



ALPHA & OMEGA

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(OLD TESTAMENT)

IN THE BEGINNING

**Extol Him who chose to create heaven and earth
With His wisdom power and might, He lovingly gave them birth
As a formless dark and empty space, responded to His call
Everything heard God's mighty voice, all creatures great and small.**

**His spinning brilliant splendorous stars, as numerous as grains of sand
Rejoiced in perfect harmony over God's design so grand
His intricate enduring creation; an expression of gracious love
Brought sounds of joy from His angels as light flooded down from above.**

**The image of the Spirit of God, hovered over the waters deep
Like a mother bird protecting her young, never failing to safely keep
In His own image using only dust, He molded and formed the man
Breathing life into his nostrils; all according to His own plan.**

**Your might and work we'll proclaim to all; to every generation
An everlasting glorious kingdom; Your invaluable rich creation
Jesus the Christ, our risen Savior, glorified while here on earth
Was present with You at the beginning when our world was given birth.**



("GOD'S CREATION" Painted by Doris Cox)

Genesis 1: 1-3

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 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.

(OLD TESTAMENT)

CHRIST—ARK OF SALVATION

Noah, a righteous man, believed and walked with God
Intimately knew his Father, faithfully tread on sacred sod
Stood out from the crowd, a bright and shining light
In prevailing moral darkness; declared pure in God's sight.

Standing alone, he listened to God and built a mighty ark
Following his Father's commands, never veering from the mark
The great patience of God, having a beginning and an end
After many second chances, the flood He did send.

A lesson from Noah's life, one and all can surely learn
Christ's will for our journey, is what we all should discern
Placing God at the center; always doing what is right
A heart cleansed like snow, viewed as worthy in His sight.

Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior; our Ark of Salvation
The provision for life's floods, no matter the situation
Our choice to accept and in Christ faithfully believe
Finding the Ark of assurance and eternal life to receive.



(“Noah And The Ark” painted by Doris Cox)

Genesis 7: 6, 7

After forty days Noah opened the window he had made in the ark and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth.

Genesis 9: 16

Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant.

(OLD TESTAMENT)

ABRAHAM'S FAITH—BELIEVING GOD

**Leave your people. Leave your land. God's message came to Abraham
Sovereignly plucked, a Hebrew man, made promises by the Great I Am**

**He was told he would be a nation great
With blessings given to his barren mate.**

**On a leap of faith in God he believed
Waiting on blessings not yet received
Though foolish at times when living in fear
Always trusted in God with a vision so clear.**

**When called to sacrifice Isaac his son
His test of faith had just begun
Believing God brought life again to the dead
In great obedience stepped forth instead.**

**We, like Abraham, servant of God
Can walk with Jesus on gospel sod
The Holy Spirit takes away our fear
By faith through grace, our Savior's always near.**



("Abraham's Call" painted by Doris Cox)

Genesis 12: 1

The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you."

(OLD TESTAMENT)

JOSEPH'S LESSONS

Joseph's father gave him a robe with beautiful colors galore
A message received by his brothers that he was loved much more
The robe like that of royalty; a symbol so grand and vivid
Aggravated strained relations, making jealous thoughts more livid.

When Joseph boasted to his brothers of a very exciting dream
Hating him even more, they began to plot and scheme
For twenty shekels of silver, Joseph was sold to Ishmaelite men
Finally traded to a guard in Egypt, his life as a slave would begin.

No mistake in life or prison wall can break God's loving cord
No mountain's too high or valley to low to hide us from our Lord
Greatly blessed and protected by God, Joseph was used in a special way
Having grown in fairness and humility, each and everyday.

Forgiveness was the final lesson God would ask Joseph to learn
As his brothers came in desperate need, all things in life would turn
God loves a humble spirit; one that's open, gentle and kind
Feeling welcome, will enter the entire being; heart, soul and mind.



("Joseph Is Sold" painted by Doris Cox)

Genesis 37: 28

So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.

(OLD TESTAMENT)

MOSES AND THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

God spoke to Moses from a bush on fire

“Lead my people” was His great desire

“I AM WHO I AM”; God’s sovereign name

Great power and might He would proclaim.

Ten plagues in Egypt, the Pharaoh did receive

Before he would let God’s people leave

Following Moses in trust on what God would give

They journeyed toward Canaan, their new place to live.

