



The CHOSEN

An Interactive
Bible Study

Season 5

The Stronghold of the Chosen

Amanda Jenkins, Dallas Jenkins, & Douglas S. Huffman

150 YEARS STRONG
DAVID COOK

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall speak peace to the nations;
his rule shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

As for you also, because of the
blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free
from the waterless pit.
Return to your stronghold,
O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will
restore to you double.”

Zechariah 9:9-12

Photo by Andrew Shiva / Wikipedia / Creative Commons



An aerial view of Masada in the Judean desert with the Dead Sea in the distance.

“The next day the large crowd that
had come to the feast heard that
Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So
they took branches of palm trees and
went out to meet him, crying out,
‘Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in
the name of the Lord,
even the King of Israel!”

John 12:12-13

Lesson 1

HOSANNA

Your Turn

1. Reflect on episode 1 and all the things the first-century Jews were longing for, and then consider: What are *you* currently wanting God to be or do for you?

Your Turn

2. In what ways have you denied yourself in order to take up your cross and follow Jesus?

3. In what ways have you not?

4. In what ways have you missed the better thing Jesus is offering you?

5. List the things you long for that self-help has failed to satisfy.

6. In what aspect of your life do you desperately need Jesus-rest or rescue?

7. What would it look like for you to retreat to Him as your stronghold today?

Your Turn

8. Read Psalm 136 and practice “beholding God’s power and glory” by listing all the ways He (a) saved the Old Testament nation of Israel and (b) will save us.

Lesson 2

PROPHESED

Your Turn

1. Reflect on episode 2 and the confusion and concern the disciples experienced, especially near the end of Jesus's ministry, and then consider: What do **you** long to know that the Almighty already knows?

Your Turn

2. Read Matthew 16:13–20. Who do **you** say Jesus is?

3. If Jesus is the Christ (i.e., the Messiah, Savior, Son of the Living God), and you have fully surrendered to Him, what should your response be when trouble comes?

4. Why should knowing that Jesus was “in the beginning” increase your faith in His ability to handle your present circumstances?

Your Turn

5. How does Jesus as Creator **and** the One who gives us access to the Ancient of Days bolster your confidence in Him as your stronghold?

6. Read the verses in the margin. How do the certainty, sureness, and trustworthiness of Jesus's words bolster your confidence in Him as your stronghold?

7. How do the prophecies Jesus fulfilled bolster your confidence in Him as your stronghold?

For Bible Nerds (like us) Who Want to Know

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS TO KEEP HIS PROMISES IN JESUS

Prophetic Psalms	Proclaiming Jesus in Acts 13:26–39
<p>"He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth. He remembers his covenant forever, the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations, the covenant that he made with Abraham, his sworn promise to Isaac, which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant, saying, 'To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance'" (Ps. 105:7–11).</p>	<p>"Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation. For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize him nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him. And though they found in him no guilt worthy of death, <u>they asked Pilate to have him executed.</u> And when they had carried out all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead, and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people. And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm, '<u>You are my Son, today I have begotten you.</u>'</p>
<p>"Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed" (Ps. 2:1–2).</p>	<p>And as for the fact that he raised him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, he has spoken in this way, '<u>I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David.</u>' Therefore he says also in another psalm, '<u>You will not let your Holy One see corruption.</u>'</p>
<p>"The LORD said to me, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession'" (Ps. 2:7–8).</p>	<p>For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption, but he whom God raised up did not see corruption. Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man <u>forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses."</u></p>
<p>"But I will not remove from him my steadfast love or be false to my faithfulness. I will not violate my covenant or alter the word that went forth from my lips. Once for all I have sworn by my holiness; I will not lie to David. His offspring shall endure forever, his throne as long as the sun before me" (Ps. 89:33–36).</p>	
<p>"For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption" (Ps. 16:10).</p>	
<p>"If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared. I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope" (Ps. 130:3–5).</p>	

Your Turn

8. Look up the above verses in your Bible and make a list of even more things you get to know.

Lesson 3

RAISED

Your Turn

2. Read Romans 6:1–11. Why does Christ’s resurrection mean we can have victory over sin?

3. Read Romans 6:22–23. Why does Christ’s resurrection mean we now have hope of eternal life?

4. Read Romans 10:10–15. Why should we—like the disciples who came before us—be motivated to tell everyone and their mother about the risen Jesus?

Your Turn

5. When it comes to your faith—or even your lack thereof—how have you experienced shame (i.e., being wrong or ridiculed or rejected or embarrassed by anything or anyone)?

6. Meditate on the verses above question 5. How does Jesus's love and care for you impact any shame, guilt, anxiousness, or fear you're still holding on to?

7. How does His resurrection ensure your hope?

Your Turn

8. Take a moment to reevaluate your circumstances in light of Romans 8:31–37. How might its promises change the way you see, understand, and respond to hard things?

