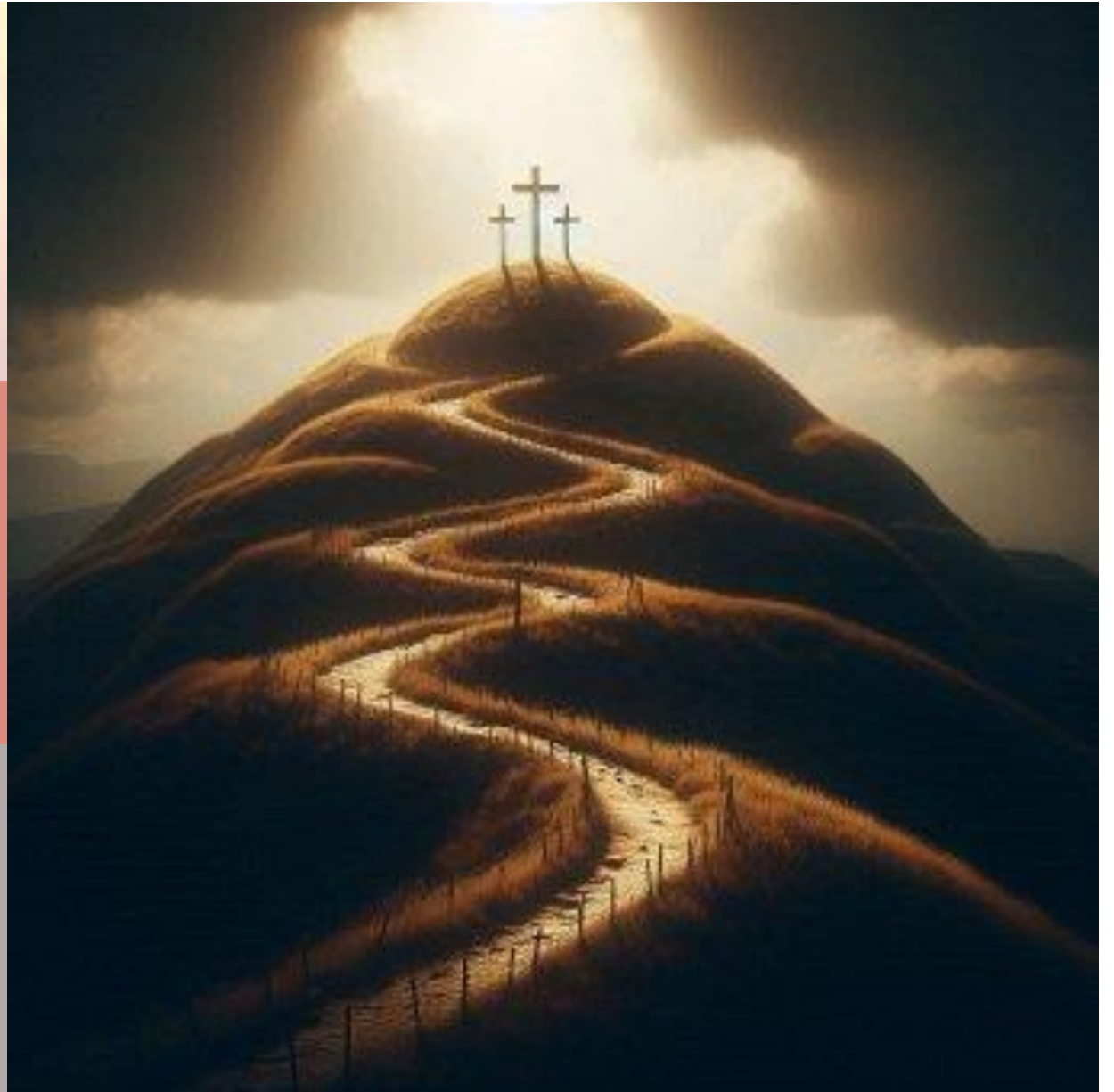


How to Read the Bible

