

new testament



THE

NEW INTERNATIONAL READER'S VERSION

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

for kids

READ THE STORY OF JESUS, HIS CHURCH, AND HIS RETURN

new testament

THE NEW INTERNATIONAL READER'S VERSION
BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

for kids

Contents

Introduction to the New Testament	5
DAY 1: Luke-Acts, part 1	7
DAY 2: Luke-Acts, part 2	14
DAY 3: Luke-Acts, part 3	22
DAY 4: Luke-Acts, part 4	29
DAY 5: Luke-Acts, part 5	36
DAY 6: Luke-Acts, part 6	43
DAY 7: Luke-Acts, part 7	51
DAY 8: Luke-Acts, part 8	58
DAY 9: Luke-Acts, part 9	65
DAY 10: Luke-Acts, part 10	71
DAY 11: 1–2 Thessalonians	78
DAY 12: 1 Corinthians, part 1.....	86
DAY 13: 1 Corinthians, part 2	93
DAY 14: 2 Corinthians.....	100
DAY 15: Galatians	107
DAY 16: Romans, part 1	112
DAY 17: Romans, part 2	119
DAY 18: Colossians	126
DAY 19: Ephesians, Philemon.....	133
DAY 20: Philippians, 1 Timothy.....	140
DAY 21: Titus, 2 Timothy.....	147
DAY 22: Matthew, part 1.....	154
DAY 23: Matthew, part 2	162
DAY 24: Matthew, part 3	169
DAY 25: Matthew, part 4	176
DAY 26: Matthew, part 5	183
DAY 27: Hebrews, part 1.....	190
DAY 28: Hebrews, part 2	196
DAY 29: James.....	202
DAY 30: Mark, part 1	209
DAY 31: Mark, part 2.....	217

DAY 32: 1 Peter	225
DAY 33: 2 Peter, Jude.....	231
DAY 34: John, part 1.....	237
DAY 35: John, part 2	244
DAY 36: John, part 3	251
DAY 37: 1–3 John	258
DAY 38: Revelation, part 1	265
DAY 39: Revelation, part 2.....	272
DAY 40: Revelation, part 3.....	280
A Word About the NlrV	287

introduction to the New Testament

The New Testament is a collection of books written many years ago. Together, they tell the story of Jesus and the very first people who followed him. The New Testament is also part of a much bigger collection known as “the Bible.”

Long ago, the Bible tells us, God created the world. Everything he made was good. But creation turned its back on God. Suddenly, the whole world was held captive by sin and death.

So God set out to rescue us—to save us from sin and death and make things right. The story came to a climax two thousand years ago, when Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God, came to earth.

As you read these stories and letters from the New Testament, you’ll hear about how Jesus came to rescue us. You’ll hear how his very first followers lived—and sometimes died—for him.

But don’t just read these stories. You’re invited to become part of the story. Because it’s not over. God is still at work. And you have a part to play.



DAY 1 LUKE-ACTS, PART I

introduction to Luke-Acts, part I

The story you're about to read was written by a doctor named Luke. Luke wanted his friend Theophilus to know about Jesus, so he wrote a book. Two books, actually: the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts.

In the first book, God keeps a promise he made to the people of Israel (who were called Jews) by sending Jesus, their long-awaited King.

But Jesus also invites non-Jewish people called Gentiles to follow him, because Jesus loves everyone. This was very good news, especially for Theophilus, who might have been a Gentile himself.

Luke worked hard to make sure he got his facts right. He wanted Theophilus to know he could bet his life on this story. So Luke used many reliable sources. Can you guess what some of them might've been?

Well, there were letters and speeches; songs and travel journals; notes from when people went to court; testimonies from eyewitnesses who knew Jesus; and more.

As you read, remember: this is not just any story. This is the true story of Jesus.



Many people have attempted to write about the things that have taken place among us. Reports of these things were handed down to us. There were people who saw these things for themselves from the beginning. They saw them and then passed the word on. With this in mind, I myself have carefully looked into everything from the beginning. So I also decided to write down an orderly

report of exactly what happened. I am doing this for you, most excellent Theophilus. I want you to know that the things you have been taught are true.



