You are my beloved son; with you I am well pleased.*”
- **Jesus** begins His public ministry when He is about **thirty years of age**.
- The **genealogy of Jesus** is presented, beginning with His earthly father, **Joseph**, and going all the way back to **Seth, the son of Adam**, and finally, to **Adam**, the first person to be created by **God**.

## CHAPTER 4

- Filled with the **Holy Spirit**, **Jesus** returns from the **Jordan** and is led by the Spirit into the **desert** for **forty days** where He is tempted by the **devil**.
- Three times the devil tempts **Jesus**, and each time **Jesus** resists the devil’s temptations. At that point the devil departs from Him.
- **Jesus** travels to **Galilee** “*in the power of the Spirit*” and He teaches in the synagogues and is “*praised by all.*”
- **Jesus** returns to **Nazareth** where He had grown up. In the **synagogue** He stands up, and reads the scroll from the **prophet Isaiah**. He concludes by saying, “*Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.*”
- The people challenge **Jesus** by saying, “*Isn’t this the son of Joseph?*”
- The people try to kill **Jesus** by throwing Him off a hill, but “*He passed through the midst of them and went away.*”
- **Jesus** cures a man who is possessed with the **spirit of an unclean demon**.
- **Jesus** cures **Simon’s mother-in-law** and **many others** who were ill.
- **Jesus** leaves **Capernaum** and goes to a **deserted place**. The crowds follow Him, and **Jesus** says, “*To the other towns also I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God, because for this purpose I have been sent.*”

## CHAPTER 5

- **Jesus** performs the **miracle of the catch of fish**. He then calls **Simon** and **James** and **John** to be His disciples. *“When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed Him.”*
- **Jesus** cures the **man** who is full of **leprosy**.
- **Jesus** cures the **paralyzed man** (who was lowered through the roof and placed in front of Jesus). **Jesus** also forgives the man’s sins, and this causes the **Pharisees** to challenge **Jesus** – and to charge Him with **blasphemy**. But the people glorified God and said, *“We have seen incredible things today!”*
- **Jesus** calls **Levi**, the **tax collector**, with two simple words: *“Follow me.”* And **Levi** leaves everything behind and follows **Jesus**. **Levi** gives a banquet at his home, and the **Pharisees** and **scribes** challenge Jesus again. But Jesus tells them, *“Those who are healthy do not need a physician, but the sick do. I have not come to call the righteous to repentance, but sinners.”* (NOTE: *Levi is also known as Matthew, one of the Twelve Apostles.*)
- The **Pharisees** and the **scribes** continue to challenge Jesus, but **Jesus** tells them, *“New wine must be poured into fresh wineskins.”* (Are we ready to become new wineskins – ready to receive the new teachings of Jesus?)

## CHAPTER 6

- Again **Jesus** is challenged by the **Pharisees**, when **His disciples** are picking **heads of grain** on the **Sabbath**. Jesus makes reference to the actions of **King David** (see *1 Samuel 21:1-6*) when the priest gave **David** and his companions the **holy bread** when there was no other bread available. And **Jesus** tells the Pharisees, *“The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”*
- Again, on a **Sabbath**, Jesus cures a **man whose right hand is withered**. And, again, the Pharisees are enraged with the actions of Jesus.
- From His many disciples, Jesus calls the **Twelve Apostles**.
- **Jesus** heals many people of their diseases, and drives out many demons.
- Jesus gives His followers **the Beatitudes** in His **“Sermon on the Plain.”** (NOTE: *Matthew’s Gospel has the “Sermon on the Mount.”*)
- **Jesus** challenges His followers by saying, *“But to you who hear, I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you.... Love your enemies.”*
- **Jesus** says, *“Stop judging, and you will not be judged.... Forgive, and you will be forgiven.”* Then **Jesus** challenges the **hypocrites**.
- **Jesus** tells His followers, *“Every tree is known by its own fruit.”*
- **Jesus** compares the person who **listens to His words, and acts on them**, to someone who builds their house on a **foundation of rock**.

## CHAPTER 7

- **Jesus** heals the servant of the **centurion**, and the faith of the centurion was so strong that Jesus **did not even have to enter under his roof**. It was through the word of Jesus that his servant was healed. And **Jesus** says to the people, *“I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.”*
- **Jesus** raises the **only son** of the **widow** in **Nain** by saying, *“Young man, I tell you, arise.”* Fear seizes the people, and they glorify **God** by saying, *“A great prophet has arisen in our midst,”* and *“God has visited His people.”*
- The **disciples of John the Baptist** ask Jesus if He is the One who is to come, and **Jesus** replies by telling them of His miracles and His teachings.
- **Jesus** speaks to the people about **John the Baptist**, and **Jesus** quotes the prophets **Malachi 3:1** and **Isaiah 40:3** by saying, *“Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.”*
- **Jesus** dines at the house of **Simon, the Pharisee**, and a **sinful woman** bathes the feet of Jesus, dries them with her tears, and then anoints them with ointment. **Jesus** then forgives her sins, much to the surprise of the others who were at the table.

## CHAPTER 8

- **Jesus** now has **women from Galilee** as followers, including **Mary, called Magdalene**, from whom seven demons had gone out, **Johanna, Suzanna**, and *“many others who provided for them out of their resources.”*
- **Jesus** tells the parable of **the sower sowing his seed on various types of ground**. The seed that fell on good soil *“produced fruit a hundredfold.”*
- **Jesus** explains the parable of the sower and the seed. **The seed is the word of God**, and we are to receive His word with faith.
- **Jesus** speaks of the **lamp** that shines its **light** from the lampstand.
- **The mother and brothers of Jesus** come to Him, and He says, *“My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it.”*
- **Jesus** calms **the storm at sea**, and the disciples ask each other, *“Who then is this, who commands even the winds and the sea, and they obey him?”*
- **Jesus** cures the man who is **possessed by demons** (who referred to themselves as *“Legion”* because they were many). **Jesus** drives the demons into a **herd of swine**, who then proceed to drown themselves.
- **Jesus** is approached by a man named **Jairus** whose **daughter** was dying. At the same time a **woman who had been afflicted with hemorrhages** for twelve years also approached Jesus by simply touching the tassel on His cloak. **Jesus healed both the woman and the young girl**. And Jesus spoke to those who were around them, and encouraged them to *“just have faith.”*

