

What is the requirement to get into heaven?
How the gospel symbols can help us understand that question



Gospel symbols (The
Man, Lion, Ox, and Eagle)
depicted in *Figures de la
Bible* by Pierre De Hondt,
1728

Note: Bible pictures in this
presentation are from Mark's bibles
which have been colorized using AI

The 4 Gospel Symbols (Matthew and Mark)

Man: Gospel of Matthew

The book begins with the genealogy of Jesus and shows us Jesus is a man



History of the New Testament by Samuel Roycroft, 1688

Lion: Gospel of Mark

The book begins like a roar from a Lion. It shows Jesus as the suffering servant king



Rheims New Testament, 1633

The 4 Gospel Symbols (Luke and John)

Ox: Gospel of Luke

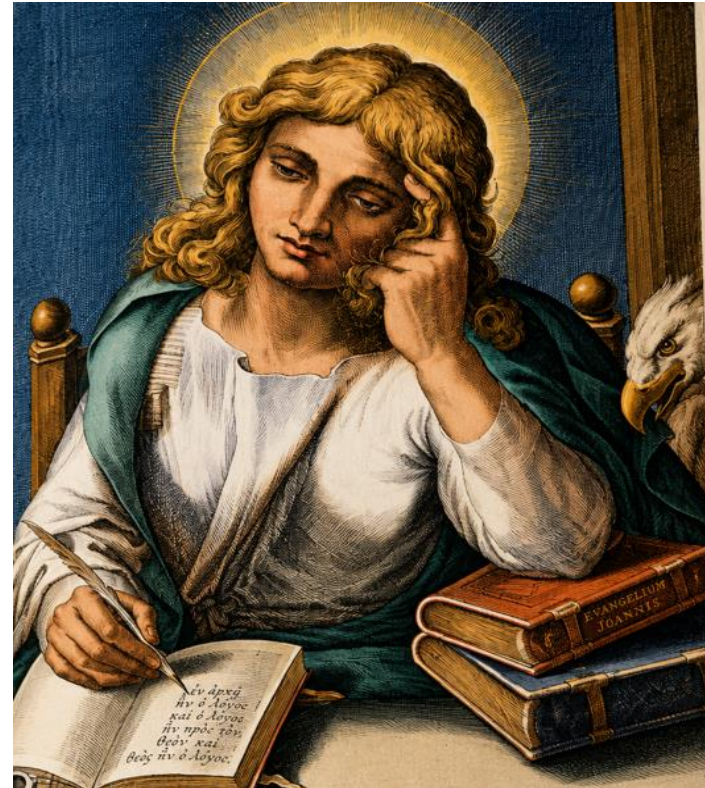
The book begins at the temple where sacrifices occur. In Luke we see Jesus as the Sacrifice for our Sins



