

*God silently prepared the world for His gift of the Messiah Savior.*

**1. Four Transitions of World Empires Demonstrated Everyone’s Need for Salvation.**

- a. Israel’s exiles were under Assyria (722 B.C.) and Babylonian / Medo-Persian (586 B.C.).
- b. Macedonia’s Alexander the Great felled Persia in 330 B.C. raising the Greek Empire.
- c. Rome became a world empire, and Palestine-Judea became a vassal, in 63 B.C.

*“Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: ‘Peace be multiplied to you. I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God, enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end. He delivers and rescues; he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, he who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions,’” Dan. 6:25-27*

**2. Insecurity was Everywhere; Languages Converged; Cultures Advanced; Hope Ensued.**

- a. Israel’s exiles scattered God’s people everywhere with their hope for a Messiah Savior.
- b. The Greek empire brought Hellenistic philosophy and a common western language.
- c. Rome brought peace, roads for global travel, and military for mass communication.

*“...it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, ‘Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel,’” Luke 2:26-32*

**3. “Pax Romana,” Roman peace, was the Perfect Scene for a New Savior, King and Gospel.**

- a. Under Roman rule, Jerusalem had religious autonomy under economic dependency.
- b. The political system allowed the courts to find Christ innocent, yet let Jews crucify Him.
- c. Military travel expedited God’s gospel of Christ to an alert, listening, hungry world.

*“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God,” Gal. 4:4-7*

*God silently prepared the world for His gift of the Messiah Savior.*

*God presents to us our Savior, for us to name our King.*

**1. God Delivered Our Savior—Christ the King His Son. Matt. 1-3**

- a. Christ’s lineage genealogy and the virgin birth proved He is the promised Messiah (1).
- b. Christ was visited by wise kings (2), taken secretly to Egypt escaping Herod.
- c. John the Baptist announced the King, preached His baptism, and baptized Jesus (3).

*“And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,’”*  
*Matt. 3:16-17*

**2. Christ Delivered His Gospel—Salvation Offered to All Nations. Matt. 4-10**

- a. Christ proved His power over Satan and temptation (4) and called disciples in Galilee.
- b. Jesus preached His mountain sermon (5-7) with beatitudes, rules of law, and True Way.
- c. He demonstrated and shared with apostles powers over healing, weather, and life (8-10).

*“And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction.” ... “These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, ‘Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand. ‘Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons,’”* Matt. 10:1 ... 5-7

**3. His own Rejected Him—or Believed in Him. Matt. 11-28**

- a. John the Baptist was rejected (11). The Pharisees rejected Christ, planned His death (12).
- b. Christ taught in parables (13), miracles (14), and debated Pharisees and Sadducees (15).
- c. Peter confessed Christ (16). Christ prepared His disciples for faith and His death (16-20).
- d. Christ presented Himself entering into Jerusalem (21) and debated leaders (22-23).
- e. He prophesied His Second Coming (24) and Judgment (25).
- f. Leaders plotted His death, Judas betrayed Him, He was arrested, Peter denied Him (26).
- g. Christ was crucified and buried (27), and resurrected from an empty tomb (28)!

*“Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter replied, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ And Jesus answered him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven,’”* Matt. 16:13-17

*God presents to us our Savior, for us to name our King.*

*God sent us a King to serve us and save us.*

**1. God Presented the Servant.**

**Mark 1-3**

- a. John baptized Christ, Satan tempted Him, and He began giving miracles and healing (1).
- b. Opposition grew over sinners, Jewish traditions, His Holy Spirit and parables (2-4).
- c. Opposition grew over His miracles (5), at His hometown (6), and His popularity (6-7).

*“And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven.’ Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, ‘Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?’ And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, ‘Why do you question these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk?’ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins’— he said to the paralytic— ‘I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.’ And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, ‘We never saw anything like this!’” Mark 2:5-12*

**2. The Servant Instructed His Disciples.**

**Mark 8-10**

- a. Peter confessed his belief and Christ outlined the costs of discipleship (8).
- b. Jesus was transfigured, God spoke. He freed a boy of a demon and foretold His death (9).
- c. He taught the disciples with stories, and prepared them for the crucifixion (10).