## CHAPTER 9

- **Jesus** gives **the Twelve** power and authority over all demons and sends them to *“proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.”*
- **Herod the Tetrarch** (who beheaded John the Baptist) hears about Jesus and is greatly perplexed by what he hears. He keeps trying to see Jesus.
- **The Twelve** return to Jesus with wonderful stories of their missionary work.
- **Jesus** feeds five thousand men (families) with five loaves and two fish.
- **Jesus** asks His disciples who the crowds say that He is. After giving the various responses, **Peter** says to Jesus, *“You are the Messiah of God.”*
- **Jesus** predicts **His Passion** for the **first time**.
- **Jesus** sets the **conditions for discipleship** by inviting His followers to deny themselves, take up their crosses, and follow Him. **Jesus** then asks, *“What profit is there for one to gain the whole world yet lose or forfeit himself?”*
- **Jesus** goes up the mountain with **Peter, James, and John**, and there **Jesus is transfigured** before them. **Moses and Elijah** join **Jesus**, and a voice came from the cloud saying, *“This is my chosen Son; listen to Him.”*
- **Jesus** drives an **unclean spirit** from a young boy, and astonishes the crowds.
- **Jesus** predicts **His Passion** for the **second time**.
- **Jesus** responds to the question as to who is the greatest in the kingdom: *“For the one who is least among all of you is the one who is the greatest.”*
- **Jesus** begins His journey to **Jerusalem**.

## CHAPTER 10

- **Jesus** sends **seventy-two** others out in **pairs** to each of the places He intends to visit. **Jesus** then says, *“The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.”*
- **Jesus** challenges **the unrepentant towns** for their lack of conversion.
- The **seventy-two** return to **Jesus** rejoicing, but **Jesus** tells them, *“rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”*
- **Jesus** praises **His Father**, *“Lord of heaven and earth, for you have hidden these things from the wise, but you have revealed them to the childlike.”*
- In response to the question of the scholar of the law, **Jesus** gives the greatest commandments: **Love of God, and love of one’s neighbor**.
- In response to the scholar’s question, *“And who is my neighbor?”* **Jesus** tells the parable of the **Good Samaritan**, the foreigner who made himself neighbor to the robber’s victim, when the priest and the Levite did not.
- **Jesus** visits the home of **Martha and Mary**, and, in response to Martha’s concerns, **Jesus** says, *“There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, and it will not be taken from her.”*

## CHAPTER 11

- **Jesus** teaches His disciples **the Lord's Prayer**.
- **Jesus** teaches about the need for **persistence in prayer**.
- **Jesus** reminds His followers, *"Ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you."*
- The people challenge **Jesus** by saying that he drives out demons through the power of **Beelzebul**, the prince of demons. But **Jesus** rebukes them.
- **Jesus** speaks of an **unclean spirit** who is driven out, and then returns.
- The **people ask for a sign** from **Jesus**, but He refuses, giving them the examples of **Jonah** and **Solomon** who were signs to their generations. **Jesus** reminds us that *"there is something greater than Jonah or Solomon here."*
- **Jesus** compares His message to the concept of **light**.
- **Jesus** challenges the **Pharisees** and **the scholars of the law** for being **hypocrites**. He even mentions their ancestors who killed and persecuted the **prophets**, and have now built memorials to them. (*NOTE: The murder of Abel was the first murder recorded in the Old Testament, and the murder of Zechariah was last murder mentioned in the Hebrew Old Testament.*)

## CHAPTER 12

- **Jesus** advises His followers to *"Beware of the leaven – that is, the hypocrisy – of the Pharisees."*
- **Jesus** tells the people to **have courage under persecution**, and He speaks those prophetic words, *"Do not be afraid."*
- **Jesus** speaks of the sin of *"blasphemy against the Holy Spirit."*
- **Jesus** warns about greed by saying, *"Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions."*
- **Jesus** tells the parable of the **rich man** whose land produced a bountiful harvest – and then he died. And **Jesus** says, *"Thus it will be for the one who stores up treasure for himself but is not rich in what matters to God."*
- **Jesus** tells us to **depend on God** not to worry about earthly things. Then He asks, *"Can any of you by worrying add a moment to your life-span?"*
- **Jesus** advises His followers to be vigilant and faithful: *"You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."*
- **Jesus** says that He has come *"to set the earth on fire"* even if His message results in a cause of division, even within families.
- **Jesus** challenges the **hypocrites** with the question, *"You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky; why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"*
- **Jesus** then asks, *"Why do you not judge for yourselves what is right?"*

## CHAPTER 13

- **Jesus** gives two examples of people who have suffered through no fault of their own. He then He calls His followers to repentance by saying, ***“But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!”***
- **Jesus** tells the parable of the **barren fig tree**, as a lesson of the patience of God for those who have not yet repented for their sins.
- **Jesus** cures a **woman who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years**. This cure takes place on a **Sabbath**, and this upsets the leader of the synagogue. **Jesus** counters their words by calling them ***“Hypocrites!”***
- **Jesus** tells the parable of the **mustard seed** that grows into a large bush, and the parable of the **yeast**. Both are comparisons to **the kingdom of God**.
- **Jesus** advises His followers to ***“Enter through the narrow gate”*** (which reminds us that great effort is required to enter into the kingdom of God). Then **Jesus** tells the people, ***“For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”***
- **Jesus** hears that **Herod** wants to kill Him, but **Jesus** knows not to worry.
- **Jesus** laments over the future of **Jerusalem**, for He knows what will happen to Jerusalem in the coming years.

## CHAPTER 14

- **Jesus** again cures someone on a **Sabbath** (this time He heals a man with dropsy) and again He is challenged by the **Pharisees**.
- **Jesus** advises His followers not to take places of honor at weddings or banquets, but to take less prestigious seats. ***“For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”*** Jesus then challenges the people to invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind – **those who are unable to repay the invitation**.
- Jesus tells the parable of the great feast – and how the invited guests failed to attend. So the master invited the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame, and then says, ***“None of those men who were invited will taste my dinner.”***
- **Jesus** challenges His followers by giving conditions of discipleship. They are called to ***“hate”*** their family members. (But – does Jesus call anyone to hatred? See **Matthew 10:37-39** for a better translation.) **Jesus** then tells the people, ***“Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me can not be my disciple.”*** He concludes by saying, ***“In the same way, every one of you who does not renounce all his possessions can not be my disciple.”***
- Jesus tells us that ***“Salt is good, but if it loses its taste, with what can its flavor be restored?”*** (His point is that the half-hearted disciple is like salt that can not serve its intended purpose.)