*Rheims New
Testament, 1633*

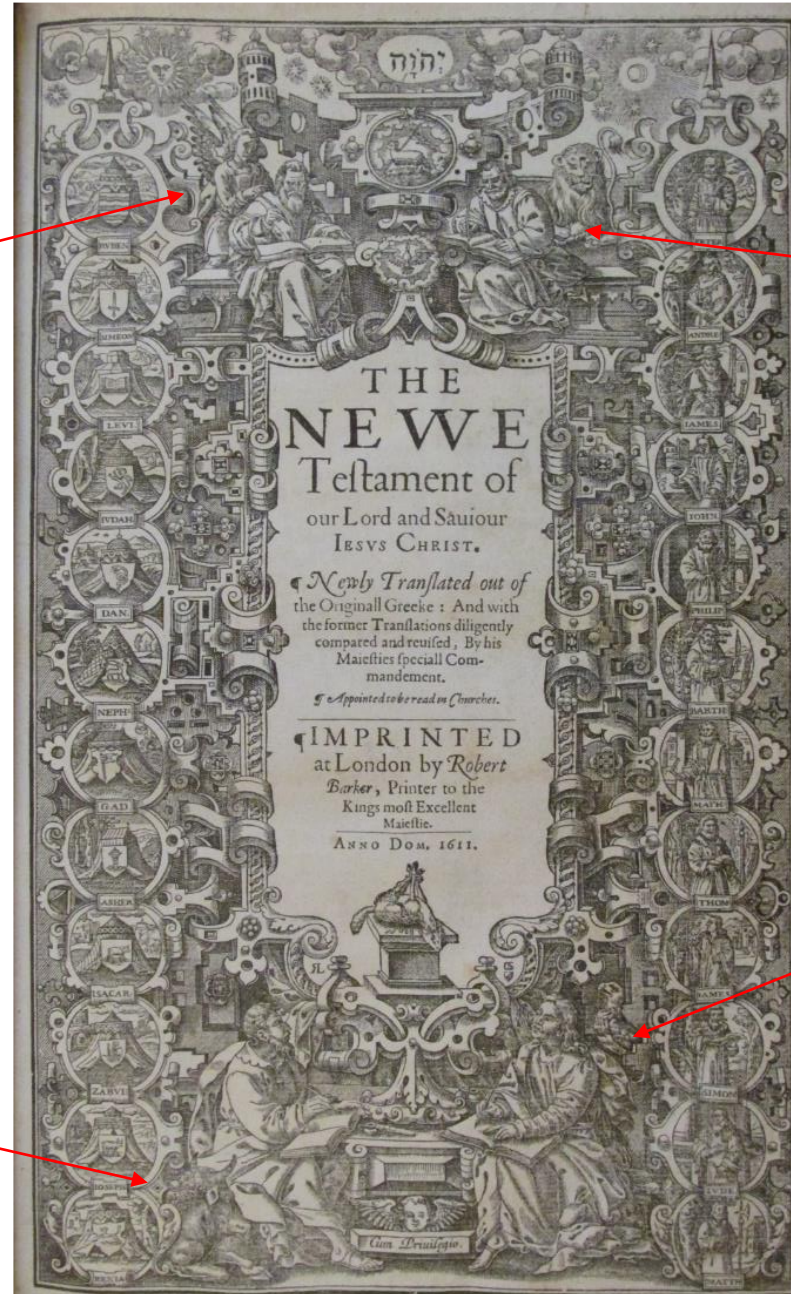
Eagle: Gospel of John

Soars above earthy events and focuses on the Deity of Jesus Christ



*Life of Jesus
by Jeremy Taylor,
1678*

Gospel Symbols (Man, Lion, Ox, Eagle) from 1611 King James Bible



The Gospel Symbols can be seen in churches in Europe



What if these angel-like beings which we get the Gospel Symbols from could talk what would they tell us?

- They do talk and today we are going to look at 3 important statements that they proclaim in the book of Revelation 4:6-11 & 5:6-10
- Their statements will help us understand the Requirement to get into Heaven?
- We are going to look at 3 main points:
 1. What is the most important attribute of God
 2. Why did Jesus have to die for us
 3. What is our purpose
- Shown in **red** we see the Angel-like beings (Gospel Symbols) proclaim these main points in Revelation 4 and 5.