Lesson 4

EVERY GOOD THING

Your Turn

1. Reflect on episode 4 and what it must've been like for the early disciples to spend time with Jesus face to face, listening to His voice and experiencing His presence so acutely, and then consider: What do you tend to want most from Jesus?

4. Read John 17:20–26 in the margin. What is Jesus’s prayer for you?

Your Turn

5. Who are the looky-loos in your life? Take a moment to pray for them by name. And if *you're* the looky-loo, explain why you haven't already surrendered to Jesus as Lord ... what's holding you back?

6. Reread John 17:20–26 and make a list of the things Jesus prayed for.

7. Christ's resources are unlimited—even death could not hold Him. How does knowing that change the way you respond to His authority?

Your Turn

8. Take some time to read John 1 and list Jesus's attributes. What resources from His limitless stockpile do you need most today?

Lesson 5

GLORIFIED

Your Turn

1. Reflect on episode 5 and the strong resistance the apostles had—along with all the other Jews who believed Jesus was the Messiah—to hearing Him speak of death instead of dominance, of salvation from sin instead of rescue from Rome, and then consider: In what ways do *you* resist Jesus's ways?

Your Turn

2. Jesus went so far as to say that those who are *unwilling* to sacrifice their lives for Him cannot be His disciples (Luke 14:27). What does that mean to you, and how does it make you feel?

3. Graphic content warning: It's not the nails through hands and feet that bring death during crucifixion; it's the collapsing of lungs, heart failure, dehydration, and inability to get

oxygen to vital organs that ultimately suffocates the person. So, through that lens, what does Christ's sacrifice mean to you and how does it make you feel?

4. Read Romans 6:14. Why is it so very important to render ourselves dead to sin?

Your Turn

Take some time to read John 16 (part of Jesus's encouragement to the apostles at the Last Supper) before answering the following questions:

5. Jesus told His disciples what would happen ahead of time. How was that a form of protection? (Hint, hint: the answer is in verses 1 and 33.)

6. How does knowing some things ahead of time also help protect you, especially in the midst of hard circumstances?

7. Jesus has been glorified and raised up to the highest possible place. Why does that make Him a perfectly effective Stronghold?

Your Turn

8. Meditate on Revelation 22:1–5 and the risen, glorified Jesus.

That’s all. Just meditate on Him.

Lesson 6

ETERNAL

Your Turn

1. Reflect on episode 6 and how Jesus must've felt as His dreaded death drew near, and then consider: What do you feel when you think about death?

3. Following Jesus on earth is sometimes hard. But how does following Him all the way to heaven make our surrender and sacrifice worth it?

4. In what ways is being where Jesus is (and seeing Him face to face!) becoming more precious to you?

Your Turn

We do indeed start our faith journeys with the benefit of understanding more than the original twelve disciples did at the beginning of theirs. In that spirit, answer some of the questions they raised:

5. Where was Jesus going?

6. When was He going?

7. Why was He going?

Your Turn

8. Jesus predates every earthly thing; He's eternal. Those who enter into His protection are safe; He's the impregnable fortress. Hidden in Him, we have peace; He *is* our peace. How does the eternity of Christ make you feel safe and secure?

Lesson 7

VICTORIOUS

Your Turn

1. Reflect on episode 7 and the way Jesus served and sacrificed, and then consider: How do you define “winning”?

Your Turn

2. In what ways are you experiencing, as Paul did, an ongoing battle with sin?

3. In what ways have you experienced victory over sin “through Jesus Christ our Lord”?

4. Sometimes the foot-washing ways of Jesus seem the opposite of victory. And yet, according to Hebrews 9:13–15, how did His sacrifice accomplish exactly that?

Your Turn

5. Jesus is love **and** Jesus is the One who “judges and makes war.” How do those things go together?

6. In what ways in your life does it feel like Satan or sin (or both) are winning?

7. Read Ephesians 6:10–20. How can you better prepare yourself for war?

Your Turn

8. From our safe place of victory in Jesus (where our earthly lives are being guarded and our hope of heaven is secured), what “work of the Lord” are you being called to abound in today?

Lesson 8

LIGHT

Your Turn

1. Reflect on episode 8 and the way Jesus calls His followers to Himself, and then consider: Who do *you* say Jesus is?

(See what we did there?)

Your Turn

2. In what areas of your life are you allowing darkness to remain? What consequences are you experiencing as a result?

3. Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." How does the light of Jesus safeguard your life?

4. What are some things you can do today to wake up and draw nearer to Jesus?

Your Turn

5. What keeps you from retreating to Jesus, in all circumstances and at all times?

6. According to 1 Peter 5:8, Satan is “prowling around, looking for someone to devour.” How does knowing that motivate you to change some (or all) of your priorities?

7. According to 1 Peter 5:9, we resist the devil by standing “firm in faith.” What attributes of Jesus, our Stronghold, are you trusting in today?

Your Turn

8. Colossians 1:17 says that in Jesus, “all things hold together.” In what ways can you see Him holding you—your cares and concerns, your problems and your people—today?