

Part D. God and His Own People

# The **Bible** Unpacked

## **Foundations Study Series**

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

paul mallison



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

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

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 lead 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?



## 16. The Standing of God's People

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This chapter looks at the position or standing of God's people in relationship to God. Probably the most basic aspect of this is simply that they are God's people and so belong to him. As such the relationship between believers and God is both a strong one and a close one. This is underlined by the teaching that God's people are now "in" Jesus Christ.

## Prelude

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### God calls people to be his people

[PETER, TELLING A CROWD OF THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:] For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, *everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself*. ACTS 2:39 ESV

### God enables people to believe and turn to Jesus Christ

But other believers, who were from Cyprus and Cyrene, arrived in Antioch. They started to spread the Good News about the Lord Jesus to Greeks. <sup>21</sup>*The Lord's power was with his followers, and a large number of people believed and turned to the Lord*. ACTS 11:20–21 GW

The people's belief and turning to the Lord (v. 21b) is attributed to neither how the message was presented nor the people's own initiative, but to the Lord's power (v. 21a). Note that in believing and turning to God (or Jesus Christ), we become his people.

## Belonging to God

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### God's people belong to him

[PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] You put your faith in Christ and were given the promised Holy Spirit to show that *you belong to God*. EPHESIANS 1:13 CEV

### They are God's people

[PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] God loves you and has chosen you as *his own special people*. So be gentle, kind, humble, meek, and patient. COLOSSIANS 3:12 CEV

### God is their God

[ABIJAH, KING OF JUDAH:] But as for us, *the LORD is our God* and we have not rejected him. 2 CHRONICLES 13:10A NET

## Being God's Family

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### Each believer belongs to the family of God

[PAUL, TO NON-JEWISH BELIEVERS:] Now you who are not Jewish are not foreigners or strangers any longer, but are citizens together with God's holy people. *You belong to God's family.* EPHESIANS 2:19 NCV™

### God is the Father of his people

[PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] Grace and peace to you from *God our Father* and the Lord Jesus Christ! ROMANS 1:7B NET

### God's people are his children

But *to all who did accept him [Jesus] and believe in him he gave the right to become children of God.* <sup>13</sup>They did not become his children in any human way—by any human parents or human desire. *They were born of God.* JOHN 1:12–13 NCV™

Those who accept Jesus Christ and believe in him (v. 12a) are enabled to become God's children (v. 12b) – born of God (v. 13) into spiritual life.

### God's people form his church

[PAUL, TO CHURCH LEADERS:] Be like shepherds to *God's church. It is the flock that he bought with the blood of his own Son.* ACTS 20:28B CEV

## Being “in” Jesus Christ

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### God's people are “in” Jesus Christ

From Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints [believers], *the faithful in Christ Jesus.* EPHESIANS 1:1 NET

Being “in” Jesus Christ involves the association of believers with Jesus Christ. Through this association they participate with Jesus Christ in such things as: his victory over sin and death; his life; and other blessings he has won.

## **“In” Jesus Christ they are redeemed and forgiven**

[PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] *In him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.* COLOSSIANS 1:14 ISV

Note that “redemption” or being “redeemed” refers to the concept of being bought by God, with Jesus Christ’s death, from enslavement to sin.

## **Through Jesus Christ God’s people have access to God**

[PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] *Yes, it is through Christ we all have the right to come to the Father in one Spirit.* EPHESIANS 2:18 NCV™

Verses such as this which speak of God’s people relating to God (e.g. praying to him) “through” Jesus Christ, appear to have in view one or more of the following three concepts: Jesus Christ’s death opening the way into God’s presence; Jesus Christ’s priesthood; and God’s people being “in” Jesus Christ. All three of these are aspects of Jesus Christ’s role as a mediator in a believer’s relationship with God.

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In what sense do Christians belong to God?

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What does being a child of God mean to you?

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What is God's "church"?

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In your own words explain what being "in Jesus Christ" means.

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What do you think relating to God through Jesus Christ involves?

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## 17. Keys to God’s Interaction with His People

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This chapter discusses key factors that underlie and influence all God does in relating to his people. The latter part looks at God’s incomparable gift of his Holy Spirit, which is at the heart of God’s relationship with each believer.