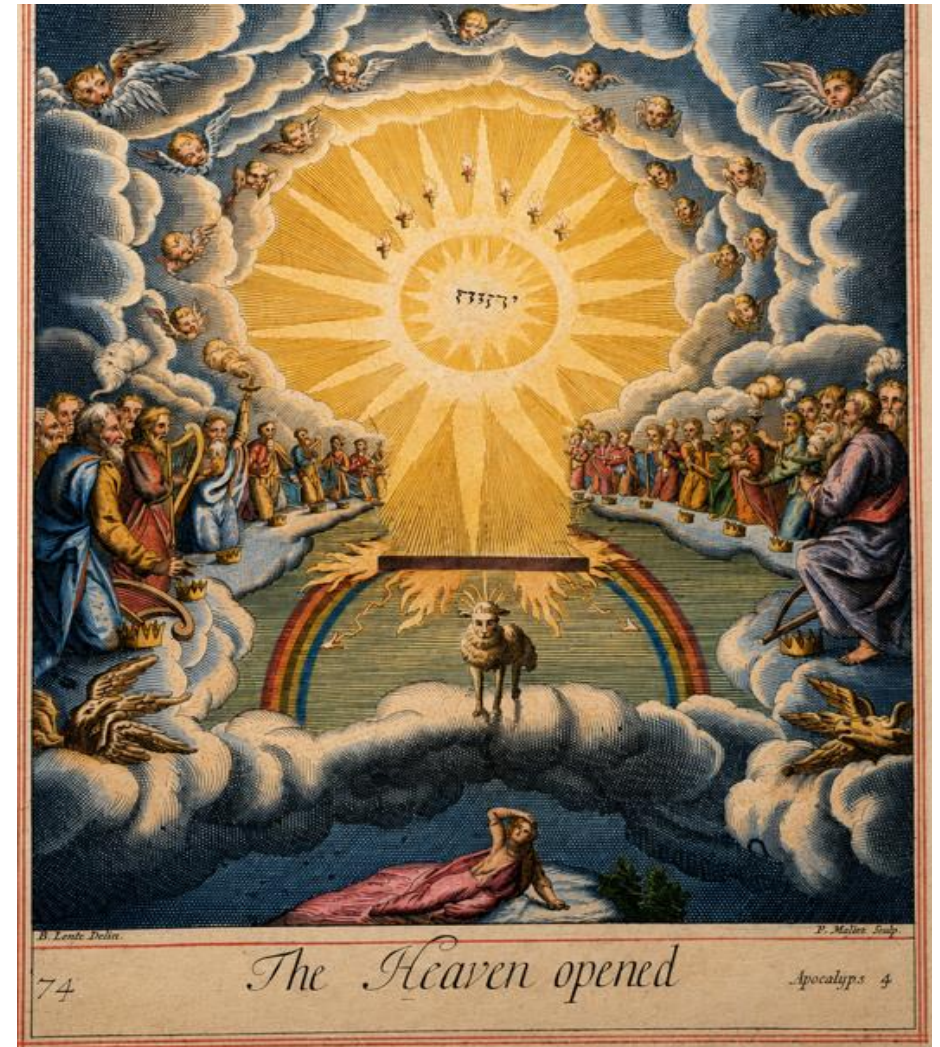


Figures de la Bible by Pierre de Hondt, 1728

1: What is the most important attribute of God?

- We get a glance at the Thone of God, We are privileged to hear what is being spoken in Heaven by the Exalted Angelic Beings (Gospel Symbols)
- First, they tell us that God is to be honored.

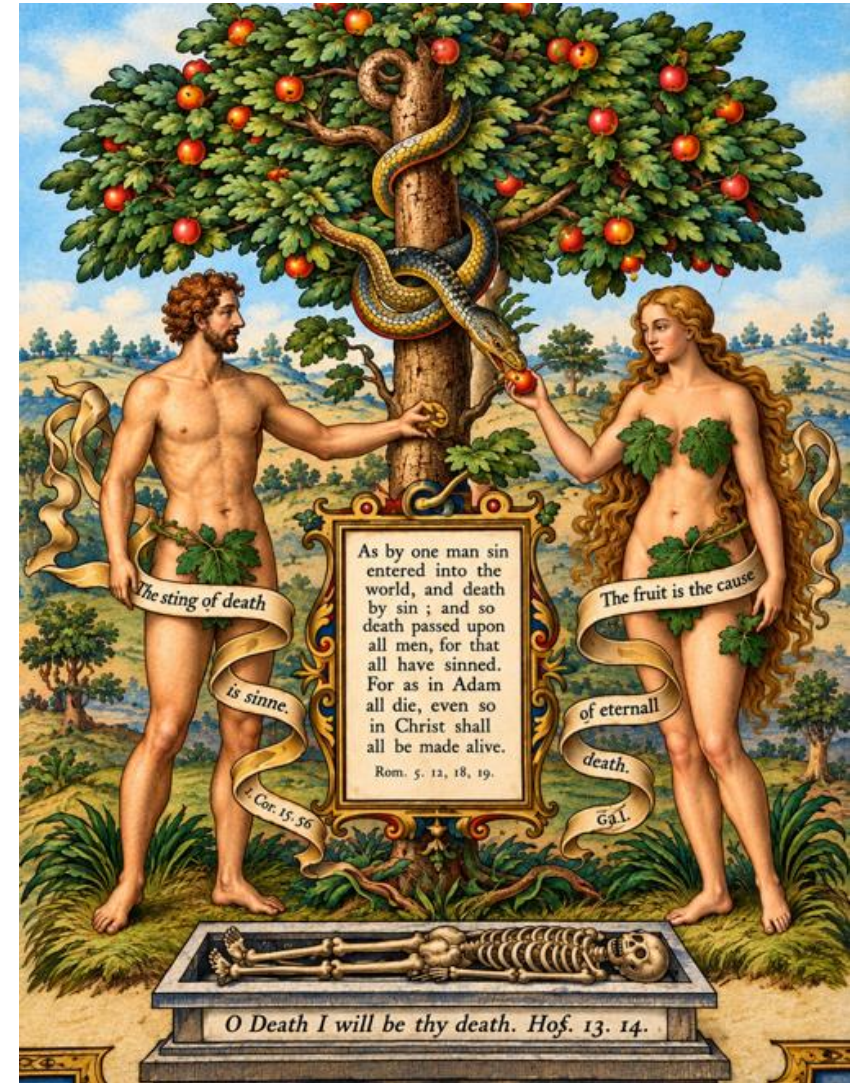
Revelation 4:8 “Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God Almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.”
- This is the only attribute of God that is repeated 3 times: Isaiah 6:3 and Rev 4:8 God is Holy.
 - Saying "God is Holy" means God is absolutely pure, morally perfect, and entirely set apart from all creation and sin. God will not let sin dwell in his presence.