In the wilderness 40 years, a rocky road to travel

Facing hardships and tests, their faith would unravel

Never leaving or forsaking, they were always in God’s sight

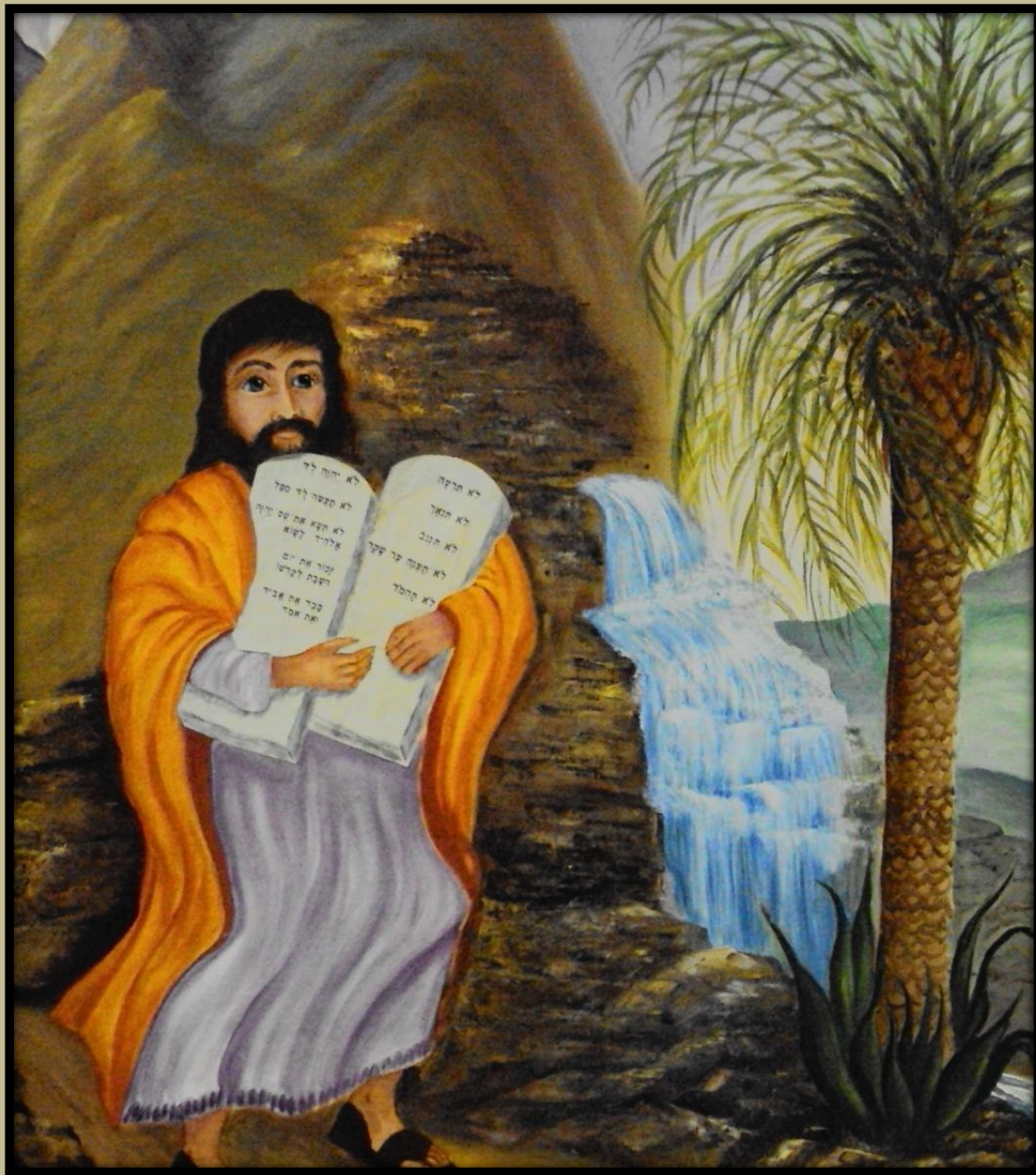
As a pillar of cloud by day and a cloud of fire by night.

When reaching Mt. Sinai, to Moses God would talk

Imparting His laws and guidelines for right living on their walk

The Ten Commandments we all should know and diligently pursue

God’s powerful guiding principles on what to say and do.



(“Moses and the Ten Commandments” painted by Doris Cox)

Deuteronomy 5: 1

Moses summoned all Israel and said: Hear, O Israel, the decrees and laws I declare in your hearing today. Learn them and be sure to follow them. The Lord our God made a covenant with us at Horeb.

(OLD TESTAMENT)

KING SAUL'S PRIDE

The children of Israel repeatedly asked for their own earthly king
To be like the nations around was an important powerful thing
Though God had freed their people and Canaan to them did give
They forsook Him for a king; on their own strength would live.

For them God selected Saul, an impressive Israelite man
Anointed with oil by Samuel, his reign as king began
The Holy Spirit of God entered the heart of Saul that day
As a symbol of presence and power, his kingdom seemed here to stay.

Somewhere along the way, Saul forgot to do God's will
Was arrogant, stubborn and proud; his own cup did fill
Failing to keep the Lord's commands, a new king was appointed
As leader of God's own people, a shepherd named David was anointed.

Changing God's Word to suit ourselves is not the Christian way
It's all about Him and not about us; a pattern for everyday
"Seek ye first the Kingdom of Heaven," a scripture for right behavior
Filling our thoughts with God's desires; we'll follow our Shepherd and Savior.



