

# The **Bible** Unpacked

## **Foundations Study Series**

A compilation of the Bible's teaching  
for believers consolidating their faith

paul mallison



# The Bible Unpacked™

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A compilation of the Bible's teaching  
for believers consolidating their faith

## **Part C. God and the World: Jesus Christ**

Composed by Paul Mallison

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## A Quick Word

This series of studies aims to present a compilation of the Bible's teachings in a clear and readable order. There are eight booklets in the series, based on the eight parts of the book *The Bible Unpacked - Foundations Edition*. Each booklet has five chapters, with questions added.

See *Topics in This Series* towards the end of this booklet for a full listing of all the topics. Note that studying booklets alternatively from the two major sections (*What to Know* and *What to Do*) would add variety.

The material contains Bible verses. Before the verses are headings, which reflect what the verses say – in particular the parts of the verses in *italics*. The verses are sometimes followed by a comment.

The verses often have a brief introduction. Usually these state who is speaking and often who they are speaking to. Apart from God and Jesus Christ, the main speakers are:

- Moses – who led the Israelites out of Egypt and taught them God's laws;
- David – Israel's greatest king who wrote many of the psalms, most of which are essentially prayers;
- Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and other prophets – who spoke to the people of Israel on God's behalf; and
- Paul, Peter, John and other leaders of the early church – who spoke to various groups and wrote letters to believers.

For free downloads and information on other study series based on editions of *The Bible Unpacked*, go to: [www.thebibleunpacked.net](http://www.thebibleunpacked.net).

Paul Mallison

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## Suggestions for Study Groups

### Preliminary matters:

- Beforehand the leader should: check the context of any verses they are not familiar with; and review the questions. If need be, they should compose questions more applicable to the group.
- Each person should have a Bible, for things such as checking a verse's context. It would also be helpful to have Bible commentaries on hand.
- Pray before beginning the study. Ask God for help in understanding the meaning of the verses and to affect your lives through them. Also pray together at the end.

### Doing the study:

- Ideally, read the material and answer the questions prior to the meeting. Then share answers and discuss any issues arising from the material in the meeting.
- Alternatively, read the material and answer the questions in the meeting – reading either aloud as a group or individually (prior to sharing answers). If reading as a group, **try having one person read the headings, another read the verses and another read the comments.** Additionally, a fourth person could read the Bible references.

### General or concluding questions:

If time permits, conclude with one or more of the following questions:

- What is something that you either: **did not know** before; gained **greater insight** into; or **needed reminding** of?
- What verse would be helpful to memorize and bear in mind during the next week?
- In taking the verses seriously, is there anything you should change in:
  - (a) how you relate to God and/or to other people; or
  - (b) any other area of your life (e.g. attitudes, values or behavior)?

If so, are there any specific steps you could take to do this?



## 11. God’s Promised Messiah

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The Old Testament Scriptures speak of a leader chosen and sent by God to save his people and to reign forever. This leader is known as the “Christ” or the “Messiah” – which are Greek and Hebrew terms respectively, meaning the “anointed” or the “Anointed One”.

In New Testament times the Jews looked forward to the Messiah’s coming – and many still do today. But the New Testament provides compelling evidence that this Messiah was in fact Jesus Christ.

## Promise of a Messiah

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### Promise of a coming anointed one of God

[THE ARCHANGEL GABRIEL, TO DANIEL:] So know and understand: From the issuing of the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem *until an anointed one, a prince arrives*, there will be a period of seven weeks and sixty-two weeks. DANIEL 9:25A NET

### Promise that the anointed one would have God's Spirit

[THE COMING MESSIAH:] *The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ...* ISAIAH 61:1 ESV

### Promise that one would arise as a great ruler of Israel

[GOD:] As for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, seemingly insignificant among the clans of Judah — from you *a king will emerge who will rule over Israel on my behalf, one whose origins are in the distant past.* MICAH 5:2 NET