## God's Presence with His People

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### God and Jesus Christ are always with their people

[GOD:] *Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.* JOSHUA 1:5B ESV

[JESUS:] *And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.* MATTHEW 28:20B NET

Note that most of what this and the following chapters in *Part D* say about God is also applicable to Jesus Christ.

### God is with his people in trouble – and sees them through it

God is our refuge and strength, *an ever-present help in times of trouble.* PSALMS 46:1 GW

[GOD:] *When you pass through the waters, I am with you; when you pass through the streams, they will not overwhelm you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not harm you.* ISAIAH 43:2 NET

## God's Knowledge of His People

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### God knows his people

[GOD, TO MOSES:] *I know you by name.* EXODUS 33:17B ISV

The expression “I know you by name” indicates: intimate knowledge – “I know you very well” (GNT, NCV); and a personal relationship – “you are my friend” (NLT, cf. CEV).

### God knows his people's needs

*Your Father [God] already knows what you need before you ask him.* MATTHEW 6:8B GNT

### God even enables his people to know him

[PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] I always remember you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup>asking the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the glorious Father, to give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation so that you will know him better.* EPHESIANS 1:16B–17 NCV™

## God's Love, Faithfulness and Grace

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### God loves his people greatly

[DAVID, TO GOD:] You are good to us and forgiving, *full of constant love for all who pray to you.* PSALMS 86:5 GNT

### God is faithful to his people

*The LORD always proves faithful and reliable to those who follow the demands of his covenant.* PSALMS 25:10 NET

### God shows much grace to his people

[PAUL, TO THE CORINTHIANS:] And in their [needy believers'] prayers on your behalf they long for you because of *the extraordinary grace God has shown to you.* 2 CORINTHIANS 9:14 NET

Here Paul speaks of God's grace in moving the Corinthians to generously give towards supporting needy believers. The verse illustrates that God's grace (his undeserved favor) is shown not only in his provision of salvation, but also in his ongoing dealings with his people.

## God's Gift of the Holy Spirit

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### God gives his people his Holy Spirit, to live in them

[PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] All of this happens because *God has given us the Holy Spirit*, who fills our hearts with his love. ROMANS 5:5B CEV

[PAUL, TO TIMOTHY:] With the help of *the Holy Spirit who lives in us*, protect the Good News that has been entrusted to you. 2 TIMOTHY 1:14 GW

### The Holy Spirit is God's seal, guaranteeing what is to come

[PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] *When you believed in him you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup>who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of God's own possession*, to his praise and glory.

EPHESIANS 1:13B–14 ISV

God's "own possession" refers to believers, who have been marked as such by being given the Holy Spirit.

## Roles of the Holy Spirit

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### **The Holy Spirit brings spiritual life and spiritual “fruit”**

*It is the Spirit that gives life.* JOHN 6:63A NCV™

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.* GALATIANS 5:22–23 ISV

### **The Holy Spirit helps God’s people**

[PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] *In certain ways we are weak, but the Spirit is here to help us. For example, when we don’t know what to pray for, the Spirit prays for us in ways that cannot be put into words.*

ROMANS 8:26 CEV

### **God works through his people by the Holy Spirit**

[GOD, TO ZERUBBABEL WHO WAS A LEADER OF THE JEWS:] *I am the LORD All-Powerful. So don’t depend on your own power or strength, but on my Spirit. <sup>7</sup>Zerubbabel, that mountain in front of you will be leveled to the ground. Then you will bring out the temple’s most important stone and shout, “God has been very kind.”* ZECHARIAH 4:6B–7 CEV

God would accomplish the work he was doing through Zerubbabel by his Spirit. By the Holy Spirit Zerubbabel would overcome mountainous problems, in completing the work of rebuilding the temple.

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How should knowing that God is always with his people affect the way we think and act?

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How do or how can we actually know God?

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How has God shown his love and/or his faithfulness to you?

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In what ways does the Holy Spirit help us?

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Are you aware of the Holy Spirit's work in your life? If so, how? If not, what can you do about it?

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## 18. God's Transformation of His People

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Each Christian is being remarkably transformed by God. This chapter looks at what changes are involved and how God brings about these changes.

## Spiritual Life

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### God's people are given spiritual life

[JESUS:] *The Spirit is the one who gives life; human nature is of no help! The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.*

JOHN 6:63 NET

Jesus' words, together with the Holy Spirit, bring life. They give believers a spiritual awareness that enables them to live in relationship with God. As such they are "alive to God".