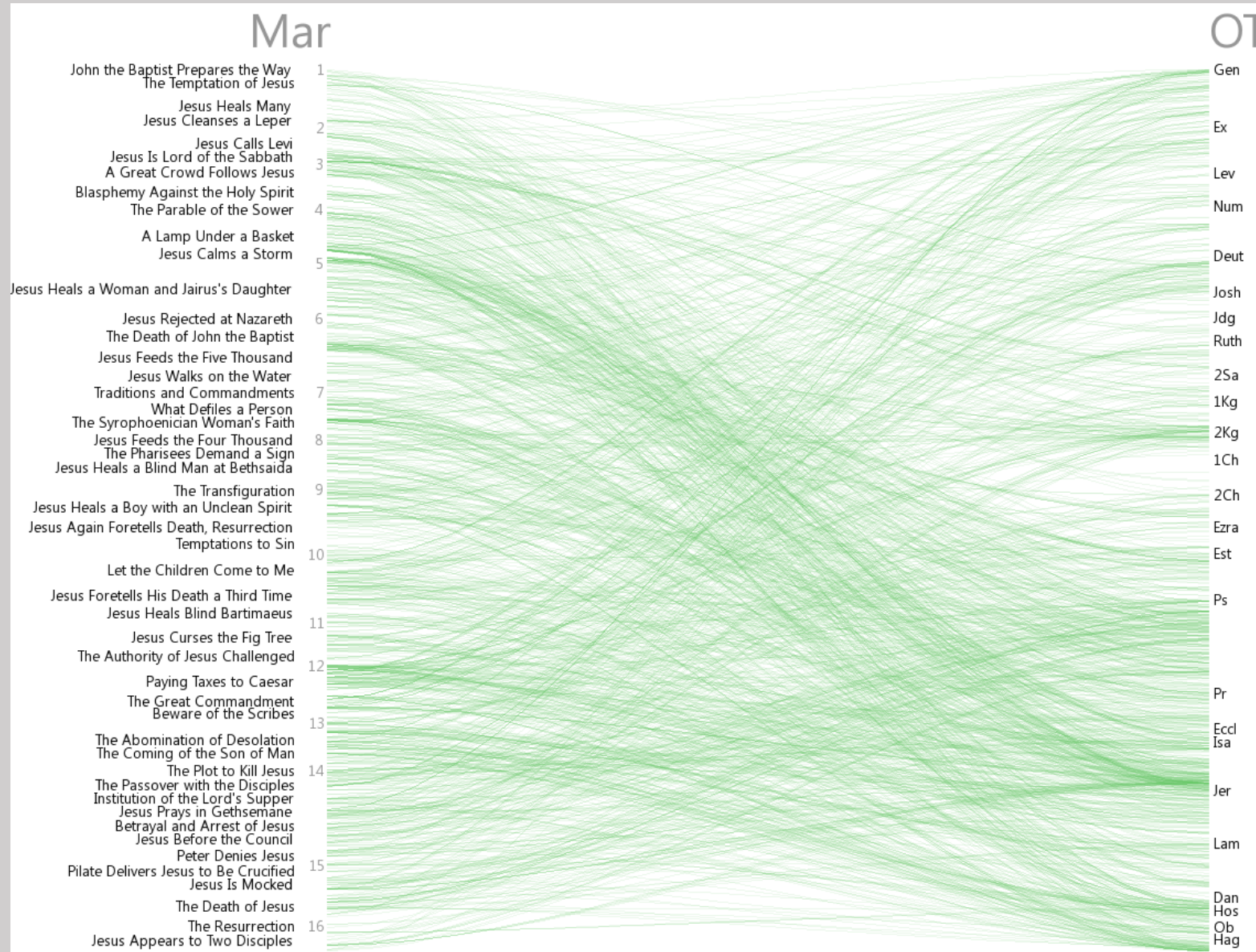
*Week 1:
Preparing to Read*



What is the Bible?