### Promise that he would bring God's salvation to the nations

[GOD, AS SPEAKING TO THE MESSIAH:] *I will make you a light for all nations to show people all over the world the way to be saved.* ISAIAH 49:6B NCV™

## Prophecy of the Messiah's Death for Sins

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### The Messiah would die for people's sins, but then be raised

*But he was wounded for the wrong we did; he was crushed for the evil we did. The punishment, which made us well, was given to him, and we are healed because of his wounds. ...* <sup>10</sup>*But it was the LORD who decided to crush him and make him suffer. The LORD made his life a penalty offering, but he will still see his descendants and live a long life. He will complete the things the LORD wants him to do.*

<sup>11</sup>“*After his soul suffers many things, he will see life and be satisfied. My good servant will make many people right with God; he will carry away their sins.* ISIAH 53:5, 10–11 NCV™

Verse 5 speaks of the Messiah's suffering for people's sins bringing them spiritual healing – effectively peace with God. Verse 10 appears to speak of God raising his messianic servant to life (following his death). The term “his descendants” (v. 10b) refers to the servant's spiritual descendants – those who would be given life through him. The resurrection of the Messiah is further spoken of in v. 11.

## The Messiah's Identity

### Jesus Christ is the one anointed by God, with the Holy Spirit

*God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, and he went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, because God was with him.* ACTS 10:38 ISV

The Holy Spirit coming down onto Jesus at his baptism (cf. Matthew 3:16–17) was God's anointing of Jesus for his mission. This also marked Jesus as the Messiah – the “Anointed One” – and fulfilled Old Testament (OT) prophecies that God would put his Spirit on the Messiah (cf. Isaiah 11:2; 42:1; 61:1). Jesus' remarkable ministry, in which he “went around doing good and healing”, was evidence of this and that God was with him.

### The OT Scriptures show that Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ

For with his strong arguments he [Apollos] defeated the Jews in public debates by *proving from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Messiah.*

ACTS 18:28 GNT

### Jesus' deeds showed that he is the Messiah, the Christ

*Jesus performed many other miracles that his disciples saw. Those miracles are not written in this book.* <sup>31</sup>*But these miracles have been written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and so that you will have life by believing in him.* JOHN 20:30–31 GW

## The Messiah's Mission

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### **God sent Jesus Christ to take away sins**

You know that *Christ came to take away sins.* 1 JOHN 3:5A CEV

### **As such, God sent Jesus Christ to save the world**

God did not send his Son into the world to condemn its people. *He sent him to save them!* JOHN 3:17 CEV

### **Jesus Christ came as a human being**

By *sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh* and concerning sin, he [God] condemned sin in the flesh, ... ROMANS 8:3B NET

God sent Jesus Christ “in a human body like ours” (NLT).

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Who or what is the "Messiah" that the Old Testament Scriptures speak about?

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What elements of the gospel message are in the passages from Isaiah 53?

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What reasons are there to believe that Jesus Christ is the Messiah?

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What does the teaching that God sent Jesus - including the reasons for him doing so - show us about God?

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Why was it necessary for Jesus to become a human being?

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## 12. Jesus Christ's Mission

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In carrying out his mission, Jesus Christ lived a life unparalleled in word and deed. His life culminated in his sacrificial death and subsequent resurrection. The Bible claims that our eternal destiny will be determined by how we respond to the New Testament's testimony to these events.

