

An aerial photograph of a winding asphalt road through a dense, dark green forest. A white airplane is flying over the road, positioned in the lower half of the frame. The road curves from the top right towards the bottom left. The sky is a light, hazy blue.

FLY THROUGH THE BIBLE

PARTICIPANT GUIDE

 **Open the Bible[®]**

THIS GUIDE BELONGS TO:

**“The Bible story begins
in a garden, ends in a city,
and all the way through
points to Jesus Christ.”**

COLIN S. SMITH

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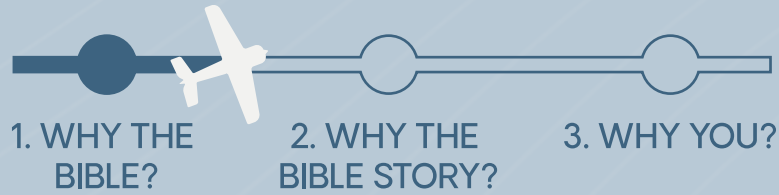
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INTRODUCTION

**USING THE BIBLE
IN EVANGELISM
& DISCIPLESHIP**



INTRODUCTION

NOTES

1. Why the Bible?

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;

(Psalm 19:7-8)

1.1 Evangelism: The Word of God brings new life

You have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God.

(Peter 1:23)

Able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

(1 Tim 3:15)

1.2 Discipleship: The Word of God sustains the new life that it brings

Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

(Matthew 4:4)

Like newborn babies, desire pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation.

(1 Peter 2:2)

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 Tim 3:16-17)

USING THE BIBLE IN EVANGELISM & DISCIPLESHIP



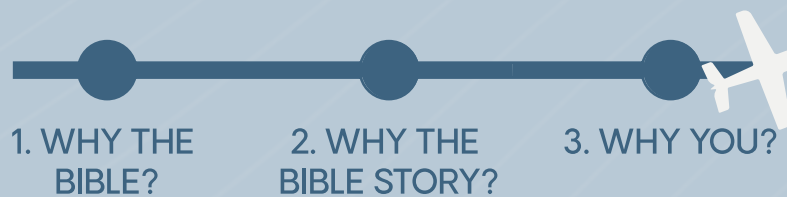
2. Why the Bible Story?

Progressive Revelation

Discussion Break

Take five minutes to discuss:

- *What approaches have you used in evangelism and discipleship?*
- *What advantages and challenges do you see in using the Bible story?*



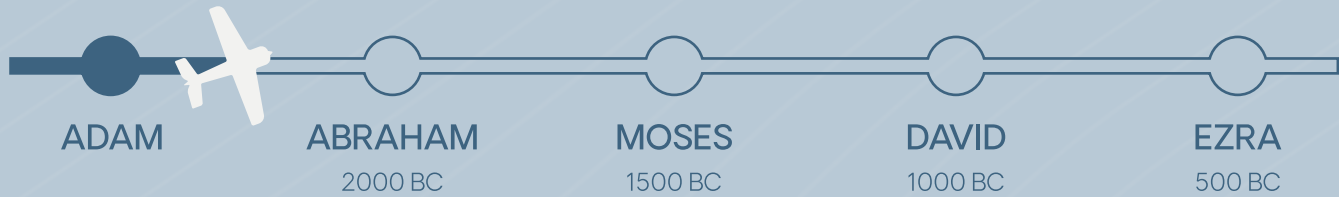
3. Why you?

- *Who is there in your life who needs to know the God of the Bible?*
- *Might they be willing to open the Bible with you if you asked them?*

PART ONE

5 PEOPLE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

FIVE PEOPLE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT



ADAM

NOTES

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."

Genesis 1:26

You are made in the image of God and that gives your life unique dignity and worth.

God gave Adam and Eve a single command:

"But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Genesis 1:17

Adam and Eve disobeyed the command of God and got the knowledge of evil. And we have all lived with it ever since.

He [God] drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

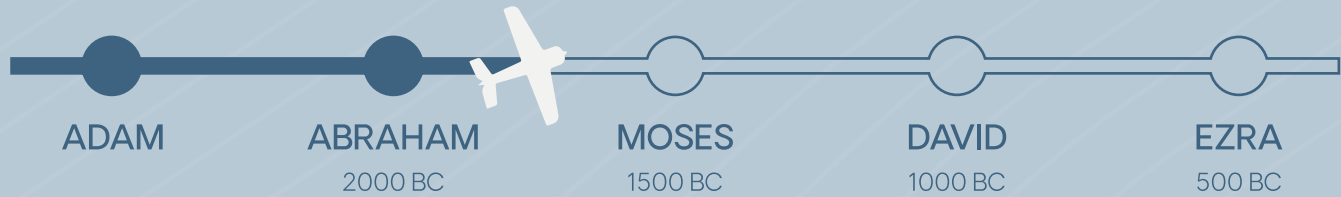
Genesis 3:24

God cursed the serpent. Evil will not stand.

