

⁵One year later Kedorlaomer and his allies arrived and defeated the Rephaites at Ashteroth-karnaim, the Zuzites at Ham, the Emites at Shaveh-kiriathaim, ⁶and the Horites at Mount Seir, as far as El-paran at the edge of the wilderness. ⁷Then they turned back and came to En-mishpat (now called Kadesh) and conquered all the territory of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites living in Hazazon-tamar.

⁸Then the rebel kings of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim, and Bela (also called Zoar) prepared for battle in the valley of the Dead Sea. ⁹They fought against King Kedorlaomer of Elam, King Tidal of Goiim, King Amraphel of Babylonia, and King Arioch of Ellasar—four kings against five. ¹⁰As it happened, the valley of the Dead Sea was filled with tar pits. And as the army of the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some fell into the tar pits, while the rest escaped into the mountains. ¹¹The victorious invaders then plundered Sodom and Gomorrah and headed for home, taking with them all the spoils of war and the food supplies. ¹²They also captured Lot—Abram’s nephew who lived in Sodom—and carried off everything he owned.

¹³But one of Lot’s men escaped and reported everything to Abram the Hebrew, who was living near the oak grove belonging to Mamre the Amorite. Mamre and his relatives, Eshcol and Aner, were Abram’s allies.

¹⁴When Abram heard that his nephew Lot had been captured, he mobilized the 318 trained men who had been born into his household. Then he pursued Kedorlaomer’s army until he caught up with them at Dan. ¹⁵There he divided his men and attacked during the night. Kedorlaomer’s army fled, but Abram chased them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus. ¹⁶Abram recovered all the goods that had been taken, and he brought back his nephew Lot with

his possessions and all the women and other captives.

MELCHIZEDEK BLESSES ABRAM

¹⁷After Abram returned from his victory over Kedorlaomer and all his allies, the king of Sodom went out to meet him in the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King’s Valley).

¹⁸And Melchizedek, the king of Salem and a priest of God Most High, ^{*}brought Abram some bread and wine. ¹⁹Melchizedek blessed Abram with this blessing:

“Blessed be Abram by God Most High,
Creator of heaven and earth.

²⁰And blessed be God Most High,
who has defeated your
enemies for you.”

Then Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of all the goods he had recovered.

²¹The king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give back my people who were captured. But you may keep for yourself all the goods you have recovered.”

²²Abram replied to the king of Sodom, “I solemnly swear to the LORD, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, ²³that I will not take so much as a single thread or sandal thong from what belongs to you. Otherwise you might say, ‘I am the one who made Abram rich.’ ²⁴I will accept only what my young warriors have already eaten, and I request that you give a fair share of the goods to my allies—Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre.”

15

THE LORD’S COVENANT PROMISE TO ABRAM

Some time later, the LORD spoke to Abram in a vision and said to him, “Do not be afraid, Abram, for I will protect you, and your reward will be great.”

²But Abram replied, “O Sovereign LORD, what good are all your blessings when I don’t even have a son? Since you’ve given

14:8 Hebrew *Siddim Valley* (see 14:3); also in 14:10.
14:18 Hebrew *El-Elyon*; also in 14:19, 20, 22.

14:5 Gen 15:20 Deut 2:10, 20; 3:11 Josh 13:19 **14:7** Gen 16:14; 20:1 Num 13:26 Deut 1:4 2 Chr 20:2 **14:12** Gen 11:27
14:13 Gen 10:16; 13:18; 39:14 **14:14** Gen 12:5 Deut 34:1 **14:15** Gen 15:2 **14:17** 2 Sam 18:18 **14:18** Pss 76:2; 110:4
Heb 5:6, 10; 7:1 **14:19** Gen 27:25; 48:9 Mark 10:16 **14:20** Gen 9:26; 24:27 ^{*}Heb 7:1-2 **14:22** Gen 1:1
14:23 2 Kgs 5:16 **14:24** Gen 14:13 **15:1** Gen 21:17-18; 26:24 Num 12:6 Deut 33:29 Ps 3:3

⁴⁵“Those who suffer from a serious skin disease must tear their clothing and leave their hair uncombed.* They must cover their mouth and call out, ‘Unclean! Unclean!’ ⁴⁶As long as the serious disease lasts, they will be ceremonially unclean. They must live in isolation in their place outside the camp.