## Jesus Christ's Ministry

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### Jesus did the work God wanted him to do

[JESUS, SPEAKING OF GOD:] *He is the one who sent me, and I must finish the work that he gave me to do.* JOHN 4:34B CEV

### Jesus did many miraculous deeds with God's power

*God had given Jesus the power to heal the sick, ...* LUKE 5:17B CEV

One night Nicodemus came to Jesus and said, "Teacher, we know you are a teacher sent from God, because *no one can do the miracles you do unless God is with him.*" JOHN 3:2 NCV™

### Jesus preached the good news of the kingdom of God

Jesus went all over Galilee, teaching in the Jewish meeting places and *preaching the good news about God's kingdom.* He also healed every kind of disease and sickness. MATTHEW 4:23 CEV

### Jesus' teaching was from God

[JESUS, TO HIS DISCIPLES:] I don't make up what you hear me say. *What I say comes from the Father who sent me.* JOHN 14:24B GW

## Jesus Christ's Death

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### The Jewish religious authorities strongly opposed Jesus

*Because Jesus was doing this on the Sabbath day, the Jews began to persecute him.* <sup>17</sup>But Jesus said to them, "My Father never stops working, and so I keep working, too." <sup>18</sup>*This made the Jews try still harder to kill him.* They said, "First Jesus was breaking the law about the Sabbath day. Now he says that God is his own Father, making himself equal with God!" JOHN 5:16–18 NCV™

### The Jews compelled the Romans to crucify Jesus

Pilate [the Roman governor] wanted to set Jesus free, so he spoke again to the crowds. <sup>21</sup>But they kept shouting, "*Nail him to a cross! Nail him to a cross!*" ... <sup>23</sup>*The people kept on shouting as loud as*

*they could for Jesus to be put to death.* <sup>24</sup>*Finally, Pilate gave in.*  
 LUKE 23:20–21, 23–24 CEV

Pilate was trying to reason with crowds led by the Jewish religious authorities.

### **It was God's will that Jesus die – for everyone**

[PETER, TO A CROWD OF LARGELY JEWS:] *In accordance with his own plan God had already decided that Jesus would be handed over to you; and you killed him by letting sinful men crucify him.* ACTS 2:23 GNT

*God didn't spare his own Son but handed him over to death for all of us.* ROMANS 8:32A GOD'S WORD®

## **Jesus Christ's Resurrection**

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### **God raised Jesus from the dead**

*But God raised him from death, setting him free from its power, because it was impossible that death should hold him prisoner.*  
 ACTS 2:24 GNT

### **Jesus' body was not found in his tomb**

[AN EARLY BELIEVER:] *Some of the women from our group startled us. They went to the tomb early this morning* <sup>23</sup>*and didn't find his body. They told us that they had seen angels who said that he's alive.* <sup>24</sup>*Some of our men went to the tomb and found it empty, as the women had said, but they didn't see him.* LUKE 24:22–24 GW

### **Jesus appeared to people after his resurrection**

*After his death Jesus showed the apostles a lot of convincing evidence that he was alive. For 40 days he appeared to them and talked with them about the kingdom of God.* ACTS 1:3 GW

## Jesus Christ's Ascension

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### Jesus was taken up to God in heaven

They [two angels] said, “Why are you men from Galilee standing here and looking up into the sky? *Jesus has been taken to heaven. But he will come back in the same way that you have seen him go.*”

ACTS 1:11 CEV

### God gave Jesus Christ great glory

He [Jesus] was humble and walked the path of obedience all the way to death—his death on the cross. <sup>9</sup>*For this reason God raised him to the highest place above and gave him the name that is greater than any other name.* <sup>10</sup>*And so, in honor of the name of Jesus all beings in heaven, on earth, and in the world below will fall on their knees,* <sup>11</sup>*and all will openly proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.* PHILIPPIANS 2:8–11 GNT

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Is there anything you could do to better imitate Jesus' example of living a life focused on carrying out God's will?

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What things about Jesus' life and teaching set him apart from other great teachers and their teaching?

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What makes you think Jesus was raised from the dead? (The group could make a list of reasons which could be used in talking to someone who is skeptical about it.)

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What did God do for Jesus following his death?

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Can you see a link between being humble and obeying God (cf. Philippians 2:8)? If so, what?

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## 13. Salvation through Jesus Christ

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The teachings in this chapter are at the absolute heart of the New Testament and the gospel message. It is critical for anyone trying to comprehend the Christian faith to soundly understand them.

