

## An Outline of the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ

In the beginning God created all things through his Word, the Son of God.<sup>1</sup> God saw that all he had made was very good.<sup>2</sup> He made an earthly paradise for man and gave him free will but warned him not to sin upon pain of death.<sup>3</sup> The devil enticed the woman to disobey God and she in turn enticed her husband.<sup>4</sup> God condemned them to die for their sin<sup>5</sup> and expelled them from the earthly paradise.<sup>6</sup> Eternal life was now beyond their reach.<sup>7</sup>

However, God so loved the world that *he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.*<sup>8</sup> And so God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth<sup>9</sup> to tell Mary that she had been chosen to be the mother of God made man. This would happen through the power of the Holy Spirit<sup>10</sup> and so she would remain a virgin.<sup>11</sup> He chose to be born in poverty and obscurity in a stable in Bethlehem,<sup>12</sup> but God sent an angel to tell local shepherds about his birth.<sup>13</sup> He also invited wise men from the east to share this event of great joy; a saviour was born to free men from sin and to be a shepherd to show the way to eternal life.<sup>14</sup> Jesus lived a hidden life until the time he was revealed to Israel.<sup>15</sup>

John the Baptist came to prepare the way for Jesus proclaiming '*Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is close at hand.*'<sup>16</sup> And he baptised people in the river Jordan as they confessed their sins.<sup>17</sup> Then Jesus appeared and was baptised by John, *and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And suddenly there was a voice from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'*<sup>18</sup>

Jesus began his ministry with the message '*Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is close at hand.*'<sup>19</sup> He travelled the whole area preaching, teaching and healing.<sup>20</sup> At that time he chose twelve men to be his Apostles and gave them power over unclean spirits and to cure all kinds of sickness.<sup>21</sup> He made it clear that only some would listen to him, change their ways and be healed.<sup>22</sup> He began to teach his disciples that he was destined to suffer grievously, be rejected by the religious leaders, be put to death and after three days to rise again.<sup>23</sup> By this means he would suffer the punishment due to sin and complete God the father's plan of salvation.<sup>24</sup> First of all he demonstrated humility in power by entering Jerusalem riding a donkey. Great crowds welcomed him shouting his praises.<sup>25</sup>

Four days later one of his apostles betrayed him for money.<sup>26</sup> He was arrested, tried and condemned to death.<sup>27</sup> He was scourged, mocked and ill-treated by the roman soldiers<sup>28</sup> and crucified by them on what we now call Good Friday.<sup>29</sup> As he was being crucified Jesus asked his Father to forgive those responsible.<sup>30</sup> Whilst suffering and dying on the cross between two thieves, one thief repented and was promised paradise.<sup>31</sup>

On the Sunday morning the women went to the tomb with spices to anoint the body but when they arrived an angel told them that he had risen.<sup>32</sup> Jesus then appeared to Mary Magdalen, his apostles and disciples over the next forty days, proving that he had risen from the dead.<sup>33</sup> He gave his disciples the power to forgive sins<sup>34</sup> and told them to go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, teaching them his commands.<sup>35</sup> Jesus promised the power of the Holy Spirit would come upon them and then he ascended into heaven before their very eyes.<sup>36</sup>

The Apostles and the women *with one heart...joined constantly in prayer.*<sup>37</sup> When Pentecost day came they were all filled with the Holy Spirit who appeared as tongues of fire resting on the head of each of them.<sup>38</sup> They went out and preached and that day about three thousand people became disciples.<sup>39</sup> God is love<sup>40</sup> and so at the end of time Jesus will judge all peoples by how they have loved each other and by this will decide who is worthy to share eternal joy in heaven with God.<sup>41</sup> Those who fail this test will spend eternity in hell, a place of punishment.<sup>42</sup>

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**Footnotes setting out the scriptural references from the Jerusalem Bible (Catholic Edition)**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came into being, not one thing came into being except through him. (John 1:1-3)

<sup>2</sup> God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good. (Genesis 1:31)

