

# Jesus Christ

## CHANGED THE WORLD

—by Peter Hammond



Painting by Simon Dewey

*Jesus changed the world forever. When He was born, He transformed the very way we measure time. His birthday, His Incarnation, touched and transformed time. Now the world counts time as Before Christ (BC) and AD (Anno Domini in the year of our Lord). Jesus Christ is the central figure of history. More books have been written about Him than any other person.*

**T**he world before Christ was a world without hospitals, a world without charity, a world without respect for the sanctity of life.

Hospitals were an innovation of Christianity, hence the healing symbol of a cross represents hospitals. The nursing profession was founded by Christians such as Florence Nightingale out of devotion for Christ. One of history's greatest humanitarian movements, the International Red Cross, was founded by Christians in response to the Scriptural injunctions to care for the sick and the suffering.

Christians such as Dr. Louis Pasteur have fuelled some of the greatest practical advances in medicine. Pasteur has probably saved more lives than any other individual in history through his inventions.

### Caring for the poor

The whole concept of charity was a Chris-

tian innovation. Benevolence to strangers was unknown before Christ. The teachings and example of Jesus have inspired the greatest acts of generosity, hospitality, self-sacrifice and service for the needy.

pyres of their husbands, was common practice in Hindu India before the missionary William Carey arrived.

Slavery was eradicated as a result of tireless efforts of Christians such as Wil-

**The life and teachings of Christ inspired the greatest examples of art, architecture and sacrificial service. He is the central figure of history - it is His Story!**

### Setting the captives free

Before the advent of Christianity every culture practised slavery and human sacrifice - even the highly esteemed Greek and Roman civilisations. Child sacrifice was common among the pagan religions.

The Aztec Empire in Mexico and Inca Empire in Peru engaged in slavery, ritual rapes and mass human sacrifice. 'Suttee', the burning of widows on the funeral

liam Wilberforce and David Livingstone. Respect for life and liberty is a fruit of Christianity. Those promoting abortion, euthanasia and pornography are not offering us progress, but only a return to pre-Christian paganism.