## Jesus Christ's Sacrifice for Us

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### Jesus Christ died as a sacrifice for our sins

We need a priest who doesn't have to bring daily sacrifices as those chief priests did. First they brought sacrifices for their own sins, and then they brought sacrifices for the sins of the people. *Jesus brought the sacrifice for the sins of the people once and for all when he sacrificed himself.* HEBREWS 7:27 GW

Jesus Christ died as a sacrifice to God for people's sin – "once and for all". His sacrifice is enough for the sins of all people. Now no more sacrifices need to be made.

### So, Jesus Christ died for us

But God demonstrates his own love for us, in that *while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* ROMANS 5:8 NET

Jesus Christ gave his life as a substitute for our lives. He died in our place to pay the penalty for our sin, so that we would not have to pay it ourselves with everlasting death. Instead we can have everlasting life. This is life which extends beyond physical death.

Note that as the Son of God, Jesus Christ's life is worth infinitely more than our lives, and so his death was an adequate sacrifice for any number of people.

## Forgiveness of Sins through Jesus Christ

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### Jesus Christ's sacrifice means that our sins can be forgiven

But *Christ came only once and for all time at just the right time to take away all sin by sacrificing himself.* <sup>27</sup>Just as everyone must die once and be judged, <sup>28</sup>so *Christ was offered as a sacrifice one time to take away the sins of many people.* HEBREWS 9:26B–28A NCV™

[PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] *For by the blood of Christ we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven.* EPHESIANS 1:7B GNT

The mention of Jesus Christ's "blood" is a reference to his sacrificial death for us, by which we can be forgiven.

## Through Jesus Christ's death we can be at peace with God

[PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] You used to be far from God. Your thoughts made you his enemies, and you did evil things. <sup>22</sup>But *his Son became a human and died. So God made peace with you, and now he lets you stand in his presence as people who are holy and faultless and innocent.* COLOSSIANS 1:21–22 CEV

## Jesus Christ's resurrection was also crucial

Jesus was given to die for our sins, and *he was raised from the dead to make us right with God.* ROMANS 4:25 NCV™

Jesus Christ's resurrection was crucial for us to be made right with God – i.e. to be forgiven and at peace with him.

## Salvation and Life through Jesus Christ

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### God provides salvation through Jesus Christ

[PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] *God did not choose us to suffer his anger but to have salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.* 1 THESSALONIANS 5:9 NCV™

### We can only be saved through Jesus Christ

*Salvation is to be found through him alone; in all the world there is no one else whom God has given who can save us.* ACTS 4:12 GNT

*Jesus replied, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father [God] except through me.* JOHN 14:6 NET

The first statement most likely means that: Jesus is the way to God because he is the one who provides truth and spiritual life. The second statement clearly states that Jesus is the only way to God. This indicates that he is the only source of salvation.

### Through Jesus Christ we can have eternal life

God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that *everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die. ...* <sup>36</sup>*Everyone who has faith in the Son has eternal life. But no one who rejects him will ever share in that life, and God will be angry with them forever.* JOHN 3:16, 36 CEV

## Salvation for the Gentiles

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In OT times it was firstly only the Israelites, then after the Babylonian captivity more specifically the Jews, who were “God’s people” and as such knew the way of God’s salvation. But through Jesus Christ’s mission, God has made salvation open to the Gentiles.

### **God has provided salvation for the Gentiles through Christ**

*God did this [revealed his plan of salvation] because he wanted you Gentiles to understand his wonderful and glorious mystery. And the mystery is that Christ lives in you, and he is your hope of sharing in God’s glory.* COLOSSIANS 1:27 CEV

### **God has made the way of faith in Jesus Christ open to Gentiles as well as Jews – there is no difference**

*God puts people right through their faith in Jesus Christ. God does this to all who believe in Christ, because there is no difference at all: ...<sup>30</sup> God is one, and he will put the Jews right with himself on the basis of their faith, and will put the Gentiles right through their faith.*

ROMANS 3:22, 30 GNT

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How does Jesus Christ's death bring God's forgiveness of sins?

