

SEPTEMBER 2021

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

Official Newsletter of Christ Lutheran Church, Norfolk, VA



The Chosen

ADULT BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY
BEGINNING SEPT. 12

Want a chance to view the life of Jesus as if you were one of the people who encountered him? The Chosen is a 2020 television drama that gives you the opportunity to do just that, and it will be the basis for our Adult Bible Study / Sunday school lessons beginning on Sunday, Sept. 12 at 9:00 am.

I am sure you, like me, have seen lots of movies depicting the Son of Man and his life. Often these versions seemed “preachy”, and the people in them were hard to imagine living a real life. I heard about The Chosen from a friend who encouraged me to watch it, but I wasn’t in a hurry to watch another portrayal of Biblical times.



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THE CHOSEN

Boy was I wrong... When I finally tuned in, I was hooked. This drama, based on the life of Jesus of Nazareth, shares the life of Jesus through the eyes of the people around him. The first season introduces the disciples as they were called to serve. Season two focuses on the public ministry of Jesus, and how that ministry affected the world around him.

Consultants from three religious traditions review the scripts and provide information and insights on the Biblical, cultural, social, and political history of these times. The people representing "the chosen" are of many races, temperaments, and backgrounds, just like people in real life. They clash as they try to convince each other that it is they who truly understand what Jesus really wants.

The viewing time for each episode varies, so some of the episodes will be stopped midway for Bible study and discussion, using the Bible Study guide expressly written for the series. Season One provides us with an in-depth look at Jesus Christ and his future disciples. Here is a short summary of each episode:

Pilot -- During the Roman occupation, Simon, a crippled shepherd, brings a lamb for sacrifice. The priest rejects the lamb due to a blemish. Where will he find the spotless lamb for sacrifice?

1. Have Called You by Name -- A look at Mary Magdalene and her life right before she meets Jesus; Jesus' future apostles.
2. Shabbat -- Learning more about the characters who will follow the great rabbi from Nazareth.
3. Jesus Loves the Little Children -- Children demonstrate how to listen to Jesus.
4. The Rock on Which it is Built -- Fishermen, who can't pay the heavy Roman taxes, are at the end of their ropes, need a miracle.
5. The Wedding Gift -- Jesus begins to call followers who believe in him.
6. Indescribable Compassion -- Jesus' followers slowly gain faith and witness some incredible things.
7. Invitations -- Jesus forges a core group of people He will prepare for fantastic works ahead.
8. I Am He -- The apostles are anxious for the Kingdom to come; Jesus' career finally becomes public.

Jesus
makes us
what
we're not.

The
CHOSEN



THE CHOSEN

Rotten Tomatoes reported that all their critics have given Season 1 a positive review, with an average rating of 8.08/10. The audience has given season 1 of The Chosen an average of 99% positive rating based on 4,672 reviews as of 2021. Through August 2020, it had been viewed nearly 50 million times in 180 countries. By the end of March 2021, the first season had been viewed more than 100 million times. By June 2021, the series has been watched 150 million times and has been translated into 50 languages. As of August 2021, its YouTube channel has 1.3M subscribers. I hope you will join us for an exciting look at the Life of Christ as his ministry begins.

- Gail Englert, Deacon

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THE COALITION OF LUTHERANS IN BLACK MINISTRY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2021

9:30AM - 4PM

We're coming together to help each other rescue, resume and rebuild our ministries as we press on to share God's reassurance and hope in a world that is still grappling with the COVID pandemic! The world needs US more than ever!



We're gathering via ZOOM but in a new way!

We're coming together but in smaller groups—and you won't have to travel as far! There will be at least 6 different ZOOM stations:

- Baltimore MD
- Bowie MD
- Washington DC
- Norfolk VA
- Charlotte NC
- Concord NC

And we may be adding additional ZOOM stations in Virginia and North Carolina!

Contact the office for further information.



