

<sup>5</sup>One year later Kedorlaomer and his allies arrived and defeated the Rephaites at Ashteroth-karnaim, the Zuzites at Ham, the Emites at Shaveh-kiriathaim, <sup>6</sup>and the Horites at Mount Seir, as far as El-paran at the edge of the wilderness. <sup>7</sup>Then 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.

<sup>8</sup>Then the rebel kings of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim, and Bela (also called Zoar) prepared for battle in the valley of the Dead Sea.\* <sup>9</sup>They fought against King Kedorlaomer of Elam, King Tidal of Goiim, King Amraphel of Babylonia, and King Arioch of Ellasar—four kings against five. <sup>10</sup>As 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. <sup>11</sup>The victorious invaders then plundered Sodom and Gomorrah and headed for home, taking with them all the spoils of war and the food supplies. <sup>12</sup>They also captured Lot—Abram's nephew who lived in Sodom—and carried off everything he owned.

<sup>13</sup>But 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.

<sup>14</sup>When 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. <sup>15</sup>There he divided his men and attacked during the night. Kedorlaomer's army fled, but Abram chased them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus. <sup>16</sup>Abram 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

<sup>17</sup>After 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).

<sup>18</sup>And Melchizedek, the king of Salem and a priest of God Most High,\* brought Abram some bread and wine. <sup>19</sup>Melchizedek blessed Abram with this blessing:

“Blessed be Abram by God Most High,  
Creator of heaven and earth.  
<sup>20</sup>And 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.

<sup>21</sup>The 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.”

<sup>22</sup>Abram replied to the king of Sodom, “I solemnly swear to the LORD, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, <sup>23</sup>that 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.’ <sup>24</sup>I 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

**S**ome 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.”

<sup>2</sup>But 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

<sup>45</sup>“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!’ <sup>46</sup>As 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

<sup>47</sup>“Now suppose mildew\* contaminates some woolen or linen clothing, <sup>48</sup>woolen or linen fabric, the hide of an animal, or anything made of leather. <sup>49</sup>If 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. <sup>50</sup>After examining the affected spot, the priest will put the article in quarantine for seven days. <sup>51</sup>On 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. <sup>52</sup>The 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.

<sup>53</sup>“But if the priest examines it and finds that the contaminated area has not spread in the clothing, the fabric, or the leather, <sup>54</sup>the priest will order the object to be washed and then quarantined for seven more days. <sup>55</sup>Then 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. <sup>56</sup>But 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. <sup>57</sup>If 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. <sup>58</sup>But 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.

<sup>59</sup>“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

**A**nd the LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>“The following instructions are for those seeking ceremonial purification from a skin disease.\* Those who have been healed must be brought to the priest, <sup>3</sup>who will examine them at a place outside the camp. If the priest finds that someone has been healed of a serious skin disease, <sup>4</sup>he will perform a purification ceremony, using two live birds that are ceremonially clean, a stick of cedar,\* some scarlet yarn, and a hyssop branch. <sup>5</sup>The priest will order that one bird be slaughtered over a clay pot filled with fresh water. <sup>6</sup>He 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. <sup>7</sup>The 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.

<sup>8</sup>“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.

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

- <sup>20</sup> We put our hope in the LORD.  
He is our help and our shield.
- <sup>21</sup> In him our hearts rejoice,  
for we trust in his holy name.
- <sup>22</sup> 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.
- <sup>2</sup> I will boast only in the LORD;  
let all who are helpless take heart.
- <sup>3</sup> Come, let us tell of the LORD's greatness;  
let us exalt his name together.
- <sup>4</sup> I prayed to the LORD, and  
he answered me.  
He freed me from all my fears.
- <sup>5</sup> Those who look to him for help  
will be radiant with joy;  
no shadow of shame will  
darken their faces.
- <sup>6</sup> In my desperation I prayed,  
and the LORD listened;  
he saved me from all my troubles.
- <sup>7</sup> For the angel of the LORD is a guard;  
he surrounds and defends  
all who fear him.
- <sup>8</sup> Taste and see that the LORD is good.  
Oh, the joys of those who  
take refuge in him!
- <sup>9</sup> Fear the LORD, you his godly people,  
for those who fear him will  
have all they need.
- <sup>10</sup> 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 21:4 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.”