## CHAPTER 15

- **Jesus** tells the **parable of the Lost Sheep** and tells the people *that “there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine people who have no need of repentance.”*
- **Jesus** then tells the **parable of the Lost Coin** with its similar message.
- **Jesus** tells the **parable of the Prodigal Son** who wastes his inheritance and then returns to his home. (*Does he return home because he is sorry that he has hurt his father, or because he is hungry?*) The father quickly forgives his son, but his brother is not so quick to forgive. The father concludes by saying, *“But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.”*

## CHAPTER 16

- **Jesus** tells the **parable of the dishonest steward** who, knowing that he is about to be fired, makes side deals with his master’s debtors in order to take care of himself. *“And the master commended that steward for acting prudently.”* (*Why would the rich man commend the dishonest steward? Obviously the rich man would have done the same thing if he had to!*)
- **Jesus** explains the parable by saying, *“For the children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light.”* (*Are we children of this generation – or children of the light?*) **Jesus** concludes by saying, *“No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one or love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You can not serve both God and mammon (or money).”*
- **Jesus** then challenges the **Pharisees** for the way they emphasize what is important to humans – especially things done for others to see.
- **Jesus** points out the important of the **Law of Moses** by saying, *“It is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for the smallest part of a letter of the law to become invalid.”*
- **Jesus** speaks about the permanence of marriage and His prohibition against divorce. (*See Matt 5:31-32 for the exception for an “unlawful” marriage.*)
- **Jesus** tells the **parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus**.  
*Some questions to consider:*
  - #1) *What was the sin of the Rich Man against Lazarus? Did he abuse him?*
  - #2) *Who went to heaven - and who was sent to the netherworld in torment?*
  - #3) *What did Lazarus ask Abraham to do? (NOTE: His two requests!)*The parable concludes by **Abraham** saying, *“If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead.”*

## CHAPTER 17

- **Jesus** reminds us that, *“things that cause sin will inevitably occur, but woe to that person through whom they occur.”* But **Jesus** also reminds us to forgive our brothers and sisters, *“even if he wrongs you seven times in one day... you should forgive him.”*
- The **Apostles** ask the **Lord** to, *“Increase our faith.”* And **Jesus** compares their faith to *“faith the size of a mustard seed.”*
- **Jesus** reminds His followers to be **servants of the Lord**, and, when you have done all you have been commanded, you are to respond, *“We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do.”*
- **Jesus** heals the **ten lepers**, but only **one** has returned to give **thanks**. And he was a **Samaritan** – a foreigner. And **Jesus** tells him, *“Stand up and go; your faith has saved you.”*
- When asked when the **Kingdom of God** would come, **Jesus** replies, *“For behold, the kingdom of God is among you.”* It is already present in **Jesus’** preaching and healing ministry!
- **Jesus** tells His followers that much must happen before the **Son of Man** is revealed. *(He must suffer greatly and be rejected by this generation.)*
- **Jesus** reminds the people, *“Whoever wishes to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will save it.”*

## CHAPTER 18

- **Jesus** tells the **parable** of the **persistent widow** who bothers the **judge** until she receives a just decision. *The message of this parable is the necessity of praying always without becoming weary.*
- **Jesus** tells the **parable** of the **Pharisee and the Tax Collector**. And **Jesus** tells His followers, *“For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”*
- **Jesus** welcomes the **children**, and tells the people, *“Whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.”*
- A **rich official** asks **Jesus** about what it takes to inherit eternal life. **Jesus** tells him, *“There is still one thing left for you: sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven.”*
- **Jesus** then tells the people, *“How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!”* Then who can be saved? *“What is impossible for human beings is possible for God.”*
- **Jesus** predicts His **Passion** for the third time: *“We are going to Jerusalem.”*
- **Jesus** heals a **blind beggar**, and says to him, *“Have sight, your faith has saved you.”* When they saw this, all the people gave praise to God.

## CHAPTER 19

- **Zacchaeus**, a wealthy tax collector, climbs a tree in order to see **Jesus**. **Jesus** then goes to his house, and there **Zacchaeus** promises to give half of his possessions to the poor. And **Jesus** says to him, *“Today salvation has come to this house... For the Son of Man has come to save what was lost.”*
- **Jesus** tells the **parable** of the **nobleman** who entrusted **ten gold coins** to his servants. Two of the servants earn additional coins, but the third does not. **Jesus** then says, *“I tell you, to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.”*
- **PALM SUNDAY**: **Jesus** enters **Jerusalem**, riding on a **colt**. The people spread their cloaks out and proclaim, *“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.”*
- **Jesus** weeps over **Jerusalem**, because He knows that peace will elude the city throughout future years in history – *even until the present day.*
- **MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK**: **Jesus** cleanses the **Temple** of those who were selling things. *“My house shall be a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves.”* At this time the chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people began to seek a way to put **Jesus** to death.

## CHAPTER 20

- The **chief priests** and the **scribes**, together with the **elders**, question **Jesus** by asking Him, *“Tell us, by what authority are you doing these things?”* **Jesus** turns their question around on them by asking, *“Tell me, was John’s baptism of heavenly or of human origin?”* But they refused to answer.
- **Jesus** tells the **parable** of the **tenants working in the vineyard**. They refused to respect the owner, and they killed his son. And **Jesus** says, *“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.”*
- When asked about **paying taxes** to the Emperor, **Jesus** replies, *“Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God.”*
- The **Sadducees**, who deny that there is a resurrection, ask **Jesus** a question about **seven brothers** who all **married the same woman**. All seven died before her. At the resurrection, whose wife will she be? **Jesus** replies that *“the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. They can no longer die, for they are like angels; and they are the children of God because they are the ones who will rise.”* And He says, *“For to Him, they are all alive.”*
- **Jesus** is asked, *“How do they claim that the Messiah is the Son of David?”*
- **Jesus** tells His disciples, *“Be on guard against the scribes, who like to go around in long robes. They devour the houses of widows, and, as a pretext, recite lengthy prayers. They will receive a very severe condemnation.”*