In the sixth month after Elizabeth had become pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee. He was sent to a virgin. The girl was engaged to a man named Joseph. He came from the family line of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel greeted her and said, "The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you."

Mary was very upset because of his words. She wondered what kind of greeting this could be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king like his father David of long ago. The Son of the Most High God will rule forever over his people. They are from the family line of Jacob. That kingdom will never end."

"How can this happen?" Mary asked the angel. "I am a virgin."

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come to you. The power of the Most High God will cover you. So the holy one that is born will be called the Son of God. Your relative Elizabeth will have a child even though she is old. People thought she could not have children. But she has been pregnant for six months now. That's because what God says will always come true."

"I serve the Lord," Mary answered. "May it happen to me just as you said it would." Then the angel left her.



In those days, Caesar Augustus made a law. It required that a list be made of everyone in the whole Roman world. It was the first time a list was made of the people while Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone went to their own town to be listed.

So Joseph went also. He went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea. That is where Bethlehem, the town of David, was.

Joseph went there because he belonged to the family line of David. He went there with Mary to be listed. Mary was engaged to him. She was expecting a baby. While Joseph and Mary were there, the time came for the child to be born. She gave birth to her first baby. It was a boy. She wrapped him in large strips of cloth. Then she placed him in a manger. That's because there was no guest room where they could stay.

There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby. It was night, and they were taking care of their sheep. An angel of the Lord appeared to them. And the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news. It will bring great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord. Here is how you will know I am telling you the truth. You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a large group of angels from heaven also appeared. They were praising God. They said,

"May glory be given to God in the highest heaven!

And may peace be given to those he is pleased with on earth!"

The angels left and went into heaven. Then the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem. Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby. The baby was lying in the manger. After the shepherds had seen him, they told everyone. They reported what the angel had said about this child. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary kept all these things like a secret treasure in her heart. She thought about them over and over. The shepherds returned. They gave glory and praise to God. Everything they had seen and heard was just as they had been told.

When the child was eight days old, he was circumcised. At the same time he was named Jesus. This was the name the angel had given him before his mother became pregnant.

Joseph and Mary did everything the Law of the Lord required.

Then they returned to Galilee. They went to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong. He was very wise. He was blessed by God's grace.



Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. When Jesus was 12 years old, they went up to the feast as usual. After the feast was over, his parents left to go back home. The boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. But they were not aware of it. They thought he was somewhere in their group. So they traveled on for a day. Then they began to look for him among their relatives and friends. They did not find him. So they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courtyard. He was sitting with the teachers. He was listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at how much he understood. They also were amazed at his answers. When his parents saw him, they were amazed. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been worried about you. We have been looking for you everywhere."

"Why were you looking for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he meant by that.

Then he went back to Nazareth with them, and he obeyed them. But his mother kept all these things like a secret treasure in her heart. Jesus became wiser and stronger. He also became more and more pleasing to God and to people.



Tiberius Caesar had been ruling for 15 years. Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea. Herod was the ruler of Galilee. His brother Philip was the ruler of Iturea and Traconitis. Lysanias was ruler of Abilene. Annas and Caiaphas were high priests. At that time God's word came to John, son of Zechariah, in the desert. He went into all the countryside around the Jordan River. There he preached that people should be baptized and turn away from their sins.

Then God would forgive them. Here is what is written in the book of Isaiah the prophet. It says,

“A messenger is calling out in the desert,

‘Prepare the way for the Lord.

Make straight paths for him.

Every valley will be filled in.

Every mountain and hill will be made level.

The crooked roads will become straight.

The rough ways will become smooth.

And all people will see God’s salvation.’”