### In union with Jesus Christ, their sinful selves have "died" and they are now spiritually alive

[PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] *We know that the persons we used to be were nailed to the cross with Jesus. This was done, so that our sinful bodies would no longer be the slaves of sin.* <sup>7</sup>We know that sin doesn't have power over dead people. <sup>8</sup>*As surely as we died with Christ, we believe we will also live with him. ...* <sup>11</sup>*... Christ Jesus has given life to you, and you live for God.* ROMANS 6:6–8, 11B CEV

In our union with Jesus Christ we are identified with him in his death and resurrection. In a spiritual sense our old sinful selves have died with him in his death and we have been made alive spiritually with him in his post-resurrection life.

### As such, God's people are spiritually reborn of God

*They did not become his children in any human way—by any human parents or human desire. They were born of God.* JOHN 1:12–13 NCV™

## Holiness

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Holiness concerns being set apart for God - dedicated to him, for such purposes as doing his work and worshiping him. This involves them being made pure from sin.

Being made holy has a couple of phases. Firstly, when a person comes to faith their sins are forgiven and as such they are holy. Secondly, believers are made holy in that they are continually being transformed by God, becoming more like Jesus Christ and

increasingly devoid of sin. This process is often referred to as "sanctification".

### **God's people are made holy, through Jesus Christ's sacrifice**

*He [Jesus] suffered to make the people holy with his own blood.*

HEBREWS 13:12B GW

### **God's people are being transformed to be like Jesus Christ**

[PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] Our faces, then, are not covered. We all show the Lord's glory, and *we are being changed to be like him.*

2 CORINTHIANS 3:18A NCV™

With the development of the believer's holiness, their characters grow more like Christ. As such believers increasingly reflect Christ's glory.

## **Spiritual Attributes**

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### **God gives his people love and faith**

Peace to the brothers and sisters [believers], and *love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.* EPHESIANS 6:23 NET

### **God gives his people hope**

[PETER, TO BELIEVERS:] Praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is so good, and *by raising Jesus from death, he has given us new life and a hope that lives on.* 1 PETER 1:3 CEV

Through Jesus Christ's resurrection, God has given believers the hope of their own resurrection.

### **God gives his people peace**

[PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] Never worry about anything. But in every situation let God know what you need in prayers and requests while giving thanks. *<sup>7</sup>Then God's peace, which goes beyond anything we can imagine, will guard your thoughts and emotions through Christ Jesus.* PHILIPPIANS 4:6–7 GW

## God gives his people joy

[PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] *May God, the source of hope, fill you with all joy and peace by means of your faith in him, so that your hope will continue to grow by the power of the Holy Spirit.* ROMANS 15:13 GNT

## God gives his people wisdom and knowledge

*God gives wisdom, knowledge, and joy to anyone who pleases him.* ECCLESIASTES 2:26A GW

## How God Transforms

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### God disciplines his people as his children, who he loves

[THE WRITER, TO BELIEVERS:] *The Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as his child.”* <sup>7</sup>*So hold on through your sufferings, because they are like a father’s discipline. God is treating you as children. All children are disciplined by their fathers.* <sup>8</sup>*If you are never disciplined (and every child must be disciplined), you are not true children.* HEBREWS 12:6–8 NCV™

### God teaches his people

*He shows those who are humble how to do right, and he teaches them his ways.* PSALMS 25:9 NCV™

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Explain in your own words the "spiritual life" that believers have.

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What changes are you seeing in yourself, compared to before you became a Christian? How are you more like Jesus Christ?

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Choose one of love, faith and hope - and say what is unique about the believer's experience of it.

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To what degree do you experience God's joy and peace? What should we do to know more of this joy and peace?

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What does God do to transform his people?

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## 19. God’s Care of His People

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[Paul:] <i>But to this very day I have been helped by God ...</i> ACTS 26:22A GNT	
God Saves His People .....	20
God Protects His People .....	21
God Sustains His People .....	22

This topic has some of the best-loved verses in the Bible. They include some of the Bible’s great promises, which reassure us at times when we wonder if God has “lost our address”.

