**Genesis Chapters 1 through 3 (New International Version, ©2010)**

**Notes**:

**Genesis 1**

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

3 And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

6 And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.” 7 So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. 8 God called the vault “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

9 And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. 10 God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good.   
    11 Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. 12 The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. 13 And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

14 And God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, 15 and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so. 16 God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. 17 God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, 18 to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19 And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

20 And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.” 21 So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 22 God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.” 23 And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

24 And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. 25 God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.   
    26 Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals,[[a](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%201%20-%203&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26a)] and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

27 So God created mankind in his own image,   
   in the image of God he created them;   
   male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”   
    29 Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. 30 And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.   
    31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

**Genesis 2**

1 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

2 By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. 3 Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

**Adam and Eve**

4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

5 Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth[[b](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%201%20-%203&version=NIV#fen-NIV-36b)] and no plant had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, 6 but streams[[c](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%201%20-%203&version=NIV#fen-NIV-37c)] came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground. 7 Then the LORD God formed a man[[d](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%201%20-%203&version=NIV#fen-NIV-38d)] from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

8 Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. 9 The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

10 A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters. 11 The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. 12 (The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin[[e](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%201%20-%203&version=NIV#fen-NIV-43e)] and onyx are also there.) 13 The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush.[[f](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%201%20-%203&version=NIV#fen-NIV-44f)] 14 The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Ashur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

18 The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

19 Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

   But for Adam[[g](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%201%20-%203&version=NIV#fen-NIV-51g)] no suitable helper was found. 21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs[[h](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%201%20-%203&version=NIV#fen-NIV-52h)] and then closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib[[i](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%201%20-%203&version=NIV#fen-NIV-53i)] he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

23 The man said,

   “This is now bone of my bones   
   and flesh of my flesh;   
she shall be called ‘woman,’   
   for she was taken out of man.”

24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

25 Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

**Genesis 3**

**The Fall**

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

2 The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

4 “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. 5 “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

10 He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

11 And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

12 The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

13 Then the LORD God said to the woman,

“What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

14 So the LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,

“Cursed are you above all livestock   
   and all wild animals!   
You will crawl on your belly   
   and you will eat dust   
   all the days of your life.   
15 And I will put enmity   
   between you and the woman,   
   and between your offspring[[j](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%201%20-%203&version=NIV#fen-NIV-71j)] and hers;   
he will crush[[k](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%201%20-%203&version=NIV#fen-NIV-71k)] your head,   
   and you will strike his heel.”

16 To the woman he said,

“I will make your pains in childbearing very severe;   
   with painful labor you will give birth to children.   
Your desire will be for your husband,   
   and he will rule over you.”

17 To Adam he said,

“Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’

“Cursed is the ground because of you;   
   through painful toil you will eat food from it   
   all the days of your life.   
18 It will produce thorns and thistles for you,   
   and you will eat the plants of the field.   
19 By the sweat of your brow   
   you will eat your food   
until you return to the ground,   
   since from it you were taken;   
for dust you are   
   and to dust you will return.”

20 Adam[[l](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%201%20-%203&version=NIV#fen-NIV-76l)] named his wife Eve,[[m](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%201%20-%203&version=NIV#fen-NIV-76m)] because she would become the mother of all the living.

21 The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. 22 And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” 23 So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. 24 After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side[[n](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%201%20-%203&version=NIV#fen-NIV-80n)] of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