What does Jesus say about scripture?

Jesus quoted and referenced scripture very often.



Jesus believes the scriptures to be unbreakable, to be speaking of Himself, and to be fulfilled in Himself.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.”

- Matthew 5:17-18

(See also John 10:34-36, Isaiah 55:10-11, Luke 4:18-21, Luke 24:27,44-48)

Jesus declares the scriptures to be given through man by the Spirit.

He said to them, “How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying,

“‘The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet”’?”

- Mathew 22:43-44

Jesus considers the 39 books of the Hebrew Bible to be scripture.

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”

- Luke 24:44

Jesus believes His words to have the authority of scripture. Thus, the 4 gospel accounts of Jesus's words and actions are scripture.

For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.”

- John 12:49-50

(See also Matthew 5-7, Matthew 24:35)

Jesus knew that the Holy Spirit would continue to speak with authority through his followers who bear witness about Him in 23 books.

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

- John 16:12-15

(See also John 15:26-27 & Acts 1:8)

What is the purpose of reading the Bible?

Scripture as the gateway to eternal living: We read the Bible to know God.

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

- John 17:3

What are the types of knowledge?

To grow in full knowledge of Jesus is to court Him and to experience and increase in intimacy with Him.

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out,

“Hallelujah!
For the Lord our God
the Almighty reigns.
Let us rejoice and exult
and give him the glory,
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his Bride has made herself ready;
it was granted her to clothe herself
with fine linen, bright and pure”—

- Revelation 19:6-8

Walking in obedience opens the door to communion with the God who draws near to us.

Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”

- John 14:23

The Holy Spirit opens our eyes to see the truth of scripture and empowers us to live like Jesus.

But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

- 2 Corinthians 3:14-18

How then should we approach the Bible?

If you would profit from [scripture],
therefore, read with humility,
simplicity, and faith.

Thomas à Kempis,
“Imitation of Christ”

Humility: Turn from your own ways and come with open hands before a holy God.

Therefore, put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

- James 1:21

Simplicity: Fix your eyes upon Jesus and desire Him to the exclusion of all else

One thing have I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord
and to inquire in his temple.

