

The Heart of the Bible's Message

The stories that follow capture the heart of the Bible's message in a fresh, new way.

1. The Driver

A driver was once stopped by a police officer. He was a good driver and as far as he knew he had done nothing wrong.

The police officer said, "I pulled you over because you were going 55 MPH through a school zone. There were ten warning signs that the speed limit was 15 MPH and you ignored them all."

Just like the driver had ten warning signs, God has given us ten clear warning signs in the Bible. They are called the Ten Commandments.

Have you ever told a lie, stolen something, or used God's name as a cuss word? If you're like me the answer is 'yes'.

Listen to what the Bible says:

- *Whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.* James 2:10

God is saying that by breaking one Commandment we have sinned and will be held accountable for breaking all of them, including adultery and murder.

- *God's judgment for our sin is death.* (Banishment to hell because He will not allow sin in His presence). Romans 6:23a

If the story ends here, there is no hope for us...

2. The Convict

An innocent man approached a judge and volunteered to be executed in the place of a convicted murderer. The judge consented.

The next day the judge told the convict he had a decision to make.

"An innocent man has been put to death in your place. If you will accept his payment for your crime, you are free to go.

If you will not accept his payment, you will be executed for your crime. Which do you choose?"

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was sinless but voluntarily gave his life to pay the penalty for your sins and mine. (God's judgment for our sin is death). Three days later he rose from the dead.

- *God showed his great love for us by sending Jesus to die for us while we were still sinners.* Romans 5:8
- *The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.* Romans 6:23b

As a result of Jesus' death in your place, you have two choices:

Receive both God's pardon for your sins and eternal life by repenting (sensing your sinfulness and desiring to turn from it) and placing your trust in the Lord Jesus. (Acts 20:21)

OR

Reject both God's pardon for your sins and eternal life by trusting in anyone or anything other than Jesus to make you acceptable to God, thus bearing the penalty for breaking God's law yourself.

- *Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son of God will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him.* John 3:36

Knowing about Jesus doesn't mean you believe in Jesus....

3. The Skydiver

Skydivers demonstrate their belief in their parachutes when they jump from the plane.

Followers of Jesus demonstrate their belief in Him when God's Spirit changes their thoughts and desires.

- *If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!* 2 Corinthians 5:17
- *God says, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you."* Ezekiel 36:26

Just as entering a garage won't make you a mechanic, attending a church won't make you a Christian.

If you would like to receive God's pardon for your sins and the gift of eternal life, consider a prayer like this:

"Jesus, I believe you paid the penalty for my sins when you died on the cross and rose from the dead. I want to turn from my sins and place my trust in you as my Lord. I am willing to follow you the rest of my life. Thank you for the gift of eternal life. Amen."

- *Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.* Romans 10:13

The desire of real followers of Jesus is to:

- *live a life worthy of the Lord, pleasing Him in every way, bearing fruit in every good work, and growing in the knowledge of God.* Colossians 1:10

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Who is Jesus?



Old Testament Prophets tell of the coming Messiah

Isaiah

To us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" - which means, "God with us." Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:22-23

Daniel

In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away. Daniel 7:13-14

In the New Testament

The Son of God

Jesus asked, "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven." Matthew 16:15-17

Jesus said to the Jewish religious leaders, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working." For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. John 5:17-18

Jesus answered, "I and the Father are one." Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?" "We are not stoning you for any of these," replied the Jews, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God." John 10:30-33

After his arrest, the Jewish religious leaders all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?" He replied, "You are right in saying I am." Luke 22:70

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Who rose from the dead

Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:26-29

I [John] saw someone "like a son of man," dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. Revelation 1:13-18

You may have life in His name

Jesus did many miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples which are not recorded in this book. But these are written 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 20:30-31