

The Lion of Judah

The Reign of Jesus

Bible Studies on Jesus



Geoff Waugh

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Logo: lamp & scroll,
basin & towel,
in the light of the cross

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Introduction

This Lion of Judah series of devotional booklets is also one book called ***The Lion of Judah***. Each booklet is a chapter. These booklets (and chapters) are:

- [1. *The Titles of Jesus*](#)
- [2. *The Reign of Jesus*](#)
- [3. *The Life of Jesus*](#)
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- [5. *The Resurrection of Jesus*](#)
- [6. *The Spirit of Jesus*](#)
- [7. *The Lion of Judah*](#)

The first booklet, **1 *The Titles of Jesus***, examines titles in the Bible used for Jesus, the Lion of the tribe of Judah (Revelation 5:5).

This second, **2 *The Reign of Jesus***, explores Bible prophecies about Jesus and how he fulfilled them as both Lion and Lamb. Matthew particularly emphasizes how Jesus fulfilled prophecy.

3 *The Life of Jesus*, a brief summary, covers his three years of ministry in outline. Mark, the shortest Gospel, provides a useful summary.

4 *The Death of Jesus*, including that momentous final week in Jerusalem, examines this greatest theme of the Bible. Luke gives us unique insights including Jesus talking about this with Moses and Elijah.

5 *The Resurrection of Jesus*, transcending death, looks at the eternal life and victory he won for us by his love. John discusses this in all his books.

6 *The Spirit of Jesus*, surveys the breath-taking scope of that victory. The book of The Acts traces some beginnings of those victories.

7 *The Lion of Judah*, compiles all the six booklets into one book.

I am grateful to Rebecca Brogan from Tasmania, Australia, for permission to use her vivid drawings from her series, *The Lion of Judah*..

The Lion of Judah is one of the titles for Jesus, adapted from Revelation 5:5 – *Then one of the elders said to me, ‘Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.’*

The name Joshua/Jesus means God saves, or God is salvation. That is why the angel announcing his birth said, “... you are to name him Joshua/Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). It is the same name as Moses’ general, Joshua, who led the Israelites into their promised land.

The Greek word Ἰησοῦς (*Iesous, Yeshua*) is translated mostly as *Jesus*, but also as *Joshua*. English translations of the New Testament traditionally use ‘Jesus’ when the reference is to Yeshua of Nazareth and commonly ‘Joshua’ for anyone else. Yeshua is translated ‘Joshua’ in these verses in most modern translations:

Luke 3:29 – the son of Joshua (Jose in KJV)

Acts 7:45 – Our ancestors in turn brought it in with Joshua when they dispossessed the nations that God drove out before our ancestors.

Hebrews 4:8 – For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not speak later about another day.

So in English the name Jesus became unique and sacred for Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God, the Saviour of the world.

This book explores how Jesus fulfilled prophecies in Scripture, especially those about the reign of the ‘Messiah’ (from Hebrew) or the ‘Christ’ (from Greek), God’s Anointed Servant, and Son. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom.

Jesus, the Messiah, the Christ, lived and died and rose again and reigns in glory. He is with all and in all who trust in him. You can respond to him as you read about him in this book. It has been prepared as a devotional guide for you.

*

*'Twas Jesus, my Saviour, who died on the tree,
To open a fountain for sinners like me;
His blood is that fountain which pardon bestows,
And cleanses the foulest wherever it flows.*

*For the lion of Judah
shall break every chain,
And give us the vict'ry,
again and again.*

*For the lion of Judah
shall break every chain,
And give us the vict'ry,
again and again.*

H Q Wilson (1863)

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The Reign of Jesus

Book 2

The Reign of Jesus



The Lion of Judah Reigns

ירושלים



*The Lion of Judah on the coat of arms of Jerusalem.
The Hebrew word is Jerusalem.*

The Lion of Judah in Scripture

This book examines how Jesus, the Lion of Judah, fulfilled prophecies about him in the Scriptures.

Jesus Declared that he fulfilled Scripture

But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled. (Matthew 26:56)

Then he took the twelve aside and 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. (Luke 18:31)

For I tell you, this scripture must be fulfilled in me, “And he was counted among the lawless”; and indeed what is written about me is being fulfilled.’ (Luke 22:37; see Isaiah 53:12)

Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. (Luke 24:27)

‘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, the prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,⁴⁶ and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. (Luke 24:44-47)

You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that testify on my behalf. (John 5:39)

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Matthew declared that Jesus fulfilled Scripture

Matthew the evangelist wrote especially for Jews. He begins his gospel presenting Jesus Christ as the son of David, the son of Abraham. He ends his gospel with the Great Commission declaring that Jesus sends his followers into all nations. In Jesus, God's covenant embraces the whole world.

This radical evangelistic missionary gospel shocked traditional Jews. Matthew insists that Jesus was the long awaited Messiah, backing up his claims with many quotations from the Old Testament. He argues that Jesus did not do away with the Scriptures, but fulfilled them (5:17). He emphasises the missionary nature of Jesus' ministry and of his church.

This gospel continually confronted the Jewish Christian community as well as other Jews. Here is a persistent and urgent call to mission. The good news is for all people, not only for Jews.

Matthew begins his Gospel telling of the coming of Jesus the Messiah who proclaims God's kingdom (1:1; 2:2). The figure of Jesus the Messiah is announced by John the Baptist, as prophesied (3:1-3).

The beginning of the ministry in Galilee shows Christ's design for life in God's kingdom, again fulfilling prophecy (4:15-17, 23). Chapters 5-7 gather the words of Jesus together in 'The Sermon on the Mount' in which we are challenged to seek first the kingdom of God (6:33). Here is the kingdom charter, the ethics of kingdom living. The chapters that follow demonstrate God's kingdom in the works of Jesus.

Matthew gathers the discourses of Jesus as teaching segments throughout his narrative. He often uses the phrase 'kingdom of heaven' for 'kingdom of God' in typical Jewish reverence for the word 'God' (19:23-24).

Jesus' ministry is summarised in 4:23 as teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness. This statement introduces the words and works of Jesus in chapters 5-9. Then in 9:35 the same statement is repeated. Here it introduces the mission of Jesus' followers.

The mission discourse commencing from 9:35 tells of Jesus' plan for the spread of God's kingdom. His disciples will continue his ministry. They will proclaim the kingdom of God (10:1, 7-8).

The Reign of Jesus

The chapters following the mission discourse show the radical nature of the mystery of God's kingdom. This mystery is revealed by Jesus to those committed to him (11:27; 13:11), but concealed from others, as indicated in the parable discourses of chapter 13.

Matthew, the only gospel writer to use the word church, points out that Jesus' church has his authority (16:18-19; 18:17-18). The church is the agent of God's kingdom and manifests the kingdom in the world.

Tensions with the keepers of Israel's traditions reached flash point and boiled over into Jesus' arrest and execution. That is the volatile setting in which Jesus pressed his authority and invitation as the ministry ends. The king is crowned with thorns and crucified. Apparent defeat in death is then turned into the amazing victory of resurrection. Christ the King reigns. We all acknowledge his reign in the end. In Jesus' victory we see God's kingdom fulfilled.

The mysteries of the passion of Jesus, his death and resurrection and the promise of the Holy Spirit conclude with the astounding claim in the Great Commission that all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus, God's Son, the Messiah. He commissions us to make disciples of all nations. He is with us to the end.

*Further details about Matthew's gospel are included in the Resources at the end of this book in the contents outline of the book **Kingdom Life in Matthew**.*

The verses selected here show how Matthew, often referring to the Old Testament, declared that Jesus, the Messiah (Hebrew), the Christ (Greek) fulfilled Scripture.

All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel'; which means, 'God is with us.'

(Matthew 1:22-23; see Isaiah 7:14)

They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

(Matthew 2:5-6; see Micah 5:2)

Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

'A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

(Matthew 3:17-18; see Jeremiah 31:15)

This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight."

(Matthew 3:3; see Mark 1:1-3; Luke 3:4-6; Isaiah 40:3)

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ 'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.'

(Matthew 4:13-16; see Isaiah 9:1-2)

This was to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah, 'He took our infirmities and bore our diseases.' (Matthew 8:17; see Isaiah 53:4)

For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;
and one's foes will be members of one's own household.
(Matthew 10:35-36; see Micah 7:6)

This is the one about whom it is written,
"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you."
(Matthew 11:10; see Malachi 3:1)

This was to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah:
'Here is my servant, whom I have chosen,
my beloved, with whom my soul is well pleased.
I will put my Spirit upon him,
and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.
He will not wrangle or cry aloud,
nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets.
He will not break a bruised reed
or quench a smouldering wick
until he brings justice to victory.
And in his name the Gentiles will hope.'
(Matthew 12:17-21; see Isaiah 42:1-4)

With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says:
"You will indeed listen, but never understand,
and you will indeed look, but never perceive.
For this people's heart has grown dull,
and their ears are hard of hearing,
and they have shut their eyes;
so that they might not look with their eyes,
and listen with their ears,
and understand with their heart and turn—
and I would heal them."
(Matthew 13:14-15; see Mark 4:11-12; Luke 8:10; Isaiah 6:9-10)

This was to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet:

‘I will open my mouth to speak in parables;

I will proclaim what has been hidden from the foundation of the world.’

(Matthew 13:35; see Psalm 78:2)

Isaiah prophesied rightly about you when he said:

“This people honours me with their lips,

but their hearts are far from me;

in vain do they worship me,

teaching human precepts as doctrines.”

(Matthew 15:7-9; see Mark 7:6-7; Isaiah 29:13)

This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

‘Tell the daughter of Zion,

Look, your king is coming to you,

humble, and mounted on a donkey,

and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’

(Matthew 21:4-5; see Zechariah 9:9)

The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

‘Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!’

(Matthew 21:9; see Mark 11:10-11; Luke 19:38; Psalm 118:25-26)

Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold doves. ¹³ He said to them,

‘It is written,

“My house shall be called a house of prayer”;

but you are making it a den of robbers.’

(Matthew 21:12-13; see Mark 11:15-18; Luke 19:45-48; John 2:13-17;

Isaiah 56:7; Jeremiah 7:11)

Jesus said to them, ‘Yes; have you never read,

“Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies

you have prepared praise for yourself”?’

(Matthew 21:16; see Psalm 8:2)

Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes"?

(Matthew 21:42; see Mark 12:10-11; Luke 20:17; Psalm 118:22-23)

'What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?' They said to him, 'The son of David.' He said to them, 'How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

"The Lord said to my Lord,
'Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet'"?

(Matthew 22:42-44; see Mark 12:36-37; Luke 20:42-44; Psalm 110:1)

Immediately after the suffering of those days

the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light;
the stars will fall from heaven,
and the powers of heaven will be shaken.

Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see "the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven" with power and great glory.

(Matthew 24:29-30; see Mark 13:24-25; Ezekiel 32:7; Daniel 7:13-14)

Then Jesus said to them, 'You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written,

"I will strike the shepherd,
and the sheep of the flock will be scattered."

(Matthew 26:31; see Mark 14:27; Zechariah 13:17)

Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, [Some MS: Zechariah] 'And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price,¹⁰ and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me.'

(Matthew 27:9-10; see Zechariah 11:12-13)

And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'

(Matthew 27:46; see Mark 15:34; Psalm 22:1)

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Mark declared that Jesus fulfilled Scripture

Mark gives a vigorous, concise account of Jesus. The narrative moves swiftly. A brief prologue leads immediately into Jesus' ministry as he appears proclaiming and demonstrating the kingdom of God. Kingdom life fills the pages.

Central to that drama is the cross. Mark has been described as a passion narrative with an introduction. Jesus is introduced as the Son of God in the first verse. Chapters 1-8 reveal the mystery of the Son of God seen in Jesus' three year ministry based in Galilee.

Then the drama shifts in chapter 8 with Peter's confession that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah. Jesus immediately predicts his death and prepares his disciples for it (8:31; 9:30-31; 10:32-34). The Messiah must sacrifice his life. The way of the Son of Man is the way of the cross. Chapters 11-16 describe that final week in Jerusalem.

*Further details about Mark's gospel are included in the Resources at the end of this book in the contents outline of the book **Kingdom Life in Mark**.*

The following two passages from Mark about Jesus fulfilling Scripture are also included in Matthew and Luke in varying forms.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight."

(Mark 1:1-3; see Matthew 3:3; Luke 3:4-6; Malachi 3:1; Isaiah 40:3)

Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,
'Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

(Mark 11:10-11; see Matthew 21:9; Luke 19:38; Psalm 118:25-26)

The Lion of Judah

Mark, the shortest gospel and first written, has other passages repeated in Matthew and Luke, as listed above under Matthew. These include:

You will indeed listen, but never understand, ...
(Matthew 13:14-15; Mark 4:11-12; Luke 8:10; Isaiah 6:9-10)

This people honours me with their lips, ...
(Matthew 15:7-9; Mark 7:6-7; Isaiah 29:13)

The stone that the builders rejected ...
(Matthew 21:42; Mark 12:10-11; Luke 20:17; Psalm 118:22-23)

'What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?' ...
(Matthew 22:42-44; Mark 12:36-37; Luke 20:42-44; Psalm 110:1)

Immediately after the suffering of those days ...
(Matthew 24:29-30; Mark 13:24-25; Ezekiel 32:7)

Then Jesus said to them, 'You will all become deserters ...
(Matthew 26:31; Mark 14:27; Zechariah 13:17)

At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'
(Mark 15:34; see Matthew 27:46; Psalm 22:1)

This last quote, from Psalm 22:1 is the only saying of Jesus on the cross reported in more than one of the Gospels.