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In what sense are we free from sin's control, through Jesus Christ's death?

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Why is it so important that Jesus was raised from the dead?

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Do you think that people can be saved only through Jesus Christ? Explain your reasoning.

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How can simply believing (or having faith) in Jesus bring eternal life?

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## 14. The New Order

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Through what Jesus Christ accomplished, God has established a new order in his relationship with the world. This chapter outlines the key aspects of this new order.

## Righteousness by Faith and Grace

### **We are not made right by obeying the law – but by faith in Christ**

For *no one is put right in God's sight by doing what the Law requires*; what the Law does is to make people know that they have sinned. <sup>21</sup>But *now God's way of putting people right with himself has been revealed. It has nothing to do with law, even though the Law of Moses and the prophets gave their witness to it.* <sup>22</sup>*God puts people right through their faith in Jesus Christ.* ROMANS 3:20–22A GNT

The Israelites failed to keep God's law that he gave to them through Moses. Their experience showed that people are incapable of keeping the law. As such, we are unable to earn righteousness and be made right with God through the law.

But through Jesus Christ's death, God has provided a new way of righteousness through having faith in Jesus Christ. This involves believing Jesus Christ to be (with what he has accomplished) the means of righteousness – and accordingly trusting in him for one's own righteousness.

### **We are made right by God's grace, through Jesus Christ – not by law**

[PAUL:] *I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the law, then the Messiah died for nothing.* GALATIANS 2:21 ISV

God's grace is his free and undeserved favor to people. By God's grace we are granted righteousness through Jesus Christ's death for us – as opposed to earning righteousness through obeying the law. Otherwise Christ's death would have been pointless.

### **So, we are saved by God's grace rather than by what we do**

For *by grace you are saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God;* <sup>9</sup>*it is not from works, so that no one can boast.* EPHESIANS 2:8–9 NET

In this context, "works" refers to things one does to attempt to work for or earn righteousness and salvation – notably in trying to fulfill the law's demands.

## A New Covenant

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### Through Christ believers have been released from the law

[PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] And so *the Law was in charge of us until Christ came, in order that we might then be put right with God through faith.* <sup>25</sup>*Now that the time for faith is here, the Law is no longer in charge of us.* GALATIANS 3:24–25 GNT

The law was only ever to be the authority over God's people until Jesus Christ came, when faith would take its place as the way for God's people to be made righteous.

Note that the law's commands that are applicable either to the believer's new spiritual relationship with God or to their relationships with other people are still relevant. For they give guidance in how to please God.

### The first covenant was inadequate and superseded by the superior new covenant – through Christ

But now, Jesus has been given priestly work which is superior to theirs [the priests' ministry], just as *the covenant which he arranged between God and his people is a better one, because it is based on promises of better things.* <sup>7</sup>*If there had been nothing wrong with the first covenant, there would have been no need for a second one. ...* <sup>13</sup>*By speaking of a new covenant, God has made the first one old; and anything that becomes old and worn out will soon disappear.*

HEBREWS 8:6–7, 13 GNT

The covenant which God made with Israel, based on the law, is often referred to as the first covenant or old covenant. It proved inadequate as Israel could not keep the covenant laws and so be righteous before God.

So God introduced a superior new covenant – through Jesus Christ, who is now the high priest of God's people (as per the following subsection). Under this new covenant, God's people have not only been released from the old covenant's law, God's laws in fact become internal principles for them, not just commands from an external source (cf. Hebrews 8:10). Additionally, God's people can be sure that their sins are truly forgiven (cf. Hebrews 8:12).