TREATMENT OF CONTAMINATED CLOTHING

⁴⁷“Now suppose mildew* contaminates some woolen or linen clothing, ⁴⁸woolen or linen fabric, the hide of an animal, or anything made of leather. ⁴⁹If the contaminated area in the clothing, the animal hide, the fabric, or the leather article has turned greenish or reddish, it is contaminated with mildew and must be shown to the priest. ⁵⁰After examining the affected spot, the priest will put the article in quarantine for seven days. ⁵¹On the seventh day the priest must inspect it again. If the contaminated area has spread, the clothing or fabric or leather is clearly contaminated by a serious mildew and is ceremonially unclean. ⁵²The priest must burn the item—the clothing, the woolen or linen fabric, or piece of leather—for it has been contaminated by a serious mildew. It must be completely destroyed by fire.

⁵³“But if the priest examines it and finds that the contaminated area has not spread in the clothing, the fabric, or the leather, ⁵⁴the priest will order the object to be washed and then quarantined for seven more days. ⁵⁵Then the priest must examine the object again. If he finds that the contaminated area has not changed color after being washed, even if it did not spread, the object is defiled. It must be completely burned up, whether the contaminated spot* is on the inside or outside. ⁵⁶But if the priest examines it and finds that the contaminated area has faded after being washed, he must cut the spot from the clothing, the fabric, or the leather. ⁵⁷If the spot later reappears on the clothing, the

fabric, or the leather article, the mildew is clearly spreading, and the contaminated object must be burned up. ⁵⁸But if the spot disappears from the clothing, the fabric, or the leather article after it has been washed, it must be washed again; then it will be ceremonially clean.

⁵⁹“These are the instructions for dealing with mildew that contaminates woolen or linen clothing or fabric or anything made of leather. This is how the priest will determine whether these items are ceremonially clean or unclean.”

14

CLEANSING FROM SKIN DISEASES

And the LORD said to Moses, ²“The following instructions are for those seeking ceremonial purification from a skin disease.* Those who have been healed must be brought to the priest, ³who will examine them at a place outside the camp. If the priest finds that someone has been healed of a serious skin disease, ⁴he will perform a purification ceremony, using two live birds that are ceremonially clean, a stick of cedar,* some scarlet yarn, and a hyssop branch. ⁵The priest will order that one bird be slaughtered over a clay pot filled with fresh water. ⁶He will take the live bird, the cedar stick, the scarlet yarn, and the hyssop branch, and dip them into the blood of the bird that was slaughtered over the fresh water. ⁷The priest will then sprinkle the blood of the dead bird seven times on the person being purified of the skin disease. When the priest has purified the person, he will release the live bird in the open field to fly away.

⁸“The persons being purified must then wash their clothes, shave off all their hair,

13:45 Or *and uncover their heads*. 13:47 Traditionally rendered *leprosy*. The Hebrew term used throughout this passage is the same term used for the various skin diseases described in 13:1-46. 13:55 The meaning of the Hebrew is uncertain. 14:2 Traditionally rendered *leprosy*; see note on 13:2a. 14:4 Or *juniper*; also in 14:6, 49, 51.

13:45 Lam 4:15 13:46 Num 5:1-4; 12:14 2 Kgs 7:3; 15:5 Luke 17:12 13:51 Lev 14:44 14:2 Matt 8:4 Mark 1:40-45
 Luke 5:12-14; 17:12-14 14:3 Lev 13:46 14:4 Lev 14:6, 49-52 Num 19:6
 14:6 Ps 51:7 14:8 Lev 14:9 Num 8:7

- ⁵ He loves whatever is just and good;
the unfailing love of the
LORD fills the earth.
- ⁶ The LORD merely spoke,
and the heavens were created.
He breathed the word,
and all the stars were born.
- ⁷ He assigned the sea its boundaries
and locked the oceans in
vast reservoirs.
- ⁸ Let the whole world fear the LORD,
and let everyone stand in awe of him.
- ⁹ For when he spoke, the world began!
It appeared at his command.
- ¹⁰ The LORD frustrates the
plans of the nations
and thwarts all their schemes.
- ¹¹ But the LORD's plans stand firm forever;
his intentions can never be shaken.
- ¹² What joy for the nation whose
God is the LORD,
whose people he has chosen
as his inheritance.
- ¹³ The LORD looks down from heaven
and sees the whole human race.
- ¹⁴ From his throne he observes
all who live on the earth.
- ¹⁵ He made their hearts,
so he understands everything they do.
- ¹⁶ The best-equipped army
cannot save a king,
nor is great strength enough
to save a warrior.
- ¹⁷ Don't count on your warhorse
to give you victory—
for all its strength, it cannot save you.
- ¹⁸ But the LORD watches over
those who fear him,
those who rely on his unfailing love.
- ¹⁹ He rescues them from death
and keeps them alive in
times of famine.