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Luke declared that Jesus fulfilled Scripture

Luke is the only Gentile author in the Bible. He wrote to his Gentile friend, Theophilus (Luke 1:3; Acts 1:1), with a different emphasis from the other writers of the New Testament who all grew up steeped in Israel's traditions.

Luke the historian describes Jesus' central place in human events. Jesus is the saviour of the whole world. No one is excluded from God's offer of salvation in Jesus. The poor, despised and outcasts (such as Gentiles) are especially invited into the kingdom of God. Luke gives a clear, ordered account of the spread of God's kingdom in the ministry of Jesus (Luke's Gospel) and in the early church (The Acts of the Apostles).

Luke the traveller makes 'journey' a strong theme in both his books. He tells of events along the way, on the road. This especially applies to Jesus' final journey to Jerusalem (9:51, 57). That last journey began after Peter's declaration that Jesus was the Messiah, which Jesus explained in terms of his death and resurrection (9:20-22), and after Jesus' glory was seen at the transfiguration where Moses and Elijah talked with Jesus about his coming departure (9:28-31).

Luke the missionary, who often accompanied Paul, tells of the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, first in Jesus (3:21-22; 4:18-19), then in his followers (9:1-2 and 10:1,9), and then in the church's missionary expansion (24:46-49). Luke makes many references to the Holy Spirit in both his gospel and The Acts of the Apostles.

Luke the doctor (Colossians 4:14) shows Jesus' compassion and healing power for all who came to him. His gospel abounds with stories of Jesus' care for people. He includes many accounts of Jesus' compassion for the poor and for outcasts.

Luke the evangelist, tells of Jesus' saving power and includes some of the most famous parables which summarise the good news of God's kingdom. Parables of the prodigal son, the lost coin, the good Samaritan, the rich man and Lazarus, and the rich fool are unique to Luke's evangelism story. So are the accounts of the Samaritan leper, the sinful woman who anointed Jesus' feet, and Zacchaeus. These were despised people who responded to Jesus.

Bibles with section headings containing cross references, as in the Good News Bible and New Revised Standard Version, help you locate the passages unique to Luke. They have no cross references! Those passages give a feel for Luke's emphasis in telling the good news about the kingdom of God.

Luke records the prophecies by Mary fulfilled in Jesus and by Zechariah fulfilled in John the Baptist, both of these declared in Zechariah and Elizabeth's home in Jerusalem. Luke also gives us Simeon's prophecy upon seeing Jesus, the Lord's Messiah.

Mary's prophecy, the Magnificat.

And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, [Habakkuk 3:18]

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; [Psalm 138:6]

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, [Ps 71:19; 126:2-3]

and holy is his name. [Psalm 111:9]

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation. [Psalm 103:17]

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; [Psalm 98:1; 118:15]

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly; [1 Samuel 2:7-8]

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, [Isaiah 51:8]

in remembrance of his mercy, [Jeremiah 31:3]

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors, [Genesis 17:19]

to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.' [Genesis 17:7]

(Luke 1:46-55; see 1 Samuel 2:1-10)

Zechariah's prophecy at the birth of his son John the Baptist.

Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

⁶⁸ 'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, [1 Kings 1:48; Exodus 3:16]
for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them.
⁶⁹ He has raised up a mighty saviour for us [Psalm 132:17]
in the house of his servant David,
⁷⁰ as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
⁷¹ that we would be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us.
⁷² Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,
and has remembered his holy covenant, [Leviticus 26:42]
⁷³ the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,
to grant us ⁷⁴ that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,
might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness
before him all our days. [Genesis 12:3; 22:16-18]
⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, [Isaiah 40:3]
⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins. [Isaiah 53:11]
⁷⁸ By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.' [Isaiah 9:2]
(Luke 1:67-79)

The dedication of the baby Jesus in the Temple.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord').

(Luke 2:22-23; see Deuteronomy 18:4)

The priest Simeon's prophecy at the dedication of Jesus in the Temple.

Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,
²⁹ 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation, [Isaiah 52:10]
³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles [Isaiah 42:6]
and for glory to your people Israel.' (Luke 2:28-32)

As it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,
"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."
(Luke 3:4-6; see Matthew 3:3; Mark 1:1-3; Isaiah 40:3-5)

Jesus returned to Nazareth at the beginning of his public ministry.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:
¹⁸ 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'
²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'
(Luke 4:18-19; see Isaiah 61:1-2)

Jesus explained the ministry of John the Baptist.

This is the one about whom it is written,
“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.”
(Luke 7:27; see Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1)

Holy Week: the last week of the earthly life of Jesus.

‘Blessed is the king
who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!’
(Luke 19:38; see Matthew 21:9; Mark 11:10-11; Psalm 118:26)

Then they will begin to say to the mountains, “Fall on us”; and to the hills,
“Cover us.” (Luke 23:30; see Hosea 10:8)

Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, ‘Father, into your hands I commend
my spirit.’ (Luke 23:46; see Psalm 31:5)

Luke also has prophetic passages included in Matthew and Mark as above:

You will indeed listen, but never understand, ...
(Matthew 13:14-15; see Mark 4:11-12; Luke 8:10; Isaiah 6:9-10)

The stone that the builders rejected ...
(Matthew 21:42; see Mark 12:10-11; Luke 20:17; Psalm 118:22-23)

‘What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?’ ...
(Matthew 22:42-44; see Mark 12:36-37; Luke 20:42-44; Psalm 110:1)

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John declared that Jesus fulfilled Scripture

John, an eye-witness to the ministry of Jesus, belonged to the inner circle of disciples with his brother James and with Peter the natural leader. John may have been the youngest of the disciples, uniquely remembered as the disciple whom Jesus loved.

J B Phillips concludes his translation of the closing verses in John's Gospel this way:

All the above was written by an eye-witness. Now it is this same disciple who is hereby giving his testimony to these things and has written them down. We know that his testimony is reliable. Of course, there are many other things which Jesus did, and I suppose that if each one were written down in detail, there would not be room in the whole world for all the books that would have to be written.

(John 21:24-25)

Throughout his gospel John emphasized that he recorded what he had seen and heard. He states early in the Gospel that he with others witnessed the life of Jesus the Christ, the Logos – the living Word of God. He declares, "We beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father" (John 1:14).

John describes how he was there at the crucifixion witnessing that stupendous, agonizing death, "And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe" (John 19:35). Here again he underlines the main purpose of writing his Gospel as he does in his conclusion before the Appendix of Chapter 21:

And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

(John 20:30-31)

John's purpose is evangelistic – "that you may believe".

John's intimate, personal Gospel story transcends time and space to show us his living Lord, the Son of God, revealed in human flesh, living among us, full of grace and truth, "for God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

These verses, unique to John's writings, declare how Jesus fulfilled Scripture.

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵ Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' (John 2:13-17; see Psalm 69:9)

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. (John 3:14-15; see Numbers 21:9)

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' ²⁶ Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.' (John 4:25-26)

Your ancestor Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day; he saw it and was glad. (John 8:56; see Hebrews 11:13)

"Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' The King of Israel!" ... Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt! (John 12:13, 15; see Psalm 118:26; Zechariah 9:9)

It was to fulfil the word that is written in their law, "They hated me without a cause" (John 15:25; see Psalm 35:19; 69:4).

This was to fulfil what the scripture says, 'They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots' (John 19:24; see Psalm 22:18)

These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, 'None of his bones shall be broken.' ³⁷ And again another passage of scripture says, 'They will look on the one whom they have pierced.' (John 19:36-37; see Psalm 34:20; 22:16; Zechariah 12:10)

They did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead (John 20:9; see Psalm 16:10).

The Lion of Judah

John's apocalyptic book The Revelation also shows how Jesus fulfilled Scripture in his eternal victory and reign. Here are some examples.

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

(Revelation 1:4-6; see Isaiah 55:4; Psalm 89:27)

Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. (Revelation 1:7; see Zechariah 12:10)

'Holy, holy, holy,
the Lord God the Almighty,
who was and is and is to come.'

(Revelation 4:8; see Isaiah 6:3)

See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.

(Revelation 5:5; see Genesis 49:10; Psalm 110:1)

'You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God
saints from every tribe and language and people and nation;
¹⁰ you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God,
and they will reign on earth.'

(Revelation 5:9-10; see Exodus 19:6; Psalm 2:7-8; Isaiah 53:5-6; 61:6)

'The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord
and of his Messiah,
and he will reign for ever and ever.'

(Revelation 11:15; see Exodus 15:18)

And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb:

'Great and amazing are your deeds,

Lord God the Almighty!

Just and true are your ways,

King of the nations!

⁴ Lord, who will not fear

and glorify your name?

For you alone are holy.

All nations will come

and worship before you,

for your judgements have been revealed.'

(Revelation 15:3-4; see Exodus 15:1-18)

On his robe and on his thigh he has a name inscribed,

'King of kings and Lord of lords'.

(Revelation 19:16; see Daniel 2:47)

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The church declared that Jesus fulfilled Scripture

The Gospel of Luke and The Acts of the Apostles give us an astounding history in two volumes – the story of Jesus and his church. Luke, “the beloved physician” (Colossians 4:14), often travelled with Paul in their pioneering missionary journeys. Luke gives us a concise preface in the beginning of his writings, and then introduces the second part of his story with a short introduction linking the two.

Luke’s own preface reads: “The Author to Theophilus: Many writers have undertaken to draw up an account of the events that have happened among us, following the traditions handed down to us by the original eyewitnesses and servants of the Gospel. And so I in my turn, your Excellency, as one who has gone over the whole course of these events in detail, have decided to write a connected narrative for you, so as to give you authentic knowledge about the matters of which you have been informed” (Luke 1:1-4, NEB).

Continuing his connected narrative, he commences part two with a sentence linking both: “In the first part of my work, Theophilus, I wrote of all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom He had chosen, He was taken up into heaven.” (Acts 1:1-2, NEB).

In his preface to the combined work, the author:

- ❖ *revealed his subject: Jesus and his church;*
- ❖ *gave the sources of his information: eyewitnesses and ministers;*
- ❖ *described his method: accurate tracing of the events, writing them in order;*
- ❖ *and declared the purpose: giving certainty to his reader.*

What a great story! Luke traces the amazing growth of Jesus’ church from its beginnings in Jerusalem to its impact throughout the Roman Empire.

This story of the Acts of the Holy Spirit continues today through the same Spirit of God. It fulfils Jesus’ last promise: You will receive power then the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses ... to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

These verses from The Acts of the Apostles, and from some of the epistles, also tell how Jesus fulfilled Scripture.

Peter, preaching on the Day of Pentecost and speaking to the religious leaders showed how Jesus fulfilled Scripture.

²⁵ For David says concerning him,
“I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.
²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.
²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.”
(Acts 2:25-28; see Psalm 16:8-11)

In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹ Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, ²⁰ so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah appointed for you, that is, Jesus, ²¹ who must remain in heaven until the time of universal restoration that God announced long ago through his holy prophets. ²² Moses said, “The Lord your God will raise up for you from your own people a prophet like me. You must listen to whatever he tells you. ²³ And it will be that everyone who does not listen to that prophet will be utterly rooted out from the people.” ²⁴ And all the prophets, as many as have spoken, from Samuel and those after him, also predicted these days. ²⁵ You are the descendants of the prophets and of the covenant that God gave to your ancestors, saying to Abraham, “And in your descendants all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” ²⁶ When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you, to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways’
(Acts 3:18-26; see Deuteronomy 18:15, 18, 19; Genesis 22:18; 26:4; 28:14).

This Jesus is “the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.” (Acts 4:11; see Psalm 118:22-23)

The early church drew on the Messianic Scriptures in their praying.

‘Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth, the sea, and everything in them,’²⁵ it is you who said by the Holy Spirit through our ancestor David, your servant:

“Why did the Gentiles rage,

and the peoples imagine vain things?

²⁶ The kings of the earth took their stand,

and the rulers have gathered together

against the Lord and against his Messiah.” (Acts 4:24-26; see Psalm 2:1-2)

Philip explained the Scriptures about the Messiah to the Ethiopian.

Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

‘Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,

and like a lamb silent before its shearer,

so he does not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.’

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, ‘About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?’ ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. (Acts 8:32-35; see Isaiah 53:7-8)

Paul and others often showed from Scripture that Jesus was the Messiah.

And we bring you the good news that what God promised to our ancestors ³³ he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising Jesus; as also it is written in the second psalm,

“You are my Son;

today I have begotten you.” [Psalm 2:7]

³⁴ As to his raising him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, he has spoken in this way,

“I will give you the holy promises made to David.”