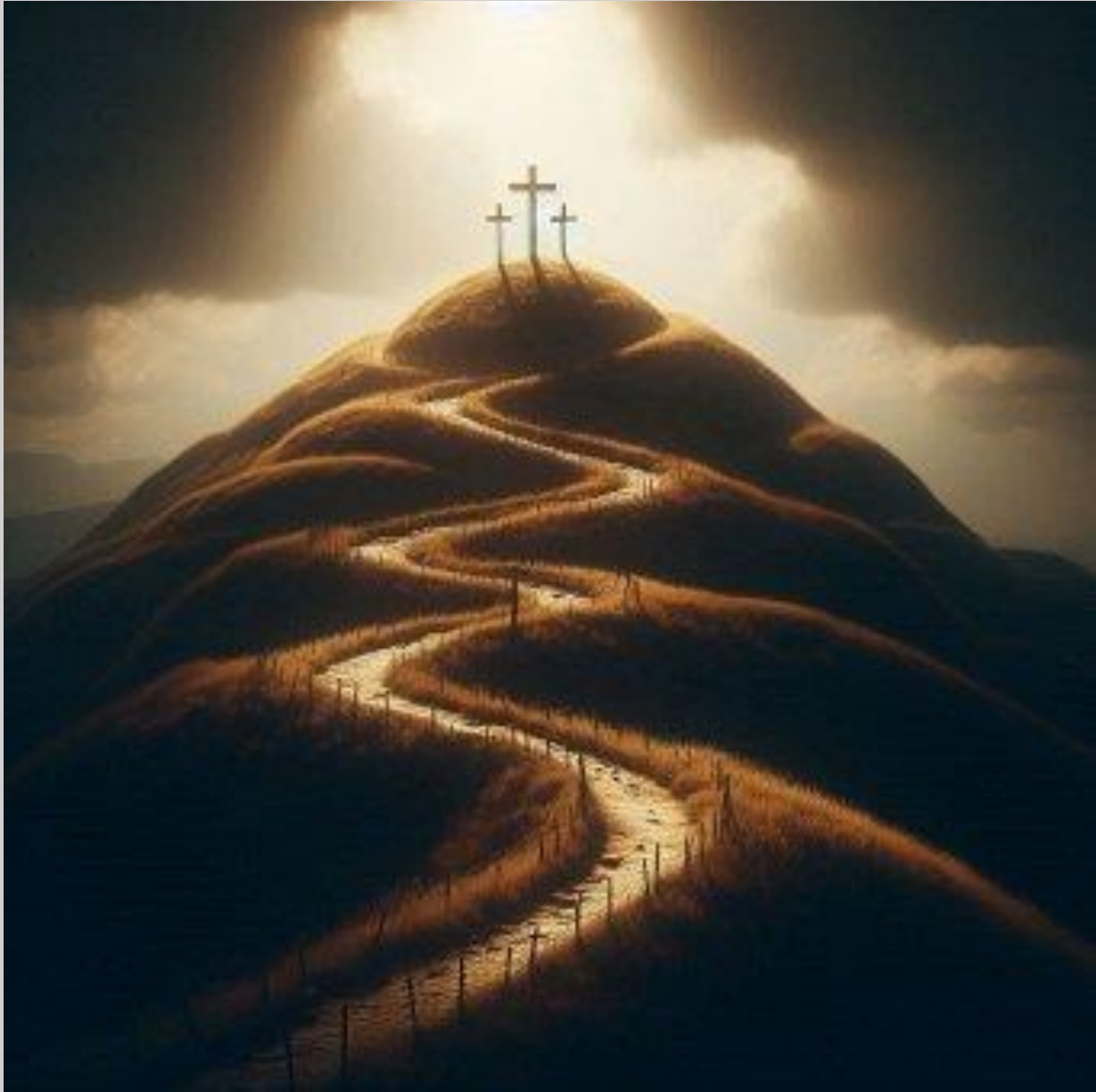
- Psalm 27:4

Faith: Read and live as though His words are true,
because they are

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

- James 1:5-8

A prayer before reading



But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.

- Deuteronomy 30:14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...

... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- John 1:1, 14

You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

- John 5:39-40

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

- John 8:31-32

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17

(Also see Romans 15:4 & 1 Corinthians 10:11)

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- 2 Timothy 3:16-17

(Also see Romans 15:4 & 1 Corinthians 10:11)

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.

- Matthew 22:36-40

“Have you never read the Scriptures...” - Matthew 21:42

“But let the Scriptures be fulfilled.” - Mark 14:49

“What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” - Luke 10:26

“The Law and the Prophets were until John...” - Luke 16:6

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

- Isaiah 55:10-11

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

- Romans 15:4

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

- Acts 1:8

Now these things happened to them as an example,
but they were written down for our instruction, on
whom the end of the ages has come.

- 1 Corinthians 10:11

Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your Law, ‘I said, you are gods’? If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken— do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’?

- John 10:34-36

Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

- John 6:68-69

But Jesus answered them, “You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not God of the dead, but of the living.” And when the crowd heard it, they were astonished at his teaching.