**Footnotes:**

1. [Genesis 1:26](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%201%20-%203&version=NIV#en-NIV-26) Probable reading of the original Hebrew text (see Syriac); Masoretic Text *the earth*
2. [Genesis 2:5](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%201%20-%203&version=NIV#en-NIV-36) Or *land*; also in verse 6
3. [Genesis 2:6](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%201%20-%203&version=NIV#en-NIV-37) Or *mist*
4. [Genesis 2:7](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%201%20-%203&version=NIV#en-NIV-38) The Hebrew for *man (adam)* sounds like and may be related to the Hebrew for *ground (adamah)*; it is also the name *Adam* (see verse 20).
5. [Genesis 2:12](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%201%20-%203&version=NIV#en-NIV-43) Or *good;* *pearls*
6. [Genesis 2:13](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%201%20-%203&version=NIV#en-NIV-44) Possibly southeast Mesopotamia
7. [Genesis 2:20](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%201%20-%203&version=NIV#en-NIV-51) Or *the man*
8. [Genesis 2:21](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%201%20-%203&version=NIV#en-NIV-52) Or *took part of the man’s side*
9. [Genesis 2:22](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%201%20-%203&version=NIV#en-NIV-53) Or *part*
10. [Genesis 3:15](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%201%20-%203&version=NIV#en-NIV-71) Or *seed*
11. [Genesis 3:15](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%201%20-%203&version=NIV#en-NIV-71) Or *strike*
12. [Genesis 3:20](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%201%20-%203&version=NIV#en-NIV-76) Or *The man*
13. [Genesis 3:20](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%201%20-%203&version=NIV#en-NIV-76) *Eve* probably means *living.*
14. [Genesis 3:24](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%201%20-%203&version=NIV#en-NIV-80) Or *placed in front*

**Questions from the Reading**

1. Describe the Biblical concept of the creation of the Earth.
2. What is the significance of God creating man in His own image, and/or giving man dominion over the Earth?
3. Some people suggest that there are two (2) stories of the creation of man contained in these chapters of Genesis. Do you agree with this idea? Why or why not?
4. Compare the “Second Creation of Man” with the “First Creation of Man” stories. What are the social and political implications for women in the different methods and order of creation?
5. Who was responsible for the fall of Adam and Eve? What are the implications for future relations between man and woman?
6. What Jewish hope and Christian truth is presented by this first story of the Bible?

### Exodus 3:1-22; Exodus 19-20

**Exodus Chapters 3, 19, and 20 (New International Version, ©2010)**

**Notes**:

**Exodus 3**

**Moses and the Burning Bush**

1 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. 3 So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”

4 When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!”

   And Moses said, “Here I am.”

5 “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” 6 Then he said, “I am the God of your father,[[a](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus%203:1-22;%20Exodus%2019%20-%2020&version=NIV#fen-NIV-1586a)] the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

7 The LORD said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. 8 So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. 9 And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. 10 So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

11 But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

12 And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you[[b](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus%203:1-22;%20Exodus%2019%20-%2020&version=NIV#fen-NIV-1592b)] will worship God on this mountain.”

13 Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”

14 God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.[[c](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus%203:1-22;%20Exodus%2019%20-%2020&version=NIV#fen-NIV-1594c)] This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

15 God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD,[[d](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus%203:1-22;%20Exodus%2019%20-%2020&version=NIV#fen-NIV-1595d)] the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’

   “This is my name forever,   
   the name you shall call me   
   from generation to generation.

16 “Go, assemble the elders of Israel and say to them, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—appeared to me and said: I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt. 17 And I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites—a land flowing with milk and honey.’

18 “The elders of Israel will listen to you. Then you and the elders are to go to the king of Egypt and say to him, ‘The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. Let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God.’ 19 But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him. 20 So I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go.

21 “And I will make the Egyptians favorably disposed toward this people, so that when you leave you will not go empty-handed. 22 Every woman is to ask her neighbor and any woman living in her house for articles of silver and gold and for clothing, which you will put on your sons and daughters. And so you will plunder the Egyptians.”

**Footnotes:**

1. [Exodus 3:6](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus%203:1-22;%20Exodus%2019%20-%2020&version=NIV#en-NIV-1586) Masoretic Text; Samaritan Pentateuch (see Acts 7:32) *fathers*
2. [Exodus 3:12](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus%203:1-22;%20Exodus%2019%20-%2020&version=NIV#en-NIV-1592) The Hebrew is plural.
3. [Exodus 3:14](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus%203:1-22;%20Exodus%2019%20-%2020&version=NIV#en-NIV-1594) Or *I WILL BE WHAT I WILL BE*
4. [Exodus 3:15](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus%203:1-22;%20Exodus%2019%20-%2020&version=NIV#en-NIV-1595) The Hebrew for *LORD* sounds like and may be related to the Hebrew for *I AM* in verse 14.

