English: Unlocked Literal Bible for Acts, Revelation

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## Acts

Chapter 1

1The former account I wrote, Theophilus, told all that Jesus began to do and to teach,2until the day that he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.3After his suffering, he presented himself alive to them with many convincing proofs. For forty days he appeared to them, and he spoke about the kingdom of God.4When he was meeting together with them, he commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, about which he said, "You heard from me5that John indeed baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit in a few days."

6When they were assembled together they asked him, "Lord, is this the time you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"7He said to them, "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons which the Father has determined by his own authority.8But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."9When the Lord Jesus had said these things, as they were looking up, he was raised up, and a cloud hid him from their eyes.10While they were looking intensely to heaven as he went, suddenly, two men stood by them in white clothing.11They said, "You men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will return in the same manner as you saw him going into heaven."

12Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mountain that is called Olives, which is near to Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey.13When they arrived, they went up into the upper chamber, where they were staying. They were Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.14They all were devoted with one purpose to prayer, together with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

15In those days Peter stood up in the midst of the brothers, about 120 names, and said,16"Brothers, it was necessary that the scripture should be fulfilled, that the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who guided the ones who arrested Jesus.17For he was one of us and received a share of this ministry."18(Now this man bought a field with the earnings he received for his wickedness, and there he fell headfirst, and his body burst open, and all his intestines poured out.19All those living in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language "Akeldama," that is, "Field of Blood.")20"For it is written in the Book of Psalms,

'Let his field be made desolate,and do not let even one person live there';'Let someone else take his position of leadership.'

21It is necessary, therefore, that one of the men who accompanied us all the time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,22beginning from the baptism of John to the day that he was taken up from us, become a witness with us of his resurrection."23They put forward two men, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias.24They prayed and said, "You, Lord, know the hearts of all people, so reveal which of these two is the one whom you have chosen25to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned away to go to his own place."26They cast lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Chapter 2

1When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in the same place.2Suddenly a sound like the rush of a violent wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.3There appeared to them tongues like fire that were distributed, and they sat upon each one of them.4They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them the ability.

5Now there were Jews who were living in Jerusalem, godly men, from every nation under heaven.6When this sound was heard, the multitude came together and was confused because everyone heard them speaking in his own language.7They were amazed and marveled; they said, "Really, are not all these who are speaking Galileans?8Why is it that we are hearing them, each in our own language in which we were born?9Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and those who live in Mesopotamia, in Judea and Cappadocia, in Pontus and Asia,10Phrygia and Pamphylia, in Egypt and the parts of Libya toward Cyrene, and visitors from Rome,11Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our languages about the mighty works of God."12They were all amazed and perplexed; they said to one another, "What does this mean?"13But others mocked and said, "They are full of new wine."

14But Peter stood with the eleven, raised his voice, and declared to them, "Men of Judea and all of you who live at Jerusalem, let this be known to you; pay attention to my words.15For these people are not drunk as you assume, for it is only the third hour of the day.16But this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:17'It will be in the last days,' God says,'I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.Your sons and your daughters will prophesy,your young men will see visions,and your old men will dream dreams.18Surely on my servantsand my female servants in those daysI will pour out my Spirit, and they will prophesy.19I will show wonders in the sky aboveand signs on the earth below,blood, fire, and vapor of smoke.20The sun will be turned to darknessand the moon to bloodbefore the great and remarkableday of the Lord comes.21It will be that everyone who callson the name of the Lord will be saved.'

22Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited to you by God with the mighty deeds and wonders and signs which God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know.23This man was handed over by God's predetermined plan and foreknowledge; and you, by the hand of lawless men, put him to death by nailing him to a cross.24But God raised him up, freeing him from the agonies of death, because it was impossible for him to be held by it.25For David says about him,'I saw the Lord always before my face,for he is beside my right handso that I should not be moved.26Therefore my heart was gladand my tongue rejoiced.Also, my flesh will live in hope.27For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,neither will you allowyour Holy One to see decay.28You have made known to me the ways of life;you will make me full of gladness with your face.'

29Brothers, it is proper for me to speak to you confidently about the patriarch David, that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.30Therefore, he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of the fruit of his loins on his throne.31He saw what was to happen in the future and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see decay.32This Jesus—God raised him up, of which we all are witnesses.33Therefore, having been exalted to the right hand of God and having received the promised Holy Spirit from the Father, he has poured out what you see and hear.34For David did not ascend to the heaven, but he says,'The Lord said to my Lord,"Sit at my right hand35until I make your enemiesthe footstool for your feet."'

36Therefore, let all the house of Israel certainly know that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

37Now when they heard this, they were pierced in their hearts, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what must we do?"

38Then Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.39For the promise is to you and to your children and to all who are far off, as many people as the Lord our God will call."40With many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation."41Then they received his word and were baptized, and there were added in that day about three thousand souls.42They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayers.

43Fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.44All who believed were together and had all things in common,45and they sold their property and possessions and distributed them to all, according to the needs anyone had.46So day after day they devoted themselves with one purpose in the temple. They also broke bread in homes, and they shared food together with glad and generous hearts,47praising God and having favor with all the people, and every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Chapter 3

1Now Peter and John were going up into the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.2Now a man who was lame from his mother's womb was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful. They would place him there every day so he could ask those who were going into the temple for alms.3When he saw Peter and John about to enter the temple, he asked them for alms.4Peter, fastening his eyes upon him, with John, said, "Look at us."5The lame man looked at them, expecting to receive something from them.6But Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have, I will give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."7Taking him by the right hand, Peter raised him up, and immediately the man's feet and ankles were made strong.8Leaping up, the lame man stood and began to walk; and he entered with Peter and John into the temple, walking, leaping, and praising God.9All the people saw him walking and praising God.10They noticed that it was the man who had been asking people for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement because of what had happened to him.

11As he was holding on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly marveling.12When Peter saw this, he answered the people, "You Israelite men, why do you marvel? Why do you fix your eyes on us, as if we made him walk by our own power or godliness?13The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. He is the one whom you handed over and rejected before the face of Pilate, when he had decided to release him.14You rejected the Holy and Righteous One, and you asked instead for a murderer to be given to you.15You killed the Founder of life, whom God raised from the dead—and we are witnesses of this.16On the basis of faith in his name, his name made this man, whom you see and know, strong. The faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all.17Now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers.18But the things which God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ should suffer, he has now fulfilled.19Repent, therefore, and turn, so that your sins may be blotted out,20so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; and that he may send the Christ who has been appointed for you, Jesus.21He is the One heaven must receive until the time of the restoration of all things, about which God spoke from ancient times by the mouth of his holy prophets.22Moses indeed said, 'The Lord God will raise up a prophet like me from among your brothers. You must listen to everything he tells you.23It will happen that every person who does not listen to that prophet will be completely destroyed from among the people.'24Yes, and all the prophets from Samuel and those who came after him, they spoke out and announced these days.25You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your ancestors, as he said to Abraham, 'In your seed all the families of the earth will be blessed.'26After God raised up his servant, he sent him to you first, in order to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness."

Chapter 4

1As Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them.2They were deeply troubled because Peter and John were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.3They laid hands on them and put them in custody until the next morning, since it was now evening.4But many of the people who had heard the message believed; and the number of the men who believed was about five thousand.

5It came about on the next day that their rulers, elders, and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem.6Annas the high priest was there, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and all who were relatives of the high priest.7When they had set Peter and John in their midst, they asked them, "By what power, or in what name, have you done this?"8Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "You rulers of the people, and elders,9if we are on trial today concerning a good deed done to a sick man, and by what means this man was healed,10let it be known to you all and to all the people of Israel that this man stands before you healthy in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, but whom God raised from the dead.11Jesus Christ is the stone which you builders rejected but which has been made the cornerstone.12There is no salvation in any other person, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

13Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were ordinary, uneducated men, they were surprised, becoming aware that Peter and John had been with Jesus.14Because they saw the man who was healed standing with them, they had nothing to say against this.15But after they had commanded the apostles to leave the council meeting, they talked among themselves.16They said, "What should we do with these men? For a remarkable sign has been done through them, and this is evident to everyone who lives in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it.17But in order that it spreads no further among the people, let us warn them not to speak anymore to anyone in this name."18Then they called them in and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.19But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is proper in the sight of God to obey you rather than him, you judge.20We are not able to stop speaking about the things we have seen and heard."21After further warning Peter and John, they let them go. They were unable to find any excuse to punish them, because all of the people were glorifying God for what had been done.22The man who had experienced this sign of healing was more than forty years old.

23After they were set free, Peter and John came to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them.24When they heard it, they raised their voices with one purpose to God and said, "Lord, you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and all that is in them.25You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David,'Why did the Gentile nations rage,and the peoples imagine useless things?'26You said,'The kings of the earth set themselves together,and the rulers gathered togetheragainst the Lord, and against his Christ.'

27Indeed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, gathered together in this city against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed.28They gathered together to do all that your hand and your plan had decided in advance would happen.29Now, Lord, look upon their warnings and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness.30Stretch out your hand to heal and to give signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."31After they had prayed, the place where they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

32The great number of those who believed were of one heart and soul. No one said that anything he possessed was his own, but they had everything in common.33With great power the apostles were proclaiming their testimony about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.34There was no person among them who lacked anything, for all who owned title to lands or houses sold them and brought the money from the things that were sold35and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each one according to their need.

36Joseph, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite, a man from Cyprus,37sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Chapter 5

1Now a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a piece of property,2and he kept back part of the sale money (his wife also knew it), and brought the other part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet.3But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the price of the land?4While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own, and after it was sold, was it not under your authority? Why did you put it in your heart to do this? You have not lied to men, but to God."5Hearing these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last, and great fear came upon all who heard it.6The young men arose and wrapped him up, and they carried him out and buried him.

7After about three hours, his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.8Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." She said, "Yes, for so much."9Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out."10She immediately fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in, they found her dead, and carried her out and buried her beside her husband.11Great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard these things.

12Many signs and wonders were taking place among the people through the hands of the apostles. They were all together in Solomon's Porch.13But none of the rest had the courage to join them; however, they were held in high esteem by the people.14Still more believers were being added to the Lord, multitudes of men and women,15so that they even carried the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, so that as Peter came by, his shadow might fall on some of them.16There also came together a great number of people from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

17But the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees); and they were filled with jealousy18and laid hands on the apostles, and held them in custody in the common prison.19Yet during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the prison and led them out, and said,20"Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."21When they heard this, they entered into the temple about daybreak and taught. But the high priest came, and those who were with him, and called the council together, all the elders of the people of Israel, and sent to the prison to have the apostles brought.22But the officers that went did not find them in the prison, and they returned and reported,23"We found the prison securely shut and the guards standing at the door, but when we had opened it, we found no one inside."24Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were much perplexed concerning them as to what would come of it.25Then someone came and told them, "The men whom you put in the prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people."26So the captain went with the officers and brought them back, but without violence, for they feared the people, that they might be stoned.27When they had brought them, they set them before the council. The high priest interrogated them,28saying, "We ordered you with a command not to teach in this name, and yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and desire to bring this man's blood upon us."29But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men.30The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree.31God exalted him to his right hand to be a Prince and a Savior, to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.32We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

33When the council members heard this, they were furious and they wanted to kill the apostles.34But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law who was honored by all the people, stood up in the council and gave a command to take the men outside for a little while.35Then he said to them, "Men of Israel, pay close attention to what you propose to do with these people.36For before these days, Theudas rose up claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who had been obeying him were scattered and came to nothing.37After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census and drew away some people after him. He also perished, and all who had been obeying him were scattered.38Now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or work is of men, it will be overthrown.39But if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them; you may even find that you are fighting against God." So they were persuaded.40Then they called the apostles in and beat them and commanded them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.41They went away from before the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the Name.42Thereafter every day, in the temple and from house to house, they were continuously teaching and proclaiming the good news that the Christ is Jesus.

Chapter 6

1Now in these days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, a complaint by the Grecian Jews began against the Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of help.2The twelve called the multitude of the disciples to them and said, "It is not right for us to give up the word of God in order to serve tables.3You should therefore choose, brothers, seven men from among yourselves, men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.4As for us, we will always continue in prayer and in the ministry of the word."5Their speech pleased the whole multitude. So they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte from Antioch.6The believers brought these men before the apostles, who prayed and then placed their hands upon them.

7So the word of God continued to spread, and the number of disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly, and a large number of the priests became obedient to the faith.

8Now Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people.9But there arose some people who belonged to the synagogue called the synagogue of the Freedmen, of the Cyrenians and Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and Asia. These people were debating with Stephen.10But they were not able to stand against the wisdom and the Spirit with which Stephen spoke.11Then they bribed some men to say, "We have heard Stephen speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God."12They stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes, and they approached Stephen and seized him and brought him before the council.13They brought false witnesses, who said, "This man does not stop speaking words against this holy place and the law.14For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs that Moses handed down to us."15Everyone who sat in the council fixed their eyes on him and saw his face was like the face of an angel.

Chapter 7

1The high priest said, "Are these things true?"2Stephen said,

"Brothers and fathers, listen to me: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran;3he said to him, 'Leave your land and your relatives, and go into the land that I will show you.'

4"Then he left the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran; from there, after his father died, God brought him into this land, where you live now.5He gave none of it as an inheritance to him, no, not even enough to set a foot on. But he promised—even though Abraham had no child yet—that he would give the land as a possession to him and to his descendants after him.6God was speaking to him like this, that his descendants would live for a while in a foreign land, and that the inhabitants there would bring them into slavery and mistreat them for four hundred years.7'But I will judge the nation that they serve,' said God, 'and after that they will come out and worship me in this place.'8Then God gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision, so Abraham became the father of Isaac and circumcised him on the eighth day; Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of the twelve patriarchs.

9"Because the patriarchs were jealous of Joseph, they sold him into Egypt; but God was with him10and rescued him from all his tribulation. He gave Joseph favor and wisdom in the presence of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, who appointed him governor over Egypt and over all his household.

11"Now a famine and great tribulation came over all Egypt and Canaan, and our fathers could find no food.12But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent out our fathers on their first trip.13On their second trip Joseph made himself known to his brothers, and Joseph's family became known to Pharaoh.14Joseph sent his brothers back to invite Jacob his father to come to Egypt, along with all his relatives, seventy-five persons in all.15So Jacob went down into Egypt, and he died, he and our fathers.16They were carried over to Shechem and laid in the tomb that Abraham had bought for a price in silver from the sons of Hamor in Shechem.

17"As the time of the promise approached, the promise that God had made to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt,18until there arose another king over Egypt, a king who did not know about Joseph.19He deceived our people and mistreated our fathers, forcing them to expose their newborn infants so they would not be kept alive.

20"At that time Moses was born; he was very beautiful before God and was nourished for three months in his father's house.21When he was placed outside, Pharaoh's daughter adopted him and raised him as her own son.22Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and works.