- Matthew 22:29-33

And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

- Luke 4:18-21

OT	NT Quote	OT	NT Quote	OT	NT Quote	OT	NT Quote
Gen 1:27	Matt 19:4	Gen 38:8	Luke 20:28	Ex 25:40	Heb 8:5	Deut 6:5	Matt 22:37
Gen 5:2	Mark 10:6	Gen 47:31	Heb 11:21	Ex 32:1	Acts 7:40	Deut 6:13	Matt 4:10, Luke 4:8
Gen 2:2	Heb 4:4	Ex 1:8	Acts 7:18	Ex 32:6	1 Co 10:17	Deut 6:16	Matt 4:7, Luke 4:12
Gen 2:7	1 Cor 15:45	Ex 2:14	Acts 7:27-28,38	Ex 33:19	Rom 9:15	Deut 8:3	Matt 4:4, Luke 4:4
Gen 2:24	Matt 19:5, Mark 10:7-8, 1 Cor 6:17, Eph 5:31	Ex 5:2	Acts 7:30	Lev 10:9	Luke 1:15	Deut 9:4	Rom 10:6
Gen 5:24	Heb 11:5	Ex 3:5-10	Acts 7:33-34	Lev 12:8	Luke 2:24	Deut 30:12-14	Rom 10:6-8
Gen 12:1	Acts 7:3	Ex 3:6	Matt 22:32	Lev 18:5	Rom 10:5, Gal 3:12	Deut 9:19	Heb 12:21
Gen 12:3	Gal 3:8	Ex 3:15	Mark 12:26, Acts 3:13	Lev 19:2	1 Pet 1:16	Deut 17:7	1 Co 5:13
Gen 12:7	Acts 7:5	Ex 4:16	Rom 9:17	Lev 19:12, Num 30:2	Matt 5:33	Deut 18:15-16	Acts 7:37, 3:12
Gen 13:15	Gal 3:16	Ex 5:18	Jam 2:11	Lev 19:18	Mark 12:33	Deut 19:15	Matt 18:16, 2 Co 13:1
Gen 14:17-20	Heb 7:1-2	Ex 12:46	John 19:36	Lev 19:18	Matt 5:43, 19:19, 22:39	Deut 21:23	Gal 3:13
Gen 15:5	Rom 4:18	Ex 13:2	Luke 2:23	Lev 19:18	Mark 12:31, Gal 5:14, Jam 2:	Deut 24:1,3	Matt 5:31, Matt 19:7, Mark 10:4
Gen 15:6	Rom 4:3, 9, 22, Gal 3:6, Jas 2:23	Ex 16:18	2 Cor 8:15	Lev 23:29	Acts 3:23	Deut 25:4	1 Co 9:9, 1 Tim 5:18
Gen 15:13-14	Acts 7:6-7	Ex 19:6	1 Pet 2:9	Lev 24:20	Matt 5:38	Deut 25:5,7	Matt 22:24, Mark 12:19
Gen 17:5	Rom 4:17	Ex 19:12-13	Heb 12:20	Lev 26:12	2 Co 6:16	Deut 27:26,	Gal 3:10
Gen 17:7	Gal 3:16	Ex 20:12-16	Matt 19:18-19	Num 16:	2 Tim 2:19	Deut 29:3	Rom 11:8
Gen 17:8	Acts 7:5	Ex 20:13	Matt 5:21	Num 27:17	Matt 9:36	Deut 30:12-14	Heb 13:5
Gen 18:10	Rom 9:9	Ex 20:13-17	Rom 13:2 9	Deut 5:16-20	Mark 10:1, Luke 18:20	Deut 32:21	Rom 10:19
Gen 18:14	Rom 9:9	Ex 20:12	Matt 15:4	Deut 24:14	Mark 10:19	Deut 32:35-36	Rom 12:19
Gen 21:10	Gal 4:30	Ex 20:14	Matt 5:27	Deut 5:16	Mark 7:10, Eph 6:2-3	Deut 32:43	Rom 15:10
Gen 21:22	Rom 9:7, Heb 11:18	Ex 20:17	Rom 7:7	Deut 5:17	Jas 2:11	1 Sam 12:22	Rom 11:2
Gen 22:16-17	Heb 6:13-14	Ex 21:17	Matt 15:4, Mark 7:10	Deut 4:24	Heb 12:29	1 Sam 13:14	Acts 13:22
Gen 22:18	Acts 3:15	Ex 21:24	Matt 5:38	Deut 4:3	Mark 12:32	2 Sam 7:8	2 Co 6:18
Gen 25:23	Rom 9:12	Ex 22:27	Acts 23:5	Deut 6:5	Luke 10:27	2 Sam 7:14	Heb 1:5
Gen 25:23	Rom 9:12	Ex 24:8	Heb 9:20	Deut 6:4-5	Mark 12:29-30	2 Sam 22:50	Rom 15:9