John spoke to the crowds coming to be baptized by him. He said, “You are like a nest of poisonous snakes! Who warned you to escape the coming of God’s anger? Live in a way that shows you have turned away from your sins. And don’t start saying to yourselves, ‘Abraham is our father.’ I tell you, God can raise up children for Abraham even from these stones. The ax is already lying at the roots of the trees. All the trees that don’t produce good fruit will be cut down. They will be thrown into the fire.”

“Then what should we do?” the crowd asked.

John answered, “Anyone who has extra clothes should share with the one who has none. And anyone who has extra food should do the same.”

Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”

“Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” John told them.

Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”

John replied, “Don’t force people to give you money. Don’t bring false charges against people. Be happy with your pay.”

The people were waiting. They were expecting something. They were all wondering in their hearts if John might be the Messiah. John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I am will come. I’m not good enough to untie the straps of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His pitchfork is in his hand to toss the straw away from his threshing floor. He will gather the wheat into his barn. But he

will burn up the husks with fire that can't be put out." John said many other things to warn the people. He also announced the good news to them.

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened. The Holy Spirit came to rest on him in the form of a dove. A voice came from heaven. It said, "You are my Son, and I love you. I am very pleased with you."

Jesus was about 30 years old when he began his special work for God and others. It was thought that he was the son of Joseph.



Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan River. The Spirit led him into the desert. There the devil tempted him for 40 days. Jesus ate nothing during that time. At the end of the 40 days, he was hungry.

The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."

Jesus answered, "It is written, 'Man must not live only on bread.'"

Then the devil led Jesus up to a high place. In an instant, he showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world. He said to Jesus, "I will give you all their authority and glory. It has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours."

Jesus answered, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God. He is the only one you should serve.'"

Then the devil led Jesus to Jerusalem. He had Jesus stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. It is written,

"The Lord will command his angels to take good care of you. They will lift you up in their hands.

Then you won't trip over a stone.'"

Jesus answered, "Scripture says, 'Do not test the Lord your God.'"

When the devil finished all this tempting, he left Jesus until a better time.

remember what you read

1. What is something you noticed for the first time?

2. What questions did you have?

3. Was there anything that bothered you?

4. What did you learn about loving God?

5. What did you learn about loving others?

Nlrv, The Books of the Bible for Kids is a 4-volume abridged Bible without chapter and verse numbers, headings, and special formatting so that it is easier to read and accessible to all. Each volume is broken down into an 8-week (5-day-a-week) reading plan that includes daily readings and questions for discussion perfect for classroom or small group use. With wide margins, shorter lines, a larger font size, and engaging illustrations, these Bibles are designed especially for developing readers.

In *New Testament* (part 4 of 4), readers will learn of the fulfillment of God's promise. This volume includes: Luke-Acts, 1-2 Thessalonians, 1-2 Corinthians, Galatians, Romans, Colossians, Ephesians, Philemon, Philippians, 1 Timothy, Titus, 2 Timothy, Matthew, Hebrews, James, Mark, 1-2 Peter, Jude, John, 1-3 John, and Revelation.

Look for all four of the books included in
Nlrv, The Books of the Bible for Kids series.

PART 1: *Nlrv, The Books of the Bible for Kids, Covenant History*

PART 2: *Nlrv, The Books of the Bible for Kids, The Prophets*

PART 3: *Nlrv, The Books of the Bible for Kids, The Writings*

PART 4: *Nlrv, The Books of the Bible for Kids, New Testament*



New Testament is part 4 (of 4) of *Nlrv, The Books of the Bible for Kids*, which is a part of the church-wide campaign, the **Community Bible Experience**. Learn more about the **Community Bible Experience** and how your church can participate at www.CommunityBibleExperience.com.

978-0-310-76131-0



Every Nlrv Bible you purchase helps Biblica translate and give Bibles to people in need around the world.

www.biblica.com

ZONDERkidz™

Nlrv

Cover Design: Jamie DeBruyn
Cover Illustration: iStockphoto, FrankRamspeck

USD \$12.99

ISBN 978-0-310-76131-0



9 780310 761310

Made in China

5 1299

