

Search for Truth

7. Prepare for the New Kingdom

God's New Covenant, or New Testament

Four Gospels

The first four books are called "Gospels," or the "good news" about Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. The story of Jesus, the Son of God, was recorded by four writers— Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. While there is only one gospel of Christ, there are four presentations. Why four? His story is told from four viewpoints.

He is presented as the:

1. "King" by Matthew
2. "Servant" by Mark
3. "Son of Man" by Luke
4. "Son of God" by John.

John 21:25

Acts More than a History Book

Next is the Book of Acts, recording the birth of the church. It includes the beautiful plan of salvation, as well as the "ACTS" of the apostles and of the Holy Ghost. The Old Testament and the gospels point forward to the book of Acts and the rest of the Epistles point back to it. Thus Acts is the center point of God's plan.

Fourteen Epistles of Paul

The Epistles instruct us how to live the Christian life. These books or "letters" were written to people who had already become Christians.

Seven General Epistles

Seven "General" epistles follow, written by four men—James, Peter, John and Jude.

One Book of Prophecy

Finally, Revelation is the only book of prophecy in the New Testament. Written by John during his imprisonment and exile on the Isle of Patmos, its first chapters include letters to seven churches located in Asia. The latter chapters describe heaven and events that will unfold at the end of time.

2. John the Baptist Paves the Way

Malachi 3:1

Baptism of Repentance

This strange new prophet, with the "spirit and power of Elijah," came with a special anointing that attracted the masses. John's unique ministry was to baptize (meaning "to dip") people in water. He was preparing the way for Jesus.

Luke 3:16

Repentance prepares us to receiving all God has for us, just like we have seen from creation.

3. What Is Repentance?

A decision to turn from actions that lead to death

The original Greek word for "repentance" means "to change one's mind." Repentance is not an emotion that we feel, but a decision. It is a inward change of mind and an outward change of direction.

Acts 19:18 And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. 19 Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.

Proverbs 28:13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

4. Jesus Christ, the Hope of the World

We have found him

John 1:45 Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

Who was Jesus?

Isa 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

What dose “Immanuel” mean, let’s see what the Bible says (**Matt 1:23**).

Jesus is God

1 Tim 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

Col 2:9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

Jesus is both fully God and fully man. He is God incarnate. He was the image of the invisible God.

What is the first commandment

Mark 12:29

Isa 43:10 Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. 11 I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour.

Isa 44:6 Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his redeemer the Lord of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.

Isa 44:24 Thus saith the Lord, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the Lord that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself;

Isa 45:5 I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: 6 That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west,

that there is none beside me. I am the Lord, and there is none else.

Isa 45:22 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.

Jesus proclaimed himself to be that God

John 10:30-34

Ex 3:14 And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

John 18:6

Father, Son and Holy Ghost are one

Isa 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

John 10:30; 14:4-10, 17-18, 26

The man Christ Jesus grew

Luke 2:40, 52

Jesus grew in four ways

Wisdom. Mental growth and acquired knowledge.

Stature. Physical growth. He became strong and healthy.

Favor with God. Spiritual growth, Preparation for His mission as the Son of God.

Favor with man. Social development and behavior. Jesus learned how to get along well with others and communicate effectively.

Heb 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

5. Jesus Teaches Kingdom Concepts

Two main methods were utilized by Christ to attract an audience—His miracles and His teaching.

His miracles...

His miracles can be classified into three categories:

- Control over the spirit world.
- Control over disease and death.
- Control over nature.

His parables...

One of the most fascinating features of His teaching was the constant use of parables, or short narratives, to illustrate the abstract concepts of His kingdom. All of his parables were true to life, and can be applied every day.

As you read these stories, you will find that most of them start like this; The Kingdom of heaven is like unto... and He would tell a parable.

The lost sheep

- What Jesus did for us

The sower

- How we are to grow

The Good Samaritan

- How we should treat others

6. Peter Receives Kingdom Keys

Matthew 16:13-20

Peter's confession was an absolutely complete description of Christ! Knowing the Old Testament Scriptures concerning the "God-Man" Who was to come, Peter knew that the "Son," or humanity of Jesus, would be born of a virgin, would dwell among men, and would be their God (Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; 35:4-6)!

What are the keys to the Kingdom

John 3:3-5

Moving into the kingdom has two parts: water and Spirit. Without these two you cannot see or enter into the kingdom of God.

Peter opens the door to salvation

Acts 2:38-39

To the Jews,

Acts 2:12-41

On the Day of Pentecost, Peter opened the door of salvation to the Jews by explaining the strange phenomena in the upper room (Acts 2). This was the first sermon with instructions for obeying the gospel.

To the Samaritans,

8:14-25

Later, Peter was also responsible for laying hands upon the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 8).

To the Gentiles

10:1-48

Finally, Peter opened the door for the "despised" Gentiles to be baptized with the Holy Spirit as he preached to the household of Cornelius in Caesarea (Acts 10).

Regardless of race, creed or national origin, the key still fits the door. How thankful we are that the promise still applies to believers in the twenty-first century!