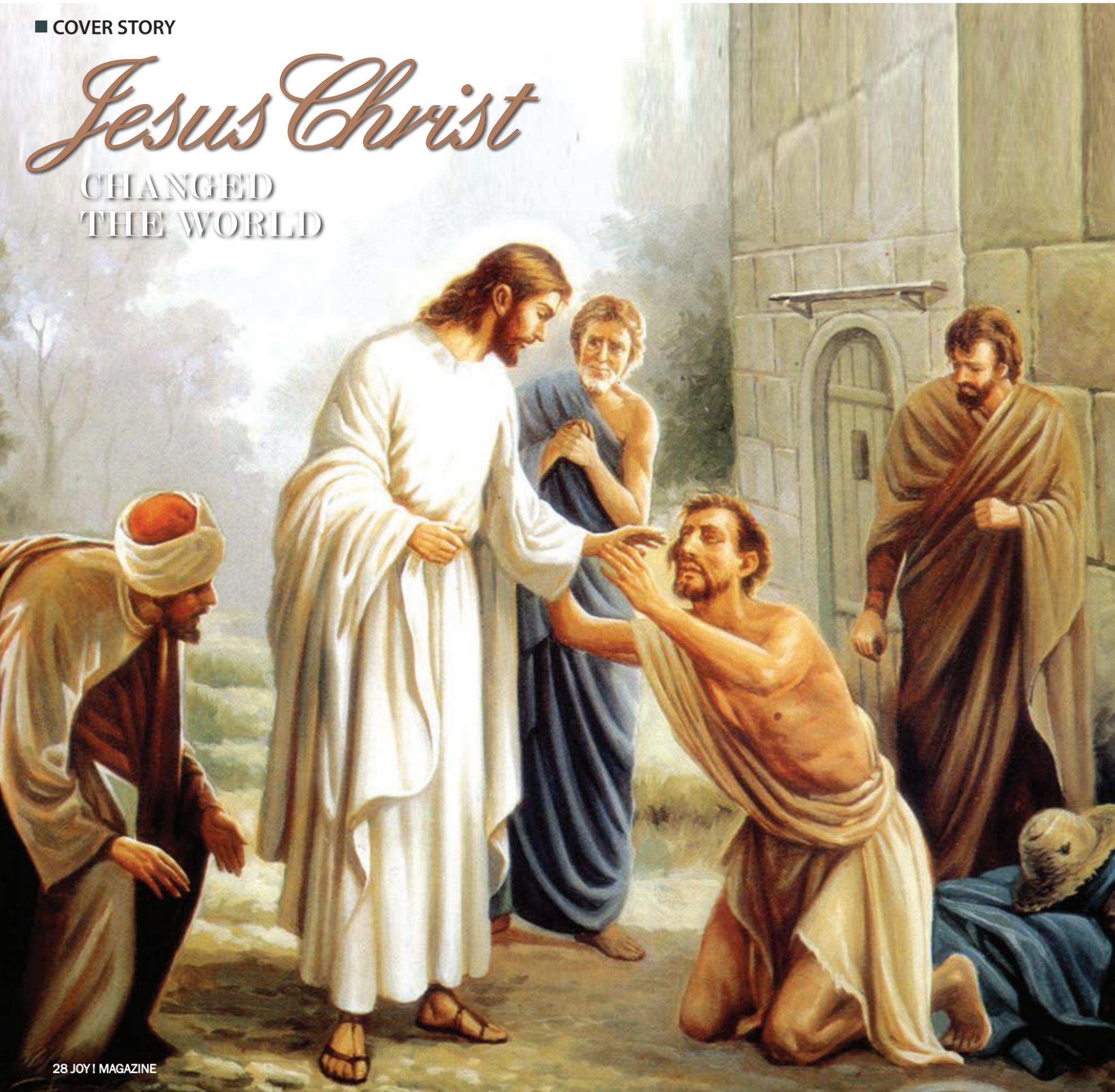
### Blessing the nations

The positive impact of Jesus Christ on the world cannot be overstated. Everything »



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from education to human rights, from public health to economic liberty, the things we cherish most and many of the blessings we take for granted, all can be traced to the spiritual and the cultural revolution begun by Jesus Christ.

### The scientific revolution

The irrefutable fact is that Christianity gave birth to modern science. The scientific revolution began with the Protestant Reformation and the Bible played a vital part in the development of scientific discovery. Every major branch of science was developed by a Bible-believing Christian. The Bible essentially created science.

When we get into a car, start the engine, turn on the lights, drive to a hospital, receive an anaesthetic before an operation, and have an effective operation done in a germ-free environment, we need to remember that we owe it all to Jesus Christ.

Greeks and Romans before the birth of Christ did not formally educate girls. Only boys from the privileged classes obtained an education. Christianity revolutionised education by making it available to all classes and both genders. Saint Augustine observed that Christian women were better educated than the pagan male philosophers.

The phenomenon of education for the masses has its roots in Christianity. The pursuit of the knowledge of God in a systematic, philosophical and in-depth way gave rise to the phenomenon of universities all around the world. It was the Christian faith that gave rise to the idea of higher learning.

### Taking the Gospel to the earth

The greatest invention in the field of learning, the printing press, by Johannes Gutenberg, was also a fruit of the Christian faith. The first book to be printed was the Bible.

**The Lord Jesus inspired the foundation of schools, hospitals, charity and compassion for the poor, blind and needy. Led by Christ's example, Christians helped to abolish slavery.**

### Education for all

"Every school you see (public or private, religious or secular) is a visible reminder of the religion of Jesus Christ. So is every college and university." Dr. James Kennedy.

There is no doubt that Jesus Christ is the greatest Teacher the world has ever known. When He spoke, "They were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority..." Mark 1:22.

The life, teachings and example of Jesus Christ have profoundly influenced the whole development of education worldwide. The Great Commission of our Lord Jesus was to "make disciples of all nations...teaching them..." Matt 28:19-20

From the very beginning Christians were establishing schools. Amongst the many innovations in Christian Education was that these Christian schools taught everybody, including girls and women. Formally educating both sexes was a Christian innovation. The

Most of the languages of the world were first set to writing by Christian missionaries. The first book in most languages of the world has been the Bible. Christianity has been the greatest force for promoting literacy worldwide throughout history.

The Christian missionary movement in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century pioneered tens of thousands of schools throughout Africa, Asia and the Pacific Islands - providing education for countless millions, even in the remotest jungles, giving the gift of literacy to tribes which had never before had a written language.

Every branch and level of education was pioneered by Bible-believing Christians. The concept of graded levels of education was first introduced by a German Lutheran, Johan Sturm in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. Another Lutheran, Frederick Froebel introduced kindergartens. Education for the deaf was also pioneered by Christians. Sunday schools were begun by Robert Raikes in 1780, to provide boys and girls »

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from the poorest homes with the gift of literacy and the riches of the Scriptures.