23"But when he was about forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brothers, the descendants of Israel.24Seeing an Israelite being mistreated, Moses defended him and avenged him who was oppressed by striking the Egyptian:25he thought that his brothers would understand that God, by his hand, was giving them salvation, but they did not understand. 26On the next day he appeared to them when they were fighting, and he tried to make peace between them, saying, 'Men, you are brothers; why are you wronging one another?'

27"But the one who had wronged his neighbor pushed him away, and said, 'Who appointed you a ruler and a judge over us?28Would you like to kill me, as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?'29Moses ran away after hearing this statement; he became a foreigner in the land of Midian, where he became the father of two sons.

30"When forty years were past, an angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush.31When Moses saw the fire, he marveled at the sight; and as he approached to look at it, the voice of the Lord came, saying,32'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob.' Moses trembled and did not dare to look.

33"The Lord said to him, 'Take off the sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.34I have certainly seen the oppression of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their groaning, and I have come down to rescue them; now come, I will send you to Egypt.'

35"This Moses whom they rejected, when they said, 'Who appointed you a ruler and a judge?'—he was the one whom God sent as both a ruler and deliverer. God sent him by the hand of the angel who appeared to Moses in the bush.36Moses led them out of Egypt, after doing miracles and signs in Egypt and at the Sea of Reeds, and in the wilderness during forty years.

37"It is the same Moses who said to the people of Israel, 'God will raise up a prophet for you from among your brothers, a prophet like me.'38This is the man who was in the assembly in the wilderness with the angel who had spoken to him on Mount Sinai, who was with our fathers, and who received living words to give to us.

39"But our fathers refused to obey him; they pushed him away from themselves, and in their hearts they turned back to Egypt.40At that time they said to Aaron, 'Make us gods who will lead us. As for this Moses, who led us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has happened to him.'41So they made a calf in those days and brought a sacrifice to the idol, and rejoiced because of the work of their hands.42But God turned and gave them up to worship the stars in the sky, as it is written in the book of the prophets,

'Did you bring me offerings and sacrifices during the forty years in the wilderness, house of Israel?43You accepted the tabernacle of Molechand the star of the god Rephan,and the images that you made to worship them:and I will carry you away beyond Babylon.'

44"Our fathers had the tabernacle of the testimony in the wilderness, just as God commanded when he spoke to Moses, that he should make it like the pattern that he had seen.45Later, our fathers, under Joshua, received the tabernacle and brought it with them when they took possession of the land. God took the land from the nations and drove them out before the face of our fathers. The tabernacle remained in the land until the time of David,46who found favor in the sight of God, and he asked if he might find a dwelling place for the house of Jacob [1](#footnote-target-1).47But it was Solomon who built the house for God.

48"However, the Most High does not live in houses made with hands, as the prophet says,49'Heaven is my throne,and the earth is the footstool for my feet.What kind of house can you build for me? says the Lord,or what is the place for my rest?50Did my hand not make all these things?'

51"You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit; you act just as your fathers acted.52Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed the prophets who appeared in advance of the coming of the Righteous One; and you have now become the betrayers and murderers of him also,53you people who received the law that angels had ordained, but you did not keep it."

54Now when the council members heard these things, they were furious in their hearts and they ground their teeth at Stephen.55But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, looked up intently into heaven and saw the glory of God; and he saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God.56Stephen said, "Look, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

57At this the council members covered their ears, and shouting out with a loud voice, they rushed at him with one purpose.58They forced him out of the city and began to stone him. The witnesses laid down their outer clothing at the feet of a young man named Saul.

59As they were stoning Stephen, he was calling out to the Lord and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."60He knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

[1](#footnote-caller-1)The phrase: the house of Jacob, is found in many ancient copies. Other ancient texts have the phrase: the God of Jacob .

Chapter 8

1Saul was in agreement with his death.

So there began on that day a great persecution against the church that was in Jerusalem; and the believers were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.2Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him.3But Saul tried to destroy the church. He would enter house after house, drag off both men and women, and put them in prison.

4Yet the believers who had been scattered went about preaching the word.5Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ.6Crowds of people were giving close attention to what was being said by Philip; with one mind they heard him, and they saw the signs he did.7Unclean spirits came out of many who were possessed, crying out with a loud voice, and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed.8So there was much joy in that city.

9But there was a certain man in the city named Simon, who had earlier been practicing sorcery; he used to astonish the people of Samaria while claiming that he was an important person.10All the Samaritans, from the least to the greatest, paid attention to him; they said, "This man is that power of God which is called Great."11They listened to him because he had astonished them for a long time with his sorceries.12But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the gospel about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.13Even Simon himself believed, and after he was baptized he stayed with Philip constantly. When he saw signs and mighty works taking place, he was amazed.

14Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John.15When they had come down, they prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit.16For until that time, the Holy Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.17Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.18Now when Simon saw that the Holy Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money.19He said, "Give me this authority, too, that whoever I place my hands on might receive the Holy Spirit."

20But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish along with you, because you thought to obtain the gift of God with money.21You have no part or allotted portion in this matter, because your heart is not right with God.22Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord, so that he might perhaps forgive you for the intention of your heart.23For I see that you are in the poison of bitterness and in the bonds of unrighteousness."

24Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me, so that nothing you have said may happen to me."

25When they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, proclaiming the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.

26Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip and said, "Arise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This road is in a desert.)27He arose and went. Behold, there was a man from Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. He was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship.28He was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah.

29The Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and stay close to this chariot."

30So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

31Then he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" He invited Philip to come up into the chariot and sit with him.

32Now the passage of the scripture which the Ethiopian was reading was this,

"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,and like a lamb before his shearer is silent,so he did not open his mouth.33In his humiliationjustice was taken away from him.Who can give a full account of his descendants?For his life was taken from the earth."

34So the eunuch asked Philip, and said, "I beg you, tell me who is the prophet speaking about, himself, or someone else?"35Philip began to speak, and beginning with this scripture he proclaimed the gospel about Jesus to him.36As they went on the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, there is water here. What prevents me from being baptized?"37[1](#footnote-target-1)38So the Ethiopian commanded the chariot to stop. They went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch, and Philip baptized him.39When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord took Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, but went on his way rejoicing.40But Philip appeared at Azotus and he went through that region, proclaiming the gospel to all the cities until he came to Caesarea.

[1](#footnote-caller-1)The best ancient copies do not have Acts 8:37, Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may be baptized." The Ethiopian answered, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" .

Chapter 9

1But Saul, still speaking threats even of murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest2and asked him for letters for the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.3As he was traveling, it happened that as he came near to Damascus, suddenly there shone all around him a light out of heaven;4and he fell upon the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"5Saul replied, "Who are you, Lord?" The Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting;6but rise, enter into the city, and it will be told you what you must do."7The men who traveled with Saul stood speechless, hearing the voice, but seeing no one.8Saul arose from the ground, and when he opened his eyes, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.9For three days he was without sight, and he neither ate nor drank.

10Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias!" He said, "See, I am here, Lord."

11The Lord said to him, "Arise, and go to the street which is called Straight, and at the house of Judas ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying.12He has seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in and laying his hands on him, so that he might see again."

13But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem.14He has authority from the chief priests to put in bonds everyone here who calls upon your name."

15But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine, to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel;16for I will show him how much he must suffer for the cause of my name."

17So Ananias departed, and entered into the house. Laying his hands on him, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road when you were coming, has sent me so that you might receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."18Immediately something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he received his sight; he arose and was baptized;19and he ate and was strengthened.

He stayed with the disciples in Damascus for several days.20Right away he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying that he is the Son of God.21All who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who destroyed those in Jerusalem who called on this name? He has come here to take them bound to the chief priests."22But Saul became more and more powerful, and he was causing distress among the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.

23After many days, the Jews planned together to kill him.24But their plan became known to Saul. They watched the gates day and night in order to kill him.25But his disciples took him by night and let him down through the wall, lowering him in a basket.

26When he had come to Jerusalem, Saul attempted to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple.27But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles, and he told them how Saul had seen the Lord on the road and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how at Damascus Saul had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus.28He was with them, going in and out around Jerusalem. He spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus29and debated with the Grecian Jews; but they kept trying to kill him.30When the brothers learned of this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus.

31So then, the church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up; and, walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, the church grew in numbers.32Now it came about that, as Peter went throughout the whole region, he came down also to God's holy people who lived in the town of Lydda.33There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been in his bed for eight years, for he was paralyzed.34Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and make your bed," and right away he got up.35So everyone who lived in Lydda and in Sharon saw the man and they turned to the Lord.

36Now there was in Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha (which is translated "Dorcas"). This woman was full of good works and merciful deeds that she did for the poor.37It came about in those days that she fell sick and died; when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room.38Since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, pleading with him, "Come to us without delay."39Peter arose and went with them. When he had arrived, they brought him to the upper room, and all the widows stood by him weeping, showing him the tunics and garments that Dorcas had made while she had been with them.40Peter put them all out of the room, knelt down, and prayed; then, turning to the body, he said, "Tabitha, arise." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up.41Peter then gave her his hand and raised her up; and when he called God's holy people and the widows, he presented her alive to them.42This matter became known throughout all Joppa, and many people believed on the Lord.43It happened that Peter stayed for many days in Joppa with a man named Simon, a tanner.

Chapter 10

1Now there was a certain man in the city of Caesarea, Cornelius by name, a centurion of what was called the Italian Company of Soldiers.2He was a devout man, one who feared God with all his household, gave many alms to the people, and prayed to God constantly.3About the ninth hour of the day, he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God coming to him. The angel said to him, "Cornelius!"4Cornelius stared at the angel and was very afraid and said, "What is it, sir?"

The angel said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have gone up as a memorial offering into God's presence.5Now send men to the city of Joppa to bring a man named Simon who is called Peter.6He is staying with a tanner named Simon, whose house is by the seaside."

7When the angel who spoke to him had left, Cornelius called two of his house servants, and a devout soldier from among those who served him.8Cornelius told them all that had happened and sent them to Joppa.

9Now on the next day at about the sixth hour, as they were on their journey and were approaching the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray.10He then became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while the people were cooking some food, a trance came on him,11and he saw the sky open and a certain container descending, something like a large sheet coming down to the earth, let down by its four corners.12In it were all kinds of four-footed animals and things that crawled on the earth, and birds of the sky.13Then a voice spoke to him: "Rise, Peter, kill and eat."

14But Peter said, "Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that was defiled and unclean."

15But the voice came to him again a second time: "What God has made clean, you must not call defiled."16This happened three times; then the container was immediately taken back up into the sky.

17Now while Peter was very confused about what the vision that he had seen could mean, behold, the men who were sent by Cornelius stood before the gate, after they had asked their way to the house.18They called out and asked whether Simon, who was also called Peter, was staying there.

19While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you. [1](#footnote-target-1)20Arise and go down and go with them. Do not hesitate to go with them, because I have sent them."

21So Peter went down to the men and said, "I am he whom you are seeking. Why have you come?"

22They said, "A centurion named Cornelius, a righteous man and one who fears God, and is well spoken of by all the nation of the Jews, was instructed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house, so he could listen to a message from you."23So Peter invited them to come in and stay with him.

On the next morning he got up and went with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him.24On the following day they came to Caesarea. Cornelius was waiting for them; he had called together his relatives and his close friends.25It came about that when Peter entered, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet to worship him.26But Peter helped him up, saying, "Stand up! I too am a man."

27While Peter was talking with him, he went in and found many people gathered together.28He said to them, "You yourselves know that it is not lawful for a Jewish man to associate with or to visit a foreigner. But God has shown me that I should not call any man defiled or unclean.29That is why I came without arguing, when I was sent for. So I ask you why you sent for me."

30Cornelius said, "Four days ago at this very hour, I was praying at the ninth hour in my house; and see, a man stood before me in bright clothing.31He said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard by God, and your alms have reminded God about you.32So send someone to Joppa, and call to you a man named Simon who is called Peter. He is staying in the house of a tanner named Simon, by the seaside.' [2](#footnote-target-2)33So at once I sent for you. You are kind to have come. Now then, we are all here present in the sight of God to hear everything that you have been instructed by the Lord to say." [3](#footnote-target-3)

34Then Peter opened his mouth and said, "Truly I understand that God is not partial.35Instead, in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.36You know the message that he sent to the people of Israel, when he announced the good news about peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all—37you yourselves know the events that took place, which occurred throughout all Judea, beginning in Galilee, after the baptism that John announced;38the events concerning Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.39We are witnesses of all the things Jesus did, both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree,40but God raised him up on the third day and caused him to be seen,41not by all the people, but to the witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.42He commanded us to proclaim to the people and to testify that this is the one who has been chosen by God to be the Judge of the living and the dead.43About him all the prophets testify, that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

44While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all of those who were listening to his message.45The people who belonged to the circumcision group of believers—all of those who came with Peter—were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out also on the Gentiles.46For they heard these Gentiles speaking in tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered,47"Can anyone keep water from these people so they should not be baptized, these people who have received the Holy Spirit as well as we?"48Then he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay with them for several days.

[1](#footnote-caller-1)Some ancient copies have, two men are looking for you or some men are looking for you . [2](#footnote-caller-2)Some ancient copies add: When he comes, he will speak to you . [3](#footnote-caller-3)Instead of instructed by the Lord to say, some ancient copies have, instructed by God to say .

Chapter 11

1Now the apostles and the brothers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God.2When Peter had come up to Jerusalem, they who belonged to the circumcision group criticized him;3they said, "You associated with uncircumcised men and ate with them!"4But Peter started to explain the matter to them in detail, saying,5"I was praying in the city of Joppa, and in a trance I saw a vision of a container coming down, like a large sheet let down from heaven by its four corners. It descended to me.6I gazed at it and I thought about it. I saw the four-legged animals of earth, wild beasts, things that crawled, and birds of the sky.7Then I heard a voice say to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat!'

8I said, 'Not so, Lord; for nothing unholy or unclean has ever entered into my mouth.'

9But the voice answered again from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call defiled.'10This happened three times, and then everything was taken back up into heaven again.

11"Behold, right away there were three men standing in front of the house where we were; they had been sent from Caesarea to me.12The Spirit commanded me to go with them, and that I should make no distinction regarding them. These six brothers went with me, and we went into the man's house.13He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send men to Joppa and bring back Simon who is called Peter.14He will speak to you a message by which you will be saved—you and all your household.'15As I began to speak to them, the Holy Spirit came on them, just as on us in the beginning.16I remembered the words of the Lord, how he said, 'John indeed baptized with water; but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'17Then if God gave to them the same gift as he gave to us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I, that I could oppose God?"

18When they heard these things, they said nothing in response, but they glorified God and said, "Then God has given repentance for life to the Gentiles also."

19Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that arose over Stephen spread as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, speaking the word only to Jews.20But some of them, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, came to Antioch and spoke also to Greeks, proclaiming to them the gospel about the Lord Jesus.21The hand of the Lord was with them; a great number believed and turned to the Lord.22News about them came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas as far as Antioch.23When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad and he encouraged them all to remain with the Lord with purpose of heart.24For he was a good man and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith, and many people were added to the Lord.25Barnabas then went out to Tarsus to search carefully for Saul.26When he found him, he brought him to Antioch. It came about that for an entire year they gathered together with the church and taught many people. The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

27Now in these days some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.28One of them, Agabus by name, stood up and indicated by the Spirit that a great famine would occur over all the world. This happened in the days of Claudius.29So the disciples, as each one was able, determined to send a contribution for the relief of the brothers in Judea.30They did this; they sent money to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

Chapter 12

1Now about that time Herod the king laid hands on some who belonged to the church so that he might mistreat them.2He killed James the brother of John with the sword.3After he saw that this pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. That was during the days of unleavened bread.4After arresting him, he put him in prison, assigning him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him; he was intending to bring him to the people after the Passover.5So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer was made earnestly to God for him by those in the church.6On the night before Herod was going to bring him out for trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison.7Behold, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared by him, and a light shone in the prison cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him and said, "Get up quickly," and his chains fell off his hands.8The angel said to him, "Gird yourself and put on your sandals." Peter did so. The angel said to him, "Put on your outer garment and follow me."9So Peter followed the angel and went out. He did not know that what was done by the angel was real. He thought he was seeing a vision.10After they had passed by the first guard and the second, they came to the iron gate that led into the city; it opened for them by itself. They went out and went down a street, and the angel left him right away.11When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I truly know that the Lord has sent his angel and delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from everything the Jewish people were expecting."12When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying.13When he knocked at the door of the gate, a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer.14When she recognized Peter's voice, out of joy she failed to open the gate; instead, she came running into the room; she reported that Peter was standing at the gate.15So they said to her, "You are insane." But she insisted that it was so. They said, "It is his angel."16But Peter continued knocking, and when they had opened the door, they saw him and were amazed.17Peter motioned to them with his hand to be silent, and he told them how the Lord had brought him out of prison. He said, "Report these things to James and the brothers." Then he left and went to another place.18Now when it became day, there was no small disturbance among the soldiers over what had happened to Peter.19After Herod had searched for him and could not find him, he questioned the guards and ordered them to be put to death.

Then Herod went down from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there.20Now Herod was very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon. They went to him with one purpose, and after persuading Blastus, the king's assistant, to help them, they asked for peace because their country received its food from the king's country.21On a set day Herod dressed himself in royal clothing and sat on a throne; he made a speech to them.22The people shouted, "This is the voice of a god, not of a man!"23Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give God the glory; he was eaten by worms and died.

24But the word of God increased and multiplied.

25So when Barnabas and Saul had completed their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, [1](#footnote-target-1) bringing with them John, also called Mark.

[1](#footnote-caller-1)Some ancient copies read, they returned to Jerusalem .

Chapter 13

1Now in the church in Antioch, there were some prophets and teachers. They were Barnabas, Simeon (who is called Niger), Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (the foster brother of Herod the tetrarch), and Saul.2While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul, to do the work to which I have called them."3After they had fasted, prayed, and laid their hands on these men, they sent them off.

4So Barnabas and Saul, having been sent out by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia; from there they sailed away to Cyprus.5While they were in the city of Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. They also had John for an assistant.6When they had gone through the whole island to Paphos, they found a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet, whose name was Bar-Jesus.7This magician associated with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, who was an intelligent man. This man summoned Barnabas and Saul, because he sought to hear the word of God.8But Elymas "the magician" (that is how his name is translated) opposed them; he tried to turn the proconsul away from the faith.9But Saul, who is also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, stared at him intensely10and said, "You son of the devil, you are full of all kinds of deceit and wickedness. You are an enemy of every kind of righteousness. You will never stop twisting the straight paths of the Lord, will you?11Now look, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will become blind. You will not see the sun for a while." Immediately there fell on Elymas a mist and darkness; he started going around seeking people to lead him by the hand.12After the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, because he was astonished at the teaching about the Lord.

13Now Paul and his friends set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. But John left them and returned to Jerusalem.14Paul and his friends traveled from Perga and came to Antioch of Pisidia. There they went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down.15After the reading of the law and the prophets, the leaders of the synagogue sent them a message, saying, "Brothers, if you have any message of encouragement for the people here, say it."16So Paul stood up and motioned with his hand; he said, "Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen.17The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and exalted the people when they stayed in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm he led them out of it.18For about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. [1](#footnote-target-1)19After he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave our people their land for an inheritance.20All these events took place over 450 years. After all these things, God gave them judges until Samuel the prophet.21Then the people asked for a king, and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man from the tribe of Benjamin, to be king for forty years.22After God removed him from the kingship, he raised up David to be their king. It was about David that God testified, saying, 'I have found David son of Jesse to be a man after my heart, who does all I want him to do.'23From this man's descendants God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised to do.24Before the arrival of Jesus, John proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.25As John was finishing his work, he said, 'Who do you think I am? I am not the one. But listen, one is coming after me, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.'26Brothers, children of the offspring of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, it is to us that the message about this salvation has been sent.27For they who live in Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize him, and they fulfilled the voices of the prophets that are read every Sabbath by condemning him.28Even though they found no reason for the death penalty, they called on Pilate to kill him.29When they had completed all the things that were written about him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb.30But God raised him from the dead.31He was seen for many days by those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. These people are now his witnesses to the people.32So we tell you the good news: The promise that came to our fathers33God has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm:

'You are my Son,today I have become your Father.'

34As to his raising him from the dead, never to return to decay, he has spoken in this way:'I will give you the holy and sure blessingspromised to David.'

35This is why he also says in another Psalm,'You will not allow your Holy Oneto see decay.'

36For when David had served the purpose of God in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was laid with his fathers and his body experienced decay.37But he whom God raised up experienced no decay.38So let it be known to you, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. The law of Moses could not make you righteous.39But by this man God makes righteous everyone who believes.40So then be careful that the thing the prophets spoke about does not happen to you:41'Look, you despisers,and be astonished and then perish; For I am doing a work in your days, a work that you would never believe,even if someone announces it to you.'"

42As Paul and Barnabas left, the people begged them that they might speak these same words again the next Sabbath.43When the synagogue meeting ended, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who were speaking to them and persuading them to continue in the grace of God.

44On the next Sabbath, almost the whole city was gathered together to hear the word of the Lord.45When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with envy and spoke against the things that were said by Paul and insulted him.46But Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should first be spoken to you. Seeing you push it away from yourselves and consider yourselves unworthy of eternal life, see, we will turn to the Gentiles.47For so has the Lord commanded us, saying,

'I have appointed you as a light for the Gentiles,that you should bring salvationto the uttermost parts of the earth.'"

48As the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. As many as were appointed to eternal life believed.49The word of the Lord was spread out through the whole region.50But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city. They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas and threw them out of their region.51But Paul and Barnabas shook off the dust from their feet against them. Then they went to the city of Iconium.52And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

[1](#footnote-caller-1)Some ancient copies read, For about forty years he cared for them in the wilderness .

Chapter 14

1It came about in Iconium that Paul and Barnabas entered together into the synagogue of the Jews and spoke in such a way that a great multitude both of Jews and of Greeks believed.2But the Jews who were disobedient stirred up the minds of the Gentiles and made them bitter against the brothers.3So they stayed there for a long time, speaking boldly with the Lord's power, while he gave evidence about the message of his grace. He did this by granting signs and wonders to be done by the hands of Paul and Barnabas.4But the people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews, others with the apostles.5Both Gentiles and Jews (together with their leaders) made an attempt to mistreat them and to stone them,6but as soon as they learned about this, they fled to the Lycaonian cities of Lystra and Derbe and the surrounding region,7where they continued to proclaim the gospel.

8At Lystra a certain man sat, powerless in his feet, a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked.9This man heard Paul speaking. Paul fixed his eyes on him and saw that he had faith to be made well.10So he said to him in a loud voice, "Stand up on your feet." Then the man jumped up and walked around.

11When the multitude saw what Paul had done, they raised their voice, saying in the dialect of Lycaonia, "The gods have become like men and come down to us."12They called Barnabas "Zeus," and Paul "Hermes," because he was the main speaker.13The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought oxen and wreaths to the gates; he and the multitudes wanted to offer sacrifice.14But when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of it, they tore their clothing and quickly went out into the crowd, crying out,15"Men, why are you doing these things? We also are human beings, with the same nature as you. We are telling you good news that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything that is in them.16In the past ages, he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways.17But still, he did not leave himself without witness, in that he did good and gave you the rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling your hearts with food and gladness."18Even with these words, Paul and Barnabas barely kept the multitudes from sacrificing to them.

19But some Jews from Antioch and Iconium came and persuaded the crowds. They stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, thinking that he was dead.20Yet as the disciples were standing around him, he got up and entered the city. The next day, he went to Derbe with Barnabas.21After they had proclaimed the gospel in that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, to Iconium, and to Antioch.22They kept strengthening the souls of the disciples and encouraging them to continue in the faith, saying, "We must enter into the kingdom of God through many tribulations."23When they had appointed for them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they entrusted them to the Lord, in whom they had believed.24Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia.25When they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia.26From there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work which they had now completed.27When they arrived in Antioch and gathered the church together, they reported all the things that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith for the Gentiles.28They stayed for a long time with the disciples.

Chapter 15

1Some men came down from Judea to Antioch and taught the brothers, saying, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved."2This brought Paul and Barnabas into a sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas, along with some others from among them, were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to meet with the apostles and elders about this question.3They therefore, being sent by the church, passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria and announced the conversion of the Gentiles. They brought great joy to all the brothers.4When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all the things that God had done with them.5But certain men who believed, who belonged to the group of Pharisees, stood up and said, "It is necessary to circumcise them and to command them to keep the law of Moses."6So the apostles and the elders gathered together to consider this matter.

7After much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "Brothers, you know that a good while ago God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.8God, who knows the heart, has testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us.9He made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith.10Now therefore why do you test God, that you should put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?11But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they were."

12All the multitude kept silent while they listened to Barnabas and Paul report the signs and wonders God had worked among the Gentiles through them.13After they stopped speaking, James answered, saying,

"Brothers, listen to me.14Simon has told how God first graciously helped the Gentiles in order to take from them a people for his name.15The words of the prophets agree with this, as it is written,16'After these things I will return,and I will build again the tabernacle of David,which has fallen down;I will set up and restore its ruins again,17so that the remnant of men may seek the Lord,including all the Gentiles called by my name.'18This is what the Lord says,who has done these thingsthat have been known from ancient times. [1](#footnote-target-1)

19Therefore, I have decided that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God.20But we will write to them that they must keep away from the pollution of idols, from sexual immorality, and from the meat of strangled animals, and from blood.21For Moses has been proclaimed in every city from ancient generations and he is preached in the synagogues every Sabbath."

22Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, who were leaders of the brothers, and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas.

23They wrote this with their hands, 24Because we have heard that certain men have gone out from us, with no orders from us, and have disturbed you with words that upset your souls,25it seemed good to us, who have come to one mind, to choose men and to send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,26men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.27Therefore we have sent Judas and Silas, who will report to you the same things in their own words.28For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things:29that you abstain from things sacrificed to idols, blood, things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you avoid these things, you will do well.

30So they, when they were dismissed, came down to Antioch; after they gathered the multitude together, they delivered the letter.31When they had read it, they rejoiced because of the encouragement.32Judas and Silas, also prophets, encouraged the brothers with many words and strengthened them.33After they had spent some time there, they were sent away in peace from the brothers to those who had sent them.34[2](#footnote-target-2)35But Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch, teaching and preaching (along with many others) the word of the Lord.

36After some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return now and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are."37Barnabas wanted to also take with them John, who was called Mark.38But Paul thought it was not good to take Mark, who had left them in Pamphylia and did not go further with them in the work.39Then there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus.40But Paul chose Silas and left, after he was entrusted by the brothers to the grace of the Lord.41Then he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

[1](#footnote-caller-1)There are some copies of the ancient Greek text that have a slightly different meaning, This is what the Lord says, to whom are known all his deeds from ancient times . [2](#footnote-caller-2)The best ancient copies do not have verse 34 (See: Acts 15:40), But it seemed good to Silas to remain there .

Chapter 16

1Paul also came to Derbe and to Lystra, and behold, a certain disciple named Timothy was there, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek.2He was well spoken of by the brothers who were at Lystra and Iconium.3Paul wanted him to travel with him, so he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews that were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.4As they were going along through the cities, they were passing along the decrees to obey that were decided on by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. 5So the churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in number daily.

6Paul and his companions went through the regions of Phrygia and Galatia, since they had been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the word in the province of Asia.7When they came near Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus prevented them.8So passing by Mysia, they came down to the city of Troas.9A vision appeared to Paul in the night: A man of Macedonia was standing there, begging him and saying, "Come over into Macedonia and help us."10When Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

11Setting sail therefore from Troas, we made a straight course to Samothrace, and the next day we came to Neapolis.12From there we went to Philippi, which is a city of Macedonia, the most important city in the district and a Roman colony, and we stayed in this city for several days.

13On the Sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we thought there would be a place of prayer. We sat down and spoke to the women who had come together.14A certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God, listened to us. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.15When she and her house were baptized, she pleaded with us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay in my house." And she persuaded us.

16It came about that, as we were going to the place of prayer, a certain slave girl who had a spirit of divination encountered us. She brought her masters much gain by fortunetelling.17This woman followed after Paul and us and shouted, saying, "These men are servants of the Most High God. They proclaim to you the way of salvation."18She did this for many days. But Paul, being greatly annoyed by her, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out at that same hour.

19When her masters saw that their hope of profit was now gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities.20When they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, "These men are causing trouble in our city. They are Jews.21They proclaim customs that are not lawful for Romans to accept or practice."

22Then the crowd rose up together against Paul and Silas; the magistrates tore their garments off them and commanded them to be beaten with rods.23When they had laid many blows upon them, they threw them into prison and commanded the jailer to guard them securely.24After he got this command, the jailer threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

25Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.26Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's chains were unfastened.27The jailer was awakened from sleep and saw the open prison doors; he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, because he thought that the prisoners had escaped.

28But Paul shouted with a loud voice, saying, "Do not harm yourself, because we are all here."

29The jailer called for lights and rushed in and, trembling for fear, fell down before Paul and Silas,30and brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

31They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."32They spoke the word of the Lord to him, together with everyone in his house.33Then the jailer took them at the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he and those in his entire house were baptized immediately.34Then as he brought Paul and Silas up into his house and he set food before them, he rejoiced greatly with those of his house, that he had believed in God.

35Now when it was day, the magistrates sent word to the guards, saying, "Let those men go."

36The jailer reported the words to Paul, saying, "The magistrates have sent word to me to let you go. Now therefore come out, and go in peace."

37But Paul said to them, "They have publicly beaten us without a trial, even though we are Roman citizens—and they threw us into prison. Do they now want to send us away secretly? No! Let them come themselves and lead us out."