(“Samuel Anoints Saul as King” painted by Doris Cox)

1 Samuel 10: 1

Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on Saul’s head and kissed him saying, “Has not the Lord anointed you leader over his inheritance?”

(OLD TESTAMENT)

KING DAVID

David, shepherd king; a man after God's own heart

Believed the Lord was his source of strength, right from the start

When exalted for all his mighty feats, placed God's name above his own

By dedicating successes to the Lord, great obedience and faith were shown.

While carrying boxes of needed food to soldiers in the army of Saul

Along came a giant named Goliath, appearing enormously tall

Offering to fight this great man of war, using stones and only a sling

David trusted the Lord with all his heart; a rich and glorious thing.

A gifted musician, playing only a harp, he brought a feeling of calm

His beautiful praises to God recorded and found in the book of Psalm

An honored military hero, he captured the hearts of man

As a beloved and respected warrior, his reign as king began.

David, ancestor of Jesus, will always be Israel's hope

Although filled with imperfections, maneuvered life's slippery slope

He taught us to always love our God, and praise him with every breath

Knowing He will safely lead us, through the valley of the shadow of death.



("King David" painted by Doris Cox)

1 Samuel 16: 13

So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power.

(OLD TESTAMENT)

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT

The Ark of the Covenant, Most High Place, where the presence of God would dwell

Was without question The Throne of His Glory, more sacred than words can tell

The Holy of Holies, a perfect cube, showed the 3 fold holiness of God

Carried in front, down every path, the children of Israel trod.

Only two materials made up the Ark; acacia wood and gold

Incorruptible humanity and deity depicted; the nature of Jesus, 2 fold

The Atonement Cover, lid of pure gold, was known as the Mercy Seat

Between two cherubim, God gave His commands, when with the priests He would meet.

Priests used poles, inserted through rings, to transport the Ark with ease

No unclean hands were to touch the Ark, or God it would truly displease

The provisions inside, 3 in all, we all should surely know

For they're symbolic of how God provides and His love to us will show.

The 10 Commandants, pot of manna, and Aaron's rod inside

Serve as a reminder of Christ's great love and desire with us to abide

Though perfect and pure, He chose to die, that we might choose to live

His resurrection, as first fruits of heaven, victory over death did give.



2 Samuel 6:17

**They brought
the ark of the
Lord and set
it in its place
inside the
tent David
had pitched
for it.**

**(“Ark Brought To
Jerusalem” painted by
Doris Cox)**

(OLD TESTAMENT)

KING SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

**From his palace of cedar, King David gave thanks, praising God's holy name
And requested to build, a dwelling in kind, so God would have the same
God promptly revealed, through Nathan the prophet, what he most clearly felt
Being on the move, from place to place, a tent was where he dwelt.**

**A peacemaker He chose, not a warrior, to build His house of prayer
Future King Solomon, son of David, the choice he did declare
The people of Yahweh were unprepared for the splendor they would see
For Solomon's Temple, with its breath-taking beauty, no grander place would be.**

**The cherubim and altar were rich and lavish, completely overlaid with gold
While beautiful carvings of cherubs and flowers presented a sight to behold
A permanent place to worship God since peace was in the land
An exhilarating moment, for His followers, saved by God's own hand.**

**It's easy to think of a dwelling so fine as God's center of presence and power
Contained not in temples, but within each soul, He's ready with love to shower
In Gothic cathedrals or homeless shelters, our God we all can find
Through Jesus, our Savior came life eternal, a gift for all mankind.**



(“Solomon Builds the Temple” painted by Doris Cox)

1 Kings 6: 11

The word of the Lord came to Solomon: “As for this temple you are building, if you follow my decrees, carry out my regulations and keep all my commands and obey them, I will fulfill through you the promise I gave to David your father. And I will live among the Israelites and not abandoned my people Israel.”

(OLD TESTAMENT)

DANIEL: NOT OF THIS WORLD

No greater tragedy could befall God's people than the loss of their own land
Repeatedly warned, still turning to idols, ignored their God's command
To Jerusalem Babylon came, besieging the city, displaying little restraint
Destroying the temple, taking captives home, leaving all but nothing to remain.

Among those taken was a youth named Daniel, possessing great resolve
In this new culture, facing temptations, he, they could not involve
Under great pressure from chief officials to live his life their way
Stayed loyal to God, steadfast and strong, growing wiser every day.

Excelling at work Daniel attracted attention, from the powerful pagan king
When jealous officials could find no fault; against him false charges would bring
Death for refusing to bow to the king, a warning he did not heed
Daniel strongly believed, his God alone, provided all he would ever need.

In the den of lions, Daniel was thrown, by order of the king
Still alive at dawn, safe and sound, a dramatic and glorious thing
Let us live like Daniel, not of this world, placing trust in God alone
For only our Savior, possessed such love, He died for our sin to atone.



(“Daniel in the Lion’s Den” painted by Doris Cox)

Daniel 6: 22

My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me because I was found innocent in his sight.