## CHAPTER 21

- **Jesus** sees **the poor widow** offering **two small coins**, while the wealthy gave much more. But Jesus praises the widow, *“for the rich gave from their surplus wealth, but she has offered here whole livelihood.”*
- **Jesus** foretells **the destruction of the Temple**.
- **Jesus** tells His followers what **signs** will take place **before the end**, but He advises them not to be deceived by many who will come in His name saying, “I am he” and “The time has come.” **Jesus** says, *“Do not follow them!”*
- **Jesus** speaks of **the coming persecution**. Before all of this happens, Jesus’s followers will be handed over to leaders, and, *“It will lead to your giving testimony.”* And **Jesus** says, *“For I myself will give you wisdom in speaking that all of your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute.”* He concludes by saying, *“By your perseverance you will secure your lives.”*
- **Jesus** speaks of the **Great Tribulation** that will happen. And He says, *“Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.”*
- **Jesus** tells His followers that, *“They will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.”*
- **Jesus** teaches the lesson of **the fig tree** and its message that summer is near. He then advises His disciples to *“know that the kingdom of God is near.”*
- **Jesus** challenges His disciples to, *“Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.”*
- **Jesus** continues His teaching in the **Temple area** in the day time, *“but at night He would leave and stay at the place called the Mount of Olives.”*

## CHAPTER 22

- **Judas Iscariot** approaches the chief priests and the Temple guards to discuss a plan to hand Jesus over to them. And they agree to pay him money.
- **Jesus** sends **Peter** and **John** ahead to prepare the **Passover meal**.
- **Jesus** gives His disciples **His Body and Blood** at the **Last Supper**.
- **Jesus** foretells that He is to be betrayed by one who is at the table.
- The **disciples** begin to argue with each other as to which of them was the greatest. Jesus responds by saying, *“Let the greatest among you be as the youngest, and the leader as the servant.”*
- **Jesus** predicts that **Peter** will **deny Him** three times before the cock crows.
- **Jesus** instructs His disciples to prepare for the **time of crisis**.

- **Jesus** and the **disciples** go to the **Mount of Olives**, and there **Jesus** prays to **His Father** in heaven. The disciples, however, fall asleep.
- **Judas** betrays **Jesus** with a kiss, and the chief priests, Temple guards, and elders arrest **Jesus**.
- **Jesus** is led away to the house of **the high priest**. **Peter**, following at a distance, denies that he knows Jesus – three times. Then **the cock crows**, and **Peter** goes out and begins to weep bitterly.
- **Jesus** is taken before the **Sanhedrin** (*the religious – and legal – Jewish Supreme Court*). They ask **Jesus** if He is **the Son of God**, and He replies, **“You say that I am.”** And they have no further need of testimony.

## CHAPTER 23

- **Jesus** is taken by the chief priests to **Pilate** (*the civil governor of Judea*) and Pilate questions Jesus. Pilate asks Jesus if He was the king of the Jews, and Jesus replies, **“You say so.”** And Pilate says, **“I find this man not guilty.”**
- When **Pilate** finds out that **Jesus** was from **Galilee**, he sends him to **Herod** (*for Galilee was Herod’s jurisdiction*). **Herod** questions **Jesus**, but he gets no response. So he sends **Jesus** back to **Pilate**. Again, **Pilate** finds **Jesus** not to be guilty, and he has **Jesus** flogged.
- But the people cry out and influence **Pilate** to release **Barabbas**, a man who had been imprisoned for rebellion and murder. **Pilate** gives in to the demands of the people and he releases **Barabbas** and he hands **Jesus** over to them to deal with as they wished.
- **Jesus** carries His cross through the streets, assisted by **Simon, a Cyrenian**. **Jesus** encounters the **women** and He tells them, **“Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children.”**
- They arrive at **the place called the Skull**, and there **Jesus** is **crucified** with two criminals. **Jesus** speaks the famous words, **“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”** Above Jesus was an inscription which read, **“This is the King of the Jews.”**
- **One of the criminals** challenges Jesus, but the other rebukes him by asking, **“Have you no fear of God?”** And he says, **“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”** And Jesus replies, **“Amen I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”**
- **Darkness** comes over the whole land from **noon** to **three in the afternoon**. And **Jesus** cries out in a loud voice, **“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit”** and when He had said this He breathed His last.
- **Jesus** is buried in a tomb owned by **Joseph of Arimathea**. The women who had come from Galilee with Jesus followed behind, and they returned and prepared **spices** and perfumed oils. Then they rested on the **Sabbath**.

## CHAPTER 24

- **At daybreak on the first day of the week** (*Sunday*) the women went to the **tomb** and found that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb. Two men in dazzling garments appeared to them and said, *“Why do you seek the living One among the dead? He is not here, but He has been raised.”* The women were **Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James**. Upon hearing the report from the women, **Peter** got up and ran to the tomb, bent down, and saw the burial cloths alone; then he went home amazed at what had happened.
- **Two disciples** (one named **Cleopas**) go to the city of **Emmaus**, and as they are walking, Jesus Himself draws near and walks with them. Their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him. As they walked, they discussed the things that had taken place in **Jerusalem**. Then, beginning with **Moses** and all the prophets, *Jesus interprets to them what referred to Him in all the scriptures*. At the end of the day they urged Jesus to stay with them and to share a meal with them. At this meal **Jesus** is made known to them in **the breaking of the bread**.
- **Jesus** then appears to His disciples in **Jerusalem**. And **Jesus** reminds them that everything written about Him in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled. Then **Jesus** opened their minds to understand the scriptures. And He said to them, *“Thus it is written that the Messiah must suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of all these things. And, behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”*
- Then **Jesus** led them out to **Bethany**, raised His hands, and blessed them. **As He blessed them He parted from them and was taken up to heaven**. They did him homage and then returned to **Jerusalem** with great joy, and they were continually in the **Temple** praising God.

# The Gospel According to John

The first three Gospels in the New Testament (*Matthew Mark, and Luke*) are often referred to as the “**Synoptic Gospels**” because they follow a similar pattern in recording the words of Jesus and the events that took place during His lifetime. Looking at these three Gospels in three columns, we can see the similarities in the writings. Also, in the **Synoptic Gospels**, it takes much more time for the Apostles and other disciples to realize that **Jesus** is the **Messiah**, the **Son of God**.