38The guards reported these words to the magistrates, and when they heard that Paul and Silas were Romans, they were afraid.39The magistrates came and apologized to them and brought them out, asking them to go away from the city.40So Paul and Silas went out of the prison and came to the house of Lydia. When Paul and Silas saw the brothers, they encouraged them and then departed from the city.

Chapter 17

1Now when they had passed through the cities of Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to the city of Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.2Paul, as his custom was, went to them, and for three Sabbath days reasoned with them from the scriptures.3He was opening the scriptures and explaining that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise again from the dead. He said, "This Jesus whom I proclaim to you is the Christ."4Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, including a large number of devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women.5But the unbelieving Jews, being moved with jealousy, took certain wicked men from the marketplace, gathered a crowd together, and set the city in an uproar. Assaulting the house of Jason, they were seeking to bring Paul and Silas out to the people.6But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and certain other brothers before the officials of the city, crying, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also.7These men whom Jason has welcomed act against the decrees of Caesar; they say that there is another king—Jesus."8They troubled the crowd and the officials of the city who heard these things.9But after they took security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.

10That night the brothers sent Paul and Silas to Berea. When they arrived there, they went into the synagogue of the Jews.11Now these people were more noble than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with all readiness of mind, examining the scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.12Therefore many of them believed, including some influential Greek women and many men.13But when the Jews of Thessalonica learned that Paul was also proclaiming the word of God at Berea, they went there and stirred up and troubled the crowds.14Then immediately, the brothers sent Paul to go to the sea, but Silas and Timothy stayed there.15Those who were leading Paul took him as far as the city of Athens. As they left Paul there, they received from him instructions for Silas and Timothy to come to him as quickly as possible.

16Now while Paul was waiting for them in Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw the city full of idols.17So he reasoned every day in the synagogue with the Jews and others who worshiped God, as well as in the marketplace with those who happened to be there.18But also some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. Some said, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others said, "He seems to be one who calls people to follow strange gods," because he was proclaiming the gospel about Jesus and the resurrection.19They took Paul and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know this new teaching which you were speaking?20For you bring some strange things to our ears. Therefore, we want to know what these things mean."21(Now all the Athenians and the strangers living there spent their time in nothing but either telling or listening about something new.)

22So Paul stood in the middle of the Areopagus and said,

"You men of Athens, I see that you are very religious in every way.23For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' What therefore you worship in ignorance, this I announce to you.

24The God who made the world and everything in it, since he is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples built with hands.25Neither is he served by men's hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives people life and breath and everything else.26From one man he made every nation of people to live on the surface of the earth, having determined their appointed seasons and the boundaries of their living areas,27so that they should search for God and perhaps they may feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is not far from each one of us.28For in him we live and move and have our being, just as one of your own poets has said: 'For we also are his offspring.'

29"Therefore, since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the qualities of deity are like gold, or silver, or stone—images created by the art and imagination of man.30Therefore God overlooked the times of ignorance, but now he commands all men everywhere to repent.31This is because he has set a day when he will judge the world in righteousness by the man he has appointed. God has given proof of this man to everyone by raising him from the dead."

32Now when the men of Athens heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked Paul; but others said, "We will listen to you again about this matter."33After that, Paul left them.34But certain men joined him and believed, including Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

Chapter 18

1After these things Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.2There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to them,3and because he worked at the same trade, he stayed with them and labored, for they were tentmakers by trade.4So Paul reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, trying to persuade both Jews and Greeks.5Now when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself to the word, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.6But when the Jews opposed and insulted him, Paul shook out his garment at them and said to them, "May your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."7Then he left from there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a man who worshiped God. His house was next to the synagogue.8Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with all his household; and many of the Corinthians who heard about it believed and were baptized.9The Lord said to Paul in the night in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak and do not be silent.10For I am with you, and no one will try to harm you, for I have many people in this city."11Paul lived there for a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

12But when Gallio became governor of Achaia, the Jews rose up with one mind against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat;13they said, "This man persuades people to worship God contrary to the law."14Yet when Paul was about to speak, Gallio said to the Jews, "You Jews, if indeed it were a matter of wrong or a wicked crime, it would be reasonable to put up with you.15But since these are questions about words and names and your own law, settle it yourselves. I do not wish to be a judge of these matters."16Gallio made them leave the judgment seat.17So they all seized Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the judgment seat. But Gallio did not care what they did.

18Paul, after staying there for many more days, left the brothers and sailed for Syria with Priscilla and Aquila. Before he left the seaport, Cenchreae, he had his hair cut off because of a vow he had taken.19When they came to Ephesus, Paul left Priscilla and Aquila there, but he himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.20When they asked Paul to stay a longer time, he declined.21But taking his leave of them, he said, "I will return again to you if it is God's will." He then set sail from Ephesus.

22When Paul had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the Jerusalem church and then went down to Antioch.23After having spent some time there, Paul departed and went through the regions of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

24Now a certain Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, came to Ephesus. He was eloquent in speech and mighty in the scriptures.25Apollos had been instructed in the teachings of the Lord. Being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, but he knew only the baptism of John.26Apollos began to speak boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.27When he desired to pass over into Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples in Achaia to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who believed by grace.28Apollos powerfully refuted the Jews in public debate, showing by the scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.

Chapter 19

1It came about that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to the city of Ephesus, and found certain disciples there.2Paul said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"

They said to him, "No, we did not even hear about the Holy Spirit."

3Paul said, "Into what then were you baptized?"

They said, "Into John's baptism."

4So Paul replied, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance. He told the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus."5When the people heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.6Then when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.7In all they were about twelve men.

8Paul went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God.9But when some Jews were hardened and disobedient, they began to speak evil of the Way before the crowd. So Paul left them and took the disciples with him, reasoning with them every day in the lecture hall of Tyrannus.10This continued for two years, so that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.11God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul,12so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick and their illnesses left them and the evil spirits came out of them.

13But there were Jewish exorcists traveling through the area. They called on the name of the Lord Jesus so they could have power over evil spirits when they said, "By the Jesus whom Paul proclaims, I command you to come out."14The Jewish high priest, whose name was Sceva, had seven sons who were doing this.

15An evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?"16The evil spirit in the man leaped on the exorcists and subdued them and beat them up. Then they fled out of that house naked and wounded.17This became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived at Ephesus. They became very afraid, and the name of the Lord Jesus was honored.18Also, many of the believers came and confessed and gave a full account of the evil things they had done.19Many who practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of everyone. When they counted the value of them, it was fifty thousand pieces of silver.20So the word of the Lord spread very widely in powerful ways.

21Now after these things were completed, Paul decided in the Spirit to pass through Macedonia and Achaia on his way to Jerusalem; he said, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome."22Paul sent to Macedonia two of those who served him, Timothy and Erastus. But he himself stayed in Asia for a while.

23At about that time there was no small disturbance in Ephesus concerning the Way.24A certain silversmith named Demetrius, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought in much business for the craftsmen.25So he gathered together the workmen of that occupation and said, "Men, you know that in this business we make much money.26You see and hear that, not only at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people. He is saying that gods made by hands are not gods.27Not only is there danger that our trade will be discredited, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis might be regarded as worthless, and her greatness would be brought to nothing, she whom all Asia and the world worship."

28When they heard this, they were filled with anger and cried out, saying, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians."29The whole city was filled with confusion, and the people rushed with one mind into the theater. They had seized Paul's travel companions, Gaius and Aristarchus, who came from Macedonia.30Paul wanted to enter in among the crowd of people, but the disciples prevented him.31Also, some of the officials of the province of Asia who were his friends sent him a message pleading with him not to enter the theater.32Some people were shouting one thing, and some another, for the crowd was in confusion. Most of them did not even know why they had come together.33Some of the crowd advised Alexander, whom the Jews were pushing forward. So Alexander motioned with his hand, wanting to give a defense to the assembly.34But when they recognized that he was a Jew, they all cried out for about two hours with one voice, saying, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians."35When the town clerk had quieted the crowd, he said, "You men of Ephesus, what man is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple keeper of the great Artemis and of the image which fell down from heaven?36Seeing then that these things are undeniable, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rash.37For you have brought these men to this court who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of our goddess.38Therefore, if Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him have an accusation against anyone, the courts are open and there are proconsuls. Let them accuse one another.39But if you are seeking anything more, it should be resolved in the regular assembly.40For we are in danger of being accused of rioting today, and there is no cause we can give to justify this uproar." When he had said this, he dismissed the assembly. [1](#footnote-target-1)

[1](#footnote-caller-1)Some Greek copies number this last sentence as verse 41.

Chapter 20

1After the uproar was over, Paul sent for the disciples and after he encouraged them, he said farewell and left to go into Macedonia.2When he had gone through those regions and had spoken many words of encouragement to them, he came to Greece.3After he had spent three months there, a plot was formed against him by the Jews as he was about to sail for Syria, so he decided to return through Macedonia.4Accompanying him as far as Asia were Sopater son of Pyrrhus from Berea; Aristarchus and Secundus, both from the Thessalonian believers; Gaius of Derbe; Timothy; and Tychicus and Trophimus from Asia.5But these men had gone before us and were waiting for us at Troas.6We sailed away from Philippi after the days of unleavened bread, and in five days we came to them in Troas. There we stayed for seven days.

7On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul spoke to the believers. He was planning to leave the next day, so he prolonged his message until midnight.8There were many lamps in the upper room where we had come together.9In the window was sitting a young man named Eutychus, who fell into a deep sleep. As Paul spoke even longer, this young man, still sleeping, fell down from the third story and was picked up dead.10But Paul went down, stretched himself out on him, and embraced him. Then he said, "Do not be upset any more, for he is alive."11Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking with them much longer until dawn, he left.12They brought back the boy alive and were greatly comforted.

13We ourselves went ahead of Paul by ship and sailed away to Assos, where we planned to take Paul on board. This is what he himself desired to do, because he planned to go by land.14When he met us at Assos, we took him onto the ship and went to Mitylene.15Then we sailed from there and arrived the next day opposite the island of Chios. The following day we touched at the island of Samos, and the day after we came to the city of Miletus.16For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not spend any time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be in Jerusalem for the day of Pentecost, if it were at all possible for him to do so.

17From Miletus he sent men to Ephesus and called to himself the elders of the church.18When they had come to him, he said to them, "You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I always spent my time with you.19I kept serving the Lord with all lowliness of mind and with tears, and in trials that happened to me because of the plots of the Jews.20You know how I did not keep back from declaring to you anything that was useful, and how I taught you in public and from house to house,21testifying to both Jews and Greeks about repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus.22Now look, I am going to Jerusalem, compelled by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there,23except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that chains and afflictions await me.24But I do not consider my life valuable to myself, if only I may finish the race and complete the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.25Now look, I know that you all, among whom I went about proclaiming the kingdom, will see my face no more.26Therefore I testify to you this day, that I am innocent of the blood of any man.27For I did not hold back from declaring to you the whole will of God.28Therefore be careful about yourselves, and about all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has appointed you overseers. Be careful to shepherd the church of God, which he purchased with his own blood. [1](#footnote-target-1)29I know that after my departure, vicious wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock.30Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth to draw away the disciples after them.31So be on guard. Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each one of you night and day with tears.32Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are being sanctified.33I coveted no man's silver, gold, or clothing.34You yourselves know that these hands served my own needs and the needs of those who were with me.35In all things I gave you an example of how you should help the weak by laboring, and of how you should remember the words of the Lord Jesus, words that he himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

36After he had spoken in this way, he knelt down and prayed with them all.37There was a lot of crying and they embraced Paul and kissed him.38They were in anguish most of all because of what he had said, that they would never see his face again. Then they escorted him to the ship.

[1](#footnote-caller-1)Instead of with his own blood , some ancient copies read, with the blood of his own Son .

Chapter 21

1When we had gone away from them and set sail, we took a straight course to the city of Cos, and the next day to the city of Rhodes, and from there to the city of Patara.2When we found a ship crossing over to Phoenicia, we went aboard and set sail.3After sighting Cyprus, leaving it on the left side of the boat, we sailed on to Syria and landed at Tyre, where the ship was to unload its cargo.4After we found the disciples, we stayed there seven days. Through the Spirit they kept urging Paul not to go to Jerusalem.5When our days there were over, we left and went on our way, and they all, with their wives and children, accompanied us out of the city. Then we knelt down on the beach, prayed,6and said farewell to each other. Then we went on board the ship, and they returned home.

7When we had finished the voyage from Tyre, we arrived at Ptolemais. There we greeted the brothers and stayed with them for one day.8On the next day we left and went to Caesarea. We entered the house of Philip, the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and we stayed with him.9Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied.

10As we stayed there for some days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.11He came to us and took Paul's belt. With it he tied his own feet and hands and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'This is how the Jews in Jerusalem will tie up the man who owns this belt, and they will hand him over into the hands of the Gentiles.'"12When we heard these things, both we and the people who lived in that place pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem.

13Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready, not only to be tied up, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

14Since Paul would not be persuaded, we remained silent and then we said, "May the will of the Lord be done."

15After these days, we picked up our bags and went up to Jerusalem.16There also went with us some of the disciples from Caesarea. They brought with them a man named Mnason, a man from Cyprus, an early disciple, with whom we would stay.

17When we had arrived in Jerusalem, the brothers welcomed us gladly.18The next day Paul went with us to James, and all the elders were present.19When he had greeted them, he reported one by one the things that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.20When they heard it, they glorified God, and they said to him, "You see, brother, how many thousands have believed among the Jews. They are all zealous to keep the law.21They have been told about you, that you teach all the Jews who live among the Gentiles to abandon Moses, and that you tell them not to circumcise their children, and not to walk according to the traditional ways.22What should we do? They will certainly hear that you have come.23So do what we say to you. We have four men who made a vow.24Take these men and purify yourself with them, and pay their expenses for them, so that they may shave their heads. So everyone will know that the things they have been told about you are false. They will learn that you also live correctly, obeying the law.25But concerning the Gentiles who have believed, we wrote about our decision that they should keep themselves from things sacrificed to idols, from blood, from what is strangled, and from sexual immorality."26Then Paul took the men, and the next day he purified himself along with them. Then they went into the temple, giving notice when the days of purification would be fulfilled and the offering would be presented for each of them.

27When the seven days were almost finished, some Jews from Asia, seeing Paul in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him.28They were shouting, "Men of Israel, help us. This is the man who teaches all men everywhere things that are against the people, the law, and this place. Besides, he has also brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place."29For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, and they thought that Paul had brought him into the temple.30All the city was excited, and the people ran together and laid hold of Paul. They dragged him out of the temple, and the doors were immediately shut.31As they were trying to kill him, news came up to the chief captain of the company of soldiers, that all Jerusalem was in an uproar.32Right away he took soldiers and centurions and ran down to the crowd. When the people saw the chief captain and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul.33Then the chief captain approached and laid hold of Paul, and commanded him to be bound with two chains. Then he asked who he was and what he had done.34Some in the crowd were shouting one thing and others another. Since the captain could not learn the truth because of all the noise, he ordered that Paul be brought into the fortress.35When he came to the steps, he was carried by the soldiers because of the crowd's violence.36For the crowd of people followed after and kept shouting out, "Away with him!"