(OLD TESTAMENT)

ESTHER'S DESTINY

**Xerxes the Great, Persia's fifth king, was a proud and impulsive man
Deposing his queen, causing chaos to reign, his officials came up with a plan
Per his decree, a search would ensue, as a new queen for him was sought
All beautiful young virgins throughout the kingdom, to the Citadel of Susa were brought**

**A young girl named Hadassah, raised by her cousin, lovely in form and feature
As Jewish descendents, they honored their God, her cousin as father and teacher
Chosen by the king, her name now Esther, did not disclose her race
Persia's new queen, had been chosen by God, knowing what His people would face.**

**A man named Haman, hated the Jews, they, he wanted to kill
Tricking the king, the order was given, his wishes he would fulfill
Showing great courage, Esther looked to her God, the One she was taught to cherish
Approaching the king, and to herself saying, "Lord, if I perish, I perish!"**

**Through prayer and great fasting, her people were saved, straight from God's own hand
Fulfilling, her destiny, obeying God's voice, Esther brought peace to the land
When we have faith in our ever-present God, He'll write our lives into His story
If the book of our heart sees through His eyes, we'll be used to His great glory.**



(“Queen Esther” painted by Doris Cox)

Esther 2: 17

Now the king was attracted to Esther more than any of the other women, and she won his favor and approval more than any of the other virgins. So he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

(NEW TESTAMENT)

MIRACLE OF ALL MIRACLES

**A miracle of all miracles, occurred on earth, over 20 centuries ago
When choosing to dwell among us; unfathomable love our God would show**

**“Hail favored one of Israel,” the young Virgin Mary did hear
“For you’ve found favor with God,” Gabriel’s words to calm her fear.**

**A child, Virgin Mary would bear, infant Jesus, Son of the Most High
Who would reign over the house of Jacob, a kingdom that would never die
That God had chosen a servant so poor, caused Mary to be amazed
“May it be just as You said,” she spoke, her submission never fazed.**

**The Holy Spirit shadowed over Mary, in a heavenly display of power
And on a humble lowly girl, a miraculous blessing God did shower
From beginning to end, she was with Jesus, showing her motherly love
Throughout her pain and suffering, still giving praises to God above.**

**Just as Mary found favor with God, He has also chosen you
To carry the message of Jesus, to others your whole life through
Because Mary believed, she accomplished God’s plan for her life
Gently infolded in His mighty arms during her heartache pain and strife.**



("An Angel Promises the Birth of Jesus to Mary" painted by Doris Cox)

Luke 1: 30

But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus."

(NEW TESTAMENT)

ELIZABETH—GOD'S ENCOURAGER

**After Gabriel an angel, brought a message to Mary, that she would beget God's son
Her predominant thought was to be used for God's purpose, allowing His will to be done**

Freely responding, her answer came quickly, "May it be as You have said."

Without hesitation, or thought of dire trouble, that lay on her path ahead.

Perhaps she found strength, way beyond measure, when about Elizabeth was told

Childless and old, a babe now expecting; a blessing from God to behold

When it comes to God, nothing is impossible, Gabriel's words and meaning now clear

Possessing great assurance, Mary now knew, her Lord would always be near.

Miracle of all miracles, this incredible moment, so improbable for others to believe

Where could she go? With whom could she share this blessing she did receive?

Mary got ready and went with haste, to the place where Elizabeth did live

She above all, 6 months with child, her blessing would surely give.

"Mother of my Lord," Elizabeth's kind greeting, told Mary she already knew

Her relative's encouragement, to Mary confirmed, what had transpired in her life was true

That we all need encouragement, is a well known fact, that fuels the spirit anew

So let us to others, offer fresh hope, today and our whole lives through.



(“Mary and Elizabeth” painted by Doris Cox)

Luke 1: 42

**In a loud voice, she exclaimed, “Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the child you will bear.**

(NEW TESTAMENT)

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST!

The birth of Christ was the greatest display of God's glory ever known

Picturing to man his beauty and virtue in a way never before shown

God would send a Messiah to redeem His creation, like nothing to compare

Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Man; atonement for all to share.

The Word had become flesh, as a blessed Redeemer, straight from God on High

Promise of the Ages, now had arrived, for our sin a Savior would die

Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace among men of good will

A man of sorrows, now only a babe, His destiny He would soon fulfill.

Because of God's love, His child was sent, to seek and save the lost

How great our gift! How priceless our treasure; for Him so great a cost

Immanuel, God with us, entered this world, possessing both peace and grace

Took on all the limitations and glaring temptations to save the human race.

Our purpose for being is to glorify God in each and every endeavor

Thus, it's through His grace, our future home, we'll be with Him forever

So let us lift our voices in praise to God at this sacred Christmas season

For it is through his only begotten Son that our lives have hope and reason.



("Birth of Jesus, the Messiah" painted by Doris Cox)

Matthew 1: 22

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel----which means, God with us.

