

the
Gospel
ILLUSTRATED



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



The Ten Commandments

Do not have any other gods
Do not make graven idols
Do not take God's name in vain
Remember the Sabbath
Honor your mother and father
Do not murder
Do not commit adultery
Do not steal
Do not bear false witness
Do not covet

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 2000 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. 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.

JOSHUA-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



He told them about the Kingdom of Heaven, and He warned them of the dangers of Hell, and that to enter Paradise and escape the flames, one must be Born Again—by believing in Him. As He fulfilled the prophecies, people grew to understand that He was the long-awaited Savior.

JOHN 3:1-21



As His ministry continued, He healed the sick and cast out demons and even raised the dead.

LUKE 7, JOHN 11:1-45



But His goodness led to evil men plotting against Him.

JOHN 11:46-54



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

MATTHEW 14, JOHN 6



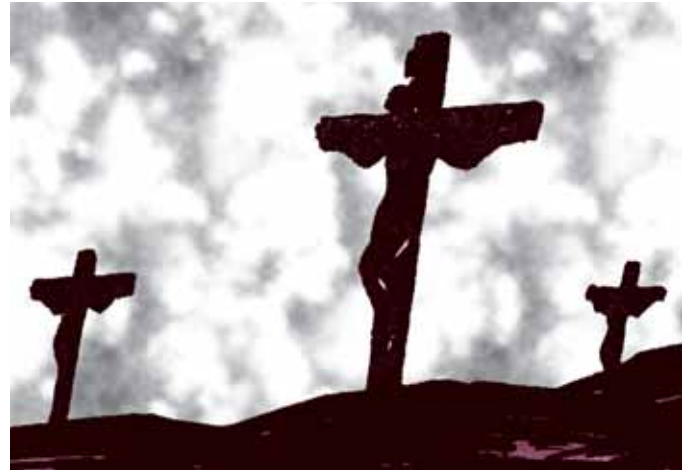
The night He was arrested—betrayed by His close follower Judas—He first gave His Disciples one last command. He gave them bread and wine, saying that these were His “body” and “blood” and to always eat and drink these in remembrance of Him.

MATTHEW 26:20-29



He was arrested—
without cause.
He was tried—
without proof.
He was sentenced
to death—without
mercy. He carried
His own cross to the
hill of Calvary, where
He was nailed to it.

JOHN 18-19



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





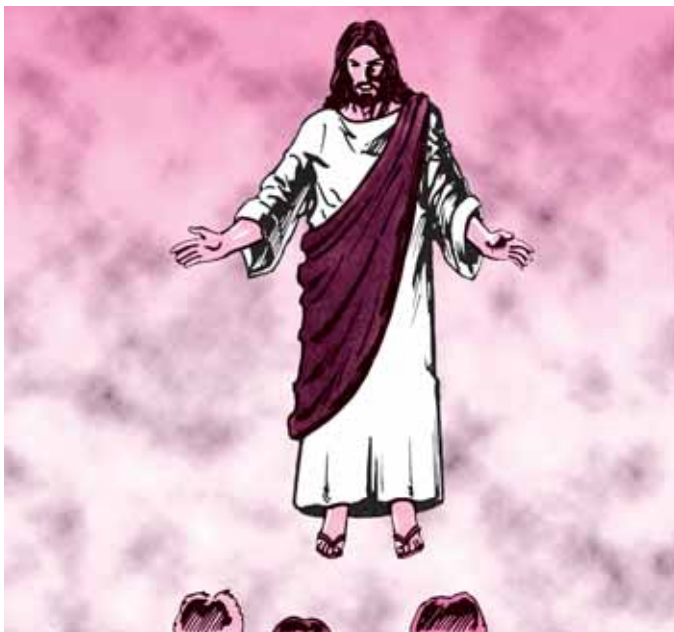
On the third day after He died, women who followed Jesus came to His tomb only to find it open and empty—the large stone door was moved away, the guards were frozen with fear, Jesus’ grave clothes were empty, and an angel appeared to tell them not to look for Him among the dead—for Jesus was risen!

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.

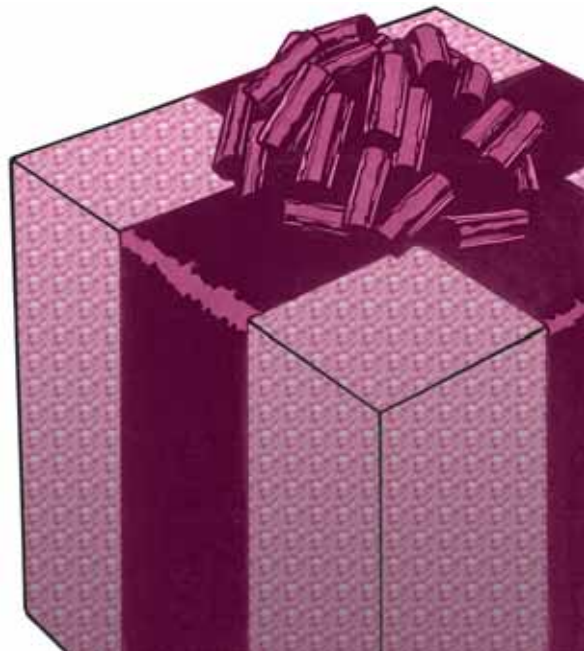
ACTS 1:4-2:47



Jesus established His Church—and the Gates of Hell would not prevail against it for the next 2000 years, despite persecution, wars, famine, death and disease. He reigns in the hearts of His people, and He will come again to reign over all the Earth.

