



ROMAN EMPIRE

New Testament: Matthew-Revelation

*"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes in Him** shall not perish, but have eternal life.*

John 3:16

But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

Galatians 4:4-7

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Hebrews 1:1-3

ADDITIONAL READING:

Matthew 1 & 2, Luke 1 & 2, John 1:1-5, Colossians 1:15-20

From the very beginning, God began to reveal His plan to deal with the sin problem which separates man from God.

When the long-awaited, much anticipated Savior appeared, He entered the earth humbly, lived a perfect life, died a sinner's death and rose again so that all who believe may be forgiven, reconciled to God and blessed with a rich, eternal inheritance.

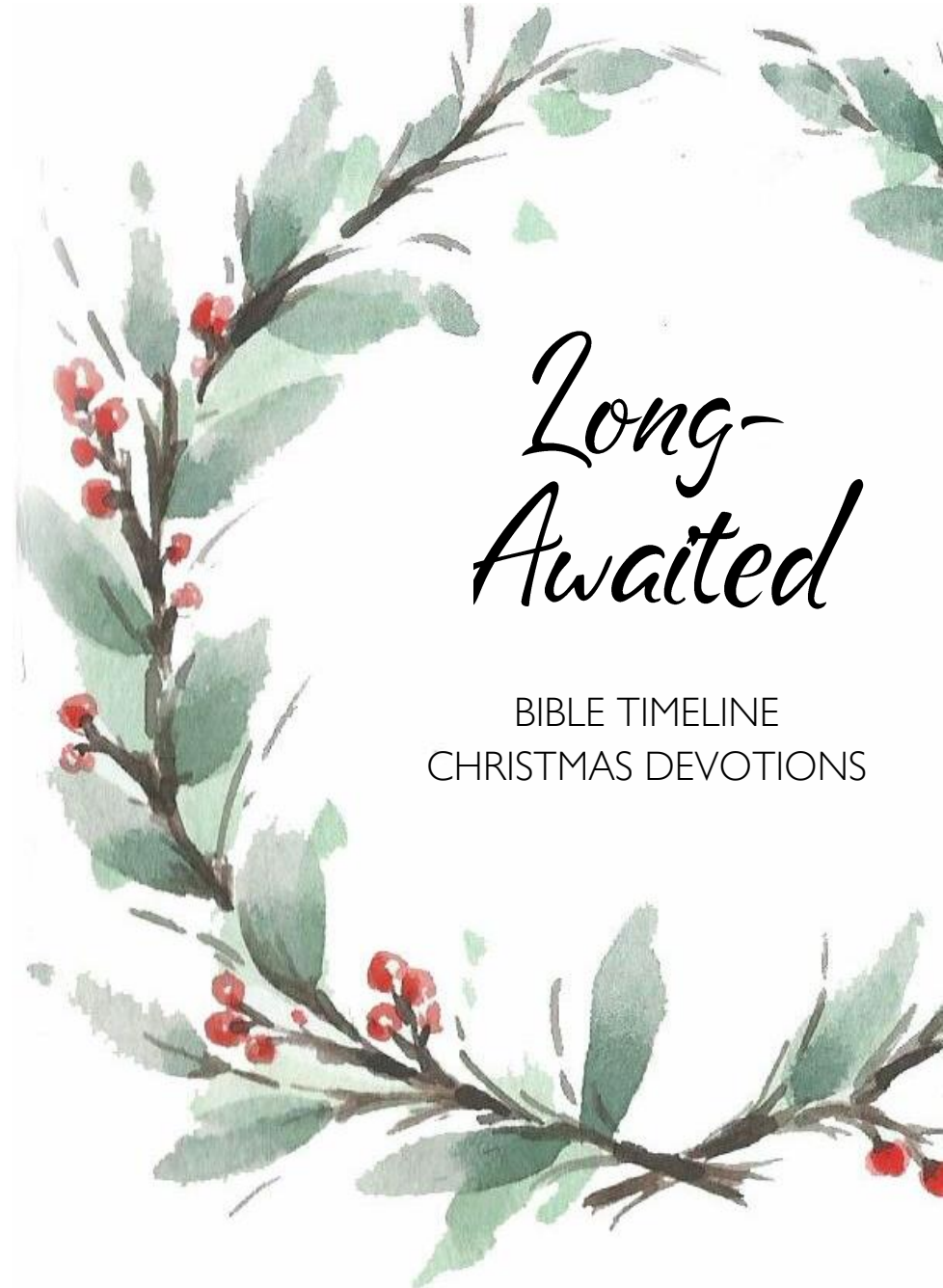
This Christmas season, may we find new depths of appreciation for the underserved gift of Jesus Christ.