37As Paul was about to be brought into the fortress, he said to the chief captain, "Is it permitted for me to say something to you?"

The captain said, "Do you know Greek?38Are you not then the Egyptian who some time ago started a rebellion and led the four thousand men of the 'Assassins' out into the wilderness?"

39Paul said, "I am a Jew, from the city of Tarsus in Cilicia. I am a citizen of no unimportant city. I beg you, allow me to speak to the people."

40When the captain had given him permission, Paul stood on the steps and motioned with the hand to the people. When there was a deep silence, he spoke to them in the Hebrew language. He said,

Chapter 22

1"Brothers and fathers, listen to my defense which I will now make to you."

2When the crowd heard Paul speak to them in the Hebrew language, they became quiet. He said,

3"I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but educated in this city at the feet of Gamaliel. I was instructed according to the strict ways of the law of our fathers. I am zealous for God, just as all of you are today.4I persecuted this Way to the death, binding up and delivering to prison both men and women,5as the high priest and all the elders can testify. I received letters from them for the brothers in Damascus, and I went there to bring them back in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished.6It happened that when I was traveling and nearing Damascus, about noon suddenly a great light from heaven began to shine around me.7I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?'

8I answered, 'Who are you, Lord?'

He said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.'

9Those who were with me saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who spoke to me.10I said, 'What should I do, Lord?'

The Lord said to me, 'Arise and go into Damascus. There you will be told everything that has been appointed for you to do.'11I could not see because of that light's brightness, and being led by the hands of those who were with me, I came into Damascus.12There I met a man named Ananias, a devout man according to the law and well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there.13He came to me, stood by me, and said, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' In that very hour I saw him.14Then he said, 'The God of our fathers has appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One, and to hear the voice coming from his own mouth.15For you will be a witness for him to all men about what you have seen and heard.16Now why are you waiting? Arise, be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'17After I had returned to Jerusalem, and while I was praying in the temple, a trance came on me.18I saw him say to me, 'Hurry and leave Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.'19I said, 'Lord, they themselves know that I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you in every synagogue.20When the blood of Stephen your witness was spilled, I also was standing by and agreeing, and I was guarding the cloaks of those who killed him.'21But he said to me, 'Go, because I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'"

22They listened to him until that statement. Then they raised their voices and said, "Away with such a fellow from the earth, for it is not right that he should live."23As they were shouting, throwing off their cloaks, and throwing dust into the air,24the chief captain commanded Paul to be brought into the fortress. He ordered that he should be questioned with scourging, so that he himself might know why they were shouting against him like that.25When they had tied him up with the thongs, Paul said to the centurion who was standing by, "Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman and who has not been put on trial?"

26When the centurion heard this, he went to the chief captain and told him, saying, "What are you about to do? For this man is a Roman citizen."27The chief captain came and said to him, "Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?"

Paul said, "Yes."

28The chief captain answered, "It was only with a large amount of money that I acquired citizenship."

But Paul said, "I was born a Roman citizen."29Then the men who were going to question him left him immediately. The chief captain also was afraid, when he learned that Paul was a Roman citizen, because he had tied him up.

30On the next day, the chief captain wanted to know for certain about the Jews' accusations against Paul. So he untied his bonds and ordered the chief priests and all the council to meet. Then he brought Paul down and placed him in their midst.

Chapter 23

1Paul looked directly at the council members and said, "Brothers, I have lived before God in all good conscience until this day."2The high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth.

3Then Paul said to him, "God will strike you, you whitewashed wall. Are you sitting to judge me by the law, yet order me to be struck, against the law?"

4Those who stood by said, "Is this how you insult God's high priest?"

5Paul said, "I did not know, brothers, that he was high priest. For it is written, 'You must not speak evil of a ruler of your people.'"

6When Paul saw that the one part of the council were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he spoke loudly in the council: "Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is because I have the hope of the resurrection of the dead that I am being judged."7When he said this, an argument began between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the crowd was divided.8For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, no angels, and no spirits, but the Pharisees acknowledge all of them.

9So a large uproar occurred, and some of the scribes belonging to the Pharisees stood up and argued, saying, "We find nothing wrong with this man. What if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?"10When there arose a great argument, the chief captain feared that Paul would be torn to pieces by them, so he commanded the soldiers to go down and take him by force from among the council members, and bring him into the fortress.

11The following night the Lord stood beside him and said, "Have courage, for as you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome."

12When it became day, some Jews formed a conspiracy and put themselves under an oath, saying that they would not eat or drink anything until they had killed Paul.13There were more than forty men who formed this conspiracy.14They went to the chief priests and the elders and said, "We have sworn a great oath to eat nothing until we have killed Paul.15Now, therefore, let the council formally request the chief captain to bring him down to you, as if you would decide his case more precisely. As for us, we are ready to kill him before he comes here."

16But Paul's sister's son heard that they were lying in wait, so he went and entered the fortress and told Paul.

17Paul called one of the centurions and said, "Take this young man to the chief captain, for he has something to report to him."

18So the centurion took the young man and brought him to the chief captain and said, "Paul the prisoner called me to him, and asked me to bring this young man to you. He has something to say to you."

19The chief captain took him by the hand to a private place and asked him, "What is it that you have to report to me?"

20The young man said, "The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring down Paul tomorrow to the council, as if they were going to ask more precisely about his case.21But do not be persuaded by them, because there are more than forty men who are lying in wait for him. They have put themselves under oath neither to eat nor to drink until they have killed him. Even now they are ready, waiting for your approval."

22So the chief captain let the young man go, after instructing him, "Tell no one that you have reported these things to me."

23Then he called to him two of the centurions and said, "Get two hundred soldiers ready to go as far as Caesarea, and seventy horsemen also, and two hundred spearmen. You will leave at the third hour of the night."24He also ordered them to provide animals which Paul could ride and to take him safely to Felix the governor.

25Then he wrote a letter like this:26"Claudius Lysias,27This man was arrested by the Jews and was about to be killed by them when I came upon them with soldiers and rescued him, since I learned that he was a Roman citizen.28I wanted to know why they accused him, so I took him down to their council.29I learned that he was being accused about questions concerning their own law, but that there was no accusation against him that deserved death or imprisonment.30Then it was reported to me that there was a plot against the man, so I immediately sent him to you and instructed his accusers also to bring their charges against him in your presence.

31So the soldiers obeyed their orders. They took Paul and brought him by night to Antipatris.32On the next day, most of the soldiers left the horsemen to go with him and they themselves returned to the fortress.33When the horsemen reached Caesarea and delivered the letter to the governor, they also presented Paul to him.34When the governor read the letter, he asked what province Paul was from. When he learned that he was from Cilicia,35he said, "I will hear you fully when your accusers come here." Then he commanded him to be kept in Herod's government headquarters.

Chapter 24

1After five days, Ananias the high priest, certain elders, and an orator named Tertullus went there. These men brought charges against Paul before the governor.2When Paul stood before the governor, Tertullus began to accuse him and said to the governor, "Because of you we have great peace, and your foresight brings good reform to our nation;3so with all thankfulness we welcome everything that you do, most excellent Felix.4So that I detain you no more, I beg you in your kindness to hear us briefly.5For we have found this man to be a pest and one who causes all the Jews throughout the world to rebel. He is a leader of the Nazarene sect.6He even tried to desecrate the temple, so we arrested him. [1](#footnote-target-1)7[2](#footnote-target-2)8When you examine Paul about all these matters, you will be able to learn about all the things of which we are accusing him."9The Jews also joined in the accusation, affirming that these charges were true.

10But when the governor motioned for Paul to speak, Paul answered, "I understand that for many years you have been a judge to this nation, and so I gladly explain myself to you.

11You can learn for yourself that it has not been more than twelve days since I went up to worship in Jerusalem.12When they found me in the temple, I did not argue with anyone, and I did not stir up a crowd, either in the synagogues, or in the city.13They cannot prove to you the accusations they are now making against me.14But I confess this to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I serve the God of our fathers, believing all things that are according to the law and that has been written in the prophets.15I have a hope in God, which these men also have, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.16So I always strive to have a blameless conscience before God and human beings.17Now after many years I came to give alms to my nation and present sacrifices.18When I did this, certain Jews from Asia found me in a purification ceremony in the temple, not with a crowd or an uproar.19These men ought to be before you now and accuse me, if they have anything.20Or else, these same men should say what wrong they found in me when I stood before the Jewish council,21unless it is about this one thing that I shouted out when I stood among them, 'It is concerning the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial before you today.'"

22Then Felix, who was well informed about the Way, postponed the hearing. He said, "When Lysias the commander comes down from Jerusalem, I will decide your case."23Then he commanded the centurion that Paul should be kept in custody, but to have some freedom so that none of his friends would be prevented from attending to his needs.

24After some days, Felix returned with Drusilla his wife, who was Jewish, and he sent for Paul and he heard from him about faith in Christ Jesus.25But when Paul reasoned with him about righteousness, self-control, and the coming judgment, Felix became frightened and said, "Go away for now. But when I have time later on, I will send for you."26At the same time he hoped that Paul would give money to him, so he often sent for him and spoke with him.27But when two years passed, Porcius Festus became the governor after Felix, but Felix wanted to gain favor with the Jews, so he left Paul bound.

[1](#footnote-caller-1)Some ancient copies add, We wanted to judge him according to our law . [2](#footnote-caller-2)Some ancient copies have for verse 7 and the beginning of verse 8, 7 But Lysias, the officer, came and took him by force out of our hands, 8 commanding his accusers to come to you .

Chapter 25

1Now, Festus entered the province, and after three days, he went from Caesarea up to Jerusalem.2The chief priests and the prominent Jews brought their charges against Paul, and they asked Festus earnestly—3asking him to do them a favor against Paul—to summon him to Jerusalem, for they were preparing an ambush to kill him along the way.4Festus answered that Paul was being held in custody at Caesarea, and that he himself was going there soon.5"Therefore, those who can," he said, "should go there with us. If there is something wrong with the man, you should accuse him."

6Festus stayed not more than eight or ten days and then he went down to Caesarea, and on the next day he sat on the judgment seat and commanded Paul to be brought to him.7When he arrived, the Jews from Jerusalem stood nearby, and they brought many serious charges which they could not prove.

8Paul defended himself and said, "I have committed no sin against the law of the Jews or against the temple or against Caesar."

9But Festus wanted to gain the favor of the Jews, and so he answered Paul and said, "Do you want to go up to Jerusalem and to be judged by me about these things there?"10Paul said, "I stand before the judgment seat of Caesar where I must be judged. I have wronged no Jews, just as you also very well know.11Though if I have done wrong and if I have done what is worthy of death, I do not refuse to die. But if their accusations are nothing, no one can hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar."12After Festus talked with the council, he answered, "You have appealed to Caesar. To Caesar you will go!"

13Now after some days, King Agrippa and Bernice arrived at Caesarea to pay an official visit to Festus.14After they had been there for many days, Festus presented Paul's case to the king; he said, "A certain man was left behind here by Felix as a prisoner.15When I was in Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews brought charges against this man to me, and they asked for a sentence of condemnation against him.16I answered them that it was not the custom of the Romans to hand over anyone before the accused had faced his accusers and received an opportunity to defend himself against the charges.17Therefore, when they came together here, I did not wait, but the next day I sat in the judgment seat and I ordered the man to be brought in.18When the accusers stood up, they charged him with nothing that I considered wickedness.19Instead, they had certain disputes with him about their own religion and about a certain Jesus who was dead, whom Paul claims to be alive.20I was perplexed about how to investigate this matter, and so I asked him if he would be willing to go to Jerusalem to stand trial there about these charges.21But when Paul appealed to be kept in custody while awaiting the decision of the emperor, I ordered him to be held in custody until I could send him to Caesar."22Agrippa spoke to Festus: "I would also like to listen to this man." "Tomorrow," Festus said, "you will hear him."

23So on the next day, Agrippa and Bernice came with much ceremony; they came into the hall with the military officers and with the prominent men of the city. When Festus spoke the command, Paul was brought to them.24Festus said, "King Agrippa, and all you men who are here with us, you see this man; all the multitude of Jews appealed to me in Jerusalem and here also, and they shouted to me that he should no longer live.25I found he had done nothing worthy of death; but because he appealed to the emperor, I decided to send him to Rome.26But I do not have anything certain to write to my lord. For this reason, I have brought him to you, especially to you, King Agrippa, so that I might have something more to write about the case.27For it seems unreasonable for me to send a prisoner and to not also state the charges against him."

Chapter 26

1So Agrippa said to Paul, "You may speak for yourself." Then Paul stretched out his hand and made his defense.

2"I consider myself happy, King Agrippa, to make my case before you today against all the accusations of the Jews,3especially because you are an expert in all the Jewish customs and questions. So I beg you to hear me patiently.4Truly, all the Jews know how I lived from my youth in my own nation and at Jerusalem.5They have known about me from the beginning, if they are willing to admit it, that I lived as a Pharisee, the strictest party of our religion.6Now I stand here to be judged because of my hope in the promise made by God to our fathers.7It is this promise that our twelve tribes hope to receive as they worship God earnestly night and day, and it is for this hope, king, that the Jews are accusing me.8Why should any of you judge it to be incredible that God raises the dead?9Now indeed, I myself thought that I should do many things against the name of Jesus of Nazareth.10I did these in Jerusalem. I locked up in prison many of God's holy people by the authority I received from the chief priests; and when they were killed, I cast my vote against them.11I punished them many times in all the synagogues, and I tried to force them to blaspheme. I was furiously enraged against them, and I persecuted them even to foreign cities.12While I was doing this, I went to Damascus with authority and orders from the chief priests;13and on the way there, in the middle of the day, king, I saw a light from heaven that was brighter than the sun, and it shone around both me and the men who were traveling with me.14When we all fell to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me that said in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick a goad.'15Then I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' The Lord replied, 'I am Jesus whom you persecute.16Now get up and stand on your feet; because for this purpose I appeared to you, to appoint you to be a servant and a witness concerning the things that you know about me now and the things that I will show to you later;17and I will rescue you from the people and from the Gentiles to whom I am sending you,18to open their eyes and to turn them from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, so that they may receive from God the forgiveness of sins and the inheritance that I give to them who are sanctified by faith in me.'19Therefore, King Agrippa, I did not disobey the heavenly vision;20but, to those in Damascus first, and then at Jerusalem, and throughout all the country of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, I gave them the message that that they should repent and turn to God, doing deeds worthy of repentance.21For this cause the Jews arrested me in the temple and tried to kill me.22Therefore I have received the help that comes from God until this very day, and I stand and testify to both small and great about nothing more than what the prophets and Moses said would happen—23that Christ must suffer, and by being the first to rise from the dead he would proclaim light to our own people and to the Gentiles."