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1 Ki 19:10,12	Rom 11:3	Ps 34:9	1 Pet 2:3	Ps 104:4	Heb 1:7
1 Ki 19: `8	Rom 11:4	Ps 34:13-17	1 Pet 3:10-12	Ps 104:12	Matt 13:32, Mark 4:32, Luke 13:19
2 Ki 1:10,11	Luke 9:54, Rev 20:9	Ps 34:21	Joh 15:25	Ps 110:1	Matt 22:44, Mark 12:36, Luke 20:42-43, Acts 2:34-35, Heb 1:13
1 Chr 17:13	Rev 21:7	Ps 36:2	Rom 3:18	Ps 110:4	Heb 5:6,-10, Heb 7:17,21
2 Ch 18:16, 30:2	Mark 6:34	Ps 40:10	Heb 10:5-7	Ps 111:2	Rev 15:3-4
Job 5:13	1 Co 3:19	Ps 41:10	Joh 13:18	Ps 112:9	2 Co 9:9
Job 16:19	Mark 11:10	Psa 42:5,11	Matt 26:38	Ps 116:10	2 Co 4:13
Job 41:3	Rom 11:35	Ps 43:5	Mark 14:34	Ps 117:2	Rom 15:11
Ps 2:7	Acts 13:33, Heb 1:5,5:5	Ps 44:23	Rom 8:36	Ps 118:6	Heb 13:6
Ps 2:9	Rev 2:26-27	Ps 45:7-8	Heb 1:8-9	Ps 118:22-23	Matt 21:42, Mark 12:10-11, Luke 20:17
Ps 4:5	Eph 4:26	Ps 51:6	Rom 3:4	Ps 118:22	Acts 4:11, 1 Pet 2:7
Ps 5:10	Rom 3:13	Ps 62:12	Matt 16:27	Ps 118:25-26	Matt 21:9, Mark 11:9-10, Joh 12:13, Matt 23:39
Ps 6:9	Matt 7:23	Pro, 24:12	Rom 2:6	Ps 118:26	Luke 13:35, Luke 19:38
Ps 8:2	Matt 21:16	Ps 68:19	Eph 4:8	Ps 132:11	Acts 2:30
Ps 8:5-7	Heb 2:6-8, 1 Co 15:27	Ps 69:10	Joh 2:17	Pro 3:11-12	Heb 12:5-6
Ps 10:7	Rom 3:14	Ps 69:23-24	Rom 11:9-10	Pro 3:34	Jam 4:6, 1 Pet 5:5
Ps 14:1-3	Rom 3:10-12	Ps 69:26	Acts 1:20	Pro 11:31	1 Pet 4:18
Ps 16:8-11	Acts 2:25-28, 2:31,13:35	Ps 78:2	Matt 13:35	Pro 25:21-22	Rom 12:20
Ps 19:5	Rom 10:18	Ps 78:24	Joh 6:31	Pro 26:11	2 Pet 2:22
Ps 22:1	Matt 27:46, Mark 15:34	Ps 82:6	Joh 10:34	Isa 1:9	Rom 9:29
Ps 22:18	John 19:24, Matt 27:35, Mark 15:24, Luke 23:24	Ps 86:9	Rev 15:4	Isa 6:9-10	Matt 13:14-15, Mark 4:12, Acts 28:26-27
Ps 22:23	Heb 2:12	Ps 91:11-12	Matt 4:6, Luke 4:10-11	Isa 6:9	Luke 8:10
Ps 24:1	1 Co 10:26	Ps 94:11	1 Co 3:20	Isa 6:10	Joh 12:40
Ps 31:6	Luke 23:46	Ps 95:7-11	Heb 3:7-11, 3:15,4:3,5,7	Isa 7:14	Matt, 1:23
Ps 32:1-2	Rom 4:7-8	Ps 102:26-28	Heb 1:10-12	Isa 8:12-13	1 Pet 3:14-15