- ²⁰ We put our hope in the LORD.
He is our help and our shield.
- ²¹ In him our hearts rejoice,
for we trust in his holy name.
- ²² Let your unfailing love
surround us, LORD,
for our hope is in you alone.

34

A psalm* of David, regarding the time he pretended to be insane in front of Abimelech, who sent him away.

- I will praise the LORD at all times.
I will constantly speak his praises.
² I will boast only in the LORD;
let all who are helpless take heart.
- ³ Come, let us tell of the LORD's greatness;
let us exalt his name together.
- ⁴ I prayed to the LORD, and
he answered me.
He freed me from all my fears.
- ⁵ Those who look to him for help
will be radiant with joy;
no shadow of shame will
darken their faces.
- ⁶ In my desperation I prayed,
and the LORD listened;
he saved me from all my troubles.
- ⁷ For the angel of the LORD is a guard;
he surrounds and defends
all who fear him.
- ⁸ Taste and see that the LORD is good.
Oh, the joys of those who
take refuge in him!
- ⁹ Fear the LORD, you his godly people,
for those who fear him will
have all they need.
- ¹⁰ Even strong young lions
sometimes go hungry,
but those who trust in the LORD
will lack no good thing.

34 This psalm is a Hebrew acrostic poem; each verse begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

33:5 Pss 11:7; 119:64 **33:6** Gen 1:6-7 Ps 148:5 Heb 11:3 **33:7** Exod 15:8 Job 38:8-11 **33:8** Pss 67:7; 96:9 **33:9** Gen 1:3 Ps 148:5 **33:10** Ps 2:1-4 Isa 8:9-10; 19:3 **33:12** Exod 19:5 Ps 144:15 **33:16** Pss 44:6; 147:10 **33:17** Ps 20:7 Prov 21:31 **33:18** Ps 34:15 **33:19** Ps 37:19 **33:20** Ps 115:9 Isa 8:17 **34:1** Ps 71:6 Eph 5:20 **34:2** Jer 9:24 **34:5** Ps 36:9 **34:7** Dan 6:22 **34:8** 1 Pet 2:3 **34:9** Pss 23:1; 31:23 **34:10** Ps 84:11

fast, I will pay no attention. When they present their burnt offerings and grain offerings to me, I will not accept them. Instead, I will devour them with war, famine, and disease.”

¹³Then I said, “O Sovereign LORD, their prophets are telling them, ‘All is well—no war or famine will come. The LORD will surely send you peace.’”

¹⁴Then the LORD said, “These prophets are telling lies in my name. I did not send them or tell them to speak. I did not give them any messages. They prophesy of visions and revelations they have never seen or heard. They speak foolishness made up in their own lying hearts. ¹⁵Therefore, this is what the LORD says: I will punish these lying prophets, for they have spoken in my name even though I never sent them. They say that no war or famine will come, but they themselves will die by war and famine! ¹⁶As for the people to whom they prophesy—their bodies will be thrown out into the streets of Jerusalem, victims of famine and war. There will be no one left to bury them. Husbands, wives, sons, and daughters—all will be gone. For I will pour out their own wickedness on them. ¹⁷Now, Jeremiah, say this to them:

“Night and day my eyes
overflow with tears.
I cannot stop weeping,
for my virgin daughter—my
precious people—
has been struck down
and lies mortally wounded.
¹⁸ If I go out into the fields,
I see the bodies of people
slaughtered by the enemy.
If I walk the city streets,
I see people who have
died of starvation.
The prophets and priests
continue with their work,
but they don’t know what
they’re doing.”

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

- ¹⁹ LORD, have you completely
rejected Judah?
Do you really hate Jerusalem?*
- Why have you wounded us past
all hope of healing?
We hoped for peace, but
no peace came.
We hoped for a time of healing,
but found only terror.
- ²⁰ LORD, we confess our wickedness
and that of our ancestors, too.
We all have sinned against you.
- ²¹ For the sake of your reputation,
LORD, do not abandon us.
Do not disgrace your own
glorious throne.
Please remember us,
and do not break your
covenant with us.
- ²² Can any of the worthless foreign
gods send us rain?
Does it fall from the sky by itself?
No, you are the one, O LORD our God!
Only you can do such things.
So we will wait for you to help us.

15

JUDAH’S INEVITABLE DOOM

Then the LORD said to me, “Even if Moses and Samuel stood before me pleading for these people, I wouldn’t help them. Away with them! Get them out of my sight! ²And if they say to you, ‘But where can we go?’ tell them, ‘This is what the LORD says:

“Those who are destined
for death, to death;
those who are destined
for war, to war;
those who are destined for
famine, to famine;

14:19 Hebrew *Zion*?

