



# The First 40 Days

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**Seek God and Restore Everything**

A 40-Day Journey with Glenn Beck

STUDIES 21-25

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# TWENTY-ONE

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## JESUS AT THE FOUNDATION

As you learned on Day 19, the disciples believed that Jesus was the fulfillment of the covenant made with David.

When your days are over and you go to be with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. I will never take my love away from him, as I took it away from your predecessor. I will set him over my house and my kingdom forever; his throne will be established forever.

**1 CHRONICLES 17:11-14**

Today begins our study of the covenant prophesied in the book of Jeremiah.

“Here, the days are coming,” says The Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah...”

**JEREMIAH 31:31**

Jesus is the mediator of this covenant.

For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.

**HEBREWS 9:15**

By His blood it was ratified.

In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.”

**LUKE 22:20**

But before we dive too deeply into the covenant He mediated, we must begin with Jesus himself.

Jesus likely first appeared on earth between 6 and 4 B.C. His life, death, and resurrection are chronicled in the Biblical books we call “the gospels.” But the book of Revelation teaches that Jesus was crucified before the foundation of the earth.

Everyone living on earth will worship it except those whose names are written in the Book of Life belonging to the Lamb slaughtered before the world was founded.

**REVELATION 13:8**

The Lamb was slaughtered before the world was founded. Woah. Let that sink in.

That is the best translation from the Greek, yet some translations of the Bible have moved the prepositional phrase, “before the world was founded,” so that the verse reads:

*All who live on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written since the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slaughtered.*

That makes more chronological “sense,” but it might not be right.

Maybe Jesus was crucified both at the foundation of the world and on earth as recorded in the gospels. What if both are true?

Physical shadows of heavenly truths appear throughout the Bible. The tabernacle is described as a copy and shadow of the heavenly original.

But what they are serving is only a copy and shadow of the heavenly original; for when Moses was about to erect the Tent, God warned him, “See to it that you make everything according to the pattern you were shown on the mountain.”

**HEBREWS 8:5**

Perhaps Jesus’ earthly crucifixion was a copy of the heavenly original.

Think of it: if Jesus was sacrificed at the foundation of the world, that means that there is no “Before Christ, After Christ.” Jesus has always been.

This lines up with the origin story that John wrote about Jesus.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...

**JOHN 1:1**

...And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**JOHN 1:14**

Jesus was the living embodiment of the Word of God—a word that was there “in the beginning” before the foundation of the world.

 **John 1:1-17**

John wrote that in the beginning was the “Word.” Genesis says that in the beginning God said, “Let there be light.”

“Word” and “light” are interconnected in the Bible.

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

**PSALM 119:105**

The word of God illuminates our path. It shows us where to go. Jesus was the incarnation of that illumination. He was the “word” that was a “light” to our path. He still is.

His life inaugurated the process of relocating the word of God from tablets of stone (as we saw with Moses on Mt. Sinai) to our heart. That is the promise of the covenant which he ratified with His blood.

▶ **TOMORROW:** THE NEW COVENANT

## Discuss With A Friend.

**Hint: When approaching the Bible, it's better to wrestle with a complex thought than to demand a definitive answer. The Bible doesn't always offer specific answers to every question, but in-depth study over extended periods of time will illuminate the patterns of the Bible and the character of God. Both will help you tackle seemingly complicated questions.**

Was the New covenant ratified at the foundation of the world, at Jesus's earthly crucifixion, at both times, or at a different time?

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# TWENTY-TWO

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## NEW COVENANT

Long before the earthly arrival of Jesus, what we call the “New Covenant” was prophecied by the Hebrew prophet, Jeremiah.

 **Jeremiah 31:31-37 (30-36, in some translations)**

As it said in Jeremiah, the new covenant was established with the “house of Israel and house of Judah.” Throughout the prophecy, God repeatedly emphasized His commitment to His people.

“If the heavens above can be measured  
And the foundations of the earth searched out below,  
Then I will also reject all the descendants of Israel  
For everything that they have done,” declares the Lord.

**JEREMIAH 31:37**



Even in this scientific era, the heavens have not been fully measured. “Dark matter,” which is science for “we don’t really know what this is,” outweighs visible matter six to one. That means that most of what we “know” about space—the heavens—we actually don’t know. It’s safe to say God has not rejected Israel.

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In fact, he’s done the opposite of rejecting His people. He has embraced them by giving them a new covenant.

But “new” isn’t really the right word.

The Hebrew word translated in Jeremiah as “new” is “chadash” which is connected to the idea of the renewing of the moon. A new moon is not really “new;” it just appears anew.

The “new covenant” is better understood as the “renewed covenant,” or better yet, the “renewing covenant,” because the renewal process is ongoing.

In Jeremiah 31 it says that no one will need to teach anyone else to know God because everyone already will. Look around you. Has that prophecy been fulfilled? No. Rather, it’s fulfilling before our eyes.