The **Gospel of John**, however, utilizes a very different style of writing, and many of the events in the life of Jesus are placed in different time frames. In **John’s Gospel** the followers of Jesus recognize right away who Jesus is, beginning with the very first chapter. In **John’s Gospel** we read of Jesus performing many **miracles**, but we hear of only a few of His **parables**. Also, in the **Gospel of John**, Jesus gives long speeches and sermons to His followers. In **John’s Gospel**, Jesus travels to **Jerusalem** for the **Passover Feast** *three years in a row* (*that is how we know that Jesus’s ministry lasted for approximately three years*). It was on His third journey to **Jerusalem** that *Jesus is crucified and rises from the dead*.

**John’s Gospel** was the last of the four Gospels to be written, and it was probably written in the year **90 A.D.** or so. The writer is not John the Baptist – he is **John the Evangelist** (who, along with **Matthew**, was one of the **Twelve Apostles**). This Gospel was written for a largely **Jewish/ Christian community**. *The entire Gospel of John is a progressive revelation of the glory of God’s only Son, who comes to reveal the Father and then returns in glory to the Father.*

When the Gospel writer speaks of “**the Jews**” he is making reference to the **Jewish leaders** (primarily the *Pharisees* and the *Sadducees*) who opposed Jesus. He is not referring to *all of the Jewish people*. And, quite frequently, the Catholic Church has stated emphatically that this wording should not be used as a means of invoking prejudice against the Jews, including the Jewish people of today.

*The Gospel of John may be outlined as follows:*

- I. **Prologue** (*Chapter 1, verse 1 to verse 18*)
- II. **The Book of Signs** (*Chapter 1, verse 19 to Chapter 12, verse 50*)
- III. **The Book of Glory – The Last Supper to Jesus’s Resurrection**  
(*Chapter 13, verse 1 to Chapter 20, verse 31*)
- IV. **Epilogue – The Resurrection Appearance in Galilee**  
(*Chapter 21, verse 1 to verse 25*)

## CHAPTER 1

- The Gospel begins with, ***“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.”***
- **John the Baptist** is sent from God to testify to the **Light**.
- ***“And the Word became flesh, and made His dwelling among us, and we saw His glory.”***
- **John the Baptist** testifies to **Jesus** and says, ***“The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.”***
- **John** continues his testimony and says, ***“I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord.’”*** (See Isaiah 40:3)
- **John** is Baptizing with water in **Bethany**, across the **Jordan**.
- The next day **John the Baptist** sees **Jesus** and proclaims, ***“Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.”***
- **John the Baptist** continues by saying, ***“Now I have seen and testified that He is the Son of God.”***
- **John’s disciples** begin to follow **Jesus**.
- **Andrew**, Simon Peter’s brother, tells his brother, ***“We have found the Messiah”*** (which is translated *Anointed*).
- And **Jesus** says, ***“You are Simon, the son of John; you will be called Cephas”*** (which is translated, *“Peter”*).
- **Philip** and **Nathaniel** also follow **Jesus**, and **Nathaniel** says to **Jesus**, ***“Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel.”***

## CHAPTER 2

- **Jesus** performs **His first miracle**, by changing **water** into **wine** at the **wedding feast** in **Cana**. ***Jesus performed this miracle in order to avoid causing embarrassment to the wedding couple (who would have been considered to be disrespectful of their guests by running out of wine.)*** Notice the words, ***“Jesus did this as the beginning of His signs in Galilee and so revealed His glory, and His disciples began to believe in Him.”***
- **Jesus** goes to **Jerusalem** to celebrate the **Passover**. (*This is the first Passover mentioned in John’s Gospel.*)
- **Jesus** cleanses the **Temple** driving out those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, with the words, ***“Take these out of here, and stop making my Father’s house a marketplace.”***
- When confronted by the Jewish leaders who ask for a sign, **Jesus** tells them, ***“Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.”*** When **Jesus** was told that it had taken forty-six years to construct the Temple, He knew in His heart that ***“He was speaking about the temple of His body.”***

## CHAPTER 3

- **Nicodemus**, a Pharisee, a ruler of the Jews, came to **Jesus** saying, *“We know you are a teacher who comes from God.”* **Jesus** replies by saying, *“No one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”*
- **Nicodemus** then asks, *“How can a person once grown old be born again?”*
- **Jesus** clarifies His words about being *“born from above”* by saying, *“No one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.”*
- **Jesus** then gives the famous quote, *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.”*
- **Jesus** then compares **truth** to the **light** saying, *“But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.”*
- **Jesus** baptizes in the region of **Judea** where **John the Baptist** was also baptizing. **John** admits that he is not the Messiah, but that, *“I was sent before him.”* And he states that, *“He must increase; I must decrease.”*
- *“For the one whom God sent speaks the word of God. He does not ration his gift of the Spirit.”*

## CHAPTER 4

- **Jesus** leaves the area of **Judea** and returns to **Galilee**.
- Passing through **Samaria**, **Jesus** encounters a **Samaritan woman** at **Jacob’s well**. **Jesus** asks her, *“Give me a drink.”* Since she was a Samaritan, and a woman, she refuses. **Jesus** then promises her that, *“the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”*
- **Jesus** challenges the woman to call her husband and come back, but she admits that she does not have a husband (she has had five husbands).
- **Jesus** goes on to tell her, *“God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth.”*
- The woman begins to believe that **Jesus is the Messiah**, and tells the others.
- At first they believe because of **the testimony of the woman**, but they come to believe on their own, *“for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the savior of the world.”*
- **Jesus** continues on His journey to **Galilee**.
- In **Cana** **Jesus** encounters the **royal official** whose **son** was **ill** and he reaches out to **Jesus** on behalf of his son. **Jesus** tells the official, *“You may go; your son will live.”* Upon finding out that his son is cured, the official and his whole household come to believe in **Jesus**.
- This was the **second sign** that **Jesus** did when He came to **Galilee** from **Judea**. (*The first was the miracle of the wine at the wedding feast in Cana.*)