24As Paul completed his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul, you are insane; your great learning makes you insane."25But Paul said, "I am not insane, most excellent Festus, but I am declaring words of truth and sound judgment.26For the king knows about these things; and so I speak boldly to him, for I am persuaded that none of this is hidden from him; for this has not been done in a corner.27Do you believe the prophets, King Agrippa? I know that you believe."28Agrippa said to Paul, "In a short time would you persuade me and make me a Christian?"

29Paul said, "I pray to God, that whether in a short or long time, not you only, but also all that hear me today, would be like me, but without these prison chains."

30Then the king stood up, and the governor, and Bernice also, and those who were sitting with them;31when they left the hall, they talked to one another and said, "This man does nothing worthy of death or of bonds."

32Agrippa said to Festus, "This man could have been freed if he had not appealed to Caesar."

Chapter 27

1When it was decided that we should sail for Italy, they committed Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion named Julius, who belonged to the Augustan company of soldiers.2We boarded a ship from Adramyttium which was about to sail along the coast of Asia. So we went to sea. Aristarchus from Thessalonica in Macedonia went with us.3The next day we landed at the city of Sidon, where Julius treated Paul kindly and allowed him to go to his friends to receive their care.4From there we went to sea and sailed under the lee of Cyprus, close to the island, because the winds were against us.5When we had sailed across the sea past Cilicia and Pamphylia, we landed at Myra, a city of Lycia.6There, the centurion found a ship from Alexandria that was going to sail to Italy. He put us on it.7When we had sailed slowly for many days and had finally arrived with difficulty near Cnidus and the wind no longer allowed us to go that way, we sailed along the sheltered side of Crete, opposite Salmone.8We sailed along the coast with difficulty, until we came to a certain place called Fair Havens, which is near the city of Lasea.

9We had now taken much time, the time of the Jewish fast also had passed, and it had now become dangerous to sail. So Paul warned them,10and said, "Men, I see that the voyage we are about to take will be with injury and much loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives."11But the centurion was more persuaded by the master and by the owner of the ship than by those things that were spoken by Paul.12Because the harbor was not easy to spend the winter in, most of the sailors advised to sail from there, and if by any means we could reach the city of Phoenix, to spend the winter there. Phoenix is a harbor in Crete, facing both southwest and northwest.13When a south wind began to blow gently, the sailors thought that they had what they needed. So they weighed anchor and sailed along Crete, close to the shore.14But after a short time a wind of hurricane force, called the northeaster, began to beat down from the island.15When the ship was caught by the storm and could no longer head into the wind, we had to give way to the storm and were driven along by the wind.16We sailed along the lee of a small island called Cauda, and with difficulty we were able to secure the lifeboat.17When they had hoisted the lifeboat up, they used its ropes to bind the hull of the ship. They were afraid that they should run upon the sandbars of Syrtis, so they lowered the sea anchor and were driven along.18We took such a violent battering by the storm that the next day they began throwing the cargo overboard.19On the third day the sailors threw overboard the ship's equipment with their own hands.20When the sun and stars did not shine on us for many days, and the great storm still beat upon us, any more hope that we should be saved was abandoned.21When they had gone long without food, then Paul stood up among the sailors and said, "Men, you should have listened to me, and not have set sail from Crete, so as to get this injury and loss.22Now I urge you to take courage, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only the loss of the ship.23For last night an angel of the God to whom I belong, whom also I worship—his angel stood beside me24and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand before Caesar, and see, God in his kindness has given to you all those who are sailing with you.'25Therefore have courage, men! For I trust God that it will happen just as it was told to me.26But we must run aground upon some island."

27When the fourteenth night had come, as we were driven this way and that in the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors thought that they were approaching some land.28They took soundings and found twenty fathoms; after a little while, they took more soundings and found fifteen fathoms.29They were afraid that we might crash on the rocks, so they lowered four anchors from the stern and prayed that morning would come soon.30The sailors were looking for a way to abandon the ship and had lowered the lifeboat into the sea, and pretended that they would throw down the anchors from the bow.31But Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, "Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved."32Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the boat and let it drift away.33When daylight was coming on, Paul encouraged them all to take some food. He said, "This day is the fourteenth day that you have been on constant guard and have gone without food—you have not eaten anything.34So I urge you to share some food, for this is necessary for you to survive. For not one of you will lose a single hair from his head." 35When he had said this, he took bread and he thanked God in the sight of everyone. Then he broke the bread and began to eat.36Then they were all encouraged and they also took food.37We were 276 souls on the ship.38When they had eaten enough, they made the ship lighter by throwing out the wheat into the sea.39When it was day, they did not recognize the land, but they saw a bay with a beach, and they discussed whether they could drive the ship onto it.40So they cut loose the anchors and left them in the sea. At the same time they loosed the ropes of the rudders and raised the foresail to the wind; and so they headed to the beach.41But the ship struck a sandbar and ran aground. The bow was stuck there and remained unmovable, and the stern was broken up by the force of the waves.42The soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners so that none of them could swim away and escape.43But the centurion wanted to save Paul, so he stopped their plan; and he ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and get to land.44Then the rest of the men should follow, some on planks, and some on other things from the ship. In this way it happened that all of us were brought safely to land.

Chapter 28

1When we were brought safely through, we learned that the island was called Malta.2The native people offered to us not just ordinary kindness, but they lit a fire and welcomed us all because of the constant rain and cold.3But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and placed them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened onto his hand.4When the native people saw the animal hanging from his hand, they said one to another, "This man certainly is a murderer who has been saved from the sea; Justice does not permit him to live."5But then he shook the animal into the fire and suffered no harm.6They were waiting for him to swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But after they watched him for a long time and saw that nothing was wrong with him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god.

7Now in a nearby place there were lands belonging to the chief man of the island, a man named Publius. He welcomed us and kindly provided for us for three days.8It happened that the father of Publius was lying afflicted with a fever and dysentery. When Paul went to him, he prayed, placed his hands on him, and healed him.9After this happened, the rest of the people on the island who were sick also came and were healed.10The people also honored us with many honors. When we were preparing to sail, they gave us what we needed.

11After three months we set sail in a ship that had spent the winter at the island, a ship of Alexandria, with "the twin gods" as its figurehead.12After we landed at the city of Syracuse, we stayed there three days.13From there we sailed and arrived at the city of Rhegium. After one day a south wind sprang up, and in two days we came to the city of Puteoli.14There we found some brothers and were invited to stay with them for seven days. In this way we came to Rome.15From there the brothers, after they heard about us, came to meet us as far as the Market of Appius and the Three Taverns. When Paul saw the brothers, he thanked God and took courage.

16When we entered Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself with the soldier who was guarding him.

17Then it came about that after three days Paul called together those men who were the leaders among the Jews. When they had come together, he said to them, "Brothers, although I have done nothing wrong against the people or the customs of our fathers, I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans.18After they questioned me, they wished to set me free, because there was no reason for the death penalty in my case.19But when the Jews spoke against their desire, I was forced to appeal to Caesar, although it is not as if I were bringing any accusation against my nation.20For this reason, therefore, I called upon you that I might see you and speak with you, since it is because of the hope of Israel that I am now wearing this chain."

21Then they said to him, "We neither received letters from Judea about you, nor did any of the brothers come and report or say anything bad about you.22But we want to hear from you what you think about this sect, because it is known by us that it is spoken against everywhere."

23When they had appointed a day for him, more people came to him at his dwelling place. He presented the matter to them, and testified about the kingdom of God. He tried to persuade them about Jesus, both from the law of Moses and from the prophets, from morning until evening.24Some were convinced about the things which were said, while others did not believe.25When they did not agree with one another, they left after Paul had spoken this one word: "The Holy Spirit spoke well through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers.

26He said, 'Go to this people and say, "Hearing you will hear, but you will never understand; seeing, you will see, but you will never know.27For the heart of this people has become dull,and with their ears they hardly hear,and they have shut their eyes.Otherwise they might see with their eyes,and hear with their ears,and understand with their heart and turn again,and I would heal them."'

28Therefore, you should know that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen."29[1](#footnote-target-1)

30Paul lived for two whole years in his own rented house, and he welcomed all who came to him.31He was proclaiming the kingdom of God and was teaching the things about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness without being hindered.

[1](#footnote-caller-1)Acts 28:29—Some ancient copies have verse 29: When he had said these things, the Jews went away. They were having a great dispute among themselves .

## Revelation

Chapter 1

1This is the revelation of Jesus Christ that God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,2who testified about the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ, all the things that he saw.3Blessed is the one who reads aloud this prophecy and those who listen to the words of this prophecy and who obey what is written in it, because the time is near.

4John, to the seven churches in Asia: May grace be to you and peace from the one who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,5and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To the one who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood—6he has made us a kingdom, priests for his God and Father—to him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.7Look, he is coming with the clouds;every eye will see him,including those who pierced him.All the tribes of the earth will mourn because of him.Yes, Amen.

8"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "the one who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." [1](#footnote-target-1)

9I, John—your brother and the one who shares with you in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are in Jesus—was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony about Jesus.10I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day. I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet.11It said, "Write what you see in a book, and send it to the seven churches—to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamum, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."12I turned around to see whose voice was speaking to me, and as I turned I saw seven golden lampstands.13In the middle of the lampstands there was one like a son of man, wearing a long robe that reached down to his feet and a golden sash around his chest.14His head and hair were as white as wool—as white as snow—and his eyes were like a flame of fire.15His feet were like polished bronze, like bronze that had been refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of many rushing waters.16He had seven stars in his right hand, and a sword with two sharp edges was coming out of his mouth. His face was shining like the sun at its strongest.17When I saw him, I fell at his feet like a dead man. He placed his right hand on me and said, "Do not be afraid. I am the first and the last18and the one who lives. I was dead, but look, I live forever and ever! And I have the keys of death and of Hades.19Therefore write down what you have seen, what is now, and what will take place after this.20As for the hidden meaning about the seven stars you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches."

[1](#footnote-caller-1)Some important and ancient Greek copies read, I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, says the Lord God .

Chapter 2

1"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

'The words of the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand and who walks among the seven golden lampstands,2"I know your deeds, your hard labor, and your patient endurance, and that you cannot tolerate those who are evil, but you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and you have found them to be false.3You are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name, and you have not grown weary.4But I have against you the fact that you have left behind your first love.5Remember therefore from where you have fallen. Repent and do the things you did at first. Unless you repent, I will come to you and I will remove your lampstand from its place.6But you have this: You hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.7Let the one who has an ear, hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God."'

8"To the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

'The words of the one who is the first and the last, the one who was dead and who became alive again:9"I know your sufferings and your poverty, but you are rich. I know the slander of those who say they are Jews, but they are not. They are a synagogue of Satan.10Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Look! The devil is about to throw some of you into prison so that you will be tested, and you will suffer for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.11Let the one who has an ear, hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death."'

12"To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

'The words of the one who has the sword with two sharp edges:13"I know where you live, there where Satan's throne is. Yet you hold on tightly to my name. I know that you did not deny your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas my witness, my faithful one, who was killed among you, there where Satan lives.14But I have a few things against you: You have there some who hold tightly to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to throw a stumbling block before the sons of Israel so they would eat food sacrificed to idols and be sexually immoral.15In the same way, you even have some who hold tightly to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.16Repent, therefore! If you do not, I will quickly come to you, and I will wage war against them with the sword in my mouth.17Let the one who has an ear hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To the one who conquers, I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give a white stone with a new name written on the stone, a name which no one knows but the one who receives it."'

18"To the angel of the church in Thyatira write:

'These are the words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire and feet like polished bronze:19"I know your deeds: your love and faith and service and your patient endurance. I know that what you have done recently is more than you did at first.20But I have this against you: You tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she deceives my servants to commit sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols.21I gave her time to repent, but she is not willing to repent of her immorality.22Look! I will throw her onto a sickbed and those who commit adultery with her into great suffering, unless they repent of her deeds.23I will strike her children dead, and all the churches will know that I am the one who searches out thoughts and hearts. I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.24But to the rest of you in Thyatira, to everyone who does not hold this teaching and does not know what some call the deep things of Satan—to you I say, 'I do not put any other burden on you.'25In any case, you must hold on tightly until I come.26The one who conquers and does my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations.27'He will rule them with an iron rod,like clay jars he will break them into pieces.'28Just as I have received from my Father, I will also give him the morning star.29Let the one who has an ear hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches."'

Chapter 3

1"To the angel of the church in Sardis write:

'The words of the one who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your deeds. You have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.2Wake up and strengthen what remains but is about to die, because I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God.3Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard. Obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come against you.4But you have a few names in Sardis who have not stained their clothes, and they will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy.5The one who conquers will be clothed in white garments, and I will never wipe his name out of the Book of Life, and I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.6Let the one who has an ear hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches."'

7"To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:'The words of the one who is holy and true—he holds the key of David,he opens and no one shuts,he shuts and no one can open.

8"'I know your deeds. Look, I have put before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have obeyed my word and have not denied my name.9Look! I will cause those who belong to the synagogue of Satan, those calling themselves Jews but are not, but rather liars—I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will know that I love you.10Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of testing that is coming on the whole world, to test those who live on the earth.11I am coming soon. Hold to what you have so no one can take away your crown.12The one who conquers I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, the name of the city of my God (the new Jerusalem, that comes down out of heaven from my God), and my new name.13Let the one who has an ear, hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches."'

14"To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

'The words of the Amen, the reliable and true witness, the ruler over God's creation.15"I know your deeds and that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot!16So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to vomit you out of my mouth.17For you say, 'I am rich, I have had many material possessions, and I need nothing.' But you do not know that you are most miserable, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.18Listen to my advice: Buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and brilliant white garments so you may clothe yourself and not show the shame of your nakedness, and salve to anoint your eyes so you will see.19I rebuke and discipline everyone whom I love. Therefore, be earnest and repent.20Look, I am standing at the door and am knocking. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into his home and will eat with him, and he with me.21The one who conquers I will give him the right to sit down with me on my throne, just as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.22Let the one who has an ear, hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches."'"

Chapter 4

1After these things I looked, and I saw an open door in heaven. The first voice that I had heard was speaking to me like a trumpet, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after these things."2At once I was in the Spirit, and I saw there a throne placed in heaven, with someone sitting on it.3The one who was sitting on it looked like jasper and carnelian. There was a rainbow around the throne. The rainbow was like an emerald in appearance.4Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, dressed with white garments, with golden crowns on their heads.5From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings, and crashes of thunder. Seven flaming lamps were burning in front of the throne, lamps that were the seven spirits of God.6Before the throne was a sea of glass, like crystal. In the middle of the throne and around the throne were four living creatures, full of eyes, front and back.7The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature was like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle.8The four living creatures each had six wings, full of eyes on top and underneath. Night and day they do not stop saying,  
  
"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,who was, and who is, and who is to come."

9Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to the one who sits on the throne, the one who lives forever and ever,10the twenty-four elders fall down before the one seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne, saying,  
  
11"Worthy are you, our Lord and our God,to receive glory and honor and power,for you created all things,and by your will they existed and were created."