**LET'S HELP
EACH OTHER!**

9:30 TO 4
SATURDAY
10/2/2021
UNITY LUTHERAN

she should be delivered.
7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.
8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, watching over their flock by night.
9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord shone upon them, and said,

What if the Bible Had No Chapter and Verse Divisions?

BY CHAD BIRD

If modern authors want to reference or allude to passages in the Bible, they will write paragraphs like this:

For God so loved the world (John 3:16), the world which he created in the beginning (Genesis 1:1), that at just the right time (Romans 5:6), he sent his Son to be born of Mary (Luke 2:7), crucified under Pontius Pilate (Matthew 27), and raised on the third day according to the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:4).

Of course, anyone reading that paragraph—even if the Bible is a closed book to them—will easily see that I have either quoted from or alluded to six passages or sections of Scripture. I've made it easy. I tell you so. Every biblical citation is glaringly, if not obtrusively, obvious.

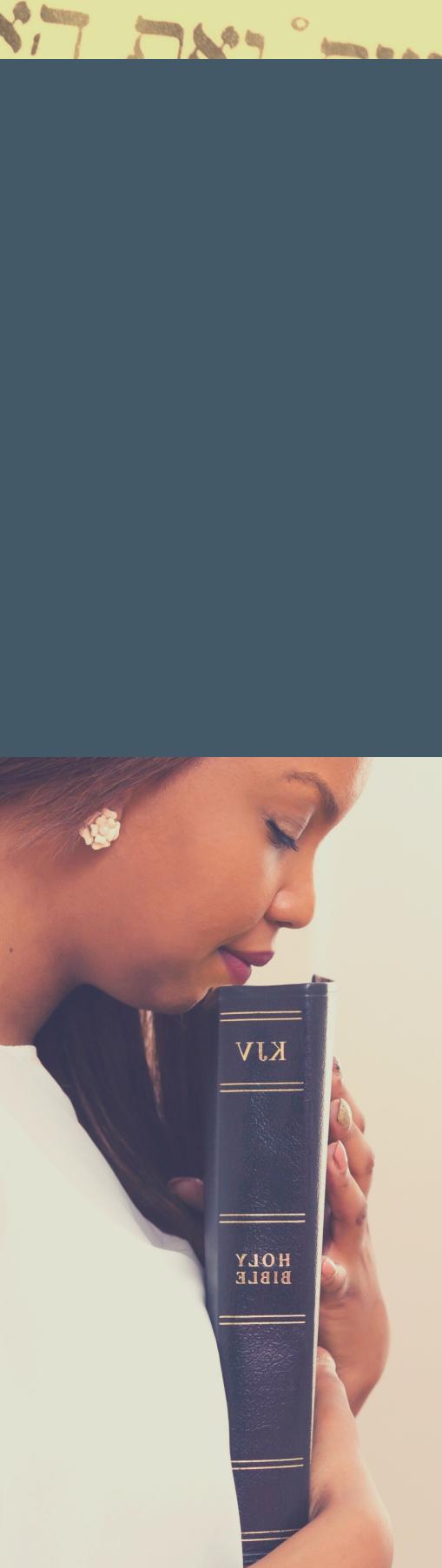
But what if the Bible had no verse or chapter divisions? What if, in fact, it was common for writers to quote from or allude to the Bible without even telling you they were doing so? What if the writer expected the readers to know the Scriptures so well that there was no reason to say, "Hey, reader, I'm talking about such-and-such portion of the Bible here"?

That is exactly how, most of the time, later biblical authors quote earlier biblical authors. Back then, of course, no biblical books had chapters and verses. That was a *much* later addition. Nor did authors think it necessary to let their readers know on every occasion when they were echoing another part of the Bible. You. Were. Just. Supposed. To. Know.



Let us, therefore, steep ourselves in these sacred writings, until we hear with open ears all that it is being spoken by the Spirit through these authors.

GENESIS. בראשית



WHAT IF THE BIBLE HAD NO CHAPTER AND VERSE DIVISIONS?

