



The Good Book

5: God sent His Son

If the entire New Testament revolves around the person, miracles, & teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, then we might need to answer the question, “*Who IS Jesus...really?*” Today we open the New Testament to discover the importance of Jesus’ life and message.

Last week we saw that the prophets predicted what the Jewish Messiah would do when he arrived. According to **Daniel 7**, He would be the **Conquering King**, but according to **Isaiah 53**, He would also be a **Suffering Servant**, all foretold in the TaNaKh, the Hebrew Scriptures (aka “Old Testament”).

Over the years, Jewish people magnified Scriptures that foretold the Messiah as *Conquering King*, who would destroy the enemies of God, but many chose to muffle the Scriptures predicting the Messiah as the *Suffering Servant*, who would even die for God’s enemies. Jewish tradition led the closest disciples of Jesus to believe that the Messiah would never die (Matthew 16:21–23).

Today we turn to the **New Testament**: a term from 1 Cor. 11:25.

1 Corinthians 11:25 (CSB) ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, and said, “This cup is the **new covenant** in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The Greek term for **new covenant** (*kainē diathēkē*) later came to be used for the collection of Christian Scriptures we call the “New Testament”. The Greek term was translated into **Latin as novum testamentum**, which was later translated into English as “**New Testament**.”¹

The New Testament revolves around the person, miracles, & teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, and is divided into several sections (as is the Old Testament = teachings, prophets, writings). As is true of the Old Testament, the positioning of the new testament writings is based on the type of writing, not the time of the writing.

* 1 Corinthians was likely written before most of the Gospels, even though it comes after the Gospels in our Bible’s order.

1. **Gospels: The 4 first New Testament writings. Gospel means “good news”.**
2. **Acts:** The history of the 1st century followers of Jesus after His resurrection & ascension to heaven.
3. **Letters (Epistles):** a) **Paul’s letters** b) **General Letters** (Peter, John, James, Jude, Hebrews)
4. **Revelation:** Prophetic (prosecution, persuasion, & predictions w/ apocalyptic imagery)

Reading the **Gospels** (Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John) shows that the claims of Jesus & His disciples set Jesus apart from any other teacher, prophet, & miracle worker.

Paul’s Significant Synopsis of the Gospel Message

Galatians 4:4-5 (CSB) ⁴ When the time came to completion, **God sent his Son**, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Jesus came at just the right **time**. Not only was it the promised time given through the prophet Daniel (Dan 9:25–26), but it was during the *Pax Romana* (“Roman Peace”) which brought safer roads and more reliable communication than ever before in human history. Early Christian missionaries used these roads and the common Greek language to spread the good news of Jesus to the far reaches of the known world.

God sent his Son. This doesn’t mean Jesus is God’s kid. The Scripture calls Jesus *the Creator of all things* (Jn 1:1-3; Col 1:15–17; Jn 17:5), *the eternal God who has always existed, who put on skin* (Jn 1:14). He had no earthly father, and was **born of a woman** (a virgin). Jesus was both fully God (God’s son) & fully human (born of a woman).

¹ Rachel Klippenstein and J. David Stark, “New Testament,” ed. John D. Barry et al., *The Lexham Bible Dictionary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016).

The life of Jesus demonstrates, **Jesus was more than a good man. Jesus was the God-Man.** Check out these incredible claims for yourself from the Gospel of Mark.

- Mark 1:22 Jesus taught with a different **teaching authority** than their religious leaders.
- Mark 1:34 **Jesus kicks out demons & diseases.** Demons call Jesus “the Holy One of God” (Mark 1:24) and “the Son of God” (Mark 3:11).
- Mark 2:1-12 Jesus **heals the lame & claims to forgive sin.**
- Jesus claims to be “**Lord over the Sabbath**” (Mark 2:28) - a claim only God could make.
- Jesus **calmed the winds and the Sea** of Galilee by simply saying, “Peace. Be still!” (Mark 4:39)
- Jesus **raised the dead** (Mark 5:35-43).
- Jesus **fed over 5000** folks with a young boy’s lunch! (Mark 6:30-44)
- Jesus **walks on water** (Mark 6:45-51).
- Some of the apostles saw Jesus **glorified on a mountain** (Mark 9:2-8).
- Jesus was **raised from the dead** (Mark 16:6).

And in one of the most incredible verses in Scripture, Jesus makes this statement:

John 14:6-10 (CSB) ⁶ Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” ⁸ “Lord,” said Philip, “show us the Father, and that’s enough for us.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been among you all this time and you do not know me, Philip? **The one who has seen me has seen the Father.** How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who lives in me does his works.

Elton Trueblood “The historic Christian doctrine of the divinity of Christ does not simply mean that Jesus is like God. It is far more radical than that. It means that God is like Jesus.”²

And so now we can appreciate the full impact of this passage.

Galatians 4:4-5 (CSB) ⁴ When the time came to completion, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ **to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.**

Jesus was Jewish, **under the [Jewish] law**, a law that protected God’s people but also pointed to God’s standards, standards that no one could meet...until Jesus perfectly fulfilled the laws, without sinning even once. Because of this, Jesus was able to **redeem those under the law.** That means that Jesus, the God-man, the One who fulfilled God’s laws - paid in full for those who had broken God’s laws.

This is the GOOD NEWS - the Gospel: Jesus *redeemed* (payed for) us so we could **receive adoption** into God’s family! We couldn’t pay for our adoption, we needed the compassionate help of ANOTHER.

How Can I Be Adopted Into God’s Family?

Galatians 3:24-26 (CSB) ²⁴ The law, then, was our guardian until Christ, so that we could be justified by faith. ²⁵ But since that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶ for **through faith you are all sons of God in Christ Jesus.**

You can be adopted by placing your **faith** (trust) **in Jesus**; trusting who Jesus is and what Jesus has done - including His payment for your sins.

* *Want to talk further? Please contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), or another follower of Jesus soon!*

Reading Plan this Week: “The Good Book” - chapters 21-25 (Scriptures: John 1, Luke 2, Matthew 5-7)

* **Communion** in our Discussion Groups on **Nov. 4**, just before our **Thanksgiving Meal** (bring a side dish)