[Psalm 89:28; Isaiah 55:3]

³⁵ Therefore he has also said in another psalm,

“You will not let your Holy One experience corruption.” [Psalm 16:10]

³⁶ For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, died, was laid beside his ancestors, and experienced corruption; ³⁷ but he

whom God raised up experienced no corruption. ³⁸ Let it be known to you therefore, my brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you; ³⁹ by this Jesus everyone who believes is set free from all those sins from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses. ⁴⁰ Beware, therefore, that what the prophets said does not happen to you:

⁴¹ "Look, you scoffers!

Be amazed and perish,
for in your days I am doing a work,
a work that you will never believe,
even if someone tells you." [Habakkuk 1:5]

(Acts 13:32-41)

This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written,

¹⁶ "After this I will return,
and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen;
from its ruins I will rebuild it,
and I will set it up,

¹⁷ so that all other peoples may seek the Lord—
even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called.

Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things
¹⁸ known from long ago." (Acts 15:15-18; see Amos 9:11-12)

And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three sabbath days argued with them from the scriptures, ³ explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This is the Messiah, Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you." (Acts 17:2-3)

Now there came to Ephesus a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria. He was an eloquent man, well-versed in the scriptures. ²⁵ He had been instructed in the Way of the Lord; and he spoke with burning enthusiasm and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John.
(Acts 18:28)

To this day I have had help from God, and so I stand here, testifying to both small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would take place: ²³ that the Messiah must suffer, and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles.'
(Acts 26:22-23)

Paul and other New Testament authors wrote in their epistles about Jesus the Messiah, both Christ and Lord.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, (Romans 1:1-4)

They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵ to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen. (Romans 9:4-5)

They have stumbled over the stumbling-stone, ³³ as it is written, 'See, I am laying in Zion a stone that will make people stumble, a rock that will make them fall, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'
(Romans 9:32-33; see Isaiah 8:14, 28:16)

For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

¹¹ For it is written:

"As I live, says the LORD,
Every knee shall bow to Me,
And every tongue shall confess to God."

(Romans 14:10-11 NKJV; see Philippians 2:9-11; Isaiah 45:23)

And again, Isaiah says:

"There shall be a root of Jesse;
And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles,
In Him the Gentiles shall hope." (Romans 15:12; see Isaiah 11:1-10)

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.
(Ephesians 2:19-20; see Psalm 118:22-23)

For it stands in scripture: 'See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'
(1 Peter 2:6; see Psalm 118:22-23)

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them (Hebrews 11:13).

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Old Testament Prophecies fulfilled in Jesus

The Old Testament often points to the promised Messiah, God's Anointed King who will reign forever. These sample selections are a few of the messianic passages that find their ultimate fulfilment in Jesus.

Psalms

Why do the nations rage,
And the people plot a vain thing?
²The kings of the earth set themselves,
And the rulers take counsel together,
Against the LORD and against His Anointed, *saying*,
³"Let us break Their bonds in pieces
And cast away Their cords from us."
⁴He who sits in the heavens shall laugh;
The Lord shall hold them in derision.
⁵Then He shall speak to them in His wrath,
And distress them in His deep displeasure:
⁶"Yet I have set My King
On My holy hill of Zion."
⁷"I will declare the decree:
The LORD has said to Me,
'You *are* My Son,
Today I have begotten You. [Hebrews 1:5]
⁸Ask of Me, and I will give *You*
The nations *for* Your inheritance,
And the ends of the earth *for* Your possession.
⁹You shall break them with a rod of iron;
You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel."
¹⁰Now therefore, be wise, O kings;
Be instructed, you judges of the earth.
¹¹Serve the LORD with fear,
And rejoice with trembling.
¹²Kiss the Son, lest He be angry,
And you perish *in* the way,
When His wrath is kindled but a little.
Blessed *are* all those who put their trust in Him.
(Psalm 2 NKV)

O LORD, our Sovereign,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

² Out of the mouths of babes and infants [Matthew 21:15-16]

you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,

to silence the enemy and the avenger.

³ When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,

the moon and the stars that you have established;

⁴ what are human beings that you are mindful of them,

mortals that you care for them?

⁵ Yet you have made them a little lower than God, [Eloheim]

and crowned them with glory and honour.

⁶ You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;

you have put all things under their feet, [Hebrews 2:6-8]

⁷ all sheep and oxen,

and also the beasts of the field,

⁸ the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,

whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

⁹ O LORD, our Sovereign,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

(Psalm 8)

My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? [Matthew 27:46]

*Why are You so far from helping Me,
And from the words of My groaning?*

² O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear;
And in the night season, and am not silent.

³ But You *are* holy,
Enthroned in the praises of Israel.

⁴ Our fathers trusted in You;
They trusted, and You delivered them.

⁵ They cried to You, and were delivered;
They trusted in You, and were not ashamed.

⁶ But I *am* a worm, and no man;
A reproach of men, and despised by the people.

⁷ All those who see Me ridicule Me; [Matthew 27:39; Luke 23:35]
They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, *saying*,

⁸ "He trusted in the LORD, let Him rescue Him;
Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!" [Matthew 27:43]

⁹ But You *are* He who took Me out of the womb;
You made Me trust *while* on My mother's breasts.

¹⁰ I was cast upon You from birth.
From My mother's womb

You *have been* My God.

¹¹ Be not far from Me,
For trouble *is* near;
For *there is* none to help.

¹² Many bulls have surrounded Me;
Strong *bulls* of Bashan have encircled Me.

¹³ They gape at Me *with* their mouths,
Like a raging and roaring lion.

¹⁴ I am poured out like water,
And all My bones are out of joint;

My heart is like wax;
It has melted within Me.

¹⁵ My strength is dried up like a potsherd,
And My tongue clings to My jaws; [John 19:28]
You have brought Me to the dust of death.

¹⁶ For dogs have surrounded Me;
The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me.
They pierced My hands and My feet; [John 20:27]

¹⁷ I can count all My bones.

They look *and* stare at Me.

¹⁸ They divide My garments among them,
And for My clothing they cast lots. [Matthew 27:35; John 19:23-24]

¹⁹ But You, O LORD, do not be far from Me;
O My Strength, hasten to help Me!

²⁰ Deliver Me from the sword,
My precious *life* from the power of the dog.

²¹ Save Me from the lion's mouth
And from the horns of the wild oxen!

You have answered Me.

²² I will declare Your name to My brethren;
In the midst of the assembly I will praise You. [Hebrews 2:12]

²³ You who fear the LORD, praise Him!
All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him,
And fear Him, all you offspring of Israel!

²⁴ For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted;
Nor has He hidden His face from Him;
But when He cried to Him, He heard.

²⁵ My praise *shall be* of You in the great assembly;
I will pay My vows before those who fear Him.

²⁶ The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
Those who seek Him will praise the LORD.
Let your heart live forever!

²⁷ All the ends of the world
Shall remember and turn to the LORD,
And all the families of the nations
Shall worship before You.

²⁸ For the kingdom *is* the LORD's,
And He rules over the nations.

²⁹ All the prosperous of the earth
Shall eat and worship;
All those who go down to the dust
Shall bow before Him,
Even he who cannot keep himself alive.

³⁰ A posterity shall serve Him.
It will be recounted of the Lord to the *next* generation,

³¹ They will come and declare His righteousness to a people who will be born,
That He has done *this*. (Psalm 22 NKJV)

This psalm, and Psalm 69, are the most quoted psalms in the New Testament.

The LORD *is* my shepherd;

I shall not want.

² He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside the still waters.

³ He restores my soul;

He leads me in the paths of righteousness

For His name's sake.

⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil;

For You *are* with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil;

My cup runs over.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

All the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house of the LORD

Forever.

(Psalm 23. *The Shepherd Psalm*. See John 10:11-15)

The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it;
2 for he has founded it on the seas,
and established it on the rivers.
3 Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
4 Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,
who do not lift up their souls to what is false,
and do not swear deceitfully.
5 They will receive blessing from the LORD,
and vindication from the God of their salvation.
6 Such is the company of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob. *Selah*
7 Lift up your heads, O gates!
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!
that the King of glory may come in.
8 Who is the King of glory?
The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in battle.
9 Lift up your heads, O gates!
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!
that the King of glory may come in.
10 Who is this King of glory?
The LORD of hosts,
he is the King of glory. *Selah*
(Psalm 24)

Save me, O God!
For the waters have come up to *my* neck.
2 I sink in deep mire,
Where *there is* no standing;
I have come into deep waters,
Where the floods overflow me.
3 I am weary with my crying;
My throat is dry;
My eyes fail while I wait for my God.
4 Those who hate me without a cause [John 15:24]
Are more than the hairs of my head;
They are mighty who would destroy me,

Being my enemies wrongfully;
Though I have stolen nothing,
I *still* must restore it.

⁵ O God, You know my foolishness;
And my sins are not hidden from You.

⁶ Let not those who wait for You, O Lord GOD of hosts,
be ashamed because of me;
Let not those who seek You be confounded because of me, O God of Israel.

⁷ Because for Your sake I have borne reproach;
Shame has covered my face.

⁸ I have become a stranger to my brothers,
And an alien to my mother's children;

⁹ Because zeal for Your house has eaten me up, [John 2:17]
And the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me. [Romans 15:3]

¹⁰ When I wept *and chastened* my soul with fasting,
That became my reproach.

¹¹ I also made sackcloth my garment;
I became a byword to them.

¹² Those who sit in the gate speak against me,
And I *am* the song of the drunkards.

¹³ But as for me, my prayer *is* to You,
O LORD, *in* the acceptable time;
O God, in the multitude of Your mercy,
Hear me in the truth of Your salvation.

¹⁴ Deliver me out of the mire,
And let me not sink;
Let me be delivered from those who hate me,
And out of the deep waters.

¹⁵ Let not the floodwater overflow me,
Nor let the deep swallow me up;
And let not the pit shut its mouth on me.

¹⁶ Hear me, O LORD, for Your lovingkindness *is* good;
Turn to me according to the multitude of Your tender mercies.

¹⁷ And do not hide Your face from Your servant,
For I am in trouble;
Hear me speedily.

¹⁸ Draw near to my soul, *and* redeem it;
Deliver me because of my enemies.

¹⁹ You know my reproach, my shame, and my dishonor;
My adversaries *are* all before You.

20 Reproach has broken my heart,
And I am full of heaviness;
I looked *for someone* to take pity, but *there was none*;
And for comforters, but I found none.

21 They also gave me gall for my food,
And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink. [Matthew 27:48]

22 Let their table become a snare before them,
And their well-being a trap.

23 Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see;
And make their loins shake continually.

24 Pour out Your indignation upon them,
And let Your wrathful anger take hold of them.

25 Let their dwelling place be desolate;
Let no one live in their tents. [Acts 1:16-20]

26 For they persecute the *ones* You have struck,
And talk of the grief of those You have wounded. [Isaiah 53:5]

27 Add iniquity to their iniquity,
And let them not come into Your righteousness.

28 Let them be blotted out of the book of the living,
And not be written with the righteous.

29 But I *am* poor and sorrowful;
Let Your salvation, O God, set me up on high.

30 I will praise the name of God with a song,
And will magnify Him with thanksgiving.

31 *This* also shall please the LORD better than an ox *or* bull,
Which has horns and hooves.

32 The humble shall see *this and* be glad;
And you who seek God, your hearts shall live.

33 For the LORD hears the poor,
And does not despise His prisoners.

34 Let heaven and earth praise Him,
The seas and everything that moves in them.

35 For God will save Zion
And build the cities of Judah,
That they may dwell there and possess it.

36 Also, the descendants of His servants shall inherit it,
And those who love His name shall dwell in it.
(Psalm 69)

This psalm, and Psalm 22, are the most quoted psalms in the New Testament.

The Lion of Judah

The LORD said to my Lord,

“Sit at My right hand, [Mt 22:44; Mark 12:36; Luke 20:42;

Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.” Acts 2:34-35; Hebrews 10:13]

The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion.

Rule in the midst of Your enemies!

³Your people *shall be* volunteers

In the day of Your power;

In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning,

You have the dew of Your youth.

⁴The LORD has sworn

And will not relent,

“You *are* a priest forever

According to the order of Melchizedek.” [Hebrews 5:6; 6:19-7:28]

⁵The Lord *is* at Your right hand;

He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath.

⁶He shall judge among the nations,

He shall fill *the places* with dead bodies,

He shall execute the heads of many countries.

⁷He shall drink of the brook by the wayside;

Therefore He shall lift up the head.

(Psalm 110:1-7 NKJV, *quoted 7 times in the New Testament*)

Open to me the gates of righteousness;

I will go through them,

And I will praise the LORD.

²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD,

Through which the righteous shall enter. [John 10:7-9]

²¹ I will praise You,

For You have answered me,

And have become my salvation.

²² The stone which the builders rejected

Has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ This was the LORD's doing; [Matthew 21:42; Mark 12:10; Luke 20:17;

It is marvellous in our eyes. Acts 4:11; Ephesians 2:20; 1 Peter 2:7].

²⁴ This *is* the day the LORD has made;

We will rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵ Save now, I pray, O LORD;

O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity.

²⁶ Blessed *is* he who comes in the name of the LORD! [Matthew 21:9;

We have blessed you from the house of the LORD. Mark 11:10-11; Luke 19:38]

²⁷ God *is* the LORD,

And He has given us light;

Bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.

²⁸ You *are* my God, and I will praise You;

You *are* my God, I will exalt You.