## Jesus Christ is now the high priest of God’s people, interceding for them before God in heaven

[THE WRITER, TO BELIEVERS:] *We have a high priest who sits on the right side of God’s throne in heaven. <sup>2</sup>Our high priest serves in the Most Holy Place, the true place of worship that was made by God, not by humans.* HEBREWS 8:1–2 NCV™

[PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] Christ died and was raised to life, and *now he is at God’s right side, speaking to him for us.* ROMANS 8:34B CEV

## Other Key Aspects

### The kingdom of God came in Jesus Christ’s mission

*He [Jesus] said, “The right time has come. The kingdom of God is near. Change your hearts and lives and believe the Good News!”*

MARK 1:15 NCV™

With Jesus’ mission, the time had come for the kingdom of God to come near. As such, a more far-reaching, spiritual dimension of God’s reign was established. It exists primarily in the hearts and minds of God’s people (cf. Luke 17:20b–21). Bear in mind that at the end of the age, God’s kingdom and authority will be fully imposed over all things.

### God has made Jesus Christ Lord of all

You know the message he [God] sent to the people of Israel, proclaiming the Good News of peace through *Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.* ACTS 10:36 GNT

*Then God gave Christ the highest place and honored his name above all others. <sup>10</sup>So at the name of Jesus everyone will bow down, those in heaven, on earth, and under the earth. <sup>11</sup>And to the glory of God the Father everyone will openly agree, “Jesus Christ is Lord!”*

PHILIPPIANS 2:9–11 CEV

God has made Jesus Christ Lord of all things, to rule over all creation on God’s behalf. Note that vv. 10–11 above speak of all people in the future acknowledging Jesus Christ’s position as Lord. He also holds this position now.

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What does the Bible mean in saying that we are put right in God's sight by his "grace"?

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What is the new covenant that God introduced through Jesus Christ?

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What does Jesus Christ do in his role as high priest? How is this encouraging for us?

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What is the kingdom of God?

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How should the fact that Jesus Christ is "Lord of all" affect us?

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## 15. 'The Last Things'

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The history of the world as we know it will culminate in Jesus Christ's dramatic and awesome return. Associated with this is God's final judgment of all people. Afterwards the wonderful and everlasting life with God will begin, for those who are his people.

## Jesus Christ's Return

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### Jesus Christ will return at an unexpected time

You know very well that *the day the Lord comes again will be a surprise, like a thief that comes in the night.* 1 THESSALONIANS 5:2 NCV™

*No one knows when that day or hour will come—not the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father,* <sup>37</sup>*because just as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be when the Son of Man [Jesus] comes.* <sup>38</sup>*In those days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage right up to the day when Noah went into the ark. <sup>39</sup>They were unaware of what was happening until the flood came and swept all of them away. That's how it will be when the Son of Man comes.* MATTHEW 24:36–39 ISV

### Jesus Christ's return will be preceded by distressful events

*And when you hear of wars and rebellions, do not be afraid. For these things must happen first, but the end will not come at once.”* <sup>10</sup>*Then he [Jesus] said to them, “Nation will rise up in arms against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. <sup>11</sup>There will be great earthquakes, and famines and plagues in various places, and there will be terrifying sights and great signs from heaven.* LUKE 21:9–11 NET

### Awesome cosmic events will occur prior to Christ's return

Soon after the trouble of those days, *the sun will grow dark, the moon will no longer shine, the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers in space will be driven from their courses.* <sup>30</sup>*Then the sign of the Son of Man [Jesus] will appear in the sky ....* MATTHEW 24:29–30A GNT

### Jesus Christ will return with his angels and in great glory

He will do this *when the Lord Jesus appears from heaven with his mighty angels, ...* 2 THESSALONIANS 1:7B GNT

*Then the Son of Man will be seen, coming in a cloud with great power and glory.* LUKE 21:27 CEV

## The Final Judgment

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### On his return, Jesus Christ will judge and reward all people according to what they have done

*For the Son of Man will come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.* MATTHEW 16:27 NET

### Those who have believed in Jesus Christ will be saved

[A JAILER, TO PAUL AND SILAS:] *“What must I do to be saved?”* <sup>31</sup>*They replied, “Have faith in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved! This is also true for everyone who lives in your home.”* ACTS 16:30B–31 CEV

### Those who have rejected Christ will be condemned

*The one who does not believe has been condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God.* JOHN 3:18B NET

This and the above subsections show that people will be judged according to their deeds and their response to Jesus Christ.