### Universities: One truth

The very name “university” testifies to its Christian origins. University means “One Truth”. The first universities grew out of the monastic missionary centres, which had disciplesd Europe.

The first university lecturers were the missionary monks who had collected books, accumulated libraries, copied manuscripts and were uniquely equipped for advanced academic study. Most universities began as Christian schools. Isn't it time that teachers, lecturers and professors

took an in depth look at the greatest Teacher the world has ever known, the greatest Book ever produced and the Faith with inspired and pioneered every major branch of education and science?

### Compassion for the blind

Before Jesus Christ, human life in the Greek and Roman world was extremely cheap. Infants born with physical defects such as blindness were commonly abandoned. However, Jesus showed particular compassion for the blind, healing many blind individuals during His ministry on earth.

When the Roman persecution of the Church ended, in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century,

Christians established asylums for the blind. In the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Louis Braille, a dedicated Christian who lost his eyesight at age three, developed the world's first alphabet that enabled blind people to read with their fingers.

### The rule of Law

The Bible, particularly the Ten Commandments, laid the framework and legal foundations of Western civilisation. The very first statute, the first written restriction on the powers of government was the Magna Carta of 1215. It was written by a pastor and thoroughly saturated with Scriptural principles.

The life and teachings of Jesus Christ have inspired the greatest literature, the

greatest art, the greatest examples of architecture, the age of exploration, world missions, the rule of law, the separation of powers, checks and balances, representa-

tive government, the sanctity of life, compassion for the poor, blind and needy and so much more that we take for granted.

### Transforming society

Christianity has been the most powerful agent in transforming society for the bet-

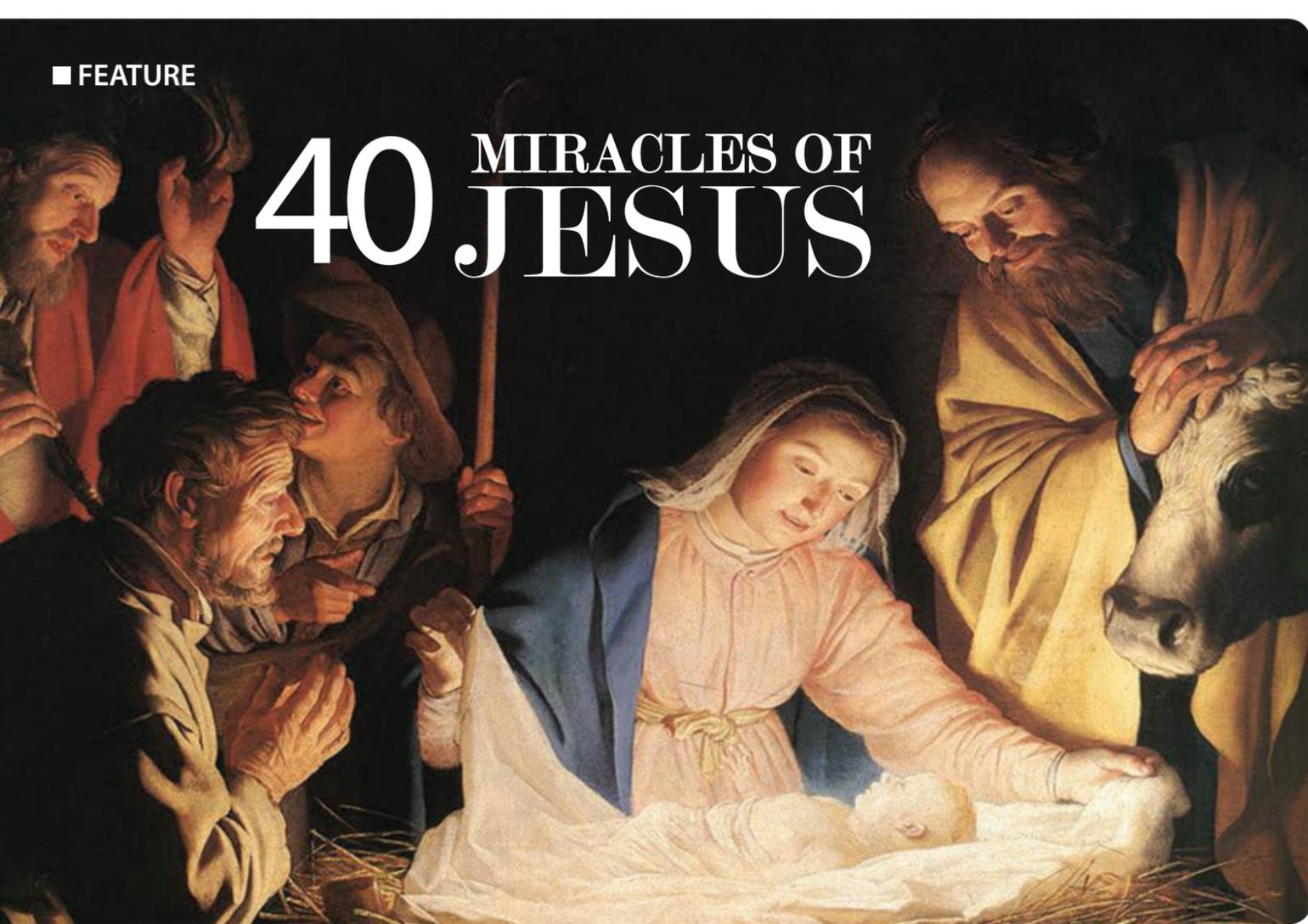
ter across 2000 years. No other religion, philosophy, teaching, nation, or movement has changed the world for the better, as Christianity has done. The Bible is the