## CHAPTER 5

- **Jesus** returns to **Jerusalem** and, on the **Sabbath**, encounters a **man who had been ill for thirty-eight years**. The man was sitting next to a pool known as **Bethesda**, where people believed that the stirring waters were able to cure the sick and lame.
- **Jesus** asks the man, *“Do you want to be well?”* and then **Jesus** says, *“Rise, take up your mat, and walk.”* Immediately the man became well.
- The **healed man** is then challenged by the Jewish leaders for carrying his mat on the **Sabbath**, but the man relates the words that **Jesus** had said to him: *“Take up your mat and walk.”*
- The Jewish leaders began to persecute **Jesus** because He did this on a **Sabbath**, but **Jesus** responded to them by saying, *“My Father is at work until now, so I am at work.”*
- For this reason the Jewish leaders tried all the more to kill him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but **He also called God His own Father, making Himself equal to God.**
- **Jesus** responds to their charges by saying, *“Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life and will not come to condemnation, but has passed from death to life.”*
- **Jesus** goes on to say, *“I cannot do anything on my own; I judge as I hear, and my judgment is just, because I do not seek my own will but the will of the one who sent me.”*
- **Jesus** then speaks of **John the Baptist**, and says, *“He was a shining burning lamp, and for a while you were content to rejoice in his light. But I have testimony greater than John’s. The works that my Father gave me to accomplish, these works that I perform testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me.”*
- And **Jesus** says, *“You search the scriptures, because you think you have eternal life through them; even they testify on my behalf.”*
- **Jesus** challenges the unbelief of the people by saying, *“I came in the name of my Father, but you do not accept me; yet if another comes in his own name, you will accept him.”*
- At the end of this chapter **Jesus** says, *“For if you had believed Moses, you would have believed me, because he wrote about me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?”*

## CHAPTER 6

- After teaching the people, **Jesus** leads His followers up the mountain and there **He multiplies the five barley loaves and two fish** into enough food to feed the five thousand men. (*NOTE: This is the only miracle of Jesus that is found in all four Gospels.*)
- **Jesus** then performs the miracle of **walking on the water on the Sea of Galilee**. When He sees the reaction on the faces of His disciples, He tells them, *“It is I. Do not be afraid.”*
- The remainder of Chapter 6 is the famous **“Bread of Life Discourse”** in which Jesus tells His followers, *“I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.”*
- Jesus causes great distress among some of the people when He tells them, *“Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you do not have life within you.”*
- As a result of this, many of His disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied Him. **Jesus** then said to the Twelve, *“Do you also want to leave?”* **Simon Peter** answered Him, *“Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.”*

## CHAPTER 7

- **Jesus** secretly goes to **Jerusalem** for the Jewish **Feast of Tabernacles** (*also known as the Feast of Tents or of Booths or of Succoth. It was a joyful harvest festival where the people thanked God for protecting them during their wandering in the desert and for giving them a good harvest.*)
- During the Feast, **Jesus** goes to the **Temple** and begins to teach. He tells the people, *“My teaching is not my own, but is from the One who sent me.”*
- **Jesus** then says, *“You know me, and you also know where I am from. Yet I did not come on my own, but the One who sent me, whom you do not know, is true. I know him, because I am from him, and he sent me.”*
- The **chief priests** and the **Pharisees** send **guards** to arrest **Jesus**, and **Jesus** tells them, *“I will be with you only a little while longer, and then I will go to the One who sent me. You will look for me, but will not find me, and where I am, you can not come.”* Of course, this confuses them even more.
- **Jesus** tells the people, *“Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink.”*
- The people ask where the **Messiah** is to come from, and they know *that “the Scripture says that the Messiah will be of David’s family and come from Bethlehem, the City of David.”* But the leaders of the Jews, knowing that **Jesus** grew up in Nazareth, are not aware that He was born in Bethlehem.

## CHAPTER 8

- Early in the morning **Jesus** arrives in the **Temple area**, and the scribes and the Pharisees bring a woman who has been caught in **adultery**. In the Law, Moses commanded the leaders to stone such women. So they then ask Jesus what He thinks. Jesus does not respond verbally, but He bends down and begins to write on the ground with His finger. When He stands up He says, *“Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”* And, in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. And Jesus says to the woman, *“Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on, do not sin any more.”*
- **Jesus** again speaks to the people saying, *“I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me, will not walk in darkness, but will have the Light of Life.”*
- When the **Pharisees** challenge Jesus by saying that His testimony can not be verified, Jesus explains how He was sent by the Father. And Jesus says, *“You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.”*
- **Jesus** tells the people how He must go away for a while, and *“Where I am going, you can not come.”* When the Jews ask if Jesus is going to kill Himself, He responds to them, *“You belong to what is below; I belong to what is above.”*
- And then **Jesus** says, *“If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciple, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*
- Of course the Jewish leaders argue that they are **children of Abraham**, and that they have never been enslaved to anyone. And when they tell Jesus that their father is Abraham, Jesus responds, *“If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing the work of Abraham.”*
- Jesus then tells them, *“If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and am here; I did not come on my own, but he sent me.”*
- Then the Jewish leaders accuse Jesus of being possessed. And **Jesus** replies, *“If I glorify myself, my glory is worth nothing; but it is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’ ”*
- Chapter 8 concludes with **Jesus** saying, *“Amen, amen I say to you, before Abraham came to be, I AM.”* So they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid and went out of the Temple area.

## CHAPTER 9

- **Jesus** sees a man who was blind from birth, and His disciples ask Him, ***“Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”***  
*NOTE: At that time, blame had to be placed on someone for such a tragedy.*
- **Jesus** responds by saying, ***“Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him.”***
- **Jesus** has cured someone on the Sabbath, and this has cause great concern among the Pharisees. They challenge the blind man and his parents.
- **Jesus** spends the rest of the chapter pointing out that, ***“I am the light of the world”*** and pointing out that the **Pharisees** are still blind and walking in the darkness of sin.