*“And Jesus called them to him and said to them, ‘You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many,’” Mark 10:42-45*

**3. The Servant was Rejected, Crucified and Resurrected.**

**Mark 11-16**

- a. Christ entered Jerusalem for Passover, cursed the fig tree and cleansed the Temple (11).
- b. Christ discussed authority, taxes, resurrection, tribulation, and Second Coming (12-13).
- c. He was targeted, betrayed, tried, beaten, mocked, killed, buried and resurrected (14-16).

*“On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry. And seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. And he said to it, ‘May no one ever eat fruit from you again.’”...“As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. And Peter remembered and said to him, ‘Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered.’ And his disciples heard it. And Jesus answered them, ‘Have faith in God. Truly, I say to you, whoever ... does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours,’” Mark 11:12-14 ... 20-24*

*God sent us a King to serve us and save us.*

*God raised up our Savior from death, so upon His return He will raise up us!*

**1. Christ—was Presented as a Baby and Boy; and Presented His Ministry. Luke 1-9**

- a. John’s and Jesus’ births were recorded (1), Jesus’ childhood (2) and baptism (3).
- b. Christ tempted, accepted in Galilee, rejected in Nazareth, healed, called disciples (4-5).
- c. Christ taught the Pharisees and disciples (5-7), with miracles and healings (8-9).

*“And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!’” Luke 2:9-15*

**2. Christ—was Opposed and Rejected for His Ministry. Luke 10-18**

- a. Christ was rejected in Samaria, by lawyers and leaders, healed and gave “woes” (10-11).
- b. Christ warned of hypocrisy, covetousness, the Second Coming, and predicting times (12).
- c. Jesus taught repentance, discipleship, stewardship, prayer and sacrifice (13-18).

*“And taking the twelve, he said to them, ‘See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. And after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise.’ But they understood none of these things. This saying was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said,” Luke 18:31-34*

**3. Christ—was Crucified and Resurrected for His Gospel. Luke 19-24**

- a. Christ entered Jerusalem, cleansed the Temple (19), and met resistance from many (20).
- b. Christ prophesied the Second Coming (21), was arrested, tried and crucified (22-23).
- c. The Savior was buried, resurrected, proved His Deity, and commissioned believers (24).

*“the men said to them, ‘Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.’” ... “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.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you,’” Luke 24:5b-7 ... 44-49a*

*God raised up our Savior from death, so upon His return He will raise up us!*

***“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life,” John 3:16***

**1. God Sent His Son to His Created World—and the Word Became Flesh. John 1-4**

- a. John explained Christ was the Word, with God and was God. He called His disciples (1).
- b. Jesus changed water to wine, and they believed (2). He witnessed to Nicodemus (3).
- c. He witnessed to the Samaritan woman, more disciples, and healed in Galilee (4).

***“The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of 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 1:9-14***

**2. Christ Announced His Identity with Seven “I Am” Illustrations. John 5-17**

- a. Christ claimed to be God, healed and fed many, and said “*I Am the Bread of Life*” (5-6).
- b. He stated, “*I Am the Light of the World,*” “*the Gate,*” and “*the Good Shepherd*” (7-10).
- c. He raised Lazarus, and said, “*I am the Resurrection and the Life,*” (11).
- d. He introduced the Holy Spirit as Helper, Guide, and Counselor of sin (14-16).
- e. He said “*I am the Way, the Truth and the Life,*” (14) and “*the Vine*” (15).

***“Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’ So the Pharisees said to him, ‘You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true.’ Jesus answered, ‘Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going,’” John 8:12-14***

**3. He Fulfilled His Death, Resurrection and Ascension. John 18-21**

- a. He was arrested, tried by Jews before Annas and Caiaphas, and Romans by Pilate (18).
- b. Christ was crucified, the soldiers cast lots, He died and was buried (19).
- c. Christ arose, appeared to Mary Magdalene, and met with disciples three times (20-21).

***“Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but 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 20:30-31***

***“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life,” John 3:16***

*God sent His Holy Spirit and Spread His church to the ends of the earth.*

**1. God Sent His Holy Spirit to Believers—the Church Started in Jerusalem. Acts 1-7**

- a. Christ appeared, ascended to God (1), and believers were filled with the Holy Spirit (2).
- b. Peter explained Pentecost (2), healed a lame man, preached (3), and was silenced (4).
- c. The church was organized by apostles, persecuted (4-5) and Stephen was martyred (6-7).