## Basics

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### God cares for his people

The LORD is good; *he protects his people in times of trouble; he takes care of those who turn to him.* NAHUM 1:7 GNT

[PETER, TO BELIEVERS:] And God will exalt you in due time, if you humble yourselves under his mighty hand <sup>7</sup>by casting all your cares on him because *he cares for you.* 1 PETER 5:6–7 NET

### God consistently helps his people in need

*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble.* PSALMS 46:1 GW

[PAUL:] *But to this very day I have been helped by God ...* ACTS 26:22A GNT

## God Saves His People

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Note that in reading the verses about God saving his people, we should bear in mind that the Bible also speaks of God's people experiencing sufferings common to all people and also persecution for their faith (cf. 39. *Hard Times* and 40. *Persecution*, in Part H). God can and does save his people, but also does allow and even ordain difficult experiences for his people – often for reasons that may not be clear.

### God is always able to save his people

*Nothing can prevent the LORD from delivering, whether by many or by a few.* 1 SAMUEL 14:6B NET

### God saves his people out of all troubles

[DAVID:] I sought the LORD'S help and he answered me; *he delivered me from all my fears.* ... <sup>6</sup>This oppressed man cried out and the LORD heard; *he saved him from all his troubles.* ... <sup>17</sup>The godly cry out and the LORD hears; *he saves them from all their troubles.* ... <sup>19</sup>*The godly face many dangers, but the LORD saves them from each one of them.*

PSALMS 34:4, 6, 17, 19 NET

## God enables them to overcome all that is in the world

[PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] *If God is with us, no one can defeat us. ...*  
<sup>35</sup>Can anything separate us from the love Christ has for us? Can troubles or problems or sufferings or hunger or nakedness or danger or violent death? ... <sup>37</sup>But *in all these things we have full victory through God who showed his love for us.* ROMANS 8:31B, 35, 37 NCV™

## God Protects His People

### God is a refuge for his people

He [David] said, *“The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, <sup>3</sup>my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my savior; you save me from violence.* 2 SAMUEL 22:2–3 ESV

### God guards his people

*Look! The one who is guarding Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps. <sup>5</sup>The LORD is your guardian; the LORD is your shade at your right side. <sup>6</sup>The sun will not ravage you by day, nor the moon by night. <sup>7</sup>The LORD will guard you from all evil, preserving your life. <sup>8</sup>The LORD will guard your goings and comings, from this time on and forever.*

PSALMS 121:4–8 ISV

### God protects his people from all evil

[DAVID, TO GOD:] *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.* PSALMS 23:4 ESV

### God protects them until the end

[PETER, TO BELIEVERS:] *You have faith in God, whose power will protect you until the last day. Then he will save you, just as he has always planned to do.* 1 PETER 1:5 CEV

God protects his faithful people from spiritual harm, bringing their salvation to fruition at the end of the age.

## God Sustains His People

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### God strengthens his people

Even children become tired and need to rest, and young people trip and fall. <sup>31</sup>*But the people who trust the LORD will become strong again. They will rise up as an eagle in the sky; they will run and not need rest; they will walk and not become tired.* ISAIAH 40:30–31 NCV™

### God provides for all their needs – they will not lack anything

[PAUL, TO BELIEVERS WHO HAD SUPPORTED HIM:] *And my God will fully supply your every need according to his glorious riches in the Messiah Jesus.* PHILIPPIANS 4:19 ISV

Then Jesus said to them, “When I sent you out without a wallet, traveling bag, or sandals, *you didn’t lack anything, did you?*” “*Not a thing!*” *they answered.* LUKE 22:35 GW

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What troubles have you had in which God has helped you?

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How should believing that God is always able to save, affect the way we act and think?

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Even with all the great promises in the Bible, bad things still happen to some of God's people. Why do you think this is so?

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How does God provide for you? How do you and/or how should you respond to this?

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In what ways does God strengthen his people? (Answer as if you were explaining this to a new Christian.)

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## 20. God's Plans for His People

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God has wonderful plans and purposes for his people. Many of these concern the work he does through his people, with his incomparably great power. As this chapter shows, God promises to fulfill these plans and purposes – equipping and guiding his people accordingly.