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Isa 8:17-18	Heb 2:13	Isa 53:12	Luke 22:37	Hos 2:1, 3	Rom 9:25-28
Isa 9:1-2	Matt 4:15-16	Isa 54:1	Gal 4:27	Hos 6:6	Matt 9:13, Matt 12:7
Isa 11:10	Rom 15:12	Isa 54:13	Joh 6:45	Hos 10:8	Luke 23:30, Rev 6:16
Isa 13:10	Matt 24:29, Mark 13:24-25	Isa 55:3	Acts 13:34	Hos 11:1	Matt 2:15
Isa 34:4	Luke 21:26	Isa 55:10	2 Co 9:10	Hos 13:14	1 Co 15:55
Isa 22:13	1 Co 15:32	Isa 56:7	Matt 21:13	Joel 3:1-5	Acts 2:17-21, Rom 10:13
Isa 25:8	1 Co 15:54, Rev 7:17	Jer 7:11	Mark 11:17, Luke 19:46	Amos 5:25-27	Acts 7:42-43
Isa 26:19	Matt 11:5	Isa 59:7-8	Rom 3:15-17	Amos 9:11-12	Acts 15:16-17
Isa 35:5-6	Luke 7:22	Isa 59:20-21	Rom 11:26-27	Jonah 2:17	Matt 12:40
Isa 26:20	Heb 10:37-38	Isa 61:1-2	Luke 4:18-19	Mic 5:2	Matt 2:6
Isa 28:11-12	1 Co 14:21	Isa 62:11	Matt 21:5	Mic 7:6	Matt 10:35-36
Isa 29:13	Matt 15:8-9, Mark 1:3, Joh 1:23	Isa 64:3	1 Co 2:9	Hab 2:3-4	Rom 1:17, Gal 3:11
Isa 40:6-8	1 Pet 1:24-25	Isa 65:1-2	Rom 10:10-21	Hab 1:5	Acts 13:41
Isa 40:13	Rom 11:34, 1 Co 2:16	Isa 65:17	2 Pet 3:13	Hag 2:6, 21	Heb 12:26
Isa 42:1-4	Matt 12:18-21	Isa 66:1-2	Acts 7:49-50	Zac 8:16	Eph 4:25
Isa 45:23	Rom 14:11	Jer 5:21	Mark 8:18	Zech 9:9	Joh 12:15
Isa 49:6	Acts 13:47	Jer 9:23	1 Co 1:31, 2 Co 10:17	Zac 11:12-13	Matt 27:9-10
Isa 49:8	2 Co 6:2	Jer 31:15	Matt 2:18	Zac 12:10	Joh 19:37
Isa 52:5	Rom 2:24	Jer 31:31-34	Heb 8:8-12	Zac 13:7	Matt 26:31, Mark 14:27
Isa 52:7	Rom 10:15	Ezk 11:20	Rev 21:7	Mal 1:2-3	Rom 9:13
Isa 52:11	2 Co 6:17	Ezk 37:5, 10	Rev 11:11	Mal 3:1	Matt 11:10, Mark 1:2, Luke 7:27
Isa 52:15	Rom 15:21	Dan 3:6	Matt 13:42, 50	Mal 4:5-6	Matt 17:10-11
Isa 53:1	Joh 12:38, Rom 8:17	Dan 7:13	Matt 24:30, 26:64, Mark 13:26, 14:62, Luke 21:27, 22:69		
Isa 53:7-8	Acts 8:32-33	Dan 9:27	Matt 24:15		
Isa 53:9	1 Pet 2:23	Dan 11:31	Mark 13:14		