greatest Book ever written. Jesus Christ is the greatest Man who has ever lived. Wise men still seek Him and kings bow down before Him. ■

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**Christianity has been the most powerful agent in transforming society for the better across 2000 years. No other person or religion can lay claim to this.**

# 40 MIRACLES OF JESUS



1. Born of a virgin (Matt 1:18-25)
2. Changing water into wine (John 2:1-11)
3. Healing of the royal official's son (John 4:43-54)
4. Driving out an evil spirit in Capernaum (Mark 1:21-27)
5. Healing of Simon Peter's mother in law (Luke 4:38-39)



6. Healing the sick during the evening (Matt 8:16)
7. First miraculous catch of fish (Luke 5:1-11)

8. Jesus cleanses a man with leprosy (Matt 8:1-4, Mark 1:40-45, Luke 5:12-14)
9. Jesus heals a centurion's servant (Matt 8:5-13, Luke 7:1-10)
10. Jesus heals a paralytic (Matt 9:1-8, Mark 2:1-12),
11. Jesus heals a man's withered hand (Matt 12:9-14, Mark 3:1-6, Luke 6:6-11)
12. Jesus raises a widow's son (Luke 7:11-17)
13. Jesus calms a storm (Matt 8:23-27, Mark 4:35-41)
14. Jesus casts demons into a herd of pigs (Mark 5:1-20)
15. Jesus heals a woman in the crowd (Mark 5:25-34)
16. Jesus raises Jairus' daughter to life (Matt 9:18-26)
17. Jesus heals two blind men (Matt 9:27-31)
18. Jesus heals a mute man (Matt 9:32-34)
19. Jesus heals an invalid at Bethesda (John 5:1-15)
20. Jesus feeds 5 000 (Matt 14:13-21)
21. Jesus walks on water (John 6:16-21)

22. Jesus heals many in Gennesaret (Matt 14:34)
23. Jesus heals a Gentile woman's demon-possessed daughter ((Mark 7:24-30)
24. Jesus heals a deaf and dumb man (Mark 7:31-37)

## 25. Jesus feeds the 4 000 (Matt 15:32-39)

"Jesus called His disciples and said, "I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry...to feed such a crowd?" "How many loaves do you have?" "Seven," they replied, "and a few small fish." He told the crowd to sit down on the ground. Then He took the seven loaves and the fish, and when He had given thanks, He broke them and gave them to the disciples, and they in turn to the people. They all ate...Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over..."



26. Jesus heals a blind man at Bethsaida (Mark 8:22-26)
27. Jesus heals a man born blind (John 9)
28. Jesus heals a boy possessed by a demon (Matt 17:14-20)
29. The miraculous catch of fish with a coin in it's mouth (Matt 17:24-27)
30. Jesus heals a blind and mute man possessed by a demon (Matt 12:22-23)
31. Jesus heals a woman with an 18 year infirmity (Luke 13:10-17)
32. Jesus heals a man with dropsy (abnormal swelling in his body) on the Sabbath (Luke 14:1-6)
33. Jesus cleanses 10 lepers (Luke 17:11-19)
34. Jesus raises Lazarus from the Dead (John 11:1-45)



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## 35. Healing Bartimaeus (Mark 10: 46-52)

"Jesus and His disciples went to Jericho. And as they were leaving, they were followed by a large crowd. A blind beggar by the name of Bartimaeus son of Timaeus was sitting beside the road. When he heard that it was Jesus from Nazareth, he shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me!" Many people told the man to stop, but he shouted even louder, "Son of David, have pity on me!"