²⁹ Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is* good!

For His mercy *endures* forever.

(Psalm 118)

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Prophets

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations
shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

(Isaiah 11:1-5, 10; see Romans 15:12; Revelation 5:5]

For a child has been born for us,

a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders;

and he is named

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ His authority shall grow continually,

and there shall be endless peace

for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it

with justice and with righteousness

from this time onwards and for evermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

(Isaiah 9:6-7)

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Isaiah's 'Servant Songs'

These Messianic passages from Isaiah sing of a coming servant of the Lord.

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
² He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
³ a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
(Isaiah 42:1-4; see Matthew 12:17-21)

Listen to me, O coastlands,
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The LORD called me before I was born,
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.
² He made my mouth like a sharp sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me away.
³ And he said to me, 'You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'
⁴ But I said, 'I have laboured in vain,
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the LORD,
and my reward with my God.'
⁵ And now the LORD says,
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honoured in the sight of the LORD,
and my God has become my strength—
⁶ he says,
'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant

to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'
(Isaiah 49:1-6)

The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he awakens—
awakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backwards.
⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.
⁷The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸ he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
⁹It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?
All of them will wear out like a garment;
the moth will eat them up.
(Isaiah 50:4-9)

Just as there were many who were astonished at him
—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of mortals—
¹⁵so he shall startle many nations;
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;

for that which had not been told them they shall see,
and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

53 Who has believed what we have heard?

And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

² For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;

he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

³ He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;
and as one from whom others hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him of no account.

⁴ Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases; [Matthew 8:17]
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed. [1 Peter 2:24]

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; [1 Peter 2:25]
we have all turned to our own way,
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, [John 1:29; Acts 8:32-33]
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth. [1 Peter 2:23]

⁸ By a perversion of justice he was taken away.
Who could have imagined his future?

For he was cut off from the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people.

⁹ They made his grave with the wicked
and his tomb with the rich, [Matthew 27:57-60]
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth. [1 Peter 2:22]

¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain. [Acts 2:23]
When you make his life an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;

through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.

¹¹ Out of his anguish he shall see light;
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.

The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;

because he poured out himself to death,
and was numbered with the transgressors; [Luke 22:37]

yet he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors. [Luke 23:34]
(Isaiah 53:14 – 53:12)

Isaiah 61 is sometimes included as a Servant Song.

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;

² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
(Isaiah 61:1-3; see Luke 4:18-19)

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Other Prophets

Many prophets told of the coming Kingdom that would last forever.

“I was watching in the night visions,
And behold, *One* like the Son of Man,
Coming with the clouds of heaven! [Matthew 24:30; 26:64; Mark 14:62]
He came to the Ancient of Days,
And they brought Him near before Him.
¹⁴ Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,
That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.
His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, [Daniel 4:3; 2 Peter 1:11]
Which shall not pass away,
And His kingdom *the one*
Which shall not be destroyed.
(Daniel 7:13-14 NKJV)

Now listen, Joshua, high priest, you and your colleagues who sit before you! For they are an omen of things to come: I am going to bring my servant the Branch. ⁹ For on the stone that I have set before Joshua, on a single stone with seven facets, I will engrave its inscription, says the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the guilt of this land in a single day. ¹⁰ On that day, says the LORD of hosts, you shall invite each other to come under your vine and fig tree.’
(Zechariah 3:8-10)

Thus says the LORD of hosts: Here is a man whose name is Branch: for he shall branch out in his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD. ¹³ It is he that shall build the temple of the LORD; he shall bear royal honour, and shall sit and rule on his throne. There shall be a priest by his throne, with peaceful understanding between the two of them.
(Zechariah 6:12-13)

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Summary

Then he said to them, ‘Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?’ ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. ...

‘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, the prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

(Luke 24:25-27, 44-47)

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Prophecies Jesus Fulfilled

44 Prophecies Jesus Christ Fulfilled			
	Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
1	Messiah would be born of a woman.	<u>Genesis 3:15</u>	<u>Matthew 1:20</u> <u>Galatians 4:4</u>
2	Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.	<u>Micah 5:2</u>	<u>Matthew 2:1</u> <u>Luke 2:4-6</u>
3	Messiah would be born of a virgin.	<u>Isaiah 7:14</u>	<u>Matthew 1:22-23</u> <u>Luke 1:26-31</u>
4	Messiah would come from the line of Abraham.	<u>Genesis 12:3</u> <u>Genesis 22:18</u>	<u>Matthew 1:1</u> <u>Romans 9:5</u>
5	Messiah would be a descendant of Isaac.	<u>Genesis 17:19</u> <u>Genesis 21:12</u>	<u>Luke 3:34</u>
6	Messiah would be a descendant of Jacob.	<u>Numbers 24:17</u>	<u>Matthew 1:2</u>
7	Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah.	<u>Genesis 49:10</u>	<u>Luke 3:33</u> <u>Hebrews 7:14</u>
8	Messiah would be heir to King David's throne.	<u>2 Samuel 7:12-13</u> <u>Isaiah 9:7</u>	<u>Luke 1:32-33</u> <u>Romans 1:3</u>
9	Messiah's throne will be anointed and eternal.	<u>Psalms 45:6-7</u> <u>Daniel 2:44</u>	<u>Luke 1:33</u> <u>Hebrews 1:8-12</u>
10	Messiah would be called Immanuel.	<u>Isaiah 7:14</u>	<u>Matthew 1:23</u>
11	Messiah would spend a season in Egypt.	<u>Hosea 11:1</u>	<u>Matthew 2:14-15</u>
12	A massacre of children would happen at Messiah's birthplace.	<u>Jeremiah 31:15</u>	<u>Matthew 2:16-18</u>
13	A messenger would prepare the way for Messiah	<u>Isaiah 40:3-5</u>	<u>Luke 3:3-6</u>
14	Messiah would be rejected by his own people.	<u>Psalms 69:8</u> <u>Isaiah 53:3</u>	<u>John 1:11</u> <u>John 7:5</u>
15	Messiah would be a prophet.	<u>Deuteronomy 18:15</u>	<u>Acts 3:20-22</u>
16	Messiah would be preceded by Elijah.	<u>Malachi 4:5-6</u>	<u>Matthew 11:13-14</u>
17	Messiah would be declared the Son of God.	<u>Psalms 2:7</u>	<u>Matthew 3:16-17</u>
18	Messiah would be called a Nazarene.	<u>Isaiah 11:1</u>	<u>Matthew 2:23</u>
19	Messiah would bring light to Galilee.	<u>Isaiah 9:1-2</u>	<u>Matthew 4:13-16</u>
20	Messiah would speak in parables.	<u>Psalms 78:2-4</u> <u>Isaiah 6:9-10</u>	<u>Matthew 13:10-15, 34-35</u>
21	Messiah would be sent to heal the brokenhearted.	<u>Isaiah 61:1-2</u>	<u>Luke 4:18-19</u>

The Lion of Judah

22	Messiah would be a priest after the order of Melchizedek.	<u>Psalm 110:4</u>	<u>Hebrews 5:5-6</u>
23	Messiah would be called King.	<u>Psalm 2:6</u> <u>Zechariah 9:9</u>	<u>Matthew 27:37</u> <u>Mark 11:7-11</u>
24	Messiah would be praised by children.	<u>Psalm 8:2</u>	<u>Matthew 21:16</u>
25	Messiah would be betrayed.	<u>Psalm 41:9</u> <u>Zechariah 11:12-13</u>	<u>Luke 22:47-48</u> <u>Matthew 26:14-16</u>
26	Messiah's price: money would be used to buy a potter's field.	<u>Zechariah 11:12-13</u>	<u>Matthew 27:9-10</u>
27	Messiah would be falsely accused.	<u>Psalm 35:11</u>	<u>Mark 14:57-58</u>
28	Messiah would be silent before his accusers.	<u>Isaiah 53:7</u>	<u>Mark 15:4-5</u>
29	Messiah would be spat upon and struck.	<u>Isaiah 50:6</u>	<u>Matthew 26:67</u>
30	Messiah would be hated without cause.	<u>Psalm 35:19</u> <u>Psalm 69:4</u>	<u>John 15:24-25</u>
31	Messiah would be crucified with criminals.	<u>Isaiah 53:12</u>	<u>Matthew 27:38</u> <u>Mark 15:27-28</u>
32	Messiah would be given vinegar to drink.	<u>Psalm 69:21</u>	<u>Matthew 27:34</u> <u>John 19:28-30</u>
33	Messiah's hands and feet would be pierced.	<u>Psalm 22:16</u> <u>Zechariah 12:10</u>	<u>John 20:25-27</u>
34	Messiah would be mocked and ridiculed.	<u>Psalm 22:7-8</u>	<u>Luke 23:35</u>
35	Soldiers would gamble for Messiah's garments.	<u>Psalm 22:18</u>	<u>Luke 23:34</u> <u>Matthew 27:35-36</u>
36	Messiah's bones would not be broken.	<u>Exodus 12:46</u> <u>Psalm 34:20</u>	<u>John 19:33-36</u>
37	Messiah would be forsaken by God.	<u>Psalm 22:1</u>	<u>Matthew 27:46</u>
38	Messiah would pray for his enemies.	<u>Psalm 109:4</u>	<u>Luke 23:34</u>
39	Soldiers would pierce Messiah's side.	<u>Zechariah 12:10</u>	<u>John 19:34</u>
40	Messiah would be buried with the rich.	<u>Isaiah 53:9</u>	<u>Matthew 27:57-60</u>
41	Messiah would resurrect from the dead.	<u>Psalm 16:10</u> <u>Psalm 49:15</u>	<u>Matthew 28:2-7</u> <u>Acts 2:22-32</u>
42	Messiah would ascend to heaven.	<u>Psalm 24:7-10</u>	<u>Mark 16:19</u> <u>Luke 24:51</u>
43	Messiah would be seated at God's right hand.	<u>Psalm 68:18</u> <u>Psalm 110:1</u>	<u>Mark 16:19</u> <u>Matthew 22:44</u>
44	Messiah would be a sacrifice for sin.	<u>Isaiah 53:5-12</u>	<u>Romans 5:6-8</u>

Reference: About.com Christianity

Another list of fulfilled prophecies

SUBJECT	OT Prophecy	NT Fulfilment
As the Son of God	Ps 2:7	Lk 1:32,35
As the seed of the woman	Ge 3:15	Ga 4:4
As the seed of Abraham	Ge 17:7 22:18	Ga 3:16
As the seed of Isaac	Ge 21:12	Heb 11:17-19
As the seed of David	Ps 132:11 Jer 23:5	Ac 13:23 Ro 1:3
His coming at a set time	Ge 49:10 Da 9:24,25	Lk 2:1
His being born of a virgin	Isa 7:14	Mt 1:22,23 Lk 2:7
His being called Immanuel	Isa 7:14	Mt 1:22,23
His being born in Bethlehem of Judea	Mic 5:2	Mt 2:1 Lk 2:4-6
Great persons coming to adore him	Ps 72:10	Mt 2:1-11
The slaying of the children of Bethlehem	Jer 31:15	Mt 2:16-18
His being called out of Egypt	Ho 11:1	Mt 2:15
His being preceded by John the Baptist	Isa 40:3 Mal 3:1	Mt 3:1,3 Lk 1:17
His being anointed with the Spirit	Ps 45:7 Isa 11:2 61:1	Mt 3:16 Jn 3:34 Ac 10:38
His being a Prophet like to Moses	De 18:15-18	Ac 3:20-22
His being a Priest after the order of Melchizedek	Ps 110:4	Heb 5:5,6
His entering on his public ministry	Isa 61:1,2	Lk 4:16-21,43
His ministry commencing in Galilee	Isa 9:1,2	Mt 4:12-16,23
His entering publicly into Jerusalem	Zec 9:9	Mt 21:1-5
His coming into the temple	Hag 2:7,9 Mal 3:1	Mt 21:12 Lk 2:27-32 Jn 2:13-16
His poverty	Isa 53:2	Lk 6:3 Lk 9:58
His meekness and want of	Isa 42:2	Mt 12:15,16,19

The Lion of Judah

ostentatious		
His tenderness and compassion	Isa 40:11 42:3	Mt 12:15,20 Heb 4:15
His being without guile	Isa 53:9	1Pe 2:22
His zeal	Ps 69:9	Jn 2:17
His preaching by parables	Ps 78:2	Mt 13:34,35
His working miracles	Isa 35:5,6	Mt 11:4-6 Jn 11:47
His bearing reproach	Ps 22:6 69:7,9,20	Ro 15:3
His being rejected by his brethren	Ps 69:8 Isa 63:3	Jn 1:11 7:3
His being a stone of stumbling to the Jews	Isa 8:14	Ro 9:32 1Pe 2:8
His being hated by the Jews	Ps 69:4 Isa 49:7	Jn 15:24,25
His being rejected by the Jewish rulers	Ps 118:22	Mt 21:42 Jn 7:48
That the Jews and Gentiles should combine against Him	Ps 2:1,2	Lk 23:12 Ac 4:27
His being betrayed by a friend	Ps 41:9 55:12-14	Jn 13:18,21
His disciples forsaking him	Zec 13:7	Mt 26:31,56
His being sold for thirty pieces silver	Zec 11:12	Mt 26:15
His price being given for the potter's field	Zec 11:13	Mt 27:7
The intensity of his sufferings	Ps 22:14,15	Lk 22:42,44
His sufferings being for others	Isa 53:4-6,12 Da 9:26	Mt 20:28
His patience and silence under suffering	Isa 53:7	Mt 26:63 27:12-14
His being smitten on the cheek	Mic 5:1	Mt 27:30
His visage being marred	Isa 52:14 53:3	Jn 19:5
His being spit on and scourged	Isa 50:6	Lk 14:65 Jn 19:1
His hands and feet being nailed to the cross	Ps 22:16	Jn 19:18 20:25
His being forsaken by God	Ps 22:1	Mt 27:46
His being mocked	Ps 22:7,8	Mt 27:39-44

