

# The **Bible** Unpacked

## **Foundations Study Series**

The Bible's teaching condensed  
for young believers

Paul Mallison



# **The Bible Unpacked<sup>TM</sup>**

## **Foundations Study Series**

The Bible's teaching condensed  
for young believers

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

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?





## 11. God's Promised Messiah

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

#### 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

#### 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. ISAIAH 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

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### 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

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

#### 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 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 Christ's Death

#### The Jewish authorities 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

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

## 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

Is there anything you could do to better imitate Jesus' example of doing the work God wanted him to?

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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

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.

### Forgiveness of Sins through Jesus Christ

#### 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.

#### 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

**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

**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

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.



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

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Do you feel at peace with God? Why or why not?

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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

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>22</sup>God puts people right through their faith in Jesus Christ. ROMANS 3:20, 22A GNT

We are unable to be made right with God through obeying the law, as we are not capable of obeying it all the time. But now because of what Jesus Christ has accomplished, we can be made right with God by faith in Christ and what he has done.

#### **We are made right by God's grace – 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.

### A New Covenant

#### **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, 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. Under this 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 (cf. Hebrews 8:10).

### **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.* HEBREWS 8:2 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**

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### **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™

In Jesus’ mission a more far-reaching, spiritual dimension of God’s reign was established. It exists primarily in the hearts and minds of God’s people. At the end of the age God’s kingdom and authority will be imposed over all things.

### **God has made Jesus Christ Lord of all**

*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

What does the Bible mean in teaching that we have righteousness by God's "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'

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

#### 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™

#### 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

### The Final Judgment

#### 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

## 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 will live among his people

[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

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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. Worshiping 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



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**Two-Minute Edition** – *Key Bible teachings for everyone.* For giving to non-Christians.
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**Pocket Edition** – *Key Bible teachings for seekers of truth.* Largely for giving to inquiring non-Christians or young new Christians.
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**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.


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**Foundations Edition** – *The Bible's teaching condensed for young believers.* For newer Christians. Study series is ideal for studies with newer believers.


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**Intermediate Edition** – *The Bible's teaching summarized for growing believers.* For developing a sound understanding of the faith. Studies are excellent for Bible study groups.


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**Comprehensive Edition** – *The Bible's teaching presented for Bible students.* For a more comprehensive knowledge of the faith. Studies are ideal for studying topics in detail.


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**In-Depth Edition** – *The Bible's teaching expounded for Bible scholars.* For pastors, church leaders, Bible students and all who want a deep understanding of the faith. Available in a single pdf file with some 100,000 hyperlinks.

## Supporting 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 based on locally identified needs.

**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.

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

It equips believers for persecution and maintaining a witness to the Gospel.

**Religious Liberty Commission** – [www.worldevangelicals.org/commissions/rlc](http://www.worldevangelicals.org/commissions/rlc)

RLC defends and aids persecuted Christians. See also [www.idop.org](http://www.idop.org).

**Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin** – [rlprayerbulletin.blogspot.com.au](http://rlprayerbulletin.blogspot.com.au)

It provides weekly bulletins. Send 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 helps persecuted Christians spread the gospel. It also gives material aid.

**World Watch Monitor** – [www.worldwatchmonitor.org](http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org)

It reports the story of Christians under pressure for their faith.

*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  
*Foundations Edition of The Bible Unpacked.*

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NON-CHRISTIANS through to MATURE CHRISTIANS,  
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