14:13 Jer 5:12; 6:14; 8:11; 23:17 14:14 Jer 5:31; 23:16, 25-26; 27:9-10 14:15 Ezek 14:10 14:16 Ps 79:2-3 Prov 1:31 Jer 7:33; 8:1-2; 13:22-25; 15:2-3 14:17 Jer 8:21; 9:1 Lam 2:13 14:18 Jer 6:25 Lam 1:20 Ezek 7:15 14:19 Job 30:26 Jer 8:15; 30:13 1 Thes 5:3 14:20 Ps 32:5 Jer 3:25 14:21 Ps 25:11 Jer 3:17; 14:7; 17:12 14:22 1 Kgs 17:1 Isa 41:29 Jer 5:24; 10:3 Lam 3:26 15:1 Exod 32:11-14 1 Sam 7:9 Pss 99:6; 106:23 Ezek 14:14, 20 15:2 Jer 14:12; 24:10; 43:11 Ezek 5:2, 12

³⁶Amazed, the people exclaimed, “What authority and power this man’s words possess! Even evil spirits obey him, and they flee at his command!” ³⁷The news about Jesus spread through every village in the entire region.

JESUS HEALS MANY PEOPLE

³⁸After leaving the synagogue that day, Jesus went to Simon’s home, where he found Simon’s mother-in-law very sick with a high fever. “Please heal her,” everyone begged. ³⁹Standing at her bedside, he rebuked the fever, and it left her. And she got up at once and prepared a meal for them.

⁴⁰As the sun went down that evening, people throughout the village brought sick family members to Jesus. No matter what their diseases were, the touch of his hand healed every one. ⁴¹Many were possessed by demons; and the demons came out at his command, shouting, “You are the Son of God!” But because they knew he was the Messiah, he rebuked them and refused to let them speak.

JESUS CONTINUES TO PREACH

⁴²Early the next morning Jesus went out to an isolated place. The crowds searched everywhere for him, and when they finally found him, they begged him not to leave them. ⁴³But he replied, “I must preach the Good News of the Kingdom of God in other towns, too, because that is why I was sent.” ⁴⁴So he continued to travel around, preaching in synagogues throughout Judea.*

5

THE FIRST DISCIPLES

One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee,* great crowds pressed in on him to listen to the word of God. ²He noticed two

4:44 Some manuscripts read *Galilee*. 5:1 Greek *Lake Gennesaret*, another name for the Sea of Galilee.
5:3 *Simon* is called “*Peter*” in 6:14 and thereafter.
5:14 See Lev 14:2-32.

empty boats at the water’s edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. ³Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon,* its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there.

⁴When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish.”

⁵“Master,” Simon replied, “we worked hard all last night and didn’t catch a thing. But if you say so, I’ll let the nets down again.” ⁶And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! ⁷A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking.

⁸When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, “Oh, Lord, please leave me—I’m such a sinful man.” ⁹For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him. ¹⁰His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed.

Jesus replied to Simon, “Don’t be afraid! From now on you’ll be fishing for people!” ¹¹And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus.

JESUS HEALS A MAN WITH LEPROSY

¹²In one of the villages, Jesus met a man with an advanced case of leprosy. When the man saw Jesus, he bowed with his face to the ground, begging to be healed. “Lord,” he said, “if you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean.”

¹³Jesus reached out and touched him. “I am willing,” he said. “Be healed!” And instantly the leprosy disappeared. ¹⁴Then Jesus instructed him not to tell anyone what had happened. He said, “Go to the priest and let him examine you. Take along the offering required in the law of Moses for those who have been healed of leprosy.* This will be a public testimony that you have been cleansed.”

¹⁵But despite Jesus’ instructions, the report of his power spread even faster, and

4:38-41 //Matt 8:14-17 //Mark 1:29-34 4:40-41 Matt 8:16-17 Mark 1:32-34 4:41 Mark 3:11 4:42-44 Matt 4:23 //Mark 1:35-39
4:43 Luke 8:1 4:44 Matt 4:23 Mark 1:39 5:1-11 //Matt 4:18-22 //Mark 1:16-20 5:4 John 21:6 5:5 John 21:3 5:6 John 21:11
5:8 Gen 18:27 Job 42:5-6 5:11 Matt 19:27 5:12-14 //Matt 8:2-4 //Mark 1:40-44 5:14 Lev 14:2-32 5:15 Matt 9:26

had said. ²⁴When they heard the report, all the believers lifted their voices together in prayer to God: “O Sovereign Lord, Creator of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—²⁵you spoke long ago by the Holy Spirit through our ancestor David, your servant, saying,

‘Why were the nations so angry?
Why did they waste their
time with futile plans?
²⁶The kings of the earth
prepared for battle;
the rulers gathered together
against the LORD
and against his Messiah.’*’

²⁷“In fact, this has happened here in this very city! For Herod Antipas, Pontius Pilate the governor, the Gentiles, and the people of Israel were all united against Jesus, your holy servant, whom you anointed. ²⁸But everything they did was determined beforehand according to your will. ²⁹And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word. ³⁰Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

³¹After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness.