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Gall and vinegar being given him to drink	Ps 69:21	Mt 27:34
His garments being parted, and lots cast for his vesture	Ps 22:18	Mt 27:35
His being numbered with the transgressors	Isa 53:12	Lk 15:28
His intercession for His murderers	Isa 53:12	Lk 23:34
His Death	Isa 53:12	Mt 27:50
That a bone of him should not be broken	Ex 12:46 Ps 34:20	Jn 19:33,36
His being pierced	Zec 12:10	Jn 19:34,37
His being buried with the rich	Isa 53:9	Mt 27:57-60
His flesh not seeing corruption	Ps 16:10	Ac 2:31
His resurrection	Ps 16:10 Isa 26:19	Lk 24:6,31,34
His ascension	Ps 68:18	Lk 24:51 Ac 1:9
His sitting on the right hand of God	Ps 110:1	Heb 1:3
His exercising the priestly office in heaven	Zec 6:13	Ro 8:34
His being the chief corner-stone of the Church	Isa 28:16	1Pe 2:6,7
His being King in Zion	Ps 2:6	Lk 1:32 Jn 18:33-37
The conversion of the Gentiles to him	Isa 11:10 42:1	Mt 1:17,21 Jn 10:16 Ac 10:45,47
His righteous government	Ps 45:6,7	Jn 5:30 Re 19:11
His universal dominion	Ps 72:8 Da 7:14	Php 2:9,11
The perpetuity of his kingdom	Isa 9:7 Da 7:14	Lk 1:32,33

From Believe Religious Information Source:

<http://mb-soft.com/believe/txh/proph.htm>

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Appendix: China Miracle

*Jesus said, "I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18). This contemporary example of powerful New Testament style church growth is a wonderful account reported by Carl Lawrence. **The Coming Influence of China**, Vision House, pp. 186-192, reproduced in my book, **Body Ministry: The Body of Christ Alive in His Spirit**. See www.renewaljournal.com*

The Spirit told us what to do

Two young women set off to plant churches without plans or training because Jesus said to "go".

After we prayed, the Holy Spirit would tell us exactly what to do.

***We would keep praying and he would tell us what to do,
and we would do it.***

Then we prayed and then he would tell us what to do.

We would do it and keep praying.

Several high-ranking church leaders from Europe visited a pastor in Hong Kong. The pastor took them to visit some of the Three-Self churches. They found them inspiring, and uniquely Chinese, but they wondered aloud if perhaps they weren't seeing the real church. ...

On the final day of their visit, the pastor hoped to show them what they kept wanting to see. He knew they would not really be satisfied unless they met a real church planter. As it turned out, they saw something incredibly beyond what they ever expected to find in China.

At their last stop, the pastor discovered that two young women had just returned from their mission station for a short visit, so he asked them to come to the hotel late, to meet the visiting church leaders.

These young ladies had both become Christians as teenagers while listening to radio broadcasts, and they each had immediately felt the call to be a missionary. The pastor had met with them and attempted to teach them how to witness right where they were.

“No,” they insisted, “the Bible you gave us says Jesus said to go to all the world. We want to ‘go.’”

“But,” the pastor argued, “you have only been Christians for six months, and you are so young.”

They replied, “Pastor, we have read everything Jesus said and nowhere does he ask people how old they are. We want to go.”

Smiling, the pastor asked them, “But can you give me an exegesis of the five classical appearances of the Great Commission in the New Testament?” Their disappointed faces made him feel ashamed. “Very well. We need some workers on Hainan Island.”

“Hainan Island, we have never heard of it.”

The pastor said, “It is an island off the mainland. The people there are fishermen. It is very rough. There are no Christians there. For young ladies it might be very dangerous.”

Excitedly they responded, “How soon can we go?”

“Well, I have to go back to Hong Kong and make arrangements. There will be . . .”

They interrupted him, “Oh no, no, we must not wait. Our Lord said ‘go,’ not sit around and plan. We will go to this place - what did you call it?”

“Hainan. Hainan Island.”

They looked at each other, “Hainan, yes Hainan. That is where the Lord wants us to go.”

They had been there for two years and were now back for a short period of time to try to get Bibles and other literature for their new churches. The pastor had not seen them since the day they insisted that they ‘go now’!

After the arrangements were made, he went to the lobby at the appointed time and waited for the ladies to arrive. He watched the bellboys in their crisp, tailored uniforms, and the tourists who attempted to be casual in their designer clothes. Then he spotted the two young women. *Oh no*, he thought as they walked in.

Their black pyjamas and broad-brimmed fishermen hats stood in stark contrast to the appearance of the sophisticated hotel receptionist making her way towards them.

The pastor moved quickly to intercede. "It's all right, they are here to see me." Several people stood staring as he greeted them as politely as possible without drawing too much attention. "Come, we will go to my room to meet some people from Europe."

Once in the room, the two European church officials graciously greeted them. He proceeded to ask the young ladies questions, interpreting for his guests as he went along.

"Pastor, ask them how many churches they have established on Hainan."

The women put their heads down and answered, "Oh Pastor, we have only been there two years . . . yes, two years. Not many. Not very many." Their voices were apologetic.

"How many?"

"Oh, not many, not many. We have only been there a short time. The people were not very friendly. . . Sometimes they became very vicious. Yes, sometimes they told us they were going to drown us in the ocean . . . several men threatened us . . . Oh my, and because we were so young, even some of the other ladies did not like us. Yes some even called us terrible names . . . so not many churches . . . no, not many. . ."

The pastor interrupted and slowly repeated the words, "How many? How many?"

There was a moment of silence, then one of the women looked up with embarrassment and anguish, as though confessing to a crime,

"Only . . . thirteen."

The pastor looked astonished and interpreted for the guests, "Thirteen."

One of the guests repeated the number, "Only thirteen, only - my goodness. I haven't planted that many churches in my lifetime."

One of the pastor's assistants interrupted, "No, Pastor, she did not say thirteen. She said thirty."

The pastor looked at the two young women and asked, "Thirty?"

"Oh, yes, not many, we have done very poorly. Only thirty . . ."

The two guests could only mutter, "Thirty churches in two years . . . my word. . ."

Again the women began to apologize when the pastor interrupted to ask another question, "How many people are in the churches?"

"How many? . . . Oh, not many. . . ." Again both heads went down, apologizing for their failure. "Not many."

The process repeated itself until, again, the pastor looked like he was ready to shake them and practically yelled, "How many?"

"Only two hundred and twenty people. Not many, no . . . not many."

Quickly multiplying in his head, the pastor said, "Two hundred and twenty in thirty churches?"

"Oh, no, in only one, but that one is a very small church, very small. There are bigger ones. . ."

As the pastor interrupted he heard the numbers repeated by his guests: "Two hundred and twenty is small? Dear Lord, I wish I had some that large."

"Ask them how many are in the big churches."

The process began, but with a more reverent inquiry: "And how many in the big churches? You know, the biggest one?"

"Oh, not many . . ."

"I know, 'not many.' But, please, ladies, how many?"

"Oh, less than five thousand. Only four thousand nine hundred Yes, less than five thousand. We have just started."

From behind the pastor came the sound of weeping: "Dear Lord, forgive us."

"What did they do? How did they do it? Ask them what they did?"

When asked, they looked astonished. "What did we do? Why nothing. Yes, we did nothing, nothing."

“You did nothing? You have thirty churches - the smallest with two hundred and twenty people, the largest with almost five thousand new Christians! And you did nothing?”

“No, nothing. We just prayed.”

“I know you prayed, but what else did you do?”

“After we prayed, the Holy Spirit would tell us exactly what to do. We would keep praying and he would tell us what to do, and we would do it. Then we prayed and then he would tell us what to do. We would do it and keep praying.”

“Dear Lord, they *just* prayed . . . and the Holy Spirit told them exactly what to do and they prayed. . . .”

The pastor laid his hands on the shoulders of the two sisters. Behind him his two guests, on their knees weeping, joined as they ‘just prayed’.

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This book is the second in the series of 6 booklets on *The Lion of Judah*, also compiled into one larger book: *The Lion of Judah*.

Check with the publisher www.renewaljournal.com for information about each book.

A companion book also being planned is *Discovering Aslan: High King above all Kings in Narna*.

All these books feature art from Rebecca Brogan's series, *The Lion of Judah*.

These books use the *New Revised Standard Version* (NRSV), as it is close to the majesty of the Authorised Version, with more current and inclusive language. Some quotes are from the *New King James Version* (NKJV) if the passage is especially well known. Occasionally another translations are included if it is particularly appropriate. These include the King James Version (KJV), the Revised Standard Version (RSV), the New English Bible (NEB) the English Standard Version (ESV), the New International Version (NIV), and the Living Bible Translation (LBT).

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The Life of Jesus

The Death of Jesus

The Resurrection of Jesus

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Discovering Aslan in the Horse and his Boy

Discovering Aslan in the Magician's Nephew

Discovering Aslan in the Last Battle

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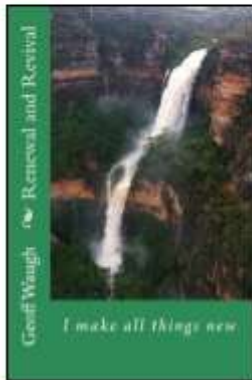
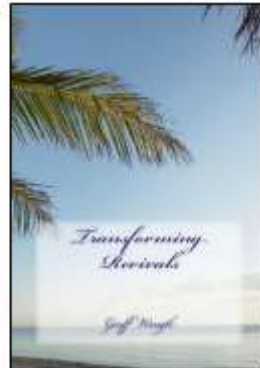
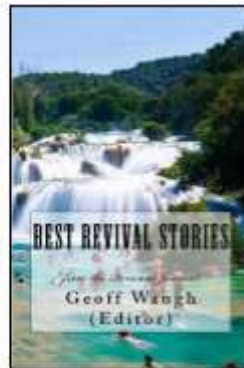
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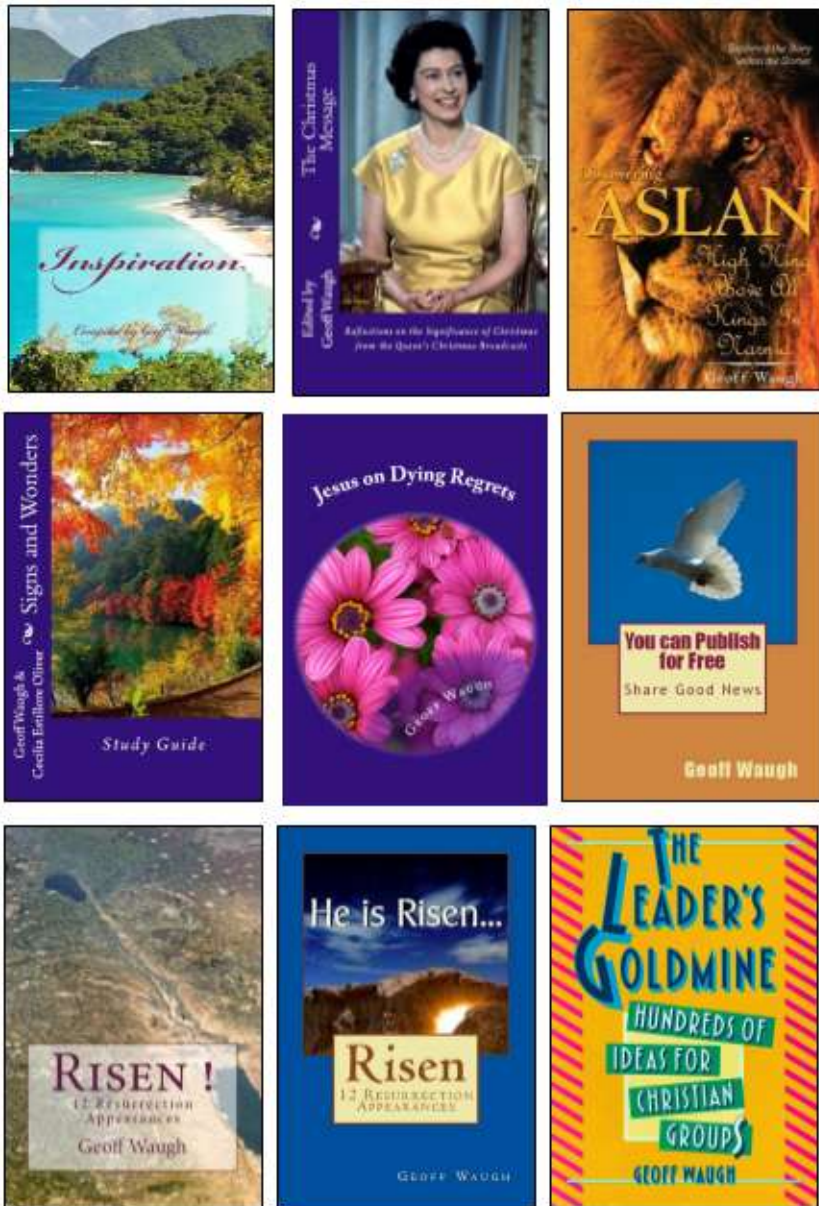


