

the
Gospel

the Gospel

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Once...there was nothing.
Then God created the Heavens and the Earth.

—GENESIS 1:1



On His Earth, God placed plants and animals, birds of the air and fish of the sea. And He created the first man and woman—Adam and Eve. They were in His Garden of Eden, and everything was perfect.

—GENESIS 1:11-31



In Heaven, there was a rebellion. Satan and those angels that rebelled with him were thrown out.

—ISAIAH 14:12-17, JUDE 6

Through the Serpent, Satan tricked Adam and Eve into doing the one thing God told them not to do—eat the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Now, they too were thrown out of their perfect home. And now they would eventually die.

—GENESIS 3:1-24, REVELATION 20:2





As the centuries passed, Adam and Eve had many children, and their children had children, and so on, until the Earth was filled with people. But evil also filled the world until no one but Noah was deemed worthy enough to be spared. God told Noah to build an Ark that would survive the Flood that He was going to send. Noah obeyed God and was spared, and with him his family and two of every kind of animal alive at the time.

—GENESIS 4:1-8:22



After the Flood, people once again started to fill the Earth, and once again began to forget God. But there came a man named Abraham, who was called “God’s friend.” God promised that through him a great blessing would come to all the earth—the Savior would be born to his line. God spared Abraham’s son Isaac, wrestled with Isaac’s son Jacob (who was renamed “Israel”), and gave Jacob’s son Joseph a position of great power in Egypt.

— GENESIS 9:1-50:26



When the Israelites became numerous in Egypt, Pharaoh put them in captivity. But God raised up Moses to lead them to freedom. Through Moses, God gave His Law so that He would not be forgotten again. Through the Ten Commandments, God showed them how to live right. But, because He knew that they would not be able to perfectly keep His Law, God allowed them to make sacrifices—sacrifices that would end 2,000 years later, with the sacrifice of God’s own Son, Jesus.

—EXODUS-DEUTERONOMY



Joshua the warrior took over after Moses died and led the Israelites into the land God promised to them.

—JOSHUA



Through leaders like him and Judges like Samson and Gideon, the people conquered the land and God created a new nation—one that would remember Him.
—JUDGES



The people called for a king to rule them, and Saul was chosen. But it was David who killed Goliath and who was a man after God's own heart. The royal line of Israel would be established through his family, starting with his son, the wise king Solomon.

—RUTH, THE SONG OF SOLOMON

Alongside these rulers, God also sent prophets like Elijah and Samuel, Isaiah and Daniel, and many others to guide them and the people. He gave these prophets special words of history, wisdom and prophecy that showed them God's will, and also showed them that the Savior was coming.

— 1 SAMUEL-MALACHI



The Savior would rescue mankind from the results of Adam and Eve's disobedience—evil, illness, death and condemnation—and restore the holy bond between God and Man. He could do this because He was God and Man.

— ISAIAH 9:6



In accordance with the prophecies, a virgin girl gave birth to the Son of God...God in the flesh. He was given the name “Jesus,” which means “I am the Savior.”

—ISAIAH 7:14, ZECHARIAH 6:12, LUKE 1:31



Though the ruler at the time tried to have Him killed, the child grew up strong and wise. He became a carpenter, and He lived a blameless life.

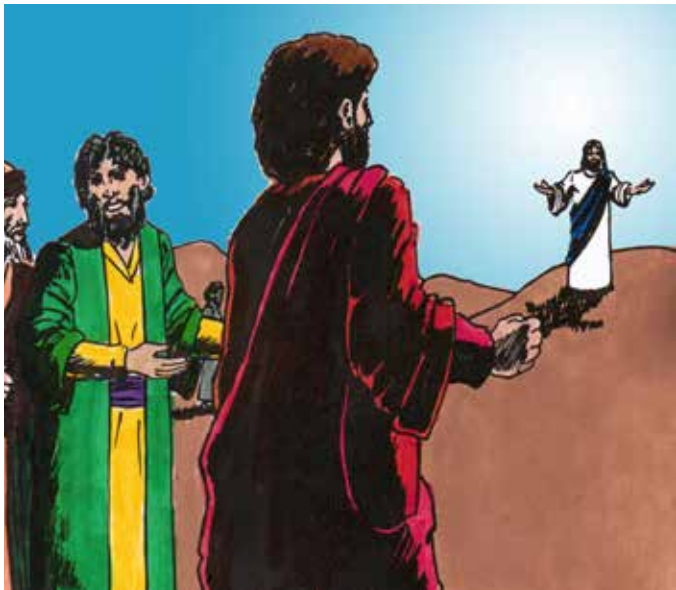
—MATTHEW 2:1-23, LUKE 2:40-52





When the time was right, John the Baptist, a godly man sent by God, announced that Jesus was the Savior! As Jesus was baptized in water, the Holy Spirit—God the Spirit—came upon Him and Jesus immediately went into the desert for forty days, where Satan the Enemy tried to tempt Him to give up His mission, but failed.