Jesus stopped and said, "Call him over!" They called out to the blind man and said, "Don't be afraid! Come on! He is calling for you." The man threw off his coat as he jumped up and ran to Jesus. Jesus asked, "What do you want me to do for you?"

The blind man answered, "Master, I want to see!" Jesus told him, "You may go. Your eyes are healed because of your faith." Right away the man could see, and he went down the road with Jesus."



- 36. The withering of the fig tree that produced no fruit (Matthew 21:18-22)
- 37. The restoring of the Soldier's severed ear in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:50-57)
- 38. The Resurrection of Christ (John 20:1-10)
- 39. The Catching of the 153 fish (John 21)
- 40. The ascension of Jesus Christ to Heaven (Mark 16:19-20)

*He became like us that we might become like Him.*

*He was rejected that we might be accepted.*

*He was condemned that we might be forgiven.*

*He was punished that we might be pardoned.*

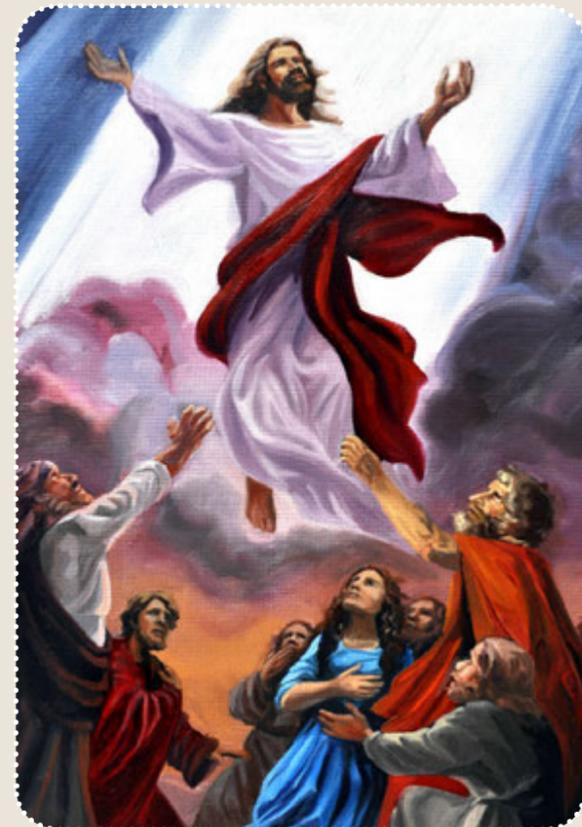
*He suffered, that we might be strengthened.*

*He was whipped that we might be healed.*

*He was hated, that we might be loved.*

*He was crucified, that we might be justified.*

*He was tortured that we might be comforted.*



*He died, that we might live.*

*He went to hell – that we might go to Heaven.*

*He endured what we deserve – that we might enjoy what only He deserves. ■*

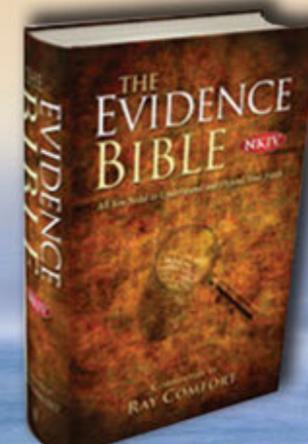
# LIVING WATERS Africa

INSPIRING and EQUIPPING Christians in FULFILLING the Great Commission

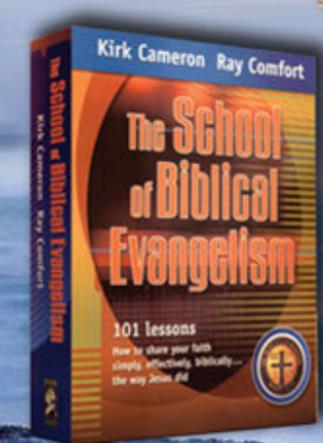


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