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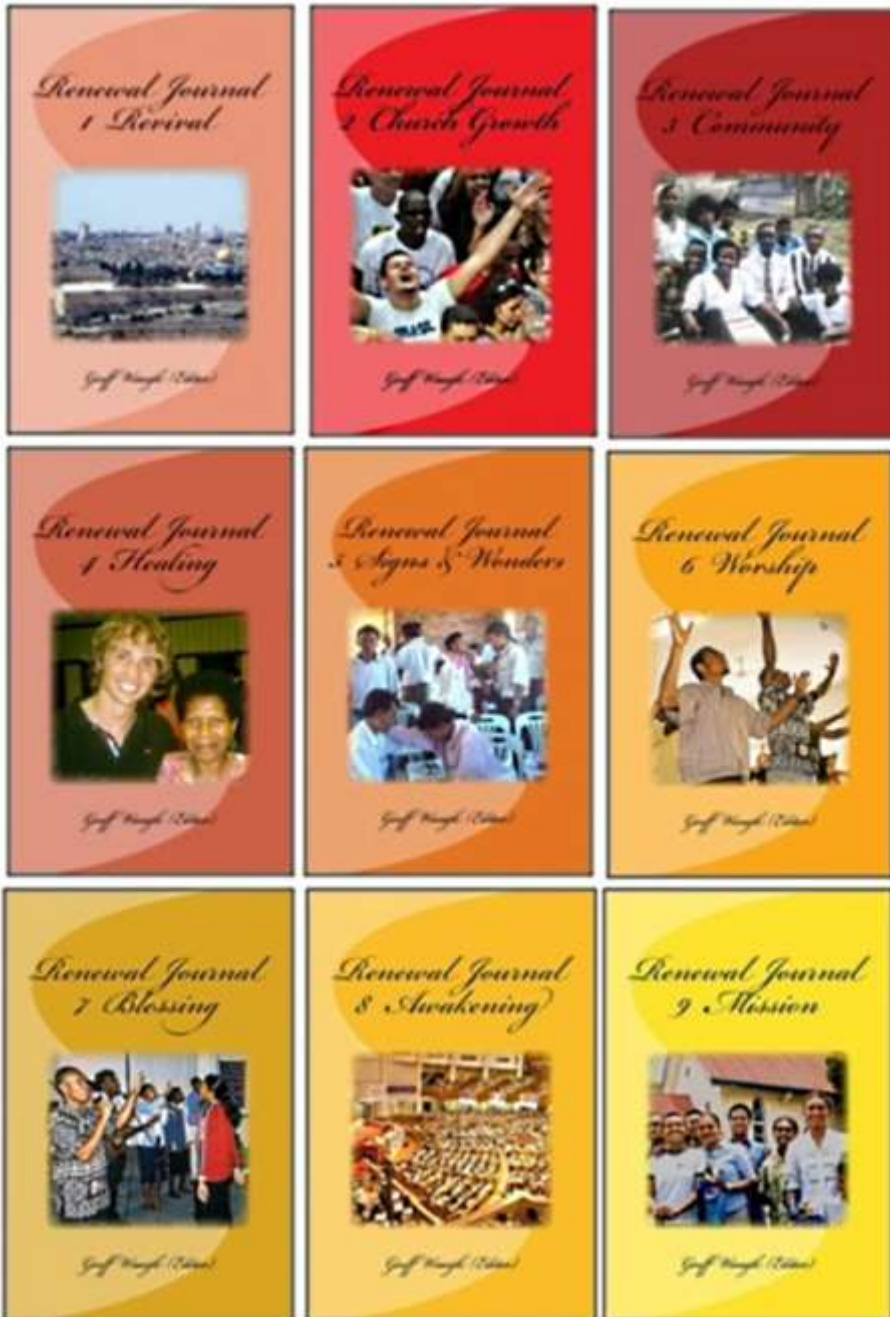
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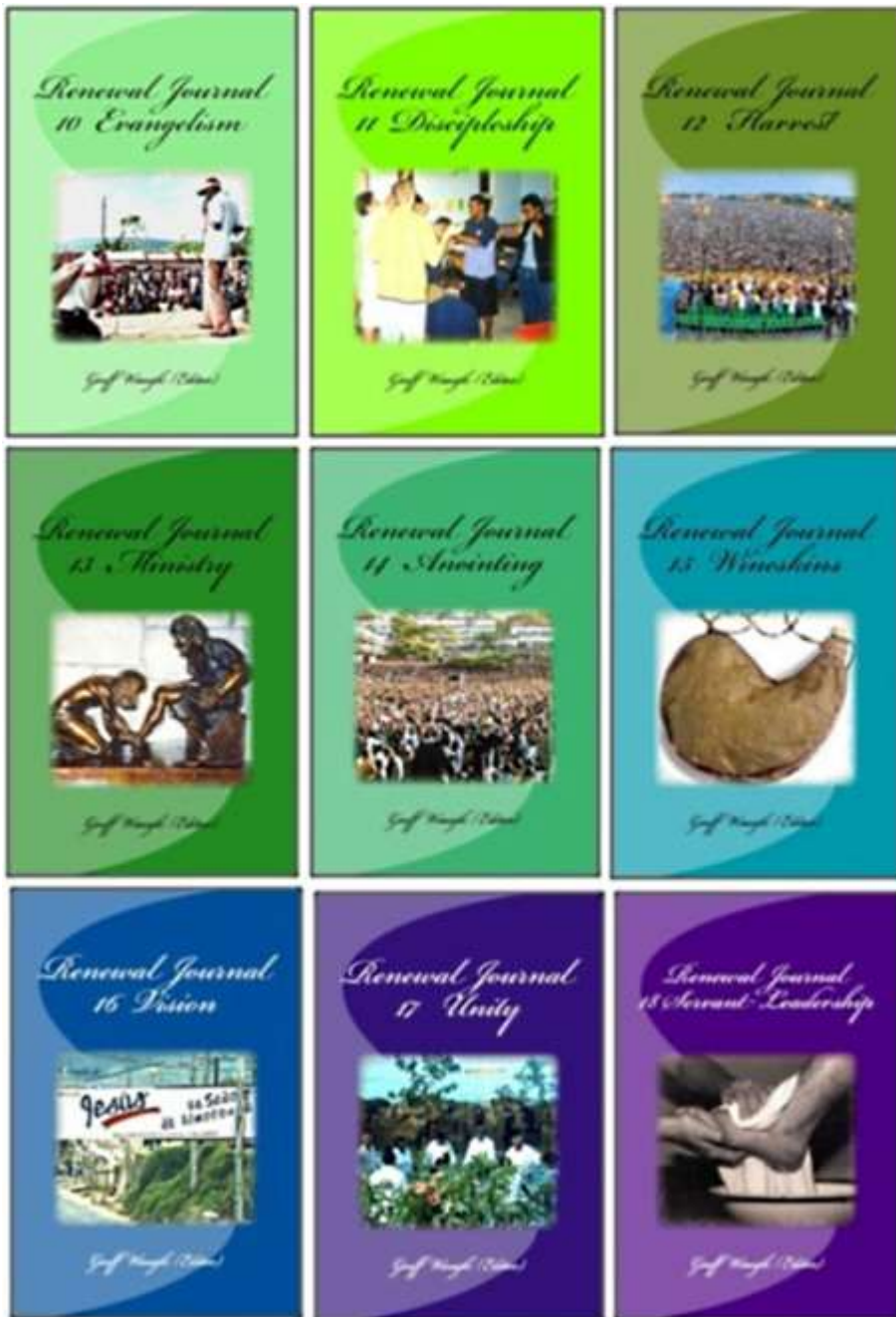
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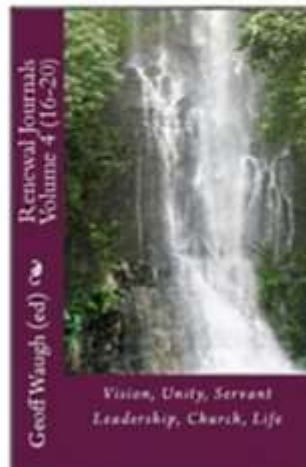
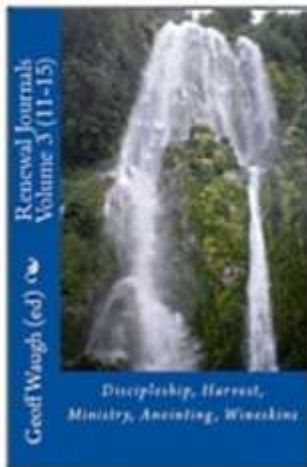
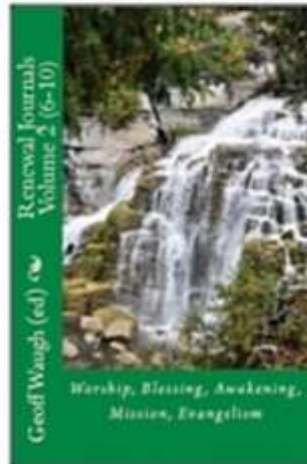
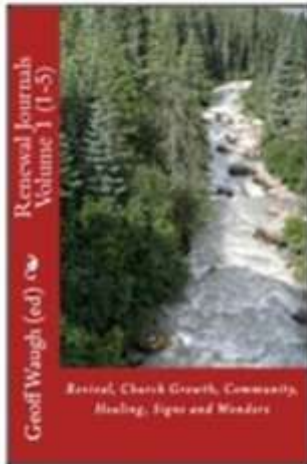
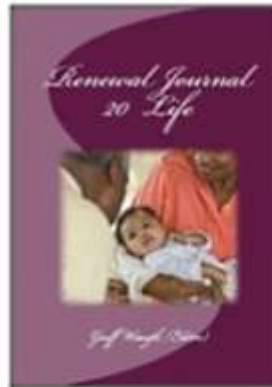
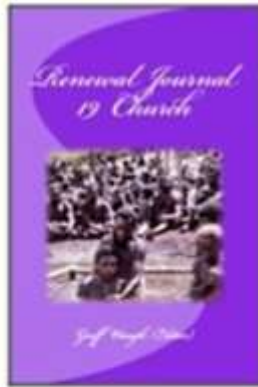
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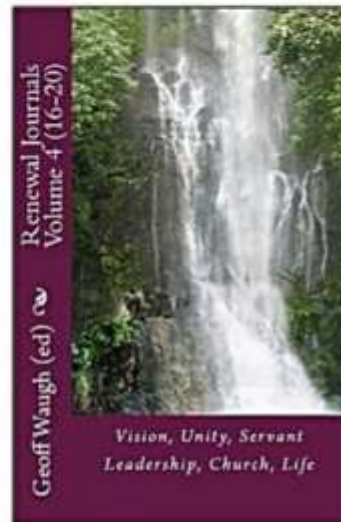
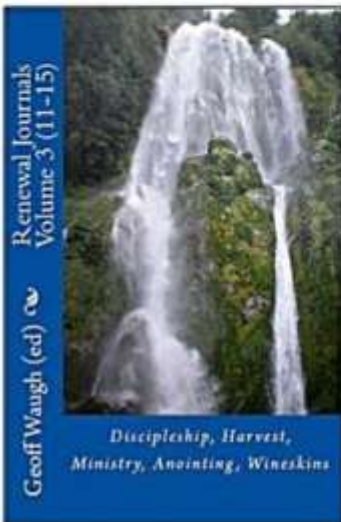
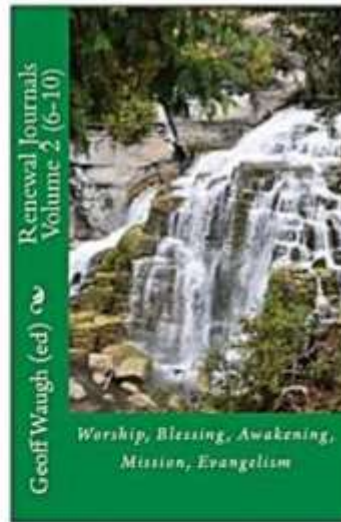
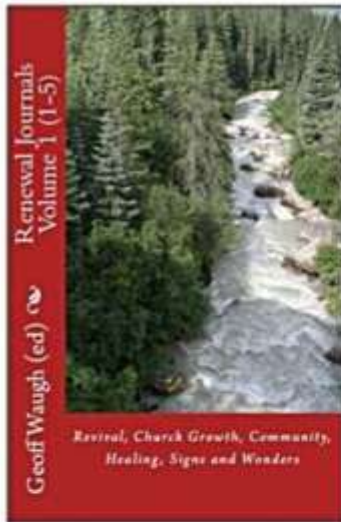