This morning, I was looking at a helpful example of this from Paul's letter to the church in Rome, the final chapter. After sending greetings to lots of people, he says basically three things:

1. Keep away from false teachers, who use "smooth talk and flattery" to "deceive [ἐξαπατάω] the hearts of the naïve" (16:18).
2. Be "wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil" (16:19).
3. And, finally, Paul says, "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet." (16:20.)

Did you catch it? Without ever saying he's quoting Scripture, Paul thrice refers to Genesis 2-3.

On #1, just as false teachers use lying speech to deceive their hearers, so the serpent in Eden used lying speech to deceive Eve. In fact, the Greek root used here for deceive (*ἐξαπατάω*) is almost identical to the word used in the Septuagint by Eve when she says "the serpent deceived [*ἀπατάω*] me" (Gen. 3:13). So, false teachers in Rome are like Satan in Eden: smooth-talking liars.

On #2, Paul urges them to be wise regarding "good" and innocent regarding "evil." Of course, this hearkens back to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Before they sinned, Adam and Eve knew good but they were ignorant of evil. Then they decided they would be their own gods and choose what was best for them. Paul warns the Romans not to repeat Genesis 3.

On #3, this is an allusion to Genesis 3:15, where the Lord told the serpent that the seed of the woman would crush his head. Now, this is instructive, for Paul says that God will *soon* crush the head of Satan under *the church's* feet. Is Paul denying that Genesis 3:15 is a prophecy of the Messiah, fulfilled in Jesus? Of course not!

WHAT IF THE BIBLE HAD NO CHAPTER AND VERSE DIVISIONS?

Rather, as happens all over the NT, the body of believers is understood to be so closely aligned with the Messiah, that what he does, they do, and what they do, he does. Jesus crushed the head of the Serpent just at his Bride will do. And what about the “soon” part? This is one more example in the NT of the now-and-not-yet teaching about the end times. Jesus has defeated the devil *now* yet he will continue to rage and defy until the Last Day, which is *not yet,* when he will be cast forever into the lake of fire. Every time we preach the Gospel of Jesus, we the church keep stomping on the head of Satan.

My main point in putting forward this example is not so much to explain all of Romans 16, but rather to demonstrate how necessary it is to put our ear as close as possible to the biblical text. Listen. The Bible will not always tell you when it's quoting itself. Let us, therefore, steep ourselves in these sacred writings, until we hear with open ears all that it is being spoken by the Spirit through these authors.

Chad Bird is a Scholar in Residence at 1517 Ministries. He also holds master's degrees from Concordia Theological Seminary and Hebrew Union College. He draws upon his expertise as a former professor of OT and Hebrew to cohost the podcast, "40 Minutes in the OT." Chad has authored several books, including his latest, "Upside-Down Spirituality: The 9 Essential Failures of a Faithful Life."

Facebook.com/writingsofchadbard

Every time we preach the Gospel of Jesus, we the church keep stomping on the head of Satan.



Tidewater Zone Fall Workshop

Saturday, October 23, 2021, 9:00-2:00

Hope Lutheran Church

5350 Providence Rd, Virginia Beach, VA 23464

Each group is asked to bring sandwiches, dessert, and drinks for lunch.

\$5.00 Registration Fee

"Be Refreshed"- Romans 15:32

So that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company

Contact Bev Sweeney if you are interested in attending.

Guest speaker/
Ingathering –
Connect With
a Wish

Connect With a Wish works to enhance the lives of Virginia Beach foster kids. They provide resources and support needed to give children the opportunity to grow into positive and productive members of the community.



Handle With Care Program

baby wash Cantu products
baby lotion standard pillows
size 1 diapers mixing bowls
hand sanitizer
body lotion

October
23
please bring
items in to
the
meeting!

Birthday Brigade Program

Stance socks
Nike belts
leather wallets
spa products
mens toiletry bag
Nalgene water bottle
cologne / perfume
wristlets

gifts for
teens,
ages
14-20

FOR INFORMATION OR REGISTRATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR CALL US:

connectwithawish.org | 757-337-2657