(NEW TESTAMENT)

IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE

Mary and Joseph, observant Jews, traveled to the temple each year
Their devotion to God, an example to their family, was made abundantly clear
From Nazareth to Jerusalem, a 2 week journey, in travel time alone
As members of a caravan, reciting the psalms, their walk was joyful in tone.

Jesus their son, now 12 years old, knew each mile of the trip by heart
For the feast of the Passover, in all its importance, to him was explained from the start
Although for most people, costly and long; a significant trip to take
For adult Jewish males, from 20 miles around; a required journey to make.

When Passover concluded, the caravan gathered, and back to Nazareth did head
Thinking Jesus was with friends, to His parent's great horror, found their son missing instead
With fear and trepidation they returned to Jerusalem, where in the temple He was found
There with religious leaders, deep in discussion, was displaying great wisdom profound.

Mary expressed to Jesus, her obvious concern, when He they finally did find
"In My Father's house is where I should be," Jesus quickly responded in kind
Let us, like Jesus, seek Divine favor, by developing a relationship with God
Growing in wisdom that can only be learned by walking on gospel sod.



(“Jesus In The Temple” painted by Doris Cox)

Luke 2: 49

“Why were you searching for me?” he asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?”

(NEW TESTAMENT)

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

A voice of one, calling in the desert, preparing the way of the Lord
John the Baptist, cousin of Jesus, speaking words like a sharp edged sword
Baptized his followers, as a symbol of repentance, saving them from moral decay
Repeatedly prophesized, one much greater, soon would be coming their way.

The one to follow, would baptize instead, with the Holy Spirit and fire
Empowering his believers, to preach the gospel; a ministry he would require
Unrepentant people, would be harshly judged, as a punishment for their sin
While those who repented and believed in him, with God their journey would begin.

One day suddenly, Jesus came to the river, requesting to be baptized
Somehow knowing, his cousin was much greater, John was totally shocked and surprised
When from the water Jesus finally came, God's Spirit descended like a dove
And a voice from heaven clearly said, "This is my Son whom I love."

The baptism of Jesus, served as an example, of how to be born again
To feed and be fed by God's own hand; with the mission of souls to win
For it's through the water, we're refreshed and renewed, born again to love and care
Though many in body, we're one in family, to the world God's Word we will share.



(“The Baptism of Jesus” painted by Doris Cox)

Luke 3: 22

“You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.

(NEW TESTAMENT)

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

**The Sermon on the Mount, the most famous discourse Jesus ever gave
Deeply pierced the heart with insight, teaching His children on how to behave
Brought focus and clarity into the greatest matters of life
Challenged boldly with authority, often cutting like a knife.**

**Seeking God's kingdom and His righteousness is what Jesus did clearly teach
If heaven's to be our eternal home; the final address we're trying to reach
The true spirit of the law, not the letter; all His words did clearly explain
With the goal of only pleasing God, minus thoughts on personal gain.**

**As the Beatitudes unfolded, the religious world was rocked
That kingdom citizens are lowly and humble; listeners were amazed and shocked
They will be salt which will savor and light that will shine
Glorifying their Father in heaven, proclaiming His love so divine.**

**So when performing religious duties, there is simply an audience of One
Seeking to just please God the Father and His only begotten Son
"God be merciful to me the sinner," our words at the cross today
To enter the kingdom of heaven, the gate is narrow, and there's only One way.**



(“The Sermon On The Mount” painted by Doris Cox)

Luke 7: 28

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

NEW TESTAMENT)

TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

**For three full years, Jesus unceasingly traveled, and Himself He had proclaimed
Through simple words and mighty works, the kingdom of God was explained
Desiring His children's repentance, causing a change of heart and mind
Believing His messianic destiny; a call to all mankind.**

**The triumphal entry of Jesus; His divine authority declared
Our Redeemer King, Suffering Servant; His walk to the cross prepared
As He entered Jerusalem, He stopped and wept, foretelling the city's fate
The resounding glory laud and honor would soon be the voice of hate.**

**The crowd shouted loud Hosannas, thinking their hour of deliverance at hand
Israel's long awaited redeemer king, had come to save the land
These fleeting moments of exuberance, marked God's mission for our Lord
Jesus would follow in complete obedience, with His Father in total accord.**

**Palm Sunday summons us to behold our King, made flesh from God above
The One who's always present, in kindness mercy and love
He comes to us in power and glory at the beginning of each day's start
Desiring to solemnly possess our soul, being enthroned within our heart.**



(“The Triumphal Entry of Jesus” painted by Doris Cox)

Matthew 21: 9

**The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David!”
“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”
Hosanna in the highest!”**

(NEW TESTAMENT)

JESUS IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

**In the Garden of Gethsemane, looking toward heaven, Jesus prayed to His Father above
His earthly mission almost finished, words came with power and love
Agonizing over the trials ahead, He cried out to God in prayer
His sweat falling like drops of blood, He knew with whom to share.**