### The ungodly will be thrown into fire

And Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. *The lake of fire is the second death.* <sup>15</sup>*And anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.* REVELATION 20:14–15 NCV™

### What people have known will be taken into account

*For all who have sinned apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law.* ROMANS 2:12 ISV

Gentiles without knowledge of the Mosaic Law, by nature have a grasp of its requirements (cf. vv. 14–15) and will be judged as such (v. 12a). Those who know the law have a clearer understanding of what God requires, and so they will be judged more strictly (v. 12b).

## The Afterlife

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### God's people will be given eternal life

[JUDE, TO BELIEVERS:] Keep yourselves in God's love as you *wait for the Lord Jesus Christ with his mercy to give you life forever.*

JUDE 1:21 NCV™

### There will be no more sorrow and no more death

*He [God] will wipe away all tears from their eyes. There will be no more death, no more grief or crying or pain. The old things have disappeared.* REVELATION 21:4 GNT

### God's people will be with God and Jesus Christ forever

[JOHN, DESCRIBING A VISION:] I heard a loud voice shout from the throne: *God's home is now with his people. He will live with them, and they will be his own. Yes, God will make his home among his people.* REVELATION 21:3 CEV

[PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air. *And so we will be with the Lord forever.* 1 THESSALONIANS 4:17 ISV

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Are there any signs in the world today that indicate that Jesus Christ's return is nearer now than it was a century ago?

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How does the teaching about Christ's return motivate and encourage you?

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What factors will be taken into account when each person is judged?

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How should we respond to the teaching about hell, both in regard to ourselves and to others?

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List three things that you really look forward to about eternity.

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## Topics in This Series

### Section I: What to Know

#### **Part A.** God and Spiritual Powers

1. God's Being
2. God's Character
3. Jesus Christ
4. The Holy Spirit
5. Angels, Demons and Satan

#### **Part B.** God and the World: Basics

6. God's Creation
7. God's Sovereignty
8. God's Word
9. The Problem of Sin
10. God's Judgment

#### **Part C.** God and the World: Jesus Christ

11. God's Promised Messiah
12. Jesus Christ's Mission
13. Salvation through Jesus Christ
14. The New Order
15. 'The Last Things'

#### **Part D.** God and His Own People

16. The Standing of God's People
17. Keys to God's Interaction with His People
18. God's Transformation of His People
19. God's Care of His People
20. God's Plans for His People

### Section II: What to Do

#### **Part E.** Relating to God

21. Being Right with God
22. Having Faith in God
23. Loving, Fearing and Obeying God
24. Connecting with God
25. Exalting God

#### **Part F.** Church Life

26. Being One Body
27. Worshipping God
28. Serving God
29. Significant Practices
30. Church Leadership

#### **Part G.** Relating to People

31. Love
32. Justice
33. Wisdom
34. Common Relationships
35. Spreading the Gospel


#### **Part H.** Persevering


36. Standing Firm
37. Spurning Sin
38. Major Pitfalls
39. Hard Times
40. Persecution

## Overview of *The Bible Unpacked*


There are seven editions of *The Bible Unpacked*, as shown below. Each edition is an abbreviated version of the next longest edition. As such they have similar structures. Four of the editions have studies based on them, with the same text along with questions. For more details and free downloads of all the material, go to [www.thebibleunpacked.net](http://www.thebibleunpacked.net).