**Exodus 19**

**At Mount Sinai**

1 On the first day of the third month after the Israelites left Egypt—on that very day—they came to the Desert of Sinai. 2 After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain.

3 Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: 4 ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, 6 you[[a](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus%203:1-22;%20Exodus%2019%20-%2020&version=NIV#fen-NIV-2033a)] will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”

7 So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the LORD had commanded him to speak. 8 The people all responded together, “We will do everything the LORD has said.” So Moses brought their answer back to the LORD.

9 The LORD said to Moses, “I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, so that the people will hear me speaking with you and will always put their trust in you.” Then Moses told the LORD what the people had said.

10 And the LORD said to Moses, “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Have them wash their clothes 11 and be ready by the third day, because on that day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. 12 Put limits for the people around the mountain and tell them, ‘Be careful that you do not approach the mountain or touch the foot of it. Whoever touches the mountain is to be put to death. 13 They are to be stoned or shot with arrows; not a hand is to be laid on them. No person or animal shall be permitted to live.’ Only when the ram’s horn sounds a long blast may they approach the mountain.”

14 After Moses had gone down the mountain to the people, he consecrated them, and they washed their clothes. 15 Then he said to the people, “Prepare yourselves for the third day. Abstain from sexual relations.”

16 On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled. 17 Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. 18 Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the LORD descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, and the whole mountain[[b](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus%203:1-22;%20Exodus%2019%20-%2020&version=NIV#fen-NIV-2045b)] trembled violently. 19 As the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him.[[c](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus%203:1-22;%20Exodus%2019%20-%2020&version=NIV#fen-NIV-2046c)]

20 The LORD descended to the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain. So Moses went up 21 and the LORD said to him, “Go down and warn the people so they do not force their way through to see the LORD and many of them perish. 22 Even the priests, who approach the LORD, must consecrate themselves, or the LORD will break out against them.”

23 Moses said to the LORD, “The people cannot come up Mount Sinai, because you yourself warned us, ‘Put limits around the mountain and set it apart as holy.’”

24 The LORD replied, “Go down and bring Aaron up with you. But the priests and the people must not force their way through to come up to the LORD, or he will break out against them.”

25 So Moses went down to the people and told them.

**Exodus 20**

**The Ten Commandments**

1 And God spoke all these words:

2 “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

3 “You shall have no other gods before[[d](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus%203:1-22;%20Exodus%2019%20-%2020&version=NIV#fen-NIV-2055d)] me.

4 “You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. 5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

7 “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

8 “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. 11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

12 “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

13 “You shall not murder.

14 “You shall not commit adultery.

15 “You shall not steal.

16 “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

17 “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

18 When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance 19 and said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die.”

20 Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.”

21 The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was.

**Idols and Altars**

22 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Tell the Israelites this: ‘You have seen for yourselves that I have spoken to you from heaven: 23 Do not make any gods to be alongside me; do not make for yourselves gods of silver or gods of gold.

24 “‘Make an altar of earth for me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, your sheep and goats and your cattle. Wherever I cause my name to be honored, I will come to you and bless you. 25 If you make an altar of stones for me, do not build it with dressed stones, for you will defile it if you use a tool on it. 26 And do not go up to my altar on steps, or your private parts may be exposed.’