THE BELIEVERS SHARE THEIR POSSESSIONS

³²All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. ³³The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God’s great blessing was upon them all. ³⁴There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them ³⁵and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need.

³⁶For instance, there was Joseph, the one the apostles nicknamed Barnabas (which means “Son of Encouragement”). He was from the tribe of Levi and came from the island of Cyprus. ³⁷He sold a field he owned and brought the money to the apostles.

5

ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA

But there was a certain man named Ananias who, with his wife, Sapphira, sold some property. ²He brought part of the money to the apostles, claiming it was the full amount. With his wife’s consent, he kept the rest.

³Then Peter said, “Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, and you kept some of the money for yourself. ⁴The property was yours to sell or not sell, as you wished. And after selling it, the money was also yours to give away. How could you do a thing like this? You weren’t lying to us but to God!”

⁵As soon as Ananias heard these words, he fell to the floor and died. Everyone who heard about it was terrified. ⁶Then some young men got up, wrapped him in a sheet, and took him out and buried him.

⁷About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. ⁸Peter asked her, “Was this the price you and your husband received for your land?”

“Yes,” she replied, “that was the price.”

⁹And Peter said, “How could the two of you even think of conspiring to test the Spirit of the Lord like this? The young men who buried your husband are just outside the door, and they will carry you out, too.”

¹⁰Instantly, she fell to the floor and died. When the young men came in and saw that she was dead, they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. ¹¹Great fear gripped the entire church and everyone else who heard what had happened.

4:25-26 Or his anointed one; or his Christ. Ps 2:1-2.

4:24 *Exod 20:11 *Ps 146:6 4:25-26 *Ps 2:1-2 4:27 Isa 61:1 Acts 3:13 4:28 Acts 2:23 4:29 Eph 6:19 4:30 Acts 5:12
4:31 Acts 2:4; 16:26 4:32 Acts 2:44 4:33-35 Acts 2:45-47 4:36 Acts 9:27; 11:19-30; 12:25; 13:2
5:2 Acts 4:34-35, 37 5:3 Deut 23:21 John 13:2 5:5 Acts 2:43
5:9 1 Cor 10:9

5

FAITH BRINGS JOY

Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace* with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. ²Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.

³We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. ⁴And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. ⁵And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

⁶When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. ⁷Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. ⁸But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. ⁹And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation. ¹⁰For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. ¹¹So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

ADAM AND CHRIST CONTRASTED

¹²When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.

¹³Yes, people sinned even before the law was given. But it was not counted as sin because

5:1 Some manuscripts read *let us have peace*.

5:1 Acts 10:36 Rom 3:28 5:2 Eph 2:18; 3:12 5:3 Matt 5:12 Jas 1:2-3 5:5 2 Cor 1:22 Gal 4:6 Eph 1:13 Phil 1:20 5:6 Gal 4:4
Eph 5:2 5:8 John 3:16 1 Jn 4:10 5:9 Rom 1:18; 2:5, 8 5:10 Rom 8:34 2 Cor 5:18-19 Eph 2:3 5:12 Gen 2:17; 3:1-19
Rom 6:23 1 Cor 15:21-22 5:13 Rom 4:15 5:14 1 Cor 15:22, 45 5:17 1 Cor 15:21 5:18 Isa 53:11 1 Cor 15:22
5:19 Phil 2:8 5:20 Rom 4:15; 7:8 Gal 3:19 5:21 Rom 6:23 6:1 Rom 3:5-8 6:2 Rom 8:13 Col 2:20; 3:3

there was not yet any law to break. ¹⁴Still, everyone died—from the time of Adam to the time of Moses—even those who did not disobey an explicit commandment of God, as Adam did. Now Adam is a symbol, a representation of Christ, who was yet to come. ¹⁵But there is a great difference between Adam's sin and God's gracious gift. For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ. ¹⁶And the result of God's gracious gift is very different from the result of that one man's sin. For Adam's sin led to condemnation, but God's free gift leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins. ¹⁷For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. ¹⁹Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous.

²⁰God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant. ²¹So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

6

SIN'S POWER IS BROKEN

Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? ²Of course not! Since we have