"LONG-AWAITED" SUMMARY

He crushes the head of Satan. Through Him all nations are blessed. His shed blood offers protection. He mediates a new and better covenant. He will reign on the throne forever and will be great to the ends of the earth. Because of Him our sins are forgiven and remembered no more. He cleans and purifies and refines. Through Him, all who believe have eternal life.

These are the Scriptures which testify of Me.

JOHN 5:39



Long-Awaited

BIBLE TIMELINE
CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONS



THE BEGINNING

Genesis

PROPHECY

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it...

...Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

So the LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this, Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head and you will strike His heel."

Genesis 3:1-6a, 13-15

What characters are mentioned in this passage? _____

What will the serpent do to the woman's offspring? _____

What will the woman's offspring do to the serpent? _____

FULFILLMENT

READ: 1 John 3:8 & Hebrews 2:14-15

What has the Son of God accomplished? _____



PERSIAN EMPIRE

Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

"Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts. "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. "He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the LORD offerings in righteousness. Malachi 3:1-3

Fill in the descriptions of the messenger from the passage:

"He is like a _____

and like _____

He will sit as a _____

and _____"

The passage speaks of two messengers:

"the messenger who will clear the way"

READ: John 1:6-8

"the messenger of the covenant"

READ: John 1:9-18

REFLECTION: _____



GREEK EMPIRE

400 years of silence

Occurring between the Old & New Testaments



BABYLONIAN EMPIRE

2 Kings, 2 Chronicles, Daniel, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Lamentations

While I was still praying, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice. He instructed me and spoke with me, saying: "O Daniel, I have come now to give you insight and understanding. At the beginning of your petitions, an answer went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are highly precious. So consider the message and understand the vision: "Seventy weeks are decreed for your people and your holy city to stop their transgression, to put an end to sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy Place. Know and understand this: From the issuance of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem, until the **Messiah, the Prince**, there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks."

Daniel 9:21-25a

How does Gabriel describe Daniel? _____

What will be accomplished in the seventy weeks?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you..." "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him **Jesus**. "He will be great and will be called the **Son of the Most High**, and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

Luke 1:26-28, 31-33

How does Gabriel describe Mary? _____

Behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name **Jesus**, for He will save His people from their sins."

Matthew 1:20b-21

What will Jesus do? _____



THE PATRIARCHS

Genesis, Job (?)

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham... I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

Genesis 22:15a, 17-18

Fill in the 3 major promises God makes to Abraham in this passage.

- ◆ He will make Abraham's descendants _____

READ: Exodus 1:7, Acts 7:17

- ◆ Abraham's descendants will take _____

READ: Joshua 24:1-13

- ◆ Through Abraham's offspring _____

READ: Galatians 3:8-9, 16

REFLECTION/NOTES:



ISRAELITES IN EGYPT

Genesis, Exodus

Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go and take for yourselves lambs according to your families, and slay the **Passover lamb**. "You shall take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood which is in the basin, and apply some of the blood that is in the basin to the lintel and the two doorposts; and none of you shall go outside the door of his house until morning. "For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will **pass over** the door and will not allow the destroyer to come in to your houses to smite you. "

And you shall observe this event as an ordinance for you and your children forever. "When you enter the land which the LORD will give you, as He has promised, you shall observe this rite. "And when your children say to you, 'What does this rite mean to you?' you shall say, 'It is a **Passover sacrifice** to the LORD who **passed over** the houses of the sons of Israel in Egypt when He smote the Egyptians, but spared our homes.'" And the people bowed low and worshiped.