**Footnotes:**

1. [Exodus 19:6](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus%203:1-22;%20Exodus%2019%20-%2020&version=NIV#en-NIV-2033) Or *possession, for the whole earth is mine. You*
2. [Exodus 19:18](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus%203:1-22;%20Exodus%2019%20-%2020&version=NIV#en-NIV-2045) Most Hebrew manuscripts; a few Hebrew manuscripts and Septuagint *and all the people*
3. [Exodus 19:19](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus%203:1-22;%20Exodus%2019%20-%2020&version=NIV#en-NIV-2046) Or *and God answered him with thunder*
4. [Exodus 20:3](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus%203:1-22;%20Exodus%2019%20-%2020&version=NIV#en-NIV-2055) Or *besides*

#### Questions from the Readings:

#### What role did Moses play in the Exodus? Why was he so reluctant to lead the Hebrews?

#### Why does I AM (YHWH) decide to help the Hebrews?

#### What is the nature of the Covenant with Moses? Was there a Covenant with Adam? Was there another Covenant between Adam and Moses?

#### Explain the significance of the Ten Commandments. Compare the moral code of the Ten Commandments with the moral code established in Genesis. How do the Ten Commandments give greater meaning to the moral code in Genesis?

#### Deuteronomy Chapters 4 and 5 (New International Version, © 2010)

#### Deuteronomy 4

**Obedience Commanded**

1 Now, Israel, hear the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. 2 Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.

3 You saw with your own eyes what the LORD did at Baal Peor. The LORD your God destroyed from among you everyone who followed the Baal of Peor, 4 but all of you who held fast to the LORD your God are still alive today.

5 See, I have taught you decrees and laws as the LORD my God commanded me, so that you may follow them in the land you are entering to take possession of it. 6 Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.” 7 What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? 8 And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?

9 Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them. 10 Remember the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, when he said to me, “Assemble the people before me to hear my words so that they may learn to revere me as long as they live in the land and may teach them to their children.” 11 You came near and stood at the foot of the mountain while it blazed with fire to the very heavens, with black clouds and deep darkness. 12 Then the LORD spoke to you out of the fire. You heard the sound of words but saw no form; there was only a voice. 13 He declared to you his covenant, the Ten Commandments, which he commanded you to follow and then wrote them on two stone tablets. 14 And the LORD directed me at that time to teach you the decrees and laws you are to follow in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess.

**Idolatry Forbidden**

15 You saw no form of any kind the day the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the fire. Therefore watch yourselves very carefully, 16 so that you do not become corrupt and make for yourselves an idol, an image of any shape, whether formed like a man or a woman, 17 or like any animal on earth or any bird that flies in the air, 18 or like any creature that moves along the ground or any fish in the waters below. 19 And when you look up to the sky and see the sun, the moon and the stars—all the heavenly array—do not be enticed into bowing down to them and worshiping things the LORD your God has apportioned to all the nations under heaven. 20 But as for you, the LORD took you and brought you out of the iron-smelting furnace, out of Egypt, to be the people of his inheritance, as you now are.

21 The LORD was angry with me because of you, and he solemnly swore that I would not cross the Jordan and enter the good land the LORD your God is giving you as your inheritance. 22 I will die in this land; I will not cross the Jordan; but you are about to cross over and take possession of that good land. 23 Be careful not to forget the covenant of the LORD your God that he made with you; do not make for yourselves an idol in the form of anything the LORD your God has forbidden. 24 For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

25 After you have had children and grandchildren and have lived in the land a long time—if you then become corrupt and make any kind of idol, doing evil in the eyes of the LORD your God and arousing his anger, 26 I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you this day that you will quickly perish from the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess. You will not live there long but will certainly be destroyed. 27 The LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and only a few of you will survive among the nations to which the LORD will drive you. 28 There you will worship man-made gods of wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or eat or smell. 29 But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul. 30 When you are in distress and all these things have happened to you, then in later days you will return to the LORD your God and obey him. 31 For the LORD your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon or destroy you or forget the covenant with your ancestors, which he confirmed to them by oath.