In our time, the instructions of God are undergoing a change of venue. They are moving from stone tablets to our hearts. The new/renewed/renewing covenant is a continuation of the ongoing story of God and his people. That story is still playing out today, and you can be part of it. Remember, regardless of heritage, we may all graft into “the olive tree of Israel” (See Day 6). Praise God! The covenant ratified by the blood of Jesus is available to us all.

► **TOMORROW:** THE GOOD NEWS

## **In The Word.**

In Jeremiah 31:32, God describes Himself as a “husband” to Israel.

Marriage, as defined in the Bible, is an eternal covenant. It is the joining of previously two separate people into “one.”

For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

**GENESIS 2:24**

In what ways is God like a husband to Israel throughout the Bible?

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Is He still a husband to Israel today?

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# TWENTY-THREE

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## GOOD NEWS

What is the “Good News?”

Maybe you’re thinking the Good News is the resurrection of Jesus or the forgiveness of our sins. That is undoubtedly good news, but when Jesus talked about Good News, he was talking about the Kingdom of God.

Now after John was taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

**MARK 1:14**

This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

**MATTHEW 24:14**

Now when day came, Jesus left and went to a secluded place; and the crowds were searching for Him, and they came to Him and tried to keep Him from leaving them. But He said to them, “I must also preach the kingdom of God to the other cities, because I was sent for this purpose.”

**LUKE 4:42-43**

Jesus taught that the Kingdom of God should be our foremost pursuit.

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

**MATTHEW 6:33**

“Seeking the Kingdom of God” is not a race to the afterlife—the kingdom of God is sought and built on earth.

 **Matthew 6:7-13**

Jesus taught us to pray for God’s Kingdom on “Earth as it is in Heaven.” That’s not a description of a heavenly city that will one day be dropped from the sky. God willing, the earthly Kingdom of God is built—brick by brick—by us.

The “Kingdom of God” and its synonym “The Kingdom of Heaven” were common rabbinic ideas in the time of Jesus. When the Pharisees approached Jesus, they didn’t ask him, “What is this Kingdom of God you’re talking about?” Instead, they asked, “When will the Kingdom come?”

Now He was questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, and He answered them and said, “The kingdom of God is not coming with signs that can be observed;” nor will they say, “Look, here it is!” or, “There it is!” For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst.

#### **LUKE 17:20-21**

As Jesus taught, the Kingdom of Heaven is not about the afterlife but about life now!

The Kingdom of Heaven was in their midst. But not everyone recognized it. We run the risk of making that same mistake today.

To live in a Kingdom requires total submission to the king and all his decrees. The Kingdom of God is no different. If we are members of the “renewing covenant” (See Day 22), then we are citizens of the Kingdom of God—a Kingdom on Earth “as it is in heaven.”

God’s commands—his Kingly decrees—are laid out on an earthly backdrop. They are commands about our spouses, our children, and our neighbors; about animals, agriculture, and our earthly possessions. We don’t know if there are houses, wives and neighbors in heaven, but on earth we are commanded not to covet our neighbors house or wife (Exodus 20:17).

The commands of God may come from heaven, but they operate here on earth.

You don't have to wait to die to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. If you submit yourself to the King, you can start living in His Kingdom now.

▶ **TOMORROW:** PREPARE THE WAY

## In The Word.

Read the passages below and answer the questions.

 **Matthew 5:17-20, John 3:1-16, Luke 10:8-12, Matthew 7:21-27**

Who is called “great” in the Kingdom of Heaven?

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Jesus said in order to enter the Kingdom of Heaven you must be

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What do you think that means?

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Why do you think Jesus told his disciples to tell the sick, “The Kingdom of Heaven is near you?”

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Will everyone who calls “Lord! Lord!” enter into the Kingdom of Heaven? If not, who will?

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# TWENTY-FOUR

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## PREPARE THE WAY

### Matthew 1:18-25

“And you shall name him Jesus for he will save his people from their sins,” is a beautiful sentence in English. But in Hebrew, the language of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, it becomes breathtaking.

The name Jesus in most of our Bibles is a translation of the Hebrew name, “Yeshua,” from the Hebrew word “salvation.” It was a word Joseph knew well and had read and heard in the scriptures.

The Lord is my strength and song and to me has become my salvation (Yeshua).

### **EXODUS 15:2-3**

When the angel came to Joseph, he said, “And you shall name him salvation, for he will save his people from their sins.”

As is the case with many Hebrew names in the Bible, embedded into the name of “Yeshua” is His purpose. His name foreshadowed his life, and when people called on Him, they were calling for salvation.

To prepare the way for Jesus, his relative, John The Baptist, proclaimed what became the central message of Jesus’s ministry: “Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near!” (See Day 23).

### **Matthew 3**

At the time of John’s immersion, Jesus was preparing for his first public appearances. But it isn’t Jesus’s preparation that John concerned himself with; it was the people’s. The people were required to “prepare the way for the Lord; to make straight paths for Him.”