 **Two-Minute Edition:** *Key Bible teachings for people “on the run”*  
For giving to non-Christians.


 **Pocket Edition:** *Key Bible teachings for seekers of truth*  
Largely for giving to inquiring non-Christians or young new Christians.

 **Concise Edition:** *Key Bible teachings for new believers*  
For either new or young Christians. Suitable to give to non-Christian friends. Has study series based on it.




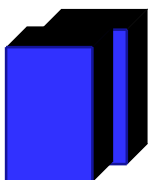
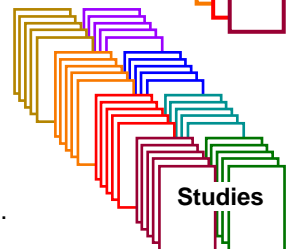
 **Foundations Edition:** *A compilation of the Bible’s teaching for believers consolidating their faith.* For newer Christians.  
Study series is ideal for studies with newer believers.



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Studies are excellent for Bible study groups.



 **Comprehensive Edition:** *A compilation of the Bible’s teaching for believers established in the faith.* For a comprehensive knowledge of the faith. Useful as a study or a devotional tool - and preparing talks.  
Studies are ideal for studying topics in detail.



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For Christians keen to gain a deep understanding of their faith. Useful for speakers preparing talks, study groups leaders, Bible students and Bible colleges.  
It is also in an electronic version, which is a PDF file.



## An Appeal on Behalf of Persecuted Christians

Over 200 million Christians in at least 60 countries are denied basic human rights solely because of their faith. (Source: World Evangelical Alliance) Every year many Christians are killed because of their faith.

Through prayer, encouragement and practical assistance we can assist and fellowship with persecuted Christians in their suffering. You can play a vital part in this through contacting one of the organizations listed below. Most produce regular news/prayer letters.

### **Barnabas Fund** – [www.barnabasfund.org](http://www.barnabasfund.org)

It provides material and spiritual support in response to needs identified by local Christian leaders.

### **Christian Faith and Freedom** – [www.cffreedom.org](http://www.cffreedom.org)

It advocates on behalf of and aids persecuted Christians.

### **Christian Solidarity International** – [www.csi-int.org](http://www.csi-int.org)

CSI works to defend religious liberty and help persecuted Christians.

### **Christian Solidarity Worldwide** – [www.csw.org.uk](http://www.csw.org.uk)

It advocates for freedom of religion and justice for persecuted believers.

### **Compass Direct** – [www.compassdirect.org](http://www.compassdirect.org)

This is a Christian news service providing news, reports, interviews and analyses of situations facing persecuted Christians.

### **Open Doors** – [sb.od.org](http://sb.od.org); [www.opendoors.org.au](http://www.opendoors.org.au)

It provides Bibles and other Christian materials, to prepare believers for persecution and equip them to maintain a witness to the Gospel.

### **Religious Liberty Commission** – [www.worldevangelicals.org/commissions/rlc/](http://www.worldevangelicals.org/commissions/rlc/); [www.ea.org.au/ea-family/Religious-Liberty.aspx](http://www.ea.org.au/ea-family/Religious-Liberty.aspx)

RLC defends and aids persecuted Christians. See also [www.idop.org](http://www.idop.org)  
Receive weekly updates by sending a blank email to [join-rlpb@hub.xc.org](mailto:join-rlpb@hub.xc.org).

### **The Bible League** – [www.bibleleague.org/persecuted](http://www.bibleleague.org/persecuted); [www.bibleleague.com](http://www.bibleleague.com)

It supplies Bibles to persecuted Christians and also provides training.

### **Voice of the Martyrs** – [www.persecution.com](http://www.persecution.com); [www.persecution.com.au](http://www.persecution.com.au)

VOM provides Bibles, literature, radio broadcasts and other assistance to help persecuted Christians spread the gospel. They also send material aid.

*Then the King will answer, 'I tell you the truth, anything you did for even the least of my people here, you also did for me.'* Matthew 25:40 NCV



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