—MARK 1:1-13



Beginning the ministry that would continue for the next three years, Jesus called twelve Disciples and taught the crowds the true meaning of following God.

—LUKE 6:12-49



As His ministry continued, Jesus healed all manner of disease and cast out demons.

—MATTHEW 7-9, MARK 1-3, LUKE 7-8



He even raised the dead! Besides reviving a ruler's daughter and a widow's son who had both recently died, Jesus also brought back to life Mary and Martha's brother Lazarus who had been dead for four days!

—MARK 5:21-43, LUKE 7:11-17, JOHN 11:1-45



When He heard that John the Baptist (who had always gone before Him) had been killed, Jesus withdrew from the crowds...but they followed Him. That day, He fed 5,000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish.

—MATTHEW 14



During the night, to meet His Disciples in their boat on the Sea of Galilee, Jesus walked on water. On the other side, He told those who had gathered that He Himself was the Bread of Life.

—JOHN 6



After one last supper with His Disciples, Jesus led them to the Garden of Gethsemane, where He left them to pray alone. He prayed for them, for the world, and for Himself.

—JOHN 13-17



And then Jesus was betrayed by his Disciple Judas, who led Jesus' enemies to the Garden where they arrested Him.

—JOHN 18:1-11



They took Jesus to court in the dark of the night where they tried Him and many testified against Him, through lies and twisting the truth. They accused him of *claiming* to be the Messiah and they found Him guilty.

—JOHN 18:12-27



Then they brought Him before the Roman governor Pontius Pilate for sentencing. “What *is* truth?” Pilate asked Him. Little did he know that the embodiment of Truth was standing before him.

—JOHN 18:28-40



Pilate did not want to execute Jesus and had Him beaten instead. But that did not satisfy Jesus' enemies and, so, Pilate ordered Him to be crucified.

—JOHN 19:1-17



Jesus carried His own cross out to the hill of Calvary, also known as Golgotha (“the place of the skull”), where He was crucified. The soldiers gambled for His clothes and gave Him vinegar for His thirst.

—JOHN 19:18-29



By the middle of the afternoon, an unnatural darkness came upon the land. The time had come. Jesus said “It is finished” and gave up His spirit. The moment He died, the veil of the Temple (which was considered to separate the common man from the presence of God) ripped in two, there was a great earthquake, and godly people who had died came back to life, left their tombs and appeared to many. This was the sacrifice He had come to make. And to be. The sacrifice that would take away sins.

— MATTHEW 27:50-53, JOHN 19:30



On the third day after He died, women who followed Jesus came to His tomb only to find it open and empty—the large stone door was moved away, the guards were frozen with fear, Jesus’ grave clothes were empty, and an angel appeared to tell them not to look for Him among the dead—for Jesus was risen!

—MATTHEW 28:1-8



Soon, Jesus started appearing to His Disciples, letting them know that He was no longer dead. He told his startled followers, “Touch me and see—a ghost does not have flesh and blood as you see I have.”

—LUKE 24:1-49



After appearing to His Disciples over the next forty days, Jesus told them to be witnesses for Him throughout the Earth. Then, He rose up into the sky and disappeared from their sight. Angels appeared and told them that Jesus would return the same way He left—by way of the sky.

—ACTS 1:3-11



But Jesus had told them to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came upon them, which happened a week later. They spoke in other languages, with great boldness, and led many people to the Salvation that Jesus had won for them. They began to tell the whole world about the Savior. It was the beginning of the Church.

—ACTS 1:4-2:47



And, after 2,000 years, Jesus will return!

“Behold—I am coming soon!”

—REVELATION 22:7



In Earth's darkest hour, Jesus will return to defeat the Devil and lead all mankind into 1,000 years of peace and Glory!

—REVELATION

The story you have just read is a true story. It is the true story of a man named Jesus, who was also the Son of God. He came 2,000 years ago in answer to prophecies God gave mankind hundreds and even thousands of years earlier.

These prophecies told of a Messiah who would come and live a sinless life, who would heal and teach, and who would die in our place—in the place of sinners everywhere. And He would come back to life and give the same gift of life to all who would follow Him and make Him Lord of their lives.

Are you willing to do that?
If you are, please pray something just like this:

“Heavenly Father, I believe that you created the Heavens and the Earth and all that are in them. I believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that He came to pay the price for my sins, and that I am saved by trusting in Him and will have eternal life. Father God, please save me through Jesus Christ my Lord and make my life pleasing to You. Deliver me from my sins and lead me every day in every way. Please give me Your Holy Spirit and open Your Word—the Bible—to me. All this I ask and thank and praise you for, in Jesus’ holy name. Amen.”



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