First they confessed their sins (See Day 10 for the biblical definition of sin). Then they were immersed in water. We often call that practice “baptism” from the Greek word “baptize,” but water immersion was, and still is, a common Jewish ritual.

Full body immersion into a Mikveh, as it is called in Hebrew, is still practiced today in the Jewish faith for cleansing from uncleanness, preparing for important events, and conversion to Judaism.

It is now, and was in the time of Jesus, a ritual that inaugurates renewal and rebirth. Like a baby coming out of the womb—a place filled with water—those being immersed emerge out of the water with new life. The whole body goes under the water to represent complete commitment to the renewal. No part of the immersed person can be held back from the transformation process.

John was skeptical of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to him to be immersed.

He asked for “fruit” to prove their faith. Neither proper heritage nor proper ideology was enough. He challenged them to prove that they were God’s people through their behavior. Right living—“good fruit”—was intrinsically tied to immersion. It was a way to prepare for God’s Kingdom.

John said that baptism was “for repentance.”

As for me, I baptize you in water for repentance.

**MATTHEW 3:11**

Repentance is paramount when preparing for the Kingdom of God (See Day 14 for more on the Hebrew concept of “repentance”).

From that time Jesus began to preach and say, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

**MATTHEW 4:17**

John said that Jesus was coming with a “winnowing fork” to separate the wheat and the chaff.

 **Matthew 13:24-30**

In mercy and love, God warned us about this separation in advance so we could decide which side we want to be on. God gives us time to “Prepare the Way.” But there is no preparation without repentance.

▶ **TOMORROW: Devil At Your Door**

## **Point, Counterpoint.**

**Make your case using the Bible. Then, also using the Bible, make the opposite case.**

Did Jesus come to separate us or bring us together?

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# TWENTY-FIVE

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## PREPARE THE WAY

By the second generation of humankind, murder made its first appearance.

 **Genesis 4:1-16**

If you are doing what is good, shouldn't you hold your head high? And if you don't do what is good, sin is crouching at the door—it wants you, but you can rule over it.

**GENESIS: 4:7**

Sin is a lifelong bounty hunter seeking your life. The moment you forget that fact is the moment sin overtakes you.

Does that mean we spend our days fixated on sin?

The opposite: we must spend our days fixated on obedience.

The second law of thermodynamics is that all things tend towards maximum disorder.

We don't have to work to make our homes messy. The mess always comes. The same is true in our lives. The mess always comes. We need to focus on keeping everything "clean." That's where we exert our energy.

God told Cain he could master the sin crouching at his door.

But how?

Jesus's life shows us the answer.

### **Matthew 4:1-11**

When satan—the embodiment of sin—approached Jesus, he first offered Jesus food.

Food is a fleshly desire. Fasting from food, as Jesus was, puts our flesh and our spirit in a tug-of-war. If you have ever fasted, then you know the strength of your own fleshly desires can feel overpowering.

For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

### **GALATIANS 5:17**



There are many fleshly desires: food, sex, even success. These are not evil desires, but because of their power, they have to be properly regulated.

God gives us food, but if the flesh overpowers the spirit, we become gluttonous. God created sex, but without the temperance of the spirit, sex can quickly become sexual immorality.

God is asking us to strike the balance.

After 40 days without food, Jesus was hungry. He was experiencing fleshly desires. He was vulnerable, just like us, to temptation. But, unlike Cain, He mastered it.

He turned to the devil and quoted Deuteronomy 8:3. Using the scriptures as a weapon, He met temptation with truth.

But the adversary was crafty. He also knew the scriptures and recited the Psalms to Jesus in an attempt to convince Him to literally jump off a cliff.

But Jesus not only knew verses, He also knew what they meant. He knew the character of God.

In his final attempt, satan “offered” all the kingdoms in the world. Jesus turned him down flat, and finally satan left in defeat.

After all this, the angels came to take care of Jesus. Until that point, he had to do it on His own. But then, after He overcame His flesh with His spirit, heavenly help came.

Every tactic Jesus took to overcome temptation is available to us.

To master the sin crouching at our door, we need to know the scriptures. Not only that, we need to know them in their proper context. We need to know them so deeply that the patterns in the Bible reveal God's character to us; that way when we are approached with sin loosely wrapped in Bible verses, we can see through the facade.

In this life, the battle between flesh and spirit rages on. This is by design. Don't succumb to the illusion that fleshly desires can be eliminated. Do not think that sin has left your door. Rather, feed the spirit with knowledge of God. Rage against evil inclinations. Sin may be crouching at the door, but you don't have to let it in the house.

## Speak It Out.

**Step 1: Read the following passage out loud.**

 **Ephesians 6:10-18**

**Step 2: Memorize at least one verse of this passage.**

**Step 3: Speak what you've memorized out loud. If you can, speak it to a friend or family member.**