**The LORD Is God**

32 Ask now about the former days, long before your time, from the day God created human beings on the earth; ask from one end of the heavens to the other. Has anything so great as this ever happened, or has anything like it ever been heard of? 33 Has any other people heard the voice of God[[a](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deut%204%20-%205&version=NIV#fen-NIV-5038a)] speaking out of fire, as you have, and lived? 34 Has any god ever tried to take for himself one nation out of another nation, by testings, by signs and wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, or by great and awesome deeds, like all the things the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your very eyes?

35 You were shown these things so that you might know that the LORD is God; besides him there is no other. 36 From heaven he made you hear his voice to discipline you. On earth he showed you his great fire, and you heard his words from out of the fire. 37 Because he loved your ancestors and chose their descendants after them, he brought you out of Egypt by his Presence and his great strength, 38 to drive out before you nations greater and stronger than you and to bring you into their land to give it to you for your inheritance, as it is today.

39 Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other. 40 Keep his decrees and commands, which I am giving you today, so that it may go well with you and your children after you and that you may live long in the land the LORD your God gives you for all time.

**Cities of Refuge**

41 Then Moses set aside three cities east of the Jordan, 42 to which anyone who had killed a person could flee if they had unintentionally killed a neighbor without malice aforethought. They could flee into one of these cities and save their life. 43 The cities were these: Bezer in the wilderness plateau, for the Reubenites; Ramoth in Gilead, for the Gadites; and Golan in Bashan, for the Manassites.

**Introduction to the Law**

44 This is the law Moses set before the Israelites. 45 These are the stipulations, decrees and laws Moses gave them when they came out of Egypt 46 and were in the valley near Beth Peor east of the Jordan, in the land of Sihon king of the Amorites, who reigned in Heshbon and was defeated by Moses and the Israelites as they came out of Egypt. 47 They took possession of his land and the land of Og king of Bashan, the two Amorite kings east of the Jordan. 48 This land extended from Aroer on the rim of the Arnon Gorge to Mount Sirion[[b](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deut%204%20-%205&version=NIV#fen-NIV-5053b)] (that is, Hermon), 49 and included all the Arabah east of the Jordan, as far as the Dead Sea,[[c](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deut%204%20-%205&version=NIV#fen-NIV-5054c)] below the slopes of Pisgah.

**Deuteronomy 5**

**The Ten Commandments**

1 Moses summoned all Israel and said:

   Hear, Israel, the decrees and laws I declare in your hearing today. Learn them and be sure to follow them. 2 The LORD our God made a covenant with us at Horeb. 3 It was not with our ancestors[[d](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deut%204%20-%205&version=NIV#fen-NIV-5057d)] that the LORD made this covenant, but with us, with all of us who are alive here today. 4 The LORD spoke to you face to face out of the fire on the mountain. 5 (At that time I stood between the LORD and you to declare to you the word of the LORD, because you were afraid of the fire and did not go up the mountain.) And he said:

6 “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

7 “You shall have no other gods before[[e](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deut%204%20-%205&version=NIV#fen-NIV-5061e)] me.

8 “You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. 9 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, 10 but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

11 “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

12 “Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the LORD your God has commanded you. 13 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 14 but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your ox, your donkey or any of your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns, so that your male and female servants may rest, as you do. 15 Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the LORD your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day.

16 “Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

17 “You shall not murder.

18 “You shall not commit adultery.

19 “You shall not steal.

20 “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

21 “You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife. You shall not set your desire on your neighbor’s house or land, his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

22 These are the commandments the LORD proclaimed in a loud voice to your whole assembly there on the mountain from out of the fire, the cloud and the deep darkness; and he added nothing more. Then he wrote them on two stone tablets and gave them to me.

23 When you heard the voice out of the darkness, while the mountain was ablaze with fire, all the leaders of your tribes and your elders came to me. 24 And you said, “The LORD our God has shown us his glory and his majesty, and we have heard his voice from the fire. Today we have seen that a person can live even if God speaks with them. 25 But now, why should we die? This great fire will consume us, and we will die if we hear the voice of the LORD our God any longer. 26 For what mortal has ever heard the voice of the living God speaking out of fire, as we have, and survived? 27 Go near and listen to all that the LORD our God says. Then tell us whatever the LORD our God tells you. We will listen and obey.”