**Being familiar with crucifixion and the suffering soon to begin
Jesus dreaded more the separation from God, as He died for all our sin
His prayer began with an upward focus; the purpose to glorify God
His mission accomplished, to reveal His Father, down every path He had trod.**

**He also prayed with an inward focus as His time had come to die
For the Father to aid Him during His trials, in agony He did cry
“Not my will, but yours be done.” The words from Jesus, His Son
His commitment confirmed in total obedience, the battle over death would be won.**

**As Jesus brought his prayer to a close, He remembered you and me
By receiving Him as our Lord and Savior, from death we are set free
Everyone’s welcome, throughout the world, of varying race and creed
He’ll never leave or forsake us, always present in time of need.**

Luke 22: 42

**Father, if you
are willing,
take this cup
from me; but
not my will
but yours be
done.**

(“Jesus in The Garden of
Gethsemane” painted by Doris
Cox)



(NEW TESTAMENT)

CRUCIFY HIM!

**Crucify Him! Crucify Him! Joyful cries had turned to screams
Causing life for His faithful disciples, to unravel and tear at the seams
Death by crucifixion as His destiny, to them Jesus often spoke
The disciples now cowering and hiding; His lot too heavy a yoke.**

**Arrested, falsely accused and condemned, Jesus was beaten, scourged and mocked
Disfigured beyond recognition, as bystanders were horrified and shocked
Painfully paraded in front of mockers, to Golgotha a rocky hill
Stripped and nailed to an old rugged cross; the scriptures He did fulfill.**

**“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” Jesus’ loud and agonizing cry
Standing in our place as a sacrifice for sin, our Savior had chosen to die
Being momentarily separated from His Father, a time He did truly dread
Taking on the sin of the entire world, His blood for us was shed.**

**The centurion and those guarding Jesus, each and every step of the way
Said truly this was the Son of God, and believed without delay
Greater love has no one, than to lay down His life for friends
Accepting Jesus as your Savior today means your life with Him never ends.**



(“The Crucifixion Of Christ” painted by Doris Cox)

Luke 23: 34

**Jesus said, Father, forgive them, for they know
not what they are doing.”**

(NEW TESTAMENT)

RESSURECTION OF JESUS

Mary Magdalene and Jesus' devout followers, stood bewildered at the foot of the cross

Having witnessed their Savior's crucifixion, felt excruciating pain and loss

Although Jesus had repeatedly told them, He would be raised again to life

Not understanding confused and alone, His death had cut their hearts like a knife.

After removal from the cross, following at a distance, to see where Jesus would be buried

They would grieve and pay homage to His disfigured body, with spices to later be carried

Mary Magdalene, who deeply loved her Lord, had to obey the strict Sabbath rule

To her, the dictated wait from Friday to Sunday, seemed long and especially cruel.

Thus, on Sunday morning, just before dawn, with the world feeling cold and dark

The women numbly walked, with sad labored steps, down a path that felt empty and stark

Finding the stone rolled away, feeling shocked and upset, for help the women did run

Seeing her beloved Lord gone, his grave now empty, Mary's sobbing and tears had begun.

When suddenly Jesus asked why she was weeping, she knew her Lord did live

Everything He had promised, to all who believed, His resurrected body did give

"Where O death is your victory? Where O death is your sting?"

The resurrection power of Jesus Christ, our freedom from death did bring.



("The Resurrection" painted by Doris Cox)

Luke 24: 6

He is not here; He has risen!

(New Testament)

SAUL BECAME PAUL

Saul of Tarsus, a Pharisee's son, studied hard at Gamaliel's feet

An exceptional student, trained in the law, all requirements he did easily meet

From the tribe of Benjamin, Hebrew of Hebrews, was faultless in following the law

A formidable person, teacher and rabbi, could debate anyone he saw.

The rise of Christians, was against his teachings, a hazardous and tremendous threat

Viewed their beliefs, as a mockery of God, and pursued them without regret

Witnessed and approved of Stephen's stoning, and sought all people of the Way

Felt his Damascus journey was warranted, and departed without delay.

"Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Christ words as light shone round

Meeting face to face with Jesus, a blinded Saul lay trembling on the ground

That Believers are the body of Christ, was a lesson Saul did learn

Transformed by God, Saul became Paul, and his destiny he did discern.

No person, other than Jesus, shaped Christianity like Apostle Paul

His life now changed, with fierce intensity, proclaimed Jesus Christ to all

Preached Christ's mission as saving all sinners, of himself he declared the chief

A title we each can give to ourselves, as we pray for forgiveness and relief.



("Saul's Conversion" painted by Doris Cox)

Acts 9: 4

Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?

(NEW TESTAMENT)

TO LIVE IS CHRIST

When on the dusty road to Damascus, Saul met Jesus face to face

A light turned on within his heart that nothing could ever erase.

That Jesus the Christ was Messiah, he did zealously prove and preach

To the Jews, gentiles and kings, plus anyone he could possibly reach.