Chapter 5

1Then I saw in the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne a scroll written on the front and on the back, sealed with seven seals.2I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?"3No one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to read it.4I wept bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to read it.5But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Look! The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."6I saw a Lamb standing in the middle of the throne area and among the four living creatures and among the elders. He looked as though he had been killed. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.7He went and took hold of the scroll out of the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne.8When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each of them had a harp and a golden bowl full of incense, which are the prayers of God's holy people.9They sang a new song:  
  
"You are worthy to take the scrolland to open its seals.For you were slaughtered, and with your blood you purchased people for Godfrom every tribe, language, people, and nation.10You made them a kingdom and priests to serve our God,and they will reign on the earth."

11Then I looked and heard the sound of many angels who encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. Their total number was ten thousands of ten thousands and thousands of thousands.12They said in a loud voice,  
  
"Worthy is the Lamb, who has been slaughtered, to receive power, wealth, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and praise."

13I heard every created thing that was in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea—everything in them—saying,  
  
"To the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise, honor, glory, and dominion forever and ever."

14The four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped. [1](#footnote-target-1)

[1](#footnote-caller-1)Some important and ancient Greek copies read, the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped the one who lives forever and ever .

Chapter 6

1I looked when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice that sounded like thunder, "Come!"2I looked and there was a white horse. Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown. He came out as a conqueror in order to conquer.

3When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!"4Then another horse came out—fiery red. To its rider was given permission to take peace away from the earth, so that its people would slaughter one another. This rider was given a huge sword.

5When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" I saw a black horse, and its rider held a pair of scales in his hand.6I heard what seemed to be a voice among the four living creatures say, "A choenix of wheat for one denarius, and three choenices of barley for a denarius. But do not harm the oil and the wine."

7When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!"8Then I saw a pale horse. The rider on it was named Death, and Hades was following him. They were given authority over one-fourth of the earth, to kill with the sword, with famine and disease, and with the wild animals of the earth.

9When the Lamb opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been killed because of the word of God and the testimony which they held.10They cried out with a loud voice, "How long, Ruler over all, holy and true, until you judge those who live on the earth, and until you avenge our blood?"11Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told that they should wait a short time longer until the full number of their fellow servants and their brothers who were to be killed, just as they had been killed, was made complete.

12When the Lamb opened the sixth seal, I watched and there was a great earthquake. The sun became as black as sackcloth, and the full moon became like blood.13The stars in the heavens fell to the earth, just as a fig tree drops its unripe figs when shaken by a stormy wind.14The sky vanished like a scroll that was being rolled up. Every mountain and island was moved out of its place.15Then the kings of the earth and the important people, and the commanders, and the rich, and the powerful, and everyone else, slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains.16They said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us! Hide us from the face of the one who is seated on the throne and from the Lamb's wrath.17For the great day of their wrath has come. Who is able to stand?"

Chapter 7

1After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, tightly holding back the four winds of the earth so that no wind should blow on the earth, on the sea, or against any tree.2I saw another angel coming up from the east, who had the seal of the living God. He cried out with a loud voice to the four angels who were given permission to harm the earth and the sea:3"Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees until we have put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God."4I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000, who were sealed from every tribe of the people of Israel:5twelve thousand from the tribe of Judah were sealed,twelve thousand from the tribe of Reuben,twelve thousand from the tribe of Gad,6twelve thousand from the tribe of Asher,twelve thousand from the tribe of Naphtali,twelve thousand from the tribe of Manasseh,7twelve thousand from the tribe of Simeon,twelve thousand from the tribe of Levi,twelve thousand from the tribe of Issachar,8twelve thousand from the tribe of Zebulun,twelve thousand from the tribe of Joseph, andtwelve thousand from the tribe of Benjamin were sealed.

9After these things I looked, and there was a huge multitude that no one could count—from every nation, tribe, people, and language—standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands,10and they were crying out with a loud voice:  
  
"Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

11All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne. They worshiped God,12saying,  
  
"Amen! Praise, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and strength be to our God forever and ever!Amen!"

13Then one of the elders asked me, "Who are these, clothed with white robes, and where did they come from?"14I said to him, "Sir, you know," and he said to me, "These are the ones who have come out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.15For this reason,   
  
 they are before the throne of God,and they worship him day and night in his temple.The one who is seated on the throne will spread his tent over them.16They will not be hungry again, nor will they be thirsty again.The sun will not beat down on them,nor any burning heat.17For the Lamb at the center of the throne will shepherd them,and he will guide them to springs of living water,and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Chapter 8

1When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was a silence in heaven for about half an hour.2Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.

3Another angel came, holding a golden incense bowl, standing at the incense altar. Much incense was given to him so that he would offer it with the prayers of all God's holy people on the golden incense altar before the throne.4The smoke of the incense—with the prayers of God's holy people—rose up before God from the angel's hand.5The angel took the incense bowl and filled it with fire from the altar. Then he threw it down to the earth, and there were crashes of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

6The seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them.

7The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there was hail and fire mixed with blood. It was thrown down onto the earth so that a third of it was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up. [1](#footnote-target-1)

8The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea became blood,9a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

10The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a huge star fell from the sky, blazing like a torch, on a third of the rivers and springs of water.11The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many people died from the waters that became bitter.

12The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, as well as a third of the moon and a third of the stars. So a third of them turned dark; a third of the day and a third of the night had no light.

13I looked, and I heard an eagle [2](#footnote-target-2) that was flying overhead calling out with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe, to those who live on the earth, because of the remaining trumpet blasts that are about to be sounded by the three angels."

[1](#footnote-caller-1)Some important and ancient Greek copies leave out, so that a third of it was burned up . [2](#footnote-caller-2)Some copies have the word angel instead of eagle .

Chapter 9

1Then the fifth angel sounded his trumpet. I saw a star from heaven that had fallen to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit.2He opened the shaft of the bottomless pit, and smoke went up out of the shaft like smoke from a huge furnace. The sun and the air were turned dark by the smoke from the shaft.3Out of the smoke locusts came on the earth, and they were given power like that of scorpions on the earth.4They were told not to damage the grass on the earth or any green plant or tree, but only the people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads.5They were not given permission to kill those people, but only to torture them for five months. Their agony would be like the sting of a scorpion when it strikes a person.6In those days people will seek death but will not find it. They will greatly desire to die, but death will flee from them.7The locusts looked like horses prepared for war. On their heads were something like crowns of gold, and their faces were like human faces.8They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.9They had breastplates like iron breastplates, and the sound of their wings was like the sound made by many chariots and horses running into battle.10They had tails with stingers like scorpions; in their tails they had power to harm people for five months.11They had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew was Abaddon, and in Greek he had the name Apollyon.

12The first woe is past. Look! After this there are still two disasters to come.

13The sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the horns of the golden altar that is present before God,14saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who had been bound at the great Euphrates River."15The four angels who had been prepared for that hour, that day, that month, and that year were released to kill a third of mankind.16The number of the soldiers on horseback was 200,000,000. I heard their number.17This is how I saw the horses in my vision and those who rode on them: Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulfur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and sulfur.18A third of the people were killed by these three plagues: the fire, smoke, and sulfur that came out of their mouths.19For the power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails—for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflicted wounds on people.20The rest of mankind, those who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, nor did they stop worshiping demons and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood—things that cannot see, hear, or walk.21Neither did they repent of their murders, their sorcery, their sexual immorality, or their acts of theft.

Chapter 10

1Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was clothed in a cloud, and there was a rainbow above his head. His face was like the sun and his feet were like pillars of fire.2He held a little scroll, which was opened in his hand. He put his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land.3Then he shouted in a loud voice like a roaring lion. When he shouted, the seven thunders spoke out with their sounds.4When the seven thunders spoke out, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Seal up what the seven thunders said. Do not write it down."5Then the angel I saw standing on the sea and the earth raised his right hand to heaven.6He swore by the one who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and all that is in it, the earth and all that is on it, and the sea and all that is in it, and the angel said, "There will be no more delay.7But on the day when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, then the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he proclaimed the good news to his servants the prophets."8The voice I heard from heaven spoke to me again: "Go, take the open scroll that is in the hand of the angel standing on the sea and on the land."9Then I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, "Take the scroll and eat it. It will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey."10I took the little scroll from the angel's hand and ate it. It was as sweet as honey in my mouth, but after I ate it, my stomach became bitter.11Then someone said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages, and kings."

Chapter 11

1A reed was given to me to use like a measuring rod. I was told, "Get up and measure the temple of God and the altar, and those who worship in it.2But do not measure the courtyard outside the temple, for it has been given over to the Gentiles. They will trample the holy city for forty-two months.3I will give my two witnesses authority to prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth."4These witnesses are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that have stood before the Lord of the earth.5If anyone chooses to harm them, fire comes out of their mouth and devours their enemies. Anyone who wishes to harm them must be killed in this way.6These witnesses have authority to close up the sky so that no rain will fall during the days that they prophesy. They have power to turn the waters to blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague whenever they wish.7When they will have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the bottomless pit will wage war against them. He will conquer them and kill them.8Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city (which is symbolically called Sodom and Egypt) where their Lord was crucified.9For three and a half days some from every people, tribe, language, and nation will look at their bodies. They will not permit them to be placed in a tomb.10Those who live on the earth will rejoice over them and celebrate. They will even send gifts to one another because these two prophets tormented those who lived on the earth.11But after three and a half days a breath of life from God will enter them, and they will stand on their feet. Great fear will fall on those who see them.12Then they will hear a loud voice from heaven say to them, "Come up here!" Then they will go up into heaven in a cloud, while their enemies look on.13At that hour there will be a major earthquake, and a tenth part of the city will collapse. Seven thousand people will be killed in the earthquake, and the survivors will be terrified and give glory to the God of heaven.

14The second woe is past. Look! The third woe is coming quickly.

15Then the seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and loud voices spoke in heaven and said,  
  
"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ,and he will reign forever and ever."

16Then the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones in the presence of God, fell upon their faces and worshiped God.17They said,  
  
"We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the one who is and who was,because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. [1](#footnote-target-1)18The nations were enraged,but your wrath has come.The time has come for the dead to be judgedand for you to reward your servants the prophetsand God's holy people, and those who feared your name,both the unimportant and the mighty.The time has come for you to destroy those who are destroying the earth."

19Then God's temple in heaven was opened and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, crashes of thunder, an earthquake, and a great hailstorm.

[1](#footnote-caller-1)The best copies of the ancient Greek text have the phrase who was, and who is, but some later copies of the Greek add the phrase: and who is to come .

Chapter 12

1A great sign was seen in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head.2She was pregnant, and she was crying out in birth pains, in the anguish of childbirth.3Then another sign was seen in heaven: Look! There was a huge red dragon that had seven heads and ten horns, and there were seven crowns on his heads.4His tail swept away a third of the stars in heaven and hurled them down to the earth. The dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth, he would devour her child.5She gave birth to a son, a male child, who would rule all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was snatched away to God and to his throne,6and the woman fled into the wilderness, where God had prepared a place for her, so she could be taken care of for 1,260 days.

7Now there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back.8But the dragon was not strong enough to win. So there was no longer any place in heaven for him and his angels.9The great dragon—that old serpent called the Devil or Satan, who deceives the whole world—was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.10Then I heard a loud voice in heaven:  
  
"Now have come the salvation and the powerand the kingdom of our God,and the authority of his Christ.For the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down,the one who accused them before our God day and night.11They conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony,for they did not love their lives even to death.12Therefore rejoice, you heavensand all who reside in them!But woe to the earth and to the sea,because the devil has gone down to you!He is filled with terrible angerand knows that he has only a little time!

13When the dragon realized he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child.14But the woman was given the two wings of a great eagle so that she would flee to the place prepared for her in the wilderness. This was the place where she would be taken care of, for a time, times, and half a time—out of the serpent's presence.15The serpent poured water out of his mouth like a river so that he might make a flood to sweep her away.16But the earth helped the woman. The earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon was pouring out of his mouth.17Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war with the rest of her descendants, those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony about Jesus.18Then the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore.

Chapter 13

1Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads. On its horns were ten crowns, and on each of its heads was a blasphemous name.2This beast I saw was like a leopard. Its feet were like a bear's feet, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. The dragon gave it his power, his throne, and his great authority to rule.3One of the beast's heads seemed to have a fatal wound, but that fatal wound had been healed. The whole earth marveled as they followed the beast.4They also worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast. They worshiped the beast, too, and kept saying, "Who is like the beast?" and "Who can fight against it?"5The beast was given a mouth that could speak proud words and blasphemies. It was permitted to exercise authority for forty-two months.6So the beast opened its mouth to speak blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his tabernacle, those who live in heaven.7The beast was permitted to wage war with God's holy people and to conquer them. Also, authority was given to it over every tribe, people, language, and nation.8All who live on the earth will worship it, everyone whose name was not written in the Book of Life, which belongs to the Lamb who had been slaughtered from the foundation of the world.9If anyone has an ear, let him hear.  
  
10If anyone is to be taken into captivity,into captivity he will go.If anyone is to be killed with the sword,with the sword he will be killed.  
  
 Here is a call for the patient endurance and faith of God's holy people.

11Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, and it spoke like a dragon.12He exercised all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and he made the earth and those who live on it worship the first beast—the one whose lethal wound had been healed.13He performed mighty miracles. He even made fire come down on the earth from heaven in front of people.14By the signs he was given power on behalf of the beast, he deceived those who live on the earth, telling them to set up an image for the beast—who was wounded by the sword, but he still lived.15He was permitted to give breath to the beast's image so that the image would even speak and cause all who refused to worship the beast to be killed.16He also forced everyone, unimportant and mighty, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on the right hand or on the forehead.17It was impossible for anyone to buy or sell unless he had the mark of the beast, that is, the number representing its name.18This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast. For it is the number of a human being. His number is 666.

Chapter 14

1I looked and saw the Lamb standing on Mount Zion. With him were 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.2I heard a voice from heaven sounding like a roar of many waters and loud thunder. The sound I heard was also like harpists playing their harps.3They sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except for the 144,000 who had been bought from the earth.4These are the ones that have not defiled themselves with women, for they have kept themselves sexually pure. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These were redeemed from among mankind as firstfruits for God and for the Lamb.5No lie was found in their mouth; they are blameless.

6I saw another angel flying in midair, who had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language, and people.7He called out with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory. For the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him, the one who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and the springs of water."

8Another angel—a second angel—followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, who persuaded all the nations to drink the wine of her immoral passion."

9Another angel—a third angel—followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand,10he will also drink some of the wine of God's wrath, the wine that has been poured undiluted into the cup of his anger. The person who drinks it will be tormented with fire and sulfur before God's holy angels and before the Lamb.11The smoke from their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest day or night—these worshipers of the beast and his image, and everyone who receives the mark of his name.12Here is a call for the patient endurance of God's holy people, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus."

13I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

"Yes," says the Spirit, "so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds will follow them."