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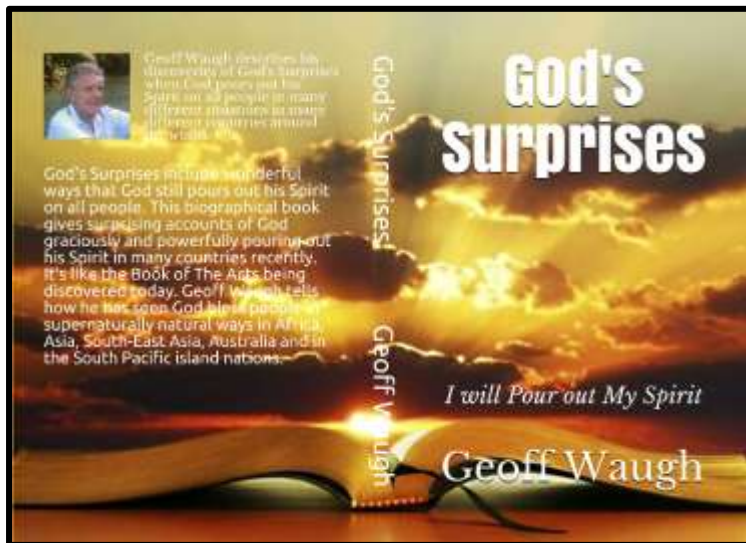




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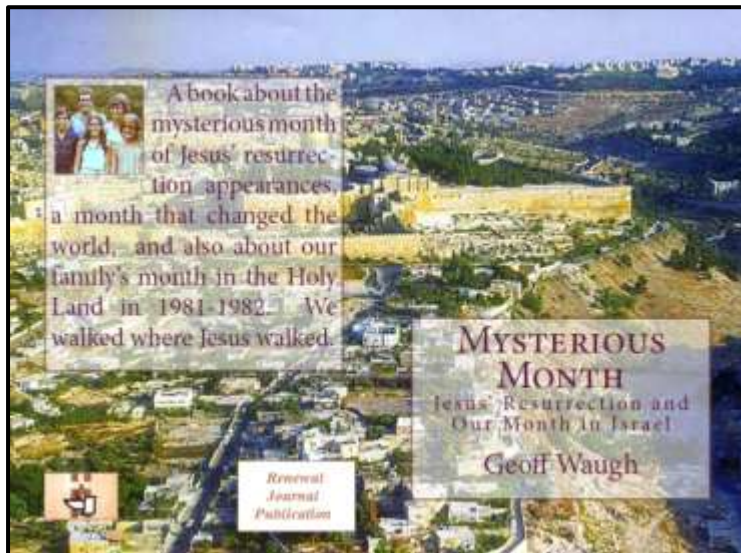
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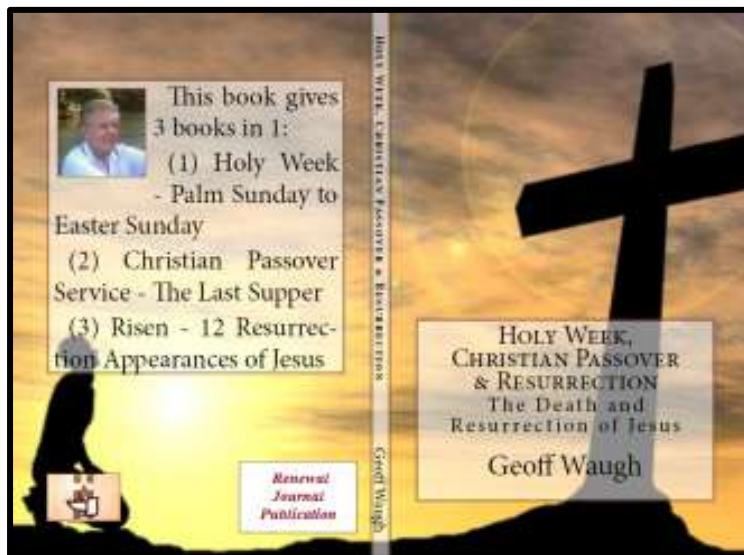
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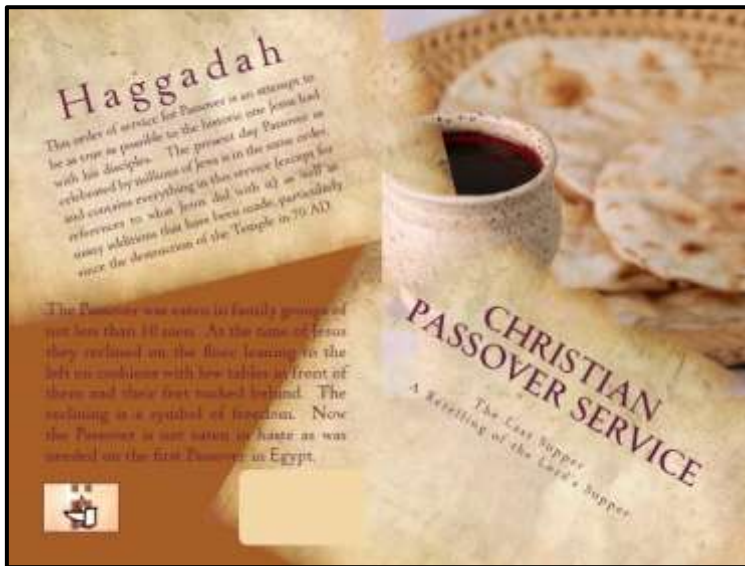
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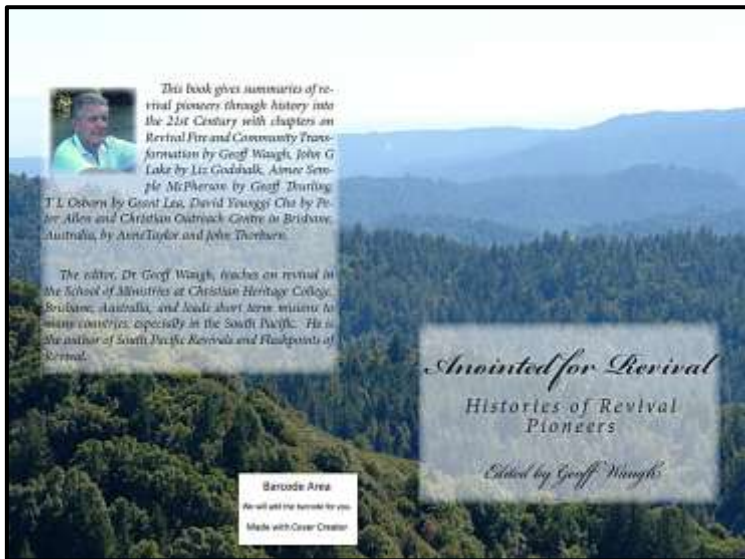
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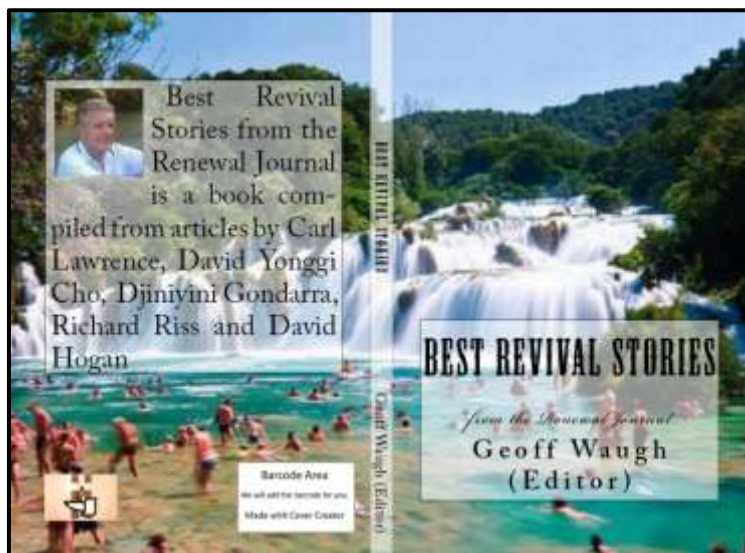


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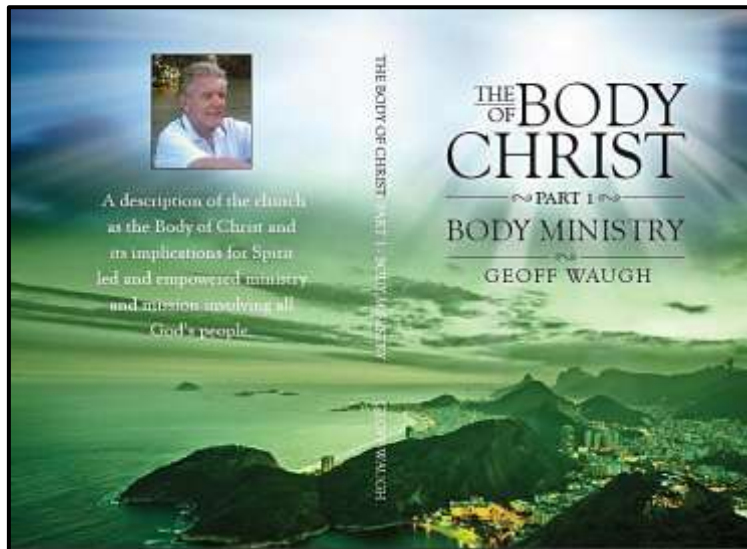
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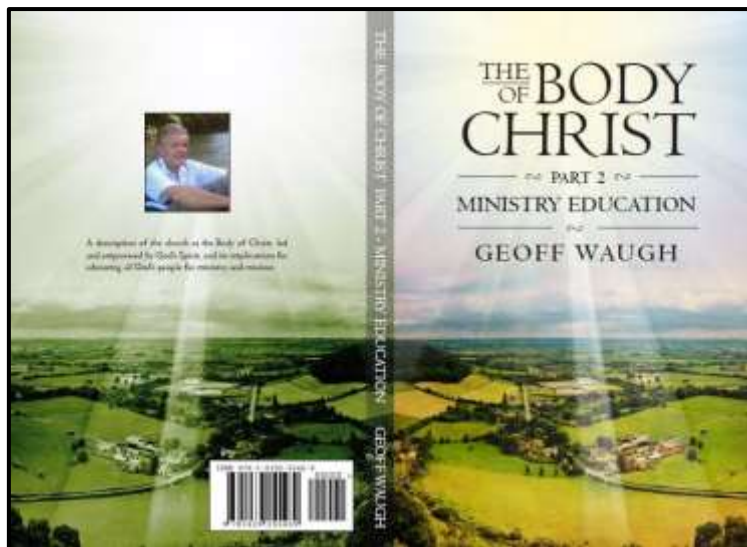
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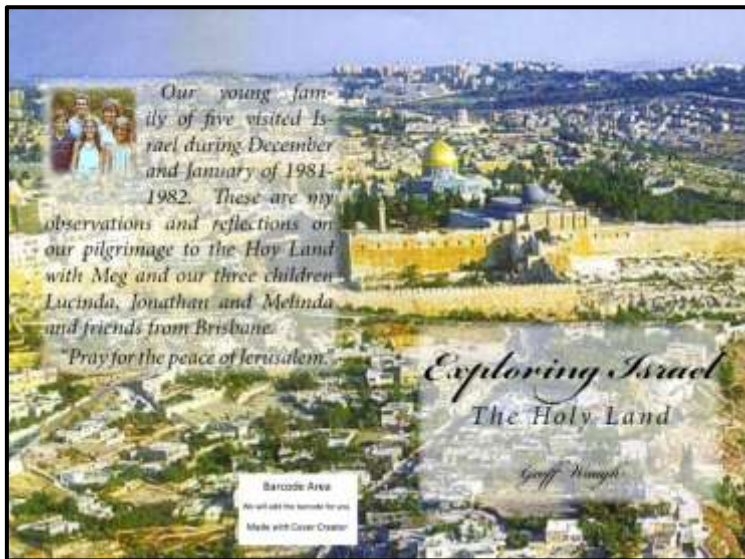
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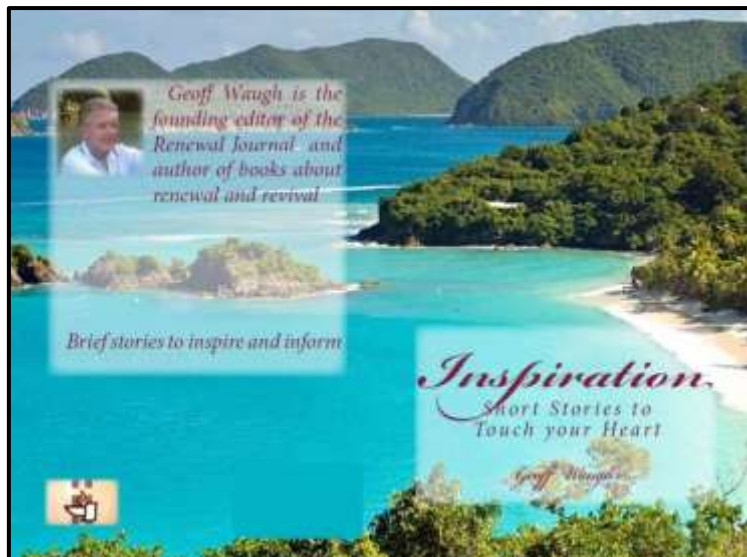