Paul, the one who had faultlessly guarded and protected the Pharisee law

Was now proclaiming Jesus as Messiah to each and everyone he saw

Rejected by Jews and Christians because of his well known past

For everyone's sake and welfare, back to Tarsus Paul was cast.

Barnabus, son of encouragement, knowing the church was growing fast

Looked up Saul, later named Paul, a friend he remembered from the past

By inviting him to be a member of his team, his faith in Paul was shown

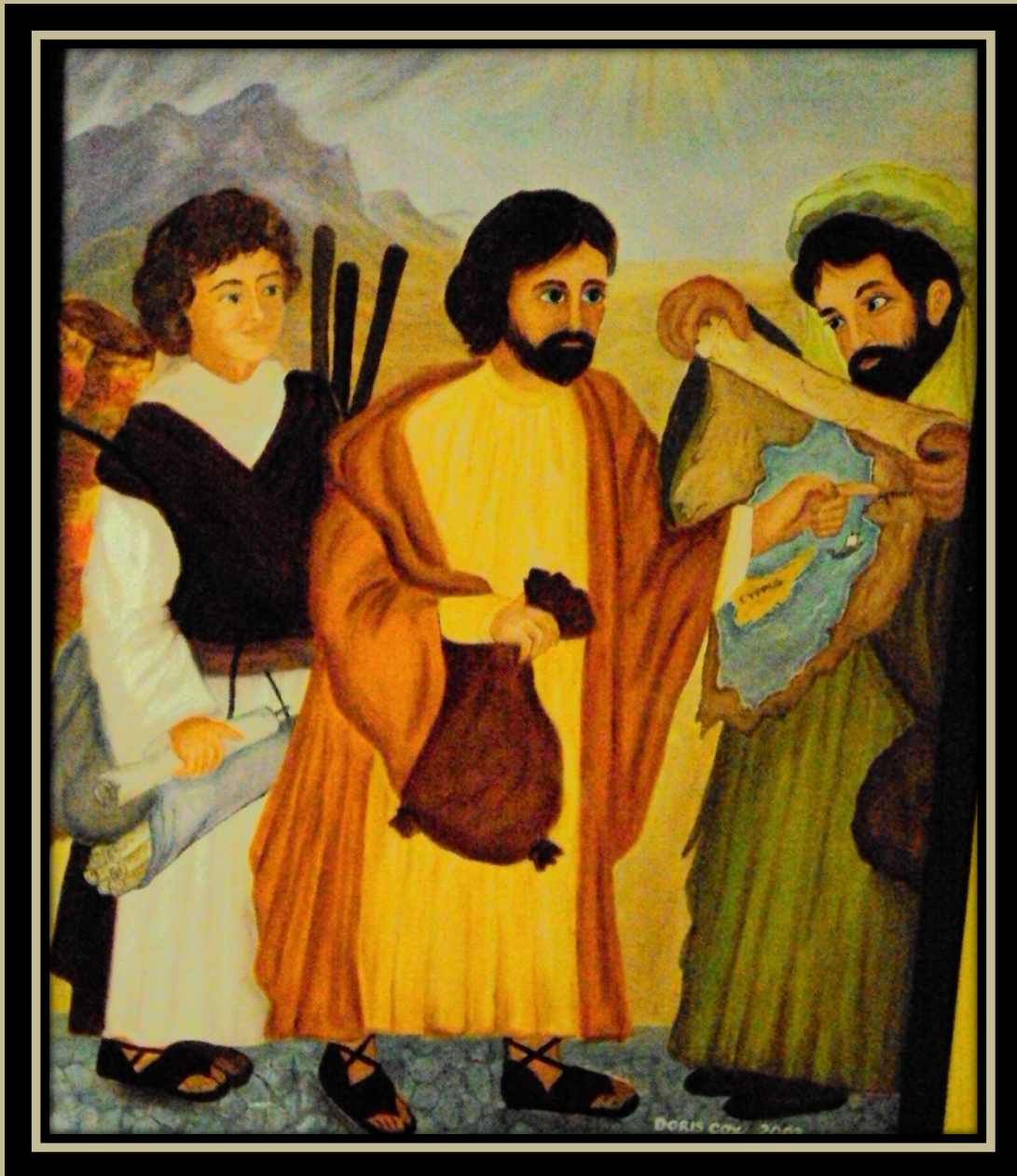
Giving birth to the greatest missionary the church of Christ has known.