<sup>13</sup>Then 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.’”

<sup>14</sup>Then 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. <sup>15</sup>Therefore, 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! <sup>16</sup>As 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. <sup>17</sup>Now, 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.

<sup>18</sup> 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

<sup>19</sup> LORD, have you completely  
rejected Judah?

Do you really hate Jerusalem?<sup>\*</sup>  
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.

<sup>20</sup> LORD, we confess our wickedness  
and that of our ancestors, too.

We all have sinned against you.

<sup>21</sup> 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.

<sup>22</sup> 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

**T**hen 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! <sup>2</sup>And 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

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

#### JESUS HEALS MANY PEOPLE

<sup>38</sup>After 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.

<sup>39</sup>Standing at her bedside, he rebuked the fever, and it left her. And she got up at once and prepared a meal for them.

<sup>40</sup>As 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. <sup>41</sup>Many 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

<sup>42</sup>Early 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. <sup>43</sup>But he replied, "I must preach the Good News of the Kingdom of God in other towns, too, because that is why I was sent." <sup>44</sup>So 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. <sup>2</sup>He noticed two

empty boats at the water's edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup>Stepping 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.

<sup>4</sup>When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish."

<sup>5</sup>"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." <sup>6</sup>And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! <sup>7</sup>A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking.

<sup>8</sup>When 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." <sup>9</sup>For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him. <sup>10</sup>His 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!" <sup>11</sup>And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus.

#### JESUS HEALS A MAN WITH LEPROSY

<sup>12</sup>In 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."

<sup>13</sup>Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!" And instantly the leprosy disappeared. <sup>14</sup>Then 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."

<sup>15</sup>But despite Jesus' instructions, the report of his power spread even faster, and

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.

4:38-41 //Matt 8:14-17 //Mark 1:29-34 4:40-41 Matt 8:16-17 Mark 1:32-34 4:41 Matt 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. <sup>24</sup>When 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—<sup>25</sup>you 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?

<sup>26</sup> The kings of the earth  
prepared for battle;  
the rulers gathered together  
against the LORD  
and against his Messiah.\*

<sup>27</sup>“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. <sup>28</sup>But everything they did was determined beforehand according to your will. <sup>29</sup>And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word. <sup>30</sup>Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

<sup>31</sup>After 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

<sup>32</sup>All 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. <sup>33</sup>The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God’s great blessing was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them <sup>35</sup>and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need.

<sup>36</sup>For 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. <sup>37</sup>He sold a field he owned and brought the money to the apostles.

## 5

#### ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA

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

<sup>3</sup>Then 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. <sup>4</sup>The 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!”

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

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

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

<sup>9</sup>And 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.”

<sup>10</sup>Instantly, 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. <sup>11</sup>Great 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 10:19

## FAITH BRINGS JOY

**T**herefore, 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. <sup>2</sup>Because 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.

<sup>3</sup>We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. <sup>4</sup>And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. <sup>5</sup>And 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.

<sup>6</sup>When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. <sup>7</sup>Now, 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. <sup>8</sup>But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. <sup>9</sup>And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation. <sup>10</sup>For 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. <sup>11</sup>So 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

<sup>12</sup>When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned. <sup>13</sup>Yes, 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*.

there was not yet any law to break. <sup>14</sup>Still, 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. <sup>15</sup>But 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. <sup>16</sup>And 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. <sup>17</sup>For 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.

<sup>18</sup>Yes, 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. <sup>19</sup>Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous.

<sup>20</sup>God'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. <sup>21</sup>So 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.

