

APPRECIATING THE APOSTLE'S CREED: A BIBLICAL BACKDROP

- We are introduced to God as the *“Maker of heaven and earth”* in Genesis 1.
- We are introduced to Jesus Christ as *“His only Son, our Lord”* through the Gospels, most essentially in Matthew 3:17 and Mark 1:11 (the Father’s pronouncement at Jesus’ baptism); Luke 1:30-34 (the angel’s prophecy to the Virgin Mary), and John 3:16, where the Apostle John states most clearly who Jesus is and why He came to earth.
- We learn that Jesus was *“conceived by the Holy Ghost (and) born of the virgin Mary”* in Matthew 1 and Luke 1.
- How he *“suffered under Pontus Pilate”* is described in Matthew 27. The Apostle Peter mentions it during his first sermon in Acts 4.
- His *crucifixion, death, and resurrection* are covered in all four gospels (Matthew 27, 28; Mark 15, 16; Luke 23, 24, and John 19, 20). Paul sets forth Jesus’ crucifixion, death and resurrection as three essential elements of the Gospel story in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.
- We learn that Jesus *“descended into hell”* through Acts 2:31 and Ephesians 4:9. It is also mentioned in 1 Peter 4:6.
- His resurrection on *“the third day”* is covered in the Gospels. The Apostle Peter states clearly that God raised Jesus up on the third day in Acts 10:40.
- Acts 1 describes how Jesus *“ascended into heaven.”*
- Numerous scriptures -- including Mark 16:19, Luke 22: 69, Acts 5:31, Romans 8:34, Colossians 3:1, Hebrews 10:12, Hebrews 12:2 -- tell us that Jesus is seated *“on the right hand of God...”*
- Peter presents Jesus as the Judge of *“the quick and the dead”* in his sermon in Acts 10 (verse 42). The expression is also used in 2 Timothy 4:1 and 1 Peter 4:5.
- The “Holy Ghost” (also referred to as the Holy Spirit, the Spirit, the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ) is the third person of the Trinity. Jesus calls Him “the comforter” who abides with us and lives in us (John 14:16, 26; John 15:26; John 16:7). Every Christian has the Holy Ghost living within (Romans 8:9).
- The phrase “Catholic church” refers to the universal church rather than the church denomination we know. The word “catholic” is derived from a Greek term that means “universal.”
- “The communion of saints” may refer both to Lord’s Supper and the “koinonia,” or fellowship of believers. Jesus indeed says that the world will know that we are His disciples by the love we have for one another and by our unity (John 13: 35 and John 17: 21-23).
- The doctrine of forgiveness of sin is central to the gospel message and discussed throughout the New Testament. The most explicit statements are in Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 1:14, and 1 John 1:8, 9.
- The resurrection of the body is taught most fully in 1 Corinthians 15: 12-21, 51 and 52 and in 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18.
- Jesus Christ gives us everlasting life. The most familiar verses attesting to this are John 3:16, John 6:47, Romans 6:23, and 1 John 5:12, 13. You will find references to everlasting life, or eternal life through Christ throughout the New Testament.