<sup>3</sup> Then Yahweh God gave the man this command, 'You are free to eat of all the trees in the garden. But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you are not to eat; for, the day you eat of that, you are doomed to die.' (Genesis 2:16-17)

<sup>4</sup> Now, the snake was the most subtle of all the wild animals that Yahweh God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the snake, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death." ' Then the snake said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good from evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was enticing for the wisdom that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. (Genesis 3:1-6)

<sup>5</sup> By the sweat of your face will you earn your food, until you return to the ground, as you were taken from it. For dust you are and to dust you shall return.' (Genesis 3:19)

<sup>6</sup> So Yahweh God expelled him from the garden of Eden, to till the soil from which he had been taken. (Genesis 3:23)

<sup>7</sup> Then Yahweh God said, 'Now that the man has become like one of us in knowing good from evil, he must not be allowed to reach out his hand and pick from the tree of life too, and eat and live for ever!' He banished the man, and in front of the garden of Eden he posted the great winged creatures and the fiery flashing sword, to guard the way to the tree of life. (Genesis 3:22 & 24)

<sup>8</sup> For this is how God loved the world: he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. (John 3:16-17)

<sup>9</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.(Luke 1:26-27)

<sup>10</sup> Look! You are to conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I have no knowledge of man?' The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. (Luke 1:31-35)

<sup>11</sup> This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being an upright man and wanting to spare her disgrace, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit...he had not had intercourse with her when she gave birth to a son; and he named him Jesus. (Matthew 1:18-20 & 25)

<sup>12</sup> So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee for Judaea, to David's town called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. Now it happened that, while they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the living-space. (Luke 2:4-7)

<sup>13</sup> In the countryside close by there were shepherds out in the fields keeping guard over their sheep during the watches of the night. An angel of the Lord stood over them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Look, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole

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people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And all at once with the angel there was a great throng of the hosts of heaven, praising God with the words: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace for those he favours. (Luke 2:8-14)

<sup>14</sup> After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, suddenly some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east asking, 'Where is the infant king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.'...and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. (Matthew 2:1-2 & 11)

<sup>15</sup> He went down with them then and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. (Luke 2:51)

<sup>16</sup> In due course John the Baptist appeared; he proclaimed this message in the desert of Judaea, 'Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is close at hand.' This was the man spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said: A voice of one that cries in the desert, 'Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.' (Matthew 3:1-3)

<sup>17</sup> and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who comes after me is more powerful than I, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Matthew 3:6 & 11)

<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus appeared: he came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him, with the words, 'It is I who need baptism from you, and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that uprightness demands.' Then John gave in to him. And when Jesus had been baptised he at once came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And suddenly there was a voice from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.' (Matthew 3:13-17)

<sup>19</sup> From then onwards Jesus began his proclamation with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is close at hand.' (Matthew 4:17)

<sup>20</sup> He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing all kinds of disease and illness among the people. His fame spread throughout Syria, and those who were suffering from diseases and painful complaints of one kind or another, the possessed, epileptics, the paralysed, were all brought to him, and he cured them. (Matthew 4:23-24)

<sup>21</sup> He summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to drive them out and to cure all kinds of disease and all kinds of illness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon who is known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who was also his betrayer.

<sup>22</sup> and he told them many things in parables. He said, 'Listen, a sower went out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up at once, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Anyone who has ears should listen!' (Matthew 13:3-9)

<sup>23</sup> Then he began to teach them that the Son of man was destined to suffer grievously, and to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; (Mark 8:31)

<sup>24</sup> Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified and killed by men outside the Law. But God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him

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to be held in its power... (Acts 2:22-24) Christ himself died once and for all for sins, the upright for the sake of the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life (1 Peter 3:18)

<sup>25</sup> Say to the daughter of Zion: Look, your king is approaching, humble and riding on a donkey and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden. So the disciples went and did as Jesus had told them. They brought the donkey and the colt, then they laid their cloaks on their backs and he took his seat on them. Great crowds of people spread their cloaks on the road, while others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them in his path. The crowds who went in front of him and those who followed were all shouting: Hosanna to the son of David! Blessed is he who is coming in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heavens! And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil as people asked, 'Who is this?' (Matthew 21:5-10)

