

Jesus/Messiah

Narrator - John 1:1-3; Col 1:16

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

Through Him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. All things were created by Him and for Him.

Job 26:7-11; Isaiah 40:12-14; 21-26; Job 26:14 (First Quoter)

He spreads out the northern skies over empty space;
He suspends the earth over nothing.
He wraps up the waters in His clouds, yet the clouds do not burst under their weight.
He covers the face of the full moon, spreading His clouds over it.

He marks out the horizon on the face of the waters for a boundary between light and darkness.
The pillars of the heavens quake, aghast at His rebuke.

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand,
or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens?
Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket,
or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance?
Who has understood the mind of the Lord, or instructed Him as His counselor?
Whom did the Lord consult to enlighten Him, and who taught Him the right way?
Who was it that taught Him knowledge or showed Him the path of understanding?

Do you not know? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood since the earth was founded?
He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers.
He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in.
He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing.
No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown,
no sooner do they take root in the ground, than he blows on them and they wither,
and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.

To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One.
Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: who created all these?
He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name.
Because of His great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

*These are some of the minor things he does, merely a whisper of His power.
Who can understand the thunder of His power. (NLT)*

Narrator - Isaiah 35:4-6a; Isaiah 7:14 (KJV); John 1:14

. . . say to those with fearful hearts,

"Be strong, do not fear; your God will come,
He will come with vengeance; with divine retribution He will come to save you."
Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped.
Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.

Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel (God with us)

And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

Matthew 4:23-5:16 (Second Quoter)

And Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. 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. Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.

Now when He saw the crowds, He went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to Him, and he began to teach them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for their is the kingdom of heaven.

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

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 by men.

You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 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. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Matthew 7:1-13 (Third Quoter)

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

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? How can you say to your brother, "Let me take the speck out of your eye," when all the time there is plank in your own eye? 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.

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 then turn and tear you to pieces.

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

Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 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! So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

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

Narrator: Luke 11:1-2 (Fourth Quoter)

(Shall we bow our heads)

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished, one of his disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught His disciples."

He said to them, "When you pray, say . . ."

Duet - The Lord's Prayer

Narrator: Exodus 3:13-14

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?'

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you.

(Quoters Fifth and Sixth Quoter - Alternately)

John 8:58: I tell you the truth," Jesus (said) "before Abraham was born, I AM!"

John 8:12 - I AM the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

John 6:35 - I AM the Bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and

who believes in me will never be thirsty.

John 6:51 - I AM the living Bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever.

John 15:1-4: I AM the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

John 15:5-8: I AM the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit. apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

John 10:11 I AM the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

John 10:14-18 - I AM the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me — just as the Father knows me and I know the Father — and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life — only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.

John 10:7-8 I AM the gate for the sheep. All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.

John 10:9 - I AM the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.

John 14:6: I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 11:25 - I AM the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

Revelation 21:6 - I AM the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all this and I will be His God and He will be my son.

Revelation 1:8 - I AM the Alpha and the Omega, who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.

Narrator - John 13:1-3

It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved His own who were in the world, He now showed them the full extent of his love.

The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under His power, and that He had come from God and was returning to God. . .

John 14:1-4, 12-21 (Seventh Quoter)

Jesus said:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. . .

I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

"If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another counselor to be with you forever — the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

John 17 (Eighth Quoter)

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

"Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, who you have sent. I have brought You glory on earth by completing the work You gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify Me in Your presence with the glory I had with You before the world began.

I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me and they have obeyed Your word. Now they know that everything You have given Me comes from You. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect

them by the power of your name — the name you gave me — so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

Isaiah 53 (Ninth Quoter)

Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground.
He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
Nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and familiar with suffering.
Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed Him not.

Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows,
yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted.

But He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.
We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way;
and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open His mouth;
He was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.
By oppression and judgment he was taken away, and who can speak of His descendants?
For He was cut off from the land of the living;
for the transgression of my people he was stricken.
He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death,

though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.
Yet it was the Lord's will to crush Him and cause Him to suffer,
and though the Lord makes His life a guilt offering,
He will see His offspring and prolong His days,
and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hands.
After the suffering of His soul, He will see the light of life and be satisfied;
By His knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities
Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,
and He will divide the spoils with the strong,
because He poured out His life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors.
For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Psalm 22:1 - 21 (Tenth Quoter)

My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?
Why are You so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?
O my God, I cry out by day, but You do not answer, by night and am not silent.

Yet You are enthroned as the Holy One; You are the praise of Israel.
In You our fathers put their trust; they trusted and You delivered them.
They cried to You and were saved; in You they trusted and were not disappointed.

But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people.
All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads;
"He trusts in the Lord; let the Lord rescue him."
Let Him deliver Him, since he delights in Him."

Yet You brought me out of the womb;
You made me trust in You even at my mother's breasts.
From birth I was cast upon You; from my mother's womb You have been my God.
Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me
Roaring lions tearing their prey open their mouths wide against me.
I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint.
My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me.
My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
You lay me in the dust of death.
Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me,
they have pierced my hands and my feet.
I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me.
They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.

But You, O Lord, be not far off; O my strength, come quickly to help me.
Deliver my life from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dogs.
Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns of the wild oxen.

Mark 15:33-38 (Eleventh Quoter)

From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth

hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice "*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*" — which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah."

Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. The rest said, "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down."

And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up His spirit.

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

When the centurion, and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"

Matthew 28:1-7 (Twelfth Quoter)

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen, just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see Him.'

Solo - I Know That My Redeemer Liveth

Acts 1:1-11 (Thirteenth Quoter)

After His suffering, He showed himself to (His disciples) and gave many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while He was eating with them, He gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift My Father promised, which you have heard Me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

They were looking intently up into the sky as He was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Matthew 24:3 - 16; 21 - 30 (Fourteenth Quoter)

As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately. "Tell us," they said, ". . . what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age."

Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains.

Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel — let the reader understand — then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. . . .

For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now — and never to be equaled again. If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it, For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect — if that were possible. See, I have told you ahead of time.

So if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the desert,' do not go out; or, 'here he is, in the inner rooms', do not believe it. For as the lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. (omit this verse if you choose - "Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather." - it was a saying used at that time, but kind of difficult for us to figure out.)

Immediately after the distress of those days

*" the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light;
the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.*

At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and

great glory. And He will send His angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

Matthew 24:32 - 44 (Fifteenth Quoter)

Now learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its buds become tender and its leaves begin to sprout, you know without being told that summer is near. Just so, when you see the events I've described beginning to happen, you can know his return is very near, right at the door, I assure you, this generation will not pass from the scene before all these things take place. Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will remain forever.

However, no one knows the day or the hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son Himself. Only the Father knows.

When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah's day. In those days before the Flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. People didn't realize what was going to happen until the Flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the son of Man comes.

Two men will be working together in the field; one will be taken, the other left. Two women will be grinding flour at the mill; one will be taken, the other left. So be prepared, because you don't know what day your Lord is coming.

Know this: A homeowner who knew exactly when a burglar was coming would stay alert and not permit the house to be broken into. You also must be ready all the time. For the Son of Man will come when least expected.

Narrator

Jesus said: Surely, I come quickly.

To which John answered: Even so, come Lord Jesus.

Shall we now bow our heads and also respond: Even so, come Lord Jesus.

Prayer: Toward Second Coming

In conclusion, have someone (other than the narrator) present a short, pithy challenge emphasizing the joy and blessing of memorizing Scripture. Be sure to counter the "Oh, I could never do that!" syndrome, by stressing that the participants are not just a gifted few, but only people like them who committed to memorizing God's holy Word for themselves.