14I looked, and there was a white cloud. Seated on the cloud was one like a son of man. He had a golden crown on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand.15Then another angel came out of the temple and called with a loud voice to the one sitting on the cloud: "Take your sickle and start to reap. For the time to reap has come, since the harvest of the earth is ripe."16Then the one who was sitting on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was reaped.

17Another angel came out from the temple in heaven; he also had a sharp sickle.18Still another angel came out from the incense altar, who had authority over the fire. He called out with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, "Take your sharp sickle and gather in the clusters of grapes from the vines of the earth, for their grapes are now ripe."19The angel swung his sickle to the earth and harvested the grapevine of the earth. He threw it into the great winepress of God's wrath.20The winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood poured out from it up to the height of a horse's bridle, for 1,600 stadia.

Chapter 15

1Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: There were seven angels with seven plagues, which are the final plagues, for with them the wrath of God will be completed.

2I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mixed with fire. Standing beside the sea were those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and over the number representing his name. They were holding harps given to them by God.3They were singing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb:  
  
"Great and marvelous are your deeds,Lord God, the Almighty.Just and true are your ways,King of the nations.4Who will not fear you, Lord,and glorify your name?For you alone are holy.All nations will comeand worship before youbecause your righteous deeds have been revealed."

5After these things I looked, and the temple of the tabernacle of witness was open in heaven.6Out of the temple came the seven angels holding the seven plagues. They were clothed with pure, bright linen and had golden sashes around their chests.7One of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever.8The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power. No one could enter it until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.

Chapter 16

1I heard a loud voice call out of the temple and say to the seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of God's wrath."

2The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth; ugly and painful sores came on the people who had the mark of the beast, those who worshiped his image.

3The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea. It became blood, like the blood of a dead person, and every living thing in the sea died.

4The third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood.5I heard the angel of the waters say,  
  
"You are righteous—the one who is and who was, the Holy One—because you have judged these things.6Because they poured out the blood of God's holy people and prophets,you have given them blood to drink;it is what they deserve."

7I heard the altar reply,  
  
"Yes, Lord God Almighty,your judgments are true and righteous."

8The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was given permission to scorch the people with fire.9They were scorched by the terrible heat, and they blasphemed the name of God, who has the authority over these plagues. They did not repent or give him glory.

10Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and darkness covered its kingdom. They chewed on their tongues because of the pain.11They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pain and sores, and they still refused to repent of their deeds.

12The sixth angel poured out his bowl into the great river, the Euphrates. Its water was dried up in order to prepare the way for the kings that would come from the east.13I saw three unclean spirits that looked like frogs coming out of the mouths of the dragon, of the beast, and of the false prophet.14For they are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs. They were going out to the kings of the whole world in order to gather them together for the battle on the great day of God Almighty.15("Look! I am coming as a thief! Blessed is the one who keeps watching, keeping his garments on so that he does not walk around naked and so that they do not see his shameful condition.")

16They brought them together at the place that is called Armageddon in Hebrew.

17Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air. Then a loud voice came out of the temple and from the throne, saying, "It is done!"18There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, crashes of thunder, and a terrible earthquake—an earthquake greater than any that has ever happened since human beings have been on the earth, so great was this earthquake.19The great city was split into three parts, and the nations' cities collapsed. Then God called to mind Babylon the great, and he gave that city the cup filled with the wine made from his furious wrath.20Every island disappeared, and the mountains were no longer found.21Great hailstones, weighing about a talent, came down from the sky upon the people. They blasphemed God for the plague of hail because that plague was so terrible.

Chapter 17

1One of the seven angels who had been holding the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the condemnation of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters,2with whom the kings of the earth committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of her sexual immorality the inhabitants of the earth became drunk."3Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit to a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names. The beast had seven heads and ten horns.4The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet and was adorned with gold, precious stones, and pearls. She was holding in her hand a golden cup full of detestable things and the impurities of her sexual immorality.5On her forehead was written a name, a mystery: "Babylon the great, the mother of prostitutes and of the detestable things of the earth."

6I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of God's holy people and with the blood of the martyrs for Jesus. When I saw her, I was greatly astonished.7But the angel said to me, "Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that is carrying her, the beast that has the seven heads and the ten horns.8The beast you saw existed, does not exist now, and is about to come up from the bottomless pit. Then he will go on to destruction. Those who live on the earth, those whose names have not been written in the Book of Life since the foundation of the world—they will be astounded when they see the beast, because he once was, and now is not, and yet will come.9This calls for a mind that has wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman is seated.10They are also seven kings. Five kings have fallen, one exists, and the other has not yet come, and when he comes, he must remain for a little while.11The beast that once was, and now is not, yet he is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.12The ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they will receive authority as kings for one hour together with the beast.13These are of one mind, and they give over their power and authority to the beast.14They will wage war against the Lamb. But the Lamb will conquer them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and those with him are the called, chosen, and faithful ones."15The angel said to me, "The waters you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and languages.16The ten horns that you saw—they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, they will devour her flesh, and they will burn her completely with fire.17For God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by agreeing to give their power to rule to the beast until God's words are fulfilled.18The woman you saw is the great city that has power to rule over the kings of the earth."

Chapter 18

1After these things I saw another angel coming down out of heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illumined by his glory.2He cried out with a mighty voice, saying,  
  
"Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!She has become a dwelling place for demons,a prison for every unclean spirit,a prison for every unclean bird,a prison for every unclean and detestable animal.3For all the nations have drunk the wine of her immoral passion.The kings of the earth have committed immorality with her.The merchants of the earth have become rich from the power of her sensual way of living."  
  
4Then I heard another voice from heaven say,  
  
"Come out from her, my people,so that you will not share in her sins,and so that you will not receive any of her plagues.5Her sins have piled up as high as heaven,and God has remembered her evil actions.6Pay her back as she has paid others back,and repay her double for her deeds;in the cup she mixed, mix double the amount for her.7As she glorified herself and lived in luxury,give her just as much torture and grief.For she says in her heart,'I am seated as a queen;I am not a widow,and I will never see mourning.'8Therefore in one day her plagues will come:death, mourning, and famine.She will be consumed by fire,for the Lord God is mighty, and he is her judge."  
  
9The kings of the earth who committed sexual immorality and went out of control with her will weep and wail over her when they see the smoke of her burning.10They will stand off at a distance, afraid of her torment, saying,"Woe, woe to the great city,Babylon, the powerful city!For in a single hour your punishment has come."

11The merchants of the earth weep and mourn for her since no one buys their merchandise anymore—12merchandise of gold, silver, precious stone, pearls, fine linen, purple, silk, scarlet, all kinds of scented wood, every vessel of ivory, every vessel made of most precious wood, bronze, iron, marble,13cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of people.14The fruit that you desired with all your might is gone from you. All your luxury and splendor have vanished, never to be found again.15The merchants of these goods who became rich by her will stand away from her at a distance because of the fear of her torment, weeping and mourning loudly.16They will say,  
  
"Woe, woe to the great citythat was dressed in fine linen, in purple, and in scarlet,and was adorned with gold, precious jewels, and pearls!17In a single hour all that wealth has been laid waste."  
  
 Every ship's captain, every seafaring man, sailors, and all who make their living from the sea stood off at a distance.18They cried out as they saw the smoke of her burning. They said, "What city is like the great city?"19They threw dust on their heads, and cried out, weeping and mourning,  
  
"Woe, woe to the great citywhere all who had their shipsat sea became rich from her wealth.For in a single hour she has been laid waste."20"Rejoice over her, heaven,you holy people and apostles and prophets,for God has brought your judgment on her!"

21A mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying,  
  
"In this way, Babylon, the great city,will be thrown down with violenceand will not be seen anymore.22The sound made by harpists, musicians,flute players, and trumpeterswill not be heard anymore in you.No craftsman of any kindwill be found in you.No sound of a millwill be heard anymore in you.23The light of a lampwill not shine in you anymore.The voices of the bridegroom and the bridewill not be heard in you anymore,for your merchants were the princes of the earth,and the nations were deceived by your sorcery.24In her the blood of prophets and of God's holy people was found,and the blood of all who have been killed on the earth."

Chapter 19

1After these things I heard what sounded like a loud voice of a large number of people in heaven calling out,  
  
"Hallelujah!Salvation, glory, and power belong to our God.2His judgments are true and just,for he has judged the great prostitutewho corrupted the earth with her sexual immorality.He has avenged the blood of his servantsfrom her hand."

3They spoke a second time:  
  
"Hallelujah!The smoke rises from her forever and ever."

4The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. They were saying,  
  
"Amen. Hallelujah!"

5Then a voice came out from the throne, saying,  
  
"Praise our God,all you his servants,you who fear him,both the unimportant and the powerful."

6Then I heard what sounded like the voice of a great number of people, like the roar of many waters, and like mighty crashes of thunder, saying,  
  
"Hallelujah!For the Lord reigns, our God, the Almighty.7Let us rejoice and be gladand give him the glory!For the wedding celebration of the Lamb has come,and his bride has made herself ready.8She was permitted to be dressedin bright and clean fine linen"  
  
(for fine linen is the righteous acts of God's holy people).

9The angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb." He also said to me, "These are true words of God."10I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "Do not do this! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold the testimony about Jesus. Worship God, for the testimony about Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

11Then I saw heaven open, and I looked and there was a white horse. The one riding it is called faithful and true. It is with justice that he judges and wages war.12His eyes are like a fiery flame, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but himself.13He is clothed with a robe that was dipped in blood, and his name is called the Word of God.14The armies of heaven were following him on white horses, dressed in fine linen, white and clean.15Out of his mouth goes a sharp sword with which he strikes down the nations, and he will rule them with an iron rod. He tramples in the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.16He has a name written on his robe and on his thigh: "King of kings and Lord of lords."

17I saw an angel standing in the sun. He called out in a loud voice to all the birds flying overhead, "Come, gather together for the great feast of God.18Come eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of commanders, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, the unimportant and the powerful."

19I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies. They were assembling in order to wage war with the one who rode the horse and with his army.20The beast was captured and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence. With these signs he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.21The rest of them were killed by the sword that came out of the mouth of the one who rode on the horse. All the birds ate their dead flesh.

Chapter 20

1Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven. He had the key to the bottomless pit, and he had a great chain in his hand.2He took hold of the dragon, the old serpent, which is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.3He threw him into the bottomless pit. He shut it and sealed it over him. This was so that he would not deceive the nations anymore until the thousand years were over. After that, he must be set free for a short amount of time.

4Then I saw thrones. Seated on them were those who had been given authority to judge. I also saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony about Jesus and for the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image, and they had refused to receive the mark on their forehead or hand. They came to life, and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years.5The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection.6Blessed and holy is anyone who takes part in the first resurrection! Over these the second death has no power. They will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

7When the thousand years come to an end, Satan will be released from his prison.8He will go out to deceive the nations at the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—to bring them together for the battle. They will be as many as the sand of the sea.9They went up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's holy people—the beloved city. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them.10The devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

11Then I saw a great white throne and the one who is seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled away from his presence, but there was no place for them to go.12I saw the dead—the mighty and the unimportant—standing before the throne, and the books were opened. Then another book was opened—the Book of Life. The dead were judged by what was recorded in the books, according to their deeds.13The sea gave up the dead who were in it. Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and the dead were judged according to their deeds.14Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death—the lake of fire.15If anyone's name was not found written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Chapter 21

1Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.2I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, that came down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband.3I heard a great voice from the throne saying, "Look! The dwelling place of God is with human beings, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and he will be their God.4He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death, or grieving, or crying, or pain. The former things have passed away.5The one who was seated on the throne said, "Look! I make all things new." He said, "Write this down because these words are trustworthy and true."6He said to me, "These things are done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the one who thirsts I will give drink without cost from the spring of the water of life.7The one who conquers will inherit these things, and I will be his God, and he will be my son.8But as for the cowards, the faithless, the detestable, the murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. That is the second death."

9One of the seven angels came to me, the one who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues, and he said, "Come here. I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."10Then he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.11Jerusalem had the glory of God, and its brightness was like a very precious jewel, like a stone of crystal-clear jasper.12It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel.13On the east were three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates.14The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.15The one who spoke with me had a measuring rod made of gold to measure the city, its gates, and its wall.16The city was laid out in a square; its length was the same as its width. He measured the city with the measuring rod, twelve thousand stadia in length (its length, width, and height were the same).17He also measured its wall, 144 cubits thick by human measurement (which is also the angel's measure).18The wall was built of jasper and the city of pure gold, like clear glass.19The foundations of the wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone. The first was jasper, the second was sapphire, the third was agate, the fourth was emerald,20the fifth was onyx, the sixth was carnelian, the seventh was chrysolite, the eighth was beryl, the ninth was topaz, the tenth was chrysoprase, the eleventh was jacinth, and the twelfth was amethyst.21The twelve gates were twelve pearls; each of the gates was made from a single pearl. The streets of the city were pure gold, like transparent glass.22I saw no temple in the city, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.23The city had no need of the sun or the moon in order to shine on it because the glory of God shone on it, and its lamp is the Lamb.24The nations will walk by the light of that city. The kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.25Its gates will not be shut during the day, and there will be no night there.26They will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it,27but nothing unclean will ever enter into it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Chapter 22

1Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, clear as crystal. It was flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb2through the middle of the city's street. On each side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruits, and it bears its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.3There will no longer be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.4They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.5There will be no more night; they will have no need for the light of a lamp or sunlight because the Lord God will shine on them. They will reign forever and ever.

6The angel said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants what must happen soon."7"Look! I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who obeys the words of the prophecy of this book."

8I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. When I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing me these things.9He said to me, "Do not do that! I am a fellow servant with you, with your brothers the prophets, and with those who obey the words of this book. Worship God!"

10Then he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.11The one who is unrighteous, let him continue to do unrighteousness. The one who is morally filthy, let him continue to be morally filthy. The one who is righteous, let him continue to do what is righteous. The one who is holy, let him continue to be holy."

12"Look! I am coming soon. My reward is with me, to pay back each one according to his deeds.13I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.14Blessed are those who wash their robes so that they will have the right to eat from the tree of life and to enter the city through the gates. [1](#footnote-target-1)15Outside are the dogs, the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

16I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

17The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!" Let the one who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come, and whoever desires it, let him freely have the water of life.

18I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues that are written about in this book.19If anyone takes away from the words of this book of prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city that are written about in this book. [2](#footnote-target-2)

20The one who testifies to these things says, "Yes! I am coming soon." Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

21The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen. [3](#footnote-target-3)

[1](#footnote-caller-1)Instead of, Blessed are those who wash their robes, some ancient copies of the Greek text read, Blessed are those who do his commandments . [2](#footnote-caller-2)Some older copies read God will take away his share in the Book of Life and in the holy city that are written about in this book . [3](#footnote-caller-3)Some ancient copies of the Greek text or ancient translations of the Greek text add the phrase: be with you holy people or be with all you holy people or be with all of his holy people .