28 The LORD heard you when you spoke to me, and the LORD said to me, “I have heard what this people said to you. Everything they said was good. 29 Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!

30 “Go, tell them to return to their tents. 31 But you stay here with me so that I may give you all the commands, decrees and laws you are to teach them to follow in the land I am giving them to possess.”

32 So be careful to do what the LORD your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. 33 Walk in obedience to all that the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess.

**Footnotes:**

1. [Deuteronomy 4:33](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deut%204%20-%205&version=NIV#en-NIV-5038) Or *of a god*
2. [Deuteronomy 4:48](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deut%204%20-%205&version=NIV#en-NIV-5053) Syriac (see also 3:9); Hebrew *Siyon*
3. [Deuteronomy 4:49](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deut%204%20-%205&version=NIV#en-NIV-5054) Hebrew *the Sea of the Arabah*
4. [Deuteronomy 5:3](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deut%204%20-%205&version=NIV#en-NIV-5057) Or *not only with our parents*
5. [Deuteronomy 5:7](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deut%204%20-%205&version=NIV#en-NIV-5061) Or *besides*

**Questions from the Reading:**

#### Why is the Law so important to the Hebrews? (Why do they repeat it?)

#### How are the Hebrews (Jews) supposed to treat the people they conquer?

#### What can a Hebrew (Jew) expect if they abide by the commandments, honor the Covenant, and love God? What can they expect if they fail to do these things?

## Matthew, Chapters 1 through 7 (New International Version, ©2010)

**Matthew 1**

**The Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah**

1 This is the genealogy[[a](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23146a)] of Jesus the Messiah[[b](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23146b)] the son of David, the son of Abraham:

2 Abraham was the father of Isaac,   
   Isaac the father of Jacob,   
   Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,   
 3 Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar,   
   Perez the father of Hezron,   
   Hezron the father of Ram,   
 4 Ram the father of Amminadab,   
   Amminadab the father of Nahshon,   
   Nahshon the father of Salmon,   
 5 Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab,   
   Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth,   
   Obed the father of Jesse,   
 6 and Jesse the father of King David.

   David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah’s wife,   
 7 Solomon the father of Rehoboam,   
   Rehoboam the father of Abijah,   
   Abijah the father of Asa,   
 8 Asa the father of Jehoshaphat,   
   Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram,   
   Jehoram the father of Uzziah,   
 9 Uzziah the father of Jotham,   
   Jotham the father of Ahaz,   
   Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,   
 10 Hezekiah the father of Manasseh,   
   Manasseh the father of Amon,   
   Amon the father of Josiah,   
 11 and Josiah the father of Jeconiah[[c](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23156c)] and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.

12 After the exile to Babylon:   
   Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel,   
   Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,   
 13 Zerubbabel the father of Abihud,   
   Abihud the father of Eliakim,   
   Eliakim the father of Azor,   
 14 Azor the father of Zadok,   
   Zadok the father of Akim,   
   Akim the father of Elihud,   
 15 Elihud the father of Eleazar,   
   Eleazar the father of Matthan,   
   Matthan the father of Jacob,   
 16 and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.

17 Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

**Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son**

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about[[d](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23163d)]: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet[[e](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23164e)] did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,[[f](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23166f)] because he will save his people from their sins.”

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”[[g](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23168g)] (which means “God with us”).

24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

**Matthew 2**

**The Magi Visit the Messiah**

1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi[[h](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23171h)] from the east came to Jerusalem 2 and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

6 “‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,   
   are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;   
for out of you will come a ruler   
   who will shepherd my people Israel.’[[i](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23176i)]”

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

**The Escape to Egypt**

13 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

14 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, 15 where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”[[j](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23185j)]

16 When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. 17 Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

18 “A voice is heard in Ramah,   
   weeping and great mourning,   
Rachel weeping for her children   
   and refusing to be comforted,   
   because they are no more.”[[k](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23188k)]

**The Return to Nazareth**

19 After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt 20 and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.”