MATTHEW-REVELATION

Salvation is a gift.



Salvation is a free gift from God, paid for by Jesus through His self-sacrifice on the Cross. It is offered to all mankind, but only those who receive it will be forgiven and enter Heaven to live with God.

JOHN 3:16, EPHESIANS 2:8, ROMANS 6:23

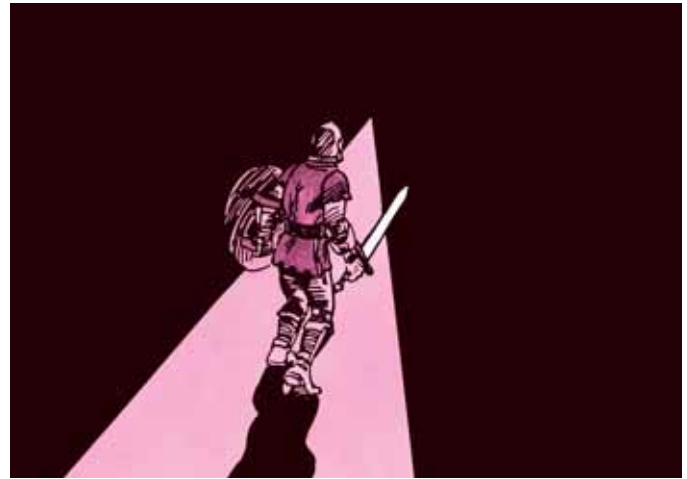


If you want to receive this gift of eternal life with God, you need to repent of your sins, and trust and believe in Jesus. JOHN 6:47, JOHN 3:18, ACTS 16:31-34

Believe that Jesus is God's Son, that He came and lived a sinless life, that He died of His own free will to be the sacrifice necessary for our sins to be erased, and that He rose again three days later, and lives forevermore. ACTS 10:36-43

And then, believing, you need to begin your new life by praying something like this:

"Father God, I believe that You are the Creator of us all and that Jesus is Your Son, God in the flesh, who was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died to pay the penalty for mankind's sins and for my sins, and rose from the dead—never to die again—so that I might have eternal life as well. Lord, please save me and keep me, make my life pleasing to You, deliver me from my sins and bring me closer to You every day. Please give me Your Spirit and open Your Word, the Bible, to me. All this I ask and thank and praise You for, in Jesus' holy name. Amen."



What to do now?

The Lord said to stay on the straight and narrow path (MATTHEW 7:14), veering neither to the left nor the right (DEUTERONOMY 5:32). The Apostle Paul added to always clothe yourself with the full armor of God—the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the Gospel of Peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God (EPHESIANS 6:10-17).

How do we “put on the Armor of God”?

Do these things—

Pray—Talk to God every day, and listen for His guidance. MATTHEW 6:55, MATTHEW 7:7-8, EPHESIANS 6:18, PHILIPPIANS 4:6, 1 THESSALONIANS 5:17

Learn—Read the Bible, or find someone who will read it to you, so that you can learn more about God and His ways. PSALM 1:2, 2 TIMOTHY 2:15, 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

Be with other Believers—Find a church that teaches from the Bible, or, if you can't, get together with other Christians and have a Bible study in someone's home or some other private place. HEBREWS 10:25, ACTS 2:46

Obey God—Do what Jesus would do, or what you're sure He would have you do. MATTHEW 4:10, 1 JOHN 2:3-6, JOHN 14:15

Be Baptized—Jesus said to be baptized in water. This is an announcement to the world that you are turning from your sins and that you belong to Christ now. MATTHEW 3:11-17, ROMANS 6:4

Be Baptized with the Holy Spirit—Pray for and seek the empowering by the Holy Spirit. ACTS 1:4-8, ACTS 10:44-48, MATTHEW 3:11, EPHESIANS 5:18

And—

Witness—Tell others of the new life you have found in Christ. Don't keep this wonderful gift to yourself!

“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.”

—MATTHEW 9:37

ACTS 2:8, 2 TIMOTHY 4:1-5, MATTHEW 10:32,
JAMES 5:20, MARK 16:15





“Behold—I am coming soon!”

—REVELATION 22:7



The Gospel Illustrated—English
Written and illustrated by Eric Jansen
Composed by Wyce Ghiacy
Foursquare Missions Press © 2005
May God bless you in your walk.