Entrusting everything to Christ, Paul fought the fight and finished the race

And even when death assailed him, Jesus his Savior he did embrace

Thus, when we as Christians speak for Jesus, enduring grief and pain

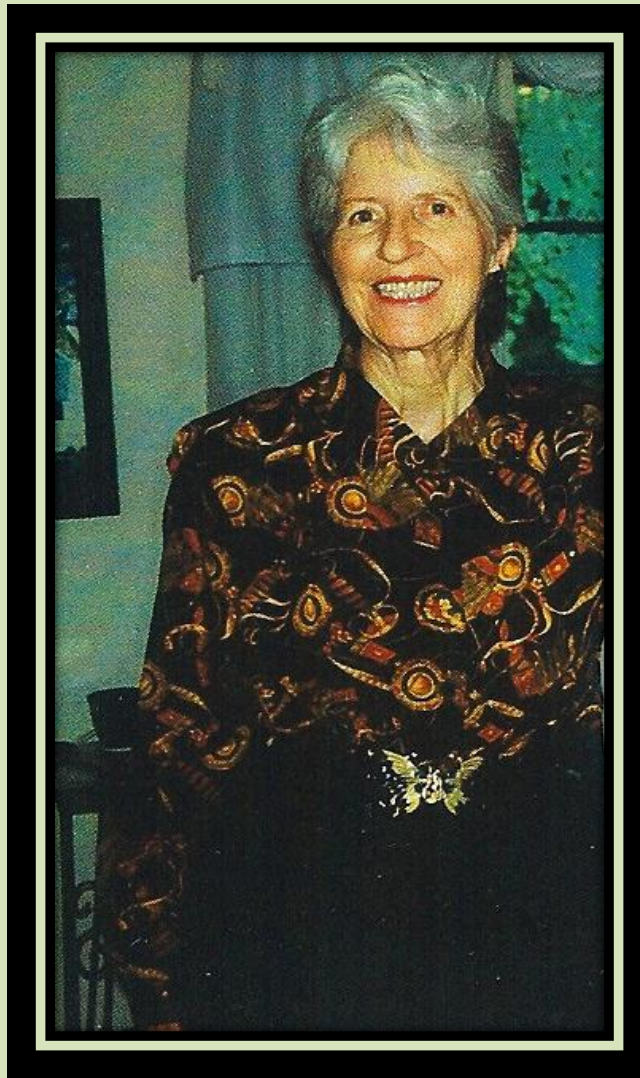
We like Paul truly believe, "To live is Christ and to die is gain."



(“Paul’s Missionary Journey” painted by Doris Cox)

Acts 13: 2

While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them. So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.



ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Doris Cox is the artist of the beautiful paintings used in the ALPHA & OMEGA collection that takes the reader on a journey throughout the Old and New Testaments. When the writer discovered the pictures on a hallway wall at University Hts. Baptist Church in Springfield, Missouri, she immediately fell in love with the beautiful colors and manner in which the subject matter was depicted.

Doris, a retired elementary school teacher, has been blessed with tremendous artistic ability and uses it for the glory of God. She is a graduate of Missouri State University (known then as S.M. S) and is now enjoying retirement in Springfield with her husband, John. Doris and John are the proud parents of three children, Theresa, Janie and John L.

CREDITS FOR PICTURES

Front Cover Picture: Bible at St. Paul Methodist Church, Springfield, Mo.

Inside cover picture: Lake at Nathanael Green Park, Springfield, Missouri

Poem 120: Spring at Ha Ha Tonka State Park located at Lake of Ozarks area in Missouri

Poem 121: Walking trail at Ha Ha Tonka State Park located at Lake of Ozarks in Missouri

Poem 122: Path at Ha Ha Tonka State Park located at Lake of Ozarks in Missouri

Poem 123: Stained Glass of Christ at Christian Church in Mountain Grove, Missouri. Thanks to Jim and Neva Salyer and the congregation.

Poem 124: Background Ocean on Big Island of Hawaii, Stained glass overlay from Christian Church in Mountain Grove, Missouri

Poem 124 (2nd Page): Background picture of sunset in Hawaii, Stained glass overlay from Christian Church in Mt. Grove, Mo.

Poem 125: Background boulders from Island of Kauai in Hawaii, Cross from College of the Ozarks, Stained Glass bird from St. Paul Methodist Church in Springfield, Missouri.

Poem 126: English garden from Nathanael Green Park, Springfield, Missouri

Poem 127: Home located in Mt. Grove, Missouri

Poem 128: Receiving God's Blessings picture from First & Calvary Presbyterian Church in Springfield, Mo. Artist: Sarah Clark.

Poem 129: Tree located at Twin Oaks Golf Course, Springfield, Missouri

Poem 130: Cross at night on top of St. John's Hospital, Springfield, MO. Stained Glass overlay of Jesus embracing His children from the Christian Church in Mt. Grove, Missouri.

Poem 131: 100 year old oil painting located at St. Paul Methodist Church on Walnut St. in Springfield, Missouri. (Called: Suffer The Little Children)

Poem 132: Praying Man painting by permission of First & Calvary Presbyterian Church in Springfield, Missouri. Artist: Sarah Clark.

Poem 133: 100 year old oil painting located at St. Paul Methodist Church on Walnut St. in Springfield, Missouri. (Mural Called: The Last Supper)

Poem 134: Female Praising God by permission of First & Calvary Presbyterian Church in Springfield, Missouri. Artist: SarahClark.

Oh Sweet Jesus Poem: Stained Glass window in sanctuary of First & Calvary Presbyterian Church in Springfield, Missouri.