21 So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, 23 and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

**Matthew 3**

**John the Baptist Prepares the Way**

1 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea 2 and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” 3 This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

   “A voice of one calling in the wilderness,   
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,   
   make straight paths for him.’”[[l](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23196l)]

4 John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. 5 People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. 6 Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. 9 And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. 10 The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

11 “I baptize you with[[m](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23204m)] water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with[[n](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23204n)] the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

**The Baptism of Jesus**

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

15 Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

**Matthew 4**

**Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness**

1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted[[o](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23211o)] by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

4 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’[[p](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23214p)]”

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written:

   “‘He will command his angels concerning you,   
   and they will lift you up in their hands,   
   so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’[[q](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23216q)]”

7 Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’[[r](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23217r)]”

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

10 Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’[[s](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23220s)]”

11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

**Jesus Begins to Preach**

12 When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. 13 Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— 14 to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

15 “Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,   
   the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan,   
   Galilee of the Gentiles—   
16 the people living in darkness   
   have seen a great light;   
on those living in the land of the shadow of death   
   a light has dawned.”[[t](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23226t)]

17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

**Jesus Calls His First Disciples**

18 As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 19 “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” 20 At once they left their nets and followed him.

21 Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, 22 and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

**Jesus Heals the Sick**

23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. 24 News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them. 25 Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis,[[u](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23235u)] Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.

**Matthew 5**

**Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount**

1 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach them.

**The Beatitudes**

    He said:

3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit,   
   for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.   
4 Blessed are those who mourn,   
   for they will be comforted.   
5 Blessed are the meek,   
   for they will inherit the earth.   
6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,   
   for they will be filled.   
7 Blessed are the merciful,   
   for they will be shown mercy.   
8 Blessed are the pure in heart,   
   for they will see God.   
9 Blessed are the peacemakers,   
   for they will be called children of God.   
10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,   
   for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Salt and Light**

13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

**The Fulfillment of the Law**

17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. 19 Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

**Murder**

21 “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder,[[v](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23256v)] and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ 22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister[[w](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23257w)][[x](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23257x)] will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’[[y](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23257y)] is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.

23 “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

25 “Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. 26 Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

**Adultery**

27 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’[[z](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23262z)] 28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

**Divorce**

31 “It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’[[aa](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23266aa)] 32 But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

**Oaths**

33 “Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.’ 34 But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; 35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. 36 And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. 37 All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.[[ab](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23272ab)]

**Eye for Eye**

38 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’[[ac](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23273ac)] 39 But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. 40 And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. 41 If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. 42 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

**Love for Enemies**

43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor[[ad](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23278ad)] and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

**Matthew 6**

**Giving to the Needy**

1 “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

2 “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

**Prayer**

5 “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. 7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

9 “This, then, is how you should pray:

   “‘Our Father in heaven,   
hallowed be your name,   
10 your kingdom come,   
your will be done,   
   on earth as it is in heaven.   
11 Give us today our daily bread.   
12 And forgive us our debts,   
   as we also have forgiven our debtors.   
13 And lead us not into temptation,[[ae](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23296ae)]   
   but deliver us from the evil one.[[af](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23296af)]’

14 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

**Fasting**

16 “When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 17 But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 18 so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

**Treasures in Heaven**

19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

22 “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy,[[ag](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23305ag)] your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eyes are unhealthy,[[ah](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23306ah)] your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

24 “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

**Do Not Worry**

25 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life[[ai](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23310ai)]?