## CHAPTER 10

- **Jesus** compares Himself to the **Good Shepherd**, and begins by saying, ***“I am the gate for the sheep.”*** But then He says, ***“I have come so that they might have life and have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd.”***
- **Jesus** then says, ***“I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd.”***
- **Jesus** goes to **Jerusalem** for the **Feast of the Dedication (Hanukkah)** in which the Jews celebrate the rededication of the altar in **164 B.C.** There **Jesus** is again challenged by the leaders of the Jews, and **Jesus** once again explains that He has come from the Father. At this point **Jesus** is charged with blasphemy and they say: ***“You, a man, are making yourself God.”***

## CHAPTER 11

- **Lazarus**, the brother of **Mary** and **Martha** becomes ill, and eventually dies.
- **Jesus** says, ***“Our friend Lazarus is asleep, but I am going to awaken him.”***
- Four days later **Jesus** comes to **Bethany** in **Judea** and tells Lazarus’ sisters, ***“I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.”***
- **Jesus** then raises **Lazarus** from the dead.
- Upon hearing of what **Jesus** had done, the chief priests and the Pharisees convened the **Sanhedrin** in order to decide what they should do with **Jesus**.
- **Caiaphas**, who was high priest that year tells the leaders that, ***“one man should die instead of the people, so that the whole nation may not perish.”***
- **Jesus** then travels to **Jerusalem** for His **third and final Passover**. The chief priests and the Pharisees gave orders that, if anyone knew where **Jesus** was, he should inform them so that they might arrest Him.

## CHAPTER 12

- Six days before Passover (Saturday), **Jesus** came to **Bethany**, the home of **Lazarus** and **Mary** and **Martha**. Mary took a liter of costly perfumed oil and anointed the feet of Jesus and dried them with her hair.
- The chief priests plotted to kill **Lazarus**, too, because many of the Jews were turning away and believing in Jesus because of him.
- On the next day (**Palm Sunday**), the great crowd took palm branches and went out to Jesus crying out, "**Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, the king of Israel.**" (**NOTE**: The word "**Hosanna**" means, "**Oh Lord, grant salvation.**")
- **Jesus** speaks of the coming of His hour, and tells His followers, "**Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.**"
- **Jesus** calls upon His Father to glorify His name, and a voice came from heaven saying, "**I have glorified it and will glorify it again.**"
- Then **Jesus** says, "**While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of the light.**"
- **Jesus** then quotes the prophet **Isaiah** as He challenges those who still do not believe in Him. In reference to the **Pharisees**, Jesus says, "**They preferred human praise to the glory of God.**"
- **Jesus** reminds us, "**I did not come to condemn the world, but to save it.**"

## CHAPTER 13

- **NOTE**: Chapters 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17 all take place at the Last Supper.
- During the Last Supper, **Jesus** washes the feet of His disciples and tells them, "**If I, therefore, the Master and the Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet.**"
- **Jesus** then announces that one of the disciples will betray Him.
- One of His disciples, **the one whom Jesus loved**, was reclining at Jesus' side. *(Please see my commentary on the next page.)*
- Satan enters **Judas**, and Jesus says to **Judas**, "**What you are going to do, do quickly.**" Then **Judas** leaves the Last Supper.
- **Jesus** says, "**I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.**"
- **Jesus** tells **Peter**, "**Where I am going, you cannot follow me now, though you will follow me later.**"
- **Jesus** then predicts that **Peter** will deny Him. "**Amen, amen, I say to you, the cock will not crow before you deny me three times.**"

Four times in John's Gospel, we read the phrase, "**the disciple whom Jesus loved.**" *John 13:23 / John 19:26 / John 21:7 / John 21:20*

Who is "**the disciple whom Jesus loved?**" Most Biblical scholars believe that it was **Saint John the Evangelist**, the writer of this, the fourth Gospel.

But what does this phrase, "**the disciple whom Jesus loved**" mean to us? *Didn't Jesus love all His disciples just as He loves us?* Of course He did!

Many Biblical scholars believe that John was simply referring to himself in very complimentary words, based on his relationship with Jesus. But why didn't he write, "*I, John, the disciple whom Jesus loved*" so we knew who he was?

Recently, Biblical scholars have come to believe that, even though this is **the Gospel According to John**, Saint John may have passed away before these words were written. John's followers may have been the ones to actually "put the pen to the page" and written this Gospel on to paper (or papyrus). Notice at the end of the Gospel, in **John 21:24** where it is written, "*It is this disciple who testifies to these things and has written them, and we know his testimony is true.*" Again, if John was actually writing these words, why didn't he just write, "*It was I, the disciple John, who testifies to these things*" so that we knew who he was?

The answer may be that **John's followers** loved him so much, and knew so much about his close relationship with Jesus, that **they were the ones** who, when actually writing, decided to refer to John as "**the disciple whom Jesus loved.**" And they never thought about how later generations might interpret these words.

Is it possible that some of the **other Books of the Bible** could have been written by someone other than the person whose name is on the Book? Let's look at **Paul's Letter to the Romans**, chapter 16, verse 22. Who actually wrote this letter? "*I, Tertius, the writer of this letter, greet you in the Lord.*" Who was **Tertius**? He was a scribe, a follower of Saint Paul. Just like **Paul's Letter to the Romans**, the **Gospel According to John** might have also been written by some of his followers.

Finally, let's consider a modern example. What if one of us was to write a book about **Saint John Paul II**, and, at the end of the book, we wrote: "**And, on April 2, 2005, the Pope whom Jesus loved, was called home by the Lord.**" Would that mean that Jesus did not love the other Popes? *Of course not!* It would simply be our way of saying that this Pope was very special to God. *Perhaps the same idea was used 2,000 years ago by the followers of Saint John the Evangelist!*

## CHAPTER 14

- **Jesus** speaks the words that we hear quite often at **Funeral Masses**: *“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God, have faith also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And, if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again, and take you to myself, so that where I am, you also may be. Where I am going, you know the way.”*
- But **Thomas** said to **Jesus**, *“Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?”*
- **Jesus** said to him, *“I am the way, and the truth and the life.”*
- **Jesus** tells His followers, *“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, which the world can not accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know it, because it remains with you, and will be in you.”*
- **Jesus** then says, *“Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him.”*
- Finally, **Jesus** says, *“I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name – he will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.”*
- Then **Jesus** says, *“Get up, let us go.”*

*(This is a little misleading, because it implies that Jesus is taking His disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane. However, in reality, he still has much more to tell them at the Last Supper. Two more chapters of teaching and prayer follow this statement.)*

## CHAPTER 15

- **Jesus** uses the parable of the **vine** and the **branches** to show us that, ***“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower.”*** Then He tells us, ***“I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me, you can do nothing.”***
- **Jesus** says, ***“This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”***
- **Jesus** then tells His followers that they will be hated by the world by saying, ***“If the world hates you, realize that it hated me first.”***
- And **Jesus** reminds them, ***“And they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know the one who sent me.”***
- **Jesus** promises to send the **Advocate**, the **Holy Spirit** by telling them, ***“When the Advocate comes whom I will send from the Father, the Spirit of truth that proceeds from the Father, he will testify to me.”***