God promised a deliverer:

"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

Genesis 3:15



ABRAHAM

NOTES

God appeared to Abraham and gave him a marvellous promise:

“I will bless you ... and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Genesis 12:2,3

God’s promise to bless all people would come at unimaginable cost:

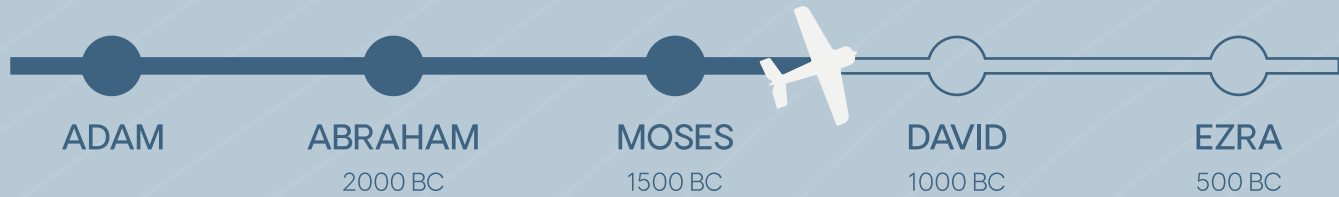
“Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”

Genesis 22:2

God would not allow Abraham to give up his son. He provided a substitute.

Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place, “The LORD will provide”;

Genesis 22:10-14



MOSES

NOTES

God commissioned Moses to bring His people out of Egypt and lead them into the Promised Land:

Then the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey... Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

Exodus 3:7-8, 10

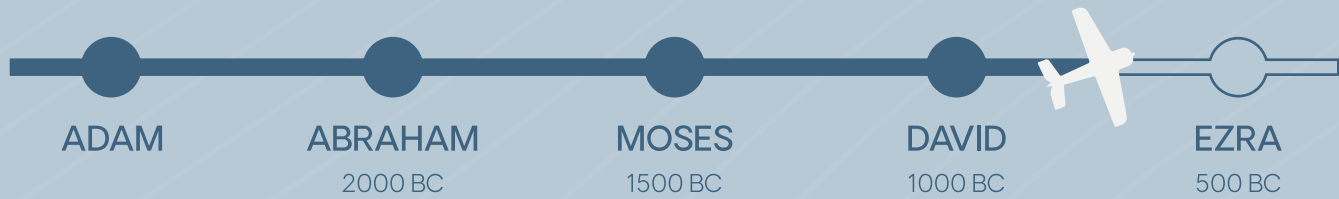
God gave His people the Ten Commandments:

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make for yourself a carved image.
3. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honour your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness.
10. You shall not covet.

Exodus 20:1-17

The Ten Commandments are a reflection of the character of God and they spell out what it means to love.

FIVE PEOPLE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT



DAVID

NOTES

David got people's attention when they heard about his great victory over Goliath:

David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone and slung it and struck the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground.

1 Samuel 17:49

David was a great king, but he abused his power:

The thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

2 Samuel 11:27

God gave David a promise:

"I will raise up your offspring after you. . . and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son."

2 Samuel 7:12-14

The promise to David is fulfilled in Jesus:

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Matthew 1:1



EZRA

NOTES

After years of idolatry, Jerusalem was destroyed and God's people were taken into exile, but God did not abandon them:

But this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

Lamentations 3:21-24

God used Ezra to lead a great restoration among His people:

They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

Nehemiah 8:8

When we open the Bible, God will show us our sins and our failures, but He will not leave us there:

"Do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

Nehemiah 8:10

After all God had done, His people kept turning away from Him:

"From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts."