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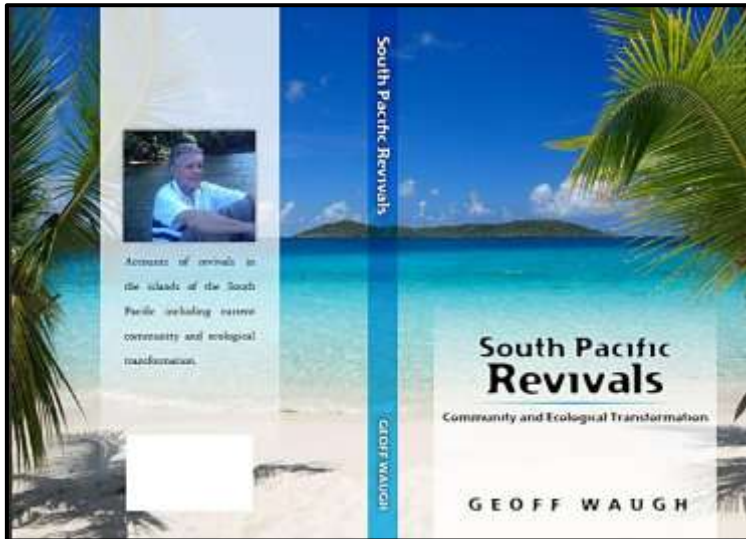
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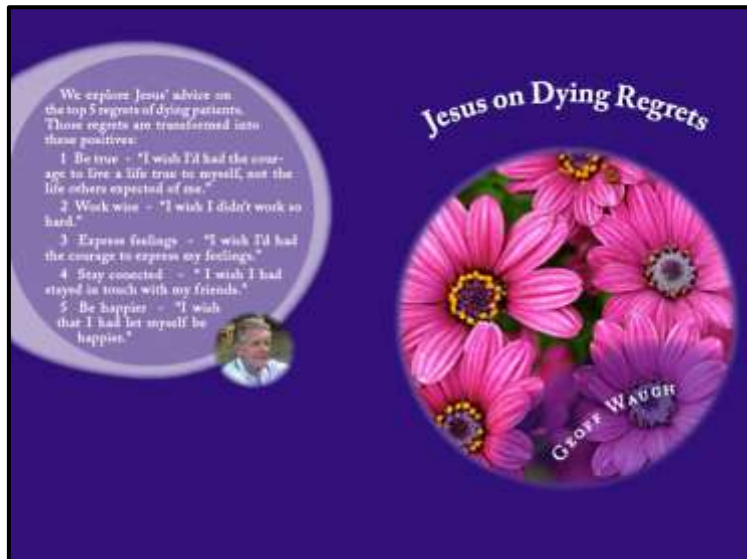
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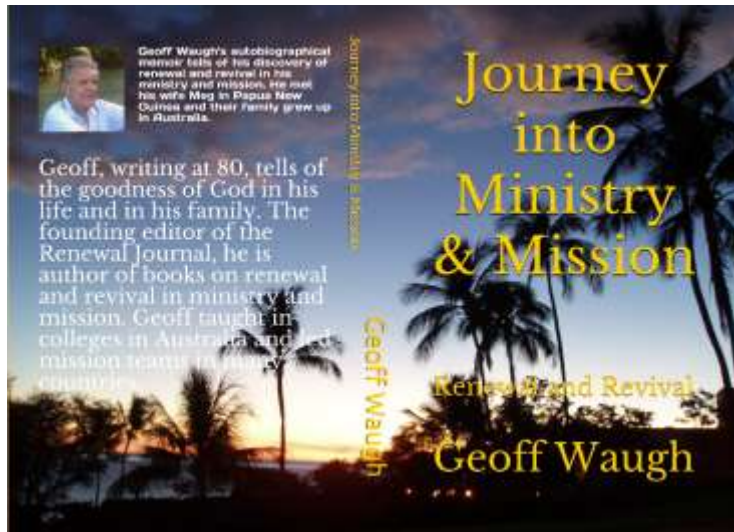
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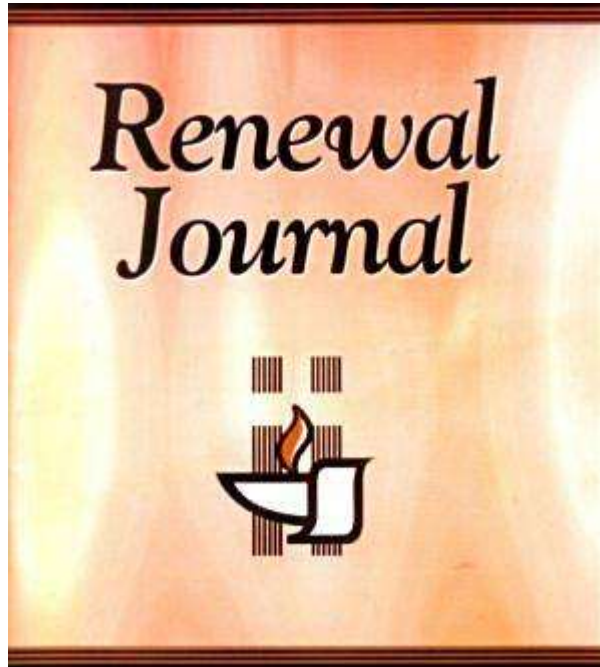
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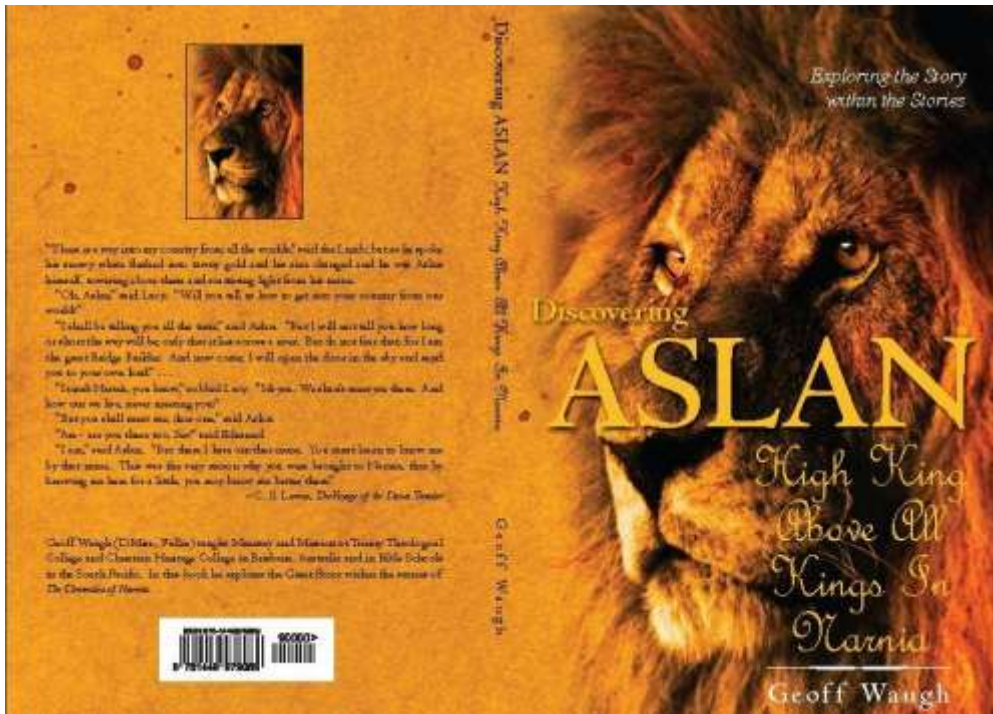
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Aslan is on the move

2. Prince Caspian

Each year that you grow you will find me bigger

3. The Voyage of the Dawn Treader

By knowing me here for a little, you may know me better there

4. The Silver Chair

Aslan's instructions always work: there are no exceptions

5. The Horse and His Boy

High King above all kings in Narnia

6. The Magician's Nephew

I give you yourselves ... and I give you myself

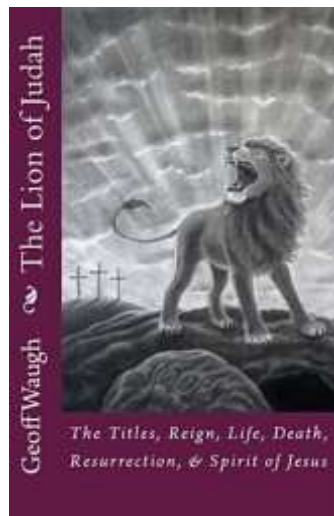
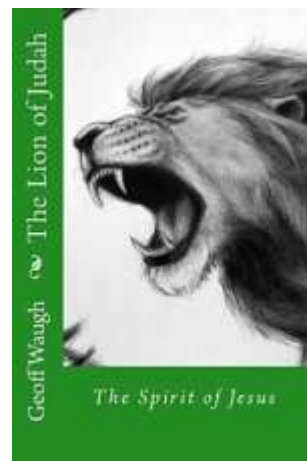
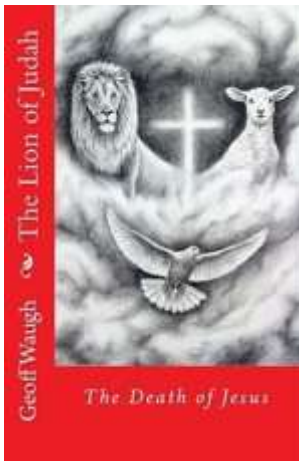
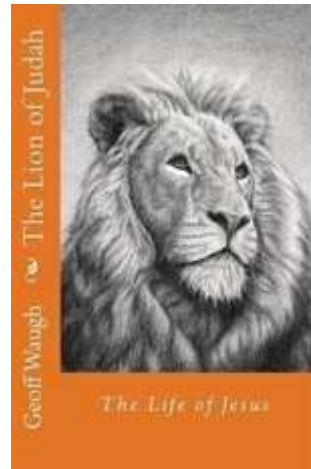
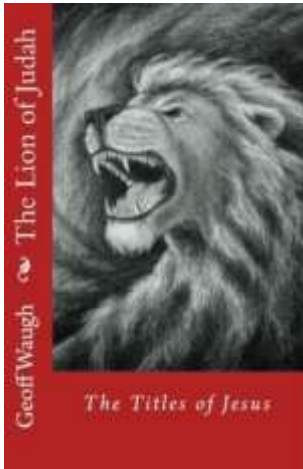
7. The Last Battle

Further up and further in

Conclusion

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The Titles of Jesus

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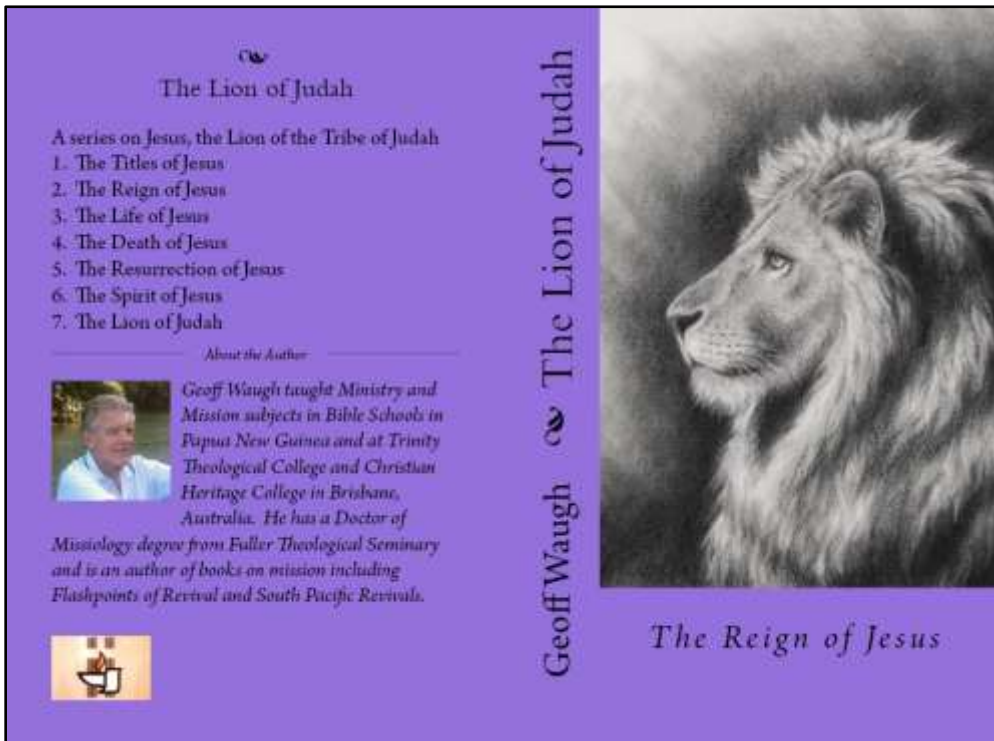
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