<sup>26</sup> And at once, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, came up and with him a number of men armed with swords and clubs, sent by the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. Now the traitor had arranged a signal with them saying, 'The one I kiss, he is the man. Arrest him, and see he is well guarded when you lead him away.' So when the traitor came, he went up to Jesus at once and said, 'Rabbi!' and kissed him. The others seized him and arrested him. (Mark 14:43-46)

<sup>27</sup> The high priest then rose before the whole assembly and put this question to Jesus, 'Have you no answer to that? What is this evidence these men are bringing against you?' But he was silent and made no answer at all. The high priest put a second question to him saying, 'Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?' 'I am,' said Jesus, 'and you will see the Son of man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.' The high priest tore his robes and said, 'What need of witnesses have we now? You heard the blasphemy. What is your finding?' Their verdict was unanimous: he deserved to die. Some of them started spitting at his face, hitting him and saying, 'Play the prophet!' And the attendants struck him too. (Mark 14:60-65)

<sup>28</sup> So Pilate, anxious to placate the crowd, released Barabbas for them and, after having Jesus scourged, he handed him over to be crucified. The soldiers led him away to the inner part of the palace, that is, the Praetorium, and called the whole cohort together. They dressed him up in purple, twisted some thorns into a crown and put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed and spat on him; and they went down on their knees to do him homage. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the purple and dressed him in his own clothes. They led him out to crucify him. (Mark 15:15-20)

<sup>29</sup> When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him. Above his head was placed the charge against him; it read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. (Matthew 27:35-38)

<sup>30</sup> Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing.' Then they cast lots to share out his clothing. (Luke 23:34)

<sup>31</sup> One of the criminals hanging there abused him: 'Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us as well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said. 'You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He answered him, 'In truth I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.' (Luke 23:39-43)

<sup>32</sup> When the Sabbath was over, Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices with which to go and anoint him. And very early in the morning on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' But when they looked they saw that the stone -- which was very big -- had already been rolled back. On entering the tomb they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right-hand side, and they were struck with amazement. But he said to them, 'There is no need to be so amazed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified: he has risen, he is not here. See, here is the place where they laid him. (mark 16:1-6)

<sup>33</sup> So Mary of Magdala told the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord,' and that he had said these things to her. In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and, after saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord (John 20:18-20) He had shown himself alive

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to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. While at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is', he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but, not many days from now, you are going to be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' (Acts 1:3-5)

<sup>34</sup> and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you retain anyone's sins, they are retained. (John 20:21-23)

<sup>35</sup> Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And look, I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.' (Matthew 28:18-20)

<sup>36</sup> but you will receive the power of the Holy Spirit which will come on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to earth's remotest end.' As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky as he went, when suddenly two men in white were standing beside them, and they said, 'Why are you Galileans standing here looking into the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will come back in the same way as you have seen him go to heaven.' (Acts 1:8-11)

<sup>37</sup> With one heart all these joined constantly in prayer, together with some women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. (Acts 1:14)

<sup>38</sup> When Pentecost day came round, they had all met together, when suddenly there came from heaven a sound as of a violent wind which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and there appeared to them tongues as of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak different languages as the Spirit gave them power to express themselves. (Acts 2:1-4)

<sup>39</sup> They accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number. (Acts 2:41)

<sup>40</sup> Whoever fails to love does not know God, because God is love. (1 Letter John 4:8)

<sup>41</sup> 'When the Son of man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All nations will be assembled before him and he will separate people one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take as your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you made me welcome, lacking clothes and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the upright will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome, lacking clothes and clothe you? When did we find you sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:31-40)

<sup>42</sup> Then he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food, I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink, I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, lacking clothes and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or lacking clothes, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "In truth I tell you, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." (Matthew 25:41-45)