## Basics

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### God has plans and purposes for his people

[DAVID, TO GOD:] *You have made many wonderful plans for us. I could never speak of them all—their number is so great!* PSALMS 40:5B GNT

For David, after *he had served God's purpose in his own generation*, died and was laid to rest with his ancestors, and so he experienced decay. ACTS 13:36 ISV

### In spite of their troubles, God will fulfill his purposes for them

[DAVID:] *Though I walk straight into trouble, you [God] preserve my life, stretching out your hand to fight the vehemence of my enemies, and your right hand delivers me.* <sup>8</sup>*The LORD will complete what his purpose is for me.* PSALMS 138:7–8A ISV

For the LORD says, *'Only when the seventy years of Babylonian rule are over will I again take up consideration for you. Then I will fulfill my gracious promise to you and restore you to your homeland.* <sup>11</sup>*For I know what I have planned for you,' says the LORD. 'I have plans to prosper you, not to harm you. I have plans to give you a future filled with hope.* JEREMIAH 29:10–11 NET

Despite his people's exile in Babylon and the apparent decimation of Israel as a nation, God would fulfill his promise and plans for them.

## God's Work for His People to Do

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### God's plans for his people include work for them to do

[PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] *God has made us what we are. He has created us in Christ Jesus to live lives filled with good works that he has prepared for us to do.* EPHESIANS 2:10 GW

### God makes them willing and able to do his work

[PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] *God is working in you to make you willing and able to obey him.* PHILIPPIANS 2:13 CEV

## God has great power for his people in doing his work

*With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was on them all.* ACTS 4:33 ISV

## God's Guidance of His People

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### God guides his people always

[GOD, TO HIS PEOPLE:] *The LORD will continually guide you and satisfy you even in sun-baked places.* ISAIAH 58:11A GW

Note that the Bible speaks of God guiding his people in fulfilling his plans and purposes for them. More particularly, it tells of God guiding them in: living righteous lives; doing his work; and making choices in other matters.

### God guides them in difficult circumstances

[MOSES, TO THE ISRAELITES:] *He was the one who led you through that vast and dangerous desert—a thirsty and arid land, with poisonous snakes and scorpions.* DEUTERONOMY 8:15A GW

[DAVID:] *When I am ready to give up, he knows what I should do.* PSALMS 142:3 GNT

The implication of the second clause is that God not only knows but also guides in what one should do.

## God's Plans for Israel

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The Israelites were God's original people, but their disobedience and rejection of Jesus Christ brought judgment from God. However a lot of Old Testament prophecy speaks of God's plans for the renewal of the nation of Israel and Jerusalem in particular. It speaks of both physical and spiritual renewal, taking place at the end of this age.

There are differences of opinion as to what degree these prophecies of a renewed Israel are literal and physical, as opposed to symbolic or spiritual. If the latter is the case, then the prophecies are more likely to be referring to all believers – the "new" Israel. As

such they would be portraying God's people and kingdom following Jesus Christ's mission and/or quite possibly looking ahead to heaven or the new Jerusalem (cf. Revelation 21–22).

### **God has plans to renew Israel**

*People will say, "This wasteland has become like the garden of Eden. The cities were destroyed. They were empty and ruined, but now they are fortified and have people living in them." <sup>36</sup>The surrounding nations that are left will know that I, the Lord, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted crops in the land that was empty. I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it.* EZEKIEL 36:35–36 GW

### **God will dwell among his people in Jerusalem, forever**

[GOD:] *I will return to Jerusalem and live there on Mount Zion. Then Jerusalem will be known as my faithful city, and Zion will be known as my holy mountain.* ZECHARIAH 8:3A CEV

[GOD:] *Ezekiel, son of man, this temple is my throne on earth. I will live here among the people of Israel forever.* EZEKIEL 43:7A CEV

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How specific do you think God's plans are for each Christian?

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Are you aware of a particular role or kind of work that God wants you to do? If not, what can you do to be open to God guiding you towards the work he wants you to do?

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In what ways does God's power work through his people?

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How does God guide us?

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What encouragement can believers today draw from the prophecies of God's renewal of Israel?

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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

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12. Jesus Christ's Mission
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14. The New Order
15. 'The Last Things'

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


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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.




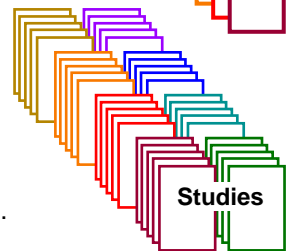
 **Foundations Edition:** A compilation of the Bible’s teaching for believers consolidating their faith. For newer Christians.  
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Studies are ideal for studying topics in detail.



 **In-Depth Edition:** A compilation of the Bible’s teaching for teachers and students of the Bible.  
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.

Electronic  
Version

## 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



This series of studies is based on the  
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