Malachi 3:7

But God had promised that a deliverer would come:

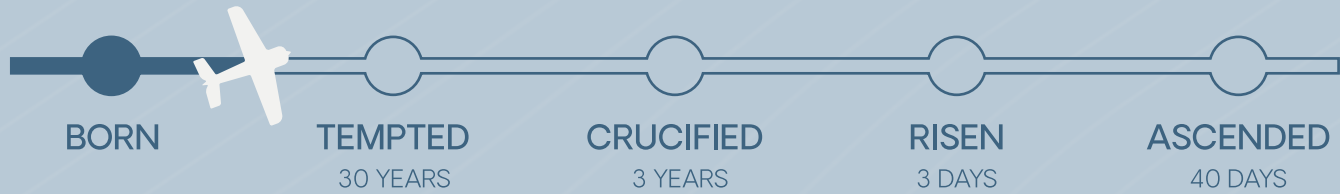
Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he.

Zachariah 9:9

At the end of the Old Testament, God's people were still waiting.

PART TWO

**FIVE EVENTS IN
THE LIFE OF JESUS**



BORN

NOTES

The birth of Jesus was the first evidence that He is unlike any other person who has ever lived.

“Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.”

Luke 1:30-31

“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.”

Luke 1:35

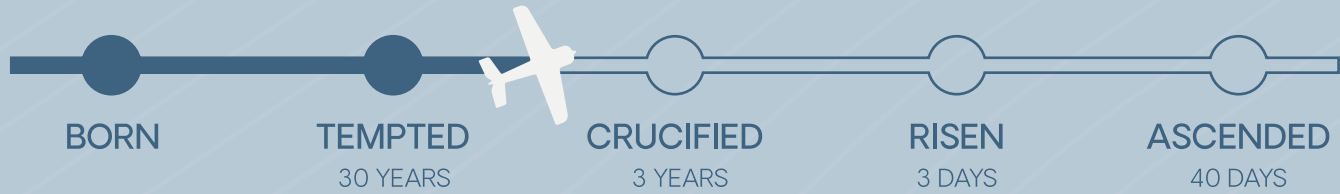
The name Jesus means ‘Saviour’ and Jesus is able to save us because He is one with God and one with us.

Jesus has always shared the Father’s glory and the Father’s love:

Though he was in the form of God, [he] did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

Philippians 2:6-7

The miracle of how God became a man is an unfathomable mystery, but it makes sense of everything else the Bible tells us about Jesus.



TEMPTED

NOTES

The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus at His baptism, and an audible voice from heaven said,

“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Matthew 3:17

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus went into the desert, where He was tempted by the devil.

And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil.

Luke 4:1-2

Only Jesus knows the full power of temptation because only Jesus has withstood the full force of the enemy’s assault.

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:15-16

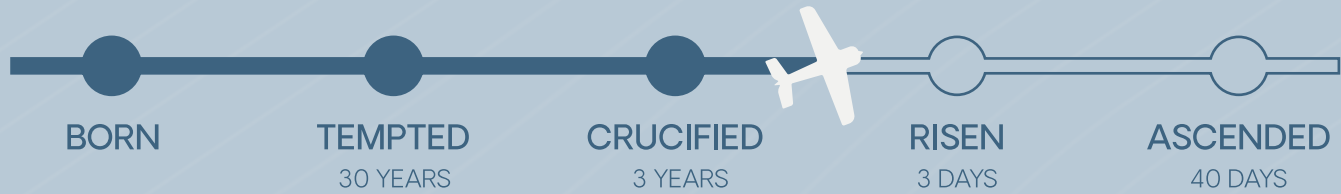
What followed was three years in which Jesus taught, performed miracles, and called people to follow Him.

“Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Matthew 4:17

“Repent and believe in the gospel.”

Mark 1:15



CRUCIFIED

NOTES

Man's sin reached its full horror and its most awful expression at the cross. Jesus knew that God's judgment would come, but He cried out,

“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”

Luke 23:34

Two thieves were hanging on crosses, one on either side of Jesus. One turned toward Jesus and said,

“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” And Jesus said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Luke 23:42-43

This man who had been on the brink of hell found that, because of Jesus, he was about to enter the joy of heaven. At noon, darkness covered the land, and in the depth of His suffering, Jesus cried out,

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Mark 15:34

God tells us what Jesus was doing in that awful darkness:

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree.

1 Peter 2:24

He was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. The LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:5-6

After three hours, the darkness passed. Jesus shouted in triumph, “It is finished” (John 19:30). Then Jesus called out with a loud voice,

“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this, he breathed his last.

Luke 23:46

FIVE EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF JESUS



RISEN

NOTES

Early on the first Easter morning, a group of women went to the tomb to pack spices around the body of Jesus.

An angel appeared to them and said,

“Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said.”

Matthew 28:5-6

The first disciples came to faith through multiple encounters with the risen Lord.

Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, “Peace to you!” But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

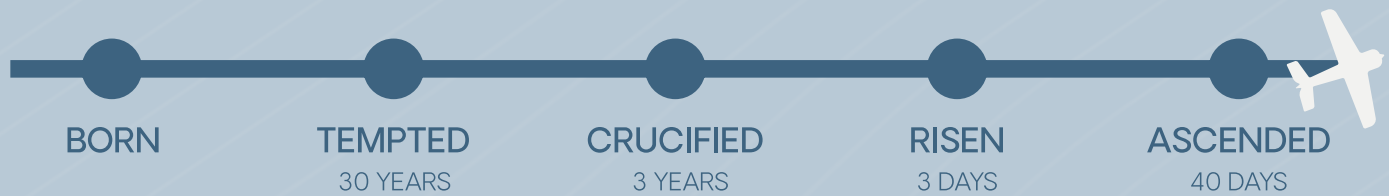
Luke 24:36-40

Christian faith is not a blind leap in the dark. The evidence on which we can take a reasoned step of faith in Jesus is placed before us in the Gospels.

These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that by believing you may have life in His name.

John 20:31

FIVE EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF JESUS



ASCENDED

NOTES

Jesus appeared to the disciples again on a mountain in Galilee and said,

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20

The last time Jesus appeared to His disciples was at the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem.

As they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

Acts 1:9

The book of Hebrews tells us that

He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 7:25

When Jesus ascended, an angel appeared to the disciples and said,

“Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Acts 1:11

Jesus is in heaven now, but He has promised that He will return:

“I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.”

John 14:3

PART THREE

**FIVE GIFTS GOD GIVES
EVERY BELIEVER**



HOLY SPIRIT

NOTES

Just ten days after Jesus ascended into heaven, there was a festival called Pentecost. This was when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the church.

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

Acts 2:1-2

In the Old Testament, God commissioned Moses through flames of fire resting on a bush. Now He was commissioning His church with the same sign.

And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.

Acts 2:3

Suddenly and spontaneously, each of the hundred and twenty believers found that they were able to speak in languages they had never learned.

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:4

God wants the good news of Jesus proclaimed in every language, and all who believe have a part to play in communicating this good news.



FAITH

NOTES

Faith is a command and also a gift:

“Have faith in God.”

Mark 11:22

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

Ephesians 2:8

1. Faith will open your understanding. (Hebrews 11:3)
2. Faith will lead you to work for the good of others. (Hebrews 11:7)
3. Faith will lead you to obedience. (Hebrews 11:8)
4. Faith will give you hope. (Hebrews 11:16)
5. Faith will bring blessing to others. (Hebrews 11:20)
6. Faith will lead you to worship. (Hebrews 11:21)
7. Faith unites us to Jesus.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit.”

John 15:5

Faith forges a spiritual union in which you are in Christ and Christ lives in you.

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

The Bible uses the analogy of a marriage to describe this union:

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

Ephesians 5:31-32



FORGIVENESS

NOTES

Jesus taught us to pray,

“Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

Matthew 6:12

We all have debts because God has called us to a life of love, and which of us can honestly say that we have done this?

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.”

Luke 10:27

God forgives sinners as we look to His Son, Jesus, in faith and repentance.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

God calls us to forgive those who have wronged us, failed us, and disappointed us, as He has forgiven us:

Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32

There is the closest connection between us receiving forgiveness from God and us releasing forgiveness to others.

“Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

Matthew 6:12

As God opens your heart to pour forgiveness out, it will be open for Him to pour forgiveness in.



THE CHURCH

NOTES

The church is central to God's purpose in the world.

The plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 3:9-10

Jesus will never give up on His church. Jesus loves the church with all her spots and wrinkles, and if we are like Him, we will love her too.

Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word... so that he might present the church to himself in splendour, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing... that she might be holy and without blemish.

Ephesians 5:25-27

One day the church will be everything Christ calls her to be.



HEAVEN

God uses two pictures to give us some inkling of what lies ahead for His people: the city and the garden.

And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 21:2

A voice from the throne of God described life in this city:

“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

Revelation 21:3-4

Inside the city, John saw a beautiful garden.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life.

Revelation 22:1-2

God’s ultimate gift is the joy of eternity in His presence, and God offers all of this freely to you.

“To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.”

Revelation 21:6

But you must come.

Let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

Revelation 22:17

Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Receive what He offers. And in the words of the last sentence in the Bible,

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

Revelation 22:21



NOTES



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