Exodus 12:22-27

What items were needed to carry out Moses command?

What good result would obedience yield?

The first Passover shows a picture of a lamb sacrificed for salvation.

READ: John 1:29, Luke 22:7-20 & 1 Peter 1:18-21

Summarize the passages above: _____



ASSYRIAN CAPTIVITY

2 Kings, Jeremiah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah

Search for these words in the passage and mark them accordingly:

Israel

will / shall

Judah

"Behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah...I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

Jeremiah 31:31, 33b-34

At this point in the timeline, the Northern Kingdom of Israel was taken captive by Assyria and soon the Southern Kingdom of Judah would be overtaken by Babylon. God makes a promise that something better is coming. What will happen to their iniquity/sin when He makes this New Covenant?

Search for these words in the passage and mark them accordingly:

[once / one]

offering / offered

sin(s)

By this will we have been sanctified, through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time onward until His enemies be made a footstool for His feet. For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us; for after saying, "THIS IS THE **COVENANT** THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THEM AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS UPON THEIR HEART, AND ON THEIR MIND I WILL WRITE THEM," He then says, "AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE." Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Hebrews 10:10-18



DIVIDED KINGDOM

1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Isaiah, Jeremiah
Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah

“But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity.”

*Therefore [God] will give them up until the time when she who is in labor has borne a child. Then the remainder of His brethren will return to the sons of Israel. And He will arise and shepherd His flock in the strength of the LORD, In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God. And they will remain, because at that time He will be great to the ends of the earth.
Micah 5:2-4*

CHARACTERS Who is mentioned in this passage? Look for pro/nouns.

ACTIONS What events/actions take place? Look for verbs.

KEY VERSE Which phrase is memorable or a good summary of the text?

READ: Luke 2:1-21



LAW / WILDERNESS

Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

Search for these words in the passage and mark them accordingly:

(Covenant) **Tabernacle** **Priest** **[Blood]**

Now even **the first covenant** had regulations of divine worship and the earthly sanctuary. For there was a tabernacle prepared, the outer one, in which were the lampstand and the table and the sacred bread; this is called the holy place. Behind the second veil there was a tabernacle which is called the Holy of Holies, having a golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden jar holding the manna, and Aaron's rod which budded, and the tables of the covenant; and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat; but of these things we cannot now speak in detail. Now when these things have been so prepared, the priests are continually entering the outer tabernacle performing the divine worship, but into the second, only the high priest enters once a year, not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins of the people committed in ignorance.

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? For this reason He is the mediator of **a new covenant**, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Hebrews 9:1-7, 11-15

What makes the new covenant greater than the first covenant?



SETTLING ISRAEL

Joshua

The LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath. "Now therefore, please swear to me by the LORD, since I have dealt kindly with you, that you also will deal kindly with my father's household, and give me a pledge of truth, and spare my father and my mother and my brothers and my sisters, with all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death." So the men said to her, "Our life for yours if you do not tell this business of ours; and it shall come about when the LORD gives us the land that we will deal kindly and faithfully with you."...And Joshua spared **Rahab** the prostitute, with her father's household and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent to spy out Jericho. So she has lived among the Israelites to this day.

Joshua 2:11b-14; 6:25



THE JUDGES

Judges, Ruth

"We are witnesses," said the elders and all the people at the gate. "May the LORD make the woman entering your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you be prosperous in Ephrathah and famous in Bethlehem. And may your house become like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring the LORD will give you by this young woman." So Boaz took **Ruth**, and she became his wife.

Ruth 4:11-13a



UNITED KINGDOM

1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon

PROMISE MADE TO DAVID

READ: 2 Samuel 7:16-17

What did God promise David?

DETAILED BY ISAIAH

READ: Isaiah 9:6-7

What do we learn about the descendant of David described by Isaiah?

FULFILLED BY JESUS

READ: Luke 1:26-33

Describe the mentions of David in this passage.

CONFIRMED BY PETER

READ: Acts 2:29-32

How does Peter say God's promise to David is kept?

READ:
Matthew 1:1-6a

Fill in the
blanks of
Jesus'
family tree