## CHAPTER 16

- **Jesus** reminds us that, ***“They will expel you from the synagogues; in fact, the hour is coming when everyone who kills you will think he is offering worship to God.”*** (NOTE: Consider the events of September 11, 2001)
- **Jesus** again promises to send the **Advocate** by saying, ***“But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth.”***
- **Jesus** then tells His disciples, ***“Amen, amen I say to you, you will weep and mourn, while the world rejoices; you will grieve, but your grief will become joy.”***
- **Jesus** concludes this chapter by saying, ***“In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world.”***

## CHAPTER 17

- **NOTE:** *This entire chapter is a prayer of Jesus to His Father in heaven.*
- **Jesus** prays, ***“Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your Son, so that your Son may glorify you, just as you gave Him authority over all people, so that He may give eternal life to all you gave Him.”***
- **Jesus** continues with the words, ***“Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth.”***
- **Jesus** concludes this chapter by praying, ***“Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them and I in them.”***

## CHAPTER 18

- After the Last Supper, **Jesus** leads His disciples across the **Kidron Valley** to the **garden**. **Judas** has organized a band of soldiers and guards from the chief priests and the Pharisees and they have gone there there to arrest Jesus.
- Then **Simon Peter**, who had a sword, draws it, striking the high priest's slave, cutting off his right ear. The slave's name was **Malchus**.
- **Jesus** is first brought to **Annas**, the father-in-law of **Caiaphas**, who was high priest. (*NOTE: John's Gospel is the only Gospel that mentions Annas.*)
- **Peter**, standing at the fire, warming himself, denies **Jesus** for the first time.
- **Annas** questions **Jesus** about His disciples and His doctrine. Then **Annas** sends **Jesus** to **Caiaphas**, the high priest.
- **Peter** denies **Jesus** two more times, and immediately **the cock crows**.
- **Jesus** is then brought to the **praetorium** (*the residence of the Roman governor*). **Pilate** addresses the crowd, and then tries to release **Jesus** to them. (*NOTE: Jewish law does not allow for crucifixion – only stoning.*)
- **Pilate** then questions **Jesus**: “*Are you the King of the Jews?*” **Jesus** replies by saying, “*My kingdom does not belong to this world.*” And then **Jesus** says, “*And for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth.*”
- **Pilate** then releases **Barabbas**, a revolutionary, rather than **Jesus**.

## CHAPTER 19

- **Pilate** has **Jesus** scourged, has a crown of thorns placed on His head, and clothes Him in a purple cloak.
- **Pilate** takes **Jesus** back to the crowd, and they cry out, “**Crucify Him!**”
- The **Jewish leaders** respond by saying, “*We have a law, and according to that laws, he ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God.*”
- **Pilate** addresses **Jesus** again, and **Jesus** refuses to cooperate with him.
- At noon, **Pilate** hands **Jesus** over to the **Roman soldiers** for crucifixion.
- **Jesus** carries His cross to **Golgotha**, the **Place of the Skull**, where they crucified Him, along with two others, one on each side of **Jesus**.
- **Pilate** places an inscription on the cross: “*Jesus the Nazorean, King of the Jews.*” (*NOTE: In Latin he uses the letters: “INRI.”*) When the people protest, **Pilate** responds by saying, “*What I have written, I have written.*”
- **Jesus's** clothes were then divided among the soldiers by casting lots.
- **Jesus** tells His mother, “*Woman, behold your son.*” Then, to the disciple whom **Jesus** loved, He says, “*Behold your mother.*”
- **Jesus** says, “*It is finished.*” And, bowing His head, He hands over the spirit.
- When **Jesus's** side is pierced, **blood and water** flow out.
- **Jesus** is then buried in the tomb that belonged to **Joseph of Arimathea**.

## CHAPTER 20

- On the first day of the week – Sunday – the first Easter Sunday – **Mary of Magdala** comes to the tomb of **Jesus**, early in the morning. Seeing that it is empty, she reports to **Simon Peter** and the other **disciple whom Jesus loved** that, *“They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they put Him.”* **Simon Peter** and the **other disciple** ran to the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, just as the woman had told them.
- But **Mary** stays outside the tomb, weeping, and she sees **two angels** in white sitting there, one at the head, and one at the feet of where the body had been.
- After speaking with the angels she sees **Jesus**. But, not knowing that it was **Jesus**, she thought that He was the gardener. Then **Jesus** says to her, *“Mary!”* and she replies, *“Rabbouni”* which means *“Teacher.”*
- **Mary of Magdala** then announces to the disciples, *“I have seen the Lord!”*
- That evening **Jesus** appears to the disciples (without **Thomas** being with them) and tells them, *“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.”* (Sacrament of Confession.)
- A week later **Jesus** appears to the disciples again, and this time **Thomas** is with them. When **Thomas** realizes that it is **Jesus**, he exclaims, *“My Lord and my God.”* And **Jesus** replies, *“Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”* (Aren’t we blessed by believing without seeing?)
- The **“First Conclusion”** to the Gospel gives us the **purpose** of the Gospel.

## CHAPTER 21

- After this, **Jesus** revealed Himself again to His disciples at the **Sea of Tiberias** (*the Sea of Galilee*) in the miracle of the catching of the one hundred fifty-three large fish. And none of the disciples dared to ask Him, “Who are you?” because **they realized that it was the Lord**.
- When they had finished breakfast, three times **Jesus** asks **Simon Peter**, *“Do you love me?”* And each time **Jesus** told Peter to *“Feed my lambs and tend my sheep.”* **Jesus** then indicated to **Peter** by what kind of death he would glorify God. Then **Jesus** says to **Simon Peter**, *“Follow me.”*
- **Jesus** causes some confusion among the disciples when they misinterpret His statement that **the disciple whom Jesus loved** could remain until the Second Coming. But **Jesus** never did say that this disciple would not die.
- The **“Second Conclusion”** to the Gospel tells us, *“There are also many other things that Jesus did, but if these were to be described individually, I do not think that the whole world would contain the books that would be written.”*