28 “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

**Matthew 7**

**Judging Others**

1 “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

3 “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

6 “Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

**Ask, Seek, Knock**

7 “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

9 “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! 12 So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

**The Narrow and Wide Gates**

13 “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

**True and False Prophets**

15 “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. 16 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

**True and False Disciples**

21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ 23 Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

**The Wise and Foolish Builders**

24 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

28 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, 29 because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

**Footnotes:**

1. [Matthew 1:1](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#en-NIV-23146) Or *is an account of the origin*
2. [Matthew 1:1](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#en-NIV-23146) Or *Jesus Christ.* *Messiah* (Hebrew) and *Christ* (Greek) both mean *Anointed One*; also in verse 18.
3. [Matthew 1:11](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#en-NIV-23156) That is, Jehoiachin; also in verse 12
4. [Matthew 1:18](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#en-NIV-23163) Or *The origin of Jesus the Messiah was like this*
5. [Matthew 1:19](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#en-NIV-23164) Or *was a righteous man and*
6. [Matthew 1:21](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#en-NIV-23166) *Jesus* is the Greek form of *Joshua,* which means *the LORD saves.*
7. [Matthew 1:23](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#en-NIV-23168) Isaiah 7:14
8. [Matthew 2:1](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#en-NIV-23171) Traditionally *wise men*
9. [Matthew 2:6](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#en-NIV-23176) Micah 5:2,4
10. [Matthew 2:15](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#en-NIV-23185) Hosea 11:1
11. [Matthew 2:18](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#en-NIV-23188) Jer. 31:15
12. [Matthew 3:3](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#en-NIV-23196) Isaiah 40:3
13. [Matthew 3:11](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#en-NIV-23204) Or *in*
14. [Matthew 3:11](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#en-NIV-23204) Or *in*
15. [Matthew 4:1](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#en-NIV-23211) The Greek for *tempted* can also mean *tested*.
16. [Matthew 4:4](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#en-NIV-23214) Deut. 8:3
17. [Matthew 4:6](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#en-NIV-23216) Psalm 91:11,12
18. [Matthew 4:7](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#en-NIV-23217) Deut. 6:16
19. [Matthew 4:10](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#en-NIV-23220) Deut. 6:13
20. [Matthew 4:16](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#en-NIV-23226) Isaiah 9:1,2
21. [Matthew 4:25](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#en-NIV-23235) That is, the Ten Cities
22. [Matthew 5:21](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#en-NIV-23256) Exodus 20:13
23. [Matthew 5:22](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#en-NIV-23257) The Greek word for *brother or sister* (*adelphos*) refers here to a fellow disciple, whether man or woman; also in verse 23.
24. [Matthew 5:22](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#en-NIV-23257) Some manuscripts *brother or sister without cause*
25. [Matthew 5:22](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#en-NIV-23257) An Aramaic term of contempt
26. [Matthew 5:27](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#en-NIV-23262) Exodus 20:14
27. [Matthew 5:31](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#en-NIV-23266) Deut. 24:1
28. [Matthew 5:37](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#en-NIV-23272) Or *from evil*
29. [Matthew 5:38](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#en-NIV-23273) Exodus 21:24; Lev. 24:20; Deut. 19:21
30. [Matthew 5:43](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#en-NIV-23278) Lev. 19:18
31. [Matthew 6:13](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#en-NIV-23296) The Greek for *temptation* can also mean *testing*.
32. [Matthew 6:13](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#en-NIV-23296) Or *from evil*; some late manuscripts *one, / for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*
33. [Matthew 6:22](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#en-NIV-23305) The Greek for *healthy* here implies *generous*.
34. [Matthew 6:23](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#en-NIV-23306) The Greek for *unhealthy* here implies *stingy*.
35. [Matthew 6:27](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%20-%207&version=NIV#en-NIV-23310) Or *single cubit to your height*

#### Questions from the Reading:

#### Why does Matthew start his Gospel with the long geneology?

#### What is the significance of Jesus being Baptized by John?

#### What is the basic ethical message of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount?

#### How does the Sermon on the Mount compare with Moses, the Ten Commandments and Mount Sinai?

#### What about the Sermon on the Mount suggest the future success of Christianity?

#### Why would the Romans be concerned about Jesus?