*“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,” ... “And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ... praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved,” Acts 1:8 ... 2:42-44 ... 47*

**2. Philip and Peter Witnessed in Judea and Samaria; Saul was Converted. Acts 8-12**

- a. Philip witnessed in Samaria (8). Saul was blinded, filled with the Spirit, and preached (9).
- b. Peter healed and preached to Gentiles (10), and “Christians” were named in Antioch (11).
- c. Herod killed James, Peter was released from prison, and Herod died a blasphemer (12).

*“Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; and taking food, he was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, ‘He is the Son of God.’” ... “So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied,” Acts 9:17-20 ... 31*

**3. Paul Took The Gospel to the Ends of the Earth—In Three Mission Trips. Acts 13-28**

- a. Barnabas and Paul (Saul) went from Antioch to Cyprus, Iconium, and Lystra (13-14).
- b. The Jerusalem Council met (15), and Paul went through Asia, Greece, and back (16-18).
- c. Paul went to Galatia, Ephesus, Macedonia, and all the way to prison in Rome (18-28).

*“In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship,” Acts 20:35-38*

*God sent His Holy Spirit and Spread His church to the ends of the earth.*

*The Gospel is the Power of God for Salvation.***1. Justification—God Imputes His Righteousness by Christ. Rom. 1-5**

- a. Paul explained the Gospel is God’s power for salvation to believers, living by faith (1).
- b. Unbelieving Jews are judged by the Law (2), and all are guilty before God (3).
- c. We are justified by God’s imputing righteousness (4) by faith, with peace and joy (5).

*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith,”... “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus,” Rom. 1:16-17... 3:23-26*

**2. Sanctification—God Transforms us into Christ’s Image. Rom. 6-14**

- a. God brings death to our sin (6), making us alive in Christ to God (7).
- b. The Spirit delivers us from sin (8). Israel seeks works, rejects Christ (9-11).
- c. Christians have responsibilities with God’s righteousness (12-13), and liberties (14).

*“the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.,” ... “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect,” Rom. 8:27b-30 ... 12:2*

**3. Glorification—God Brings us to Glorify Him in Obedient Faith. Rom. 15-16**

- a. Be the example of Christ, as He became a Servant that we might glorify God (15).
- b. Paul prayed that Christians might be filled with joy, peace, belief and hope (15:18).
- c. Paul appealed to them to share in all blessings (15), and prayed his doxology (16).

*“Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen,” Rom. 16:26-27*

*The Gospel is the Power of God for Salvation.*

*God transforms us to righteousness, and teaches us Christ’s love.*

**1. Paul Admonished Divisions within the Church.**

**1 Cor. 1-5**

- a. Paul denounced “cultism” of Christians to their leaders (1), as the leader is Christ (2).
- b. Worldly wisdom is folly, as you belong to Christ and only His wisdom (3).
- c. Paul addressed his ministry (4), and a report of sexual immorality within the church (5).

*“these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.” ... “The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ‘For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?’ But we have the mind of Christ,” 1 Cor. 2:10-13 ... 15-16*

**2. Paul Gave Advice for Christians within the Church.**

**1 Cor. 6-14**

- a. Paul warned against litigation and sexual immorality (6), and counseled marriage (7).
- b. He described Christian liberties (8-10), prayer, communion, and Spiritual gifts (11-14).
- c. He gave the facts and importance of the resurrection (15), and of church offerings (16).

*“‘All things are lawful for me,’ but not all things are helpful. ‘All things are lawful for me,’ but I will not be dominated by anything. ‘Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food’—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?” ... “no one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except in the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone,” 1 Cor. 6:12-15 ... 12:3b-6*

**3. Paul Defended his Character, Ministry Needs, and Apostleship.**

**2 Cor.**

- a. Paul explained his ministry and change of plans (1-2), and his philosophy for it (3-5).
- b. Paul asked for their reconciliation, purity (6-7), and ministry support (8-9).
- c. Paul defended his apostleship (10-12), and sought the Corinthians’ self-examination (13).

*“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,” ... Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,” 2 Cor. 3:18 ... 5:17-18*

*God transforms us to righteousness, and teaches us Christ’s love.*