## SIN'S POWER IS BROKEN

**W**ell then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? <sup>2</sup>Of course not! Since we have

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

# REVELATION

## PROLOGUE

This is a revelation from\* Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants the events that must soon\* take place. He sent an angel to present this revelation to his servant John,<sup>2</sup> who faithfully reported everything he saw. This is his report of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup>God blesses the one who reads the words of this prophecy to the church, and he blesses all who listen to its message and obey what it says, for the time is near.

## JOHN'S GREETING TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

<sup>4</sup>This letter is from John to the seven churches in the province of Asia.\*

Grace and peace to you from the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come; from the sevenfold Spirit\* before his throne; <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ. He is the faithful witness to these things, the first to rise from the dead, and the ruler of all the kings of the world.

All glory to him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding his blood for us. <sup>6</sup>He has made us a Kingdom of priests for God his Father. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

<sup>7</sup> Look! He comes with the clouds of heaven.

And everyone will see him—  
even those who pierced him.

And all the nations of the world  
will mourn for him.

Yes! Amen!

<sup>8</sup>“I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end,”\* says the Lord God. “I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One.”

## VISION OF THE SON OF MAN

<sup>9</sup>I, John, am your brother and your partner in suffering and in God's Kingdom and in the patient endurance to which Jesus calls us. I was exiled to the island of Patmos for preaching the word of God and for my testimony about Jesus. <sup>10</sup>It was the Lord's Day, and I was worshiping in the Spirit.\* Suddenly, I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet blast. <sup>11</sup>It said, “Write in a book\* everything you see, and send it to the seven churches in the cities of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.”

<sup>12</sup>When I turned to see who was speaking to me, I saw seven gold lampstands. <sup>13</sup>And standing in the middle of the lampstands was someone like the Son of Man.\* He was wearing a long robe with a gold sash across his chest. <sup>14</sup>His head and his hair were white like wool, as white as snow. And his eyes were like flames of fire. <sup>15</sup>His feet were like polished bronze refined in a furnace, and his voice thundered like mighty ocean waves. <sup>16</sup>He held seven stars in his right hand, and a sharp two-edged sword came from his mouth. And his face was like the sun in all its brilliance.

**1:1a** Or of. **1:1b** Or suddenly, or quickly. **1:4a** Asia was a Roman province in what is now western Turkey.

**1:4b** Greek the seven spirits. **1:8** Greek I am the Alpha and the Omega, referring to the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. **1:10** Or in spirit. **1:11** Or on a scroll.

**1:13** Or like a son of man. See Dan 7:13. “Son of Man” is a title Jesus used for himself.

**1:1** Dan 2:28-29, 45 John 12:49; 17:8 Rev 1:19; 5:7; 17:1; 22:6, 8, 16 **1:2** Rev 1:9; 6:9 **1:3** Rev 22:7, 10 **1:4** Exod 3:14 Rev 1:8; 3:1; 4:5, 8; 5:6; 11:17; 16:5 **1:5** Ps 89:27 Isa 40:2 Col 1:18 Rev 3:14; 19:11, 16 **1:6** Exod 19:6 Isa 61:6 1 Pet 2:5, 9 **1:7** Dan 7:13 Zech 12:10 Matt 24:30 John 19:34, 37 **1:8** Amos 3:13; 4:13 Rev 1:4; 4:8; 11:17; 21:6; 22:13 **1:9** Phil 4:14 2 Tim 2:12 Rev 1:1; 22:8 **1:10** Rev 4:2; 21:10 **1:11** Rev 1:2, 19; 2:1, 8, 12, 18; 3:1, 7, 14 **1:12** Zech 4:2 **1:13** Dan 7:13; 10:5 Rev 14:14 **1:14** Dan 7:9; 10:6 Rev 2:18; 19:12 **1:15** Ezek 1:24; 43:2 Rev 14:2; 19:6 **1:16** Isa 49:2 Rev 1:20; 2:1, 12, 16; 19:15