Revelation 4: Heaven Opened
***History of the New Testament* by**
Samuel Roycroft, 1688

What is the Requirement to get into Heaven?

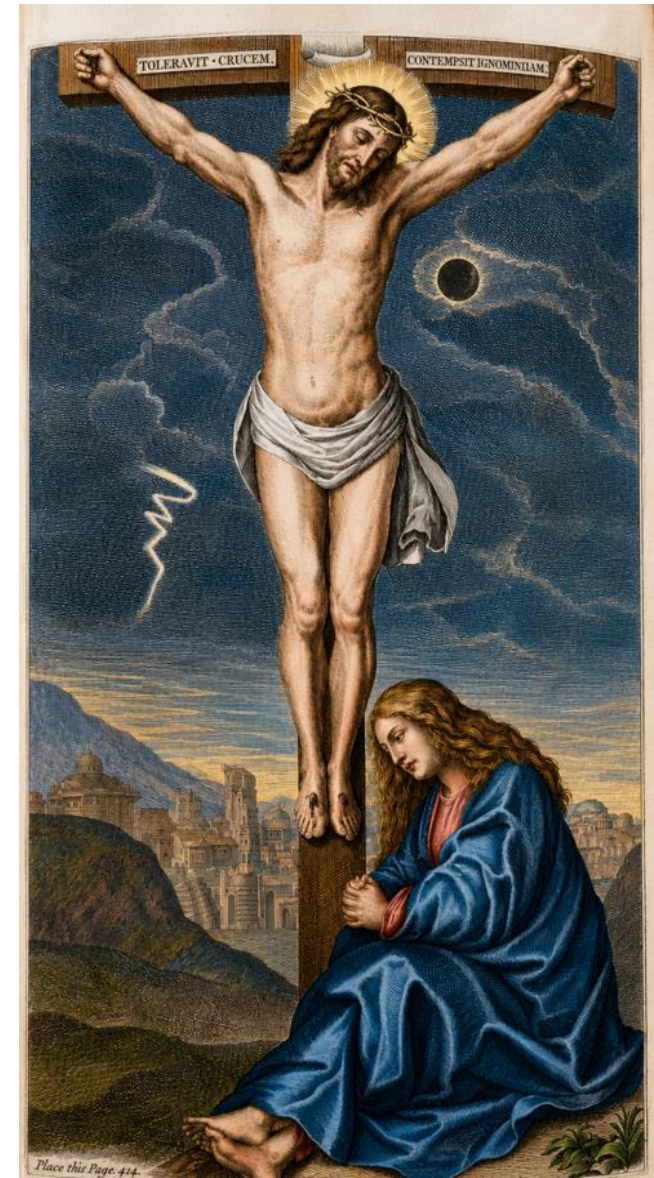
- **What is the Requirement to get into Heaven?** The answer to our Question is “You must be Holy, righteous, perfect, and with no sin”. 1 Peter 1:16 for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”
- God will not allow sin in heaven but we are full of sin so how can we get into heaven?
- When I ask this question regarding the requirement to get into heaven, I often get the answer is Jesus. It is important for us to separate the requirement from the solution. If we understand the requirement we will get a greater appreciation of the solution.
- When God made man, he made man with no sin. Man was made to have fellowship with God. When man sinned God banished him from his presence in the garden.
- God shows man what it is like to be Holy by giving us the law. The law shows us God’s Character and shows us how we should live. The law also shows us our inadequacy and drives us to find the solution.
- We also see that God is Holy when we look at how man approaches God in the tabernacle and temple. Only one man, the high priest, could enter God’s presence in the Holy of Holies, one time a year, at the day of Atonement (Yom Kippur).



From 1611/1613 King James She Bible
Adam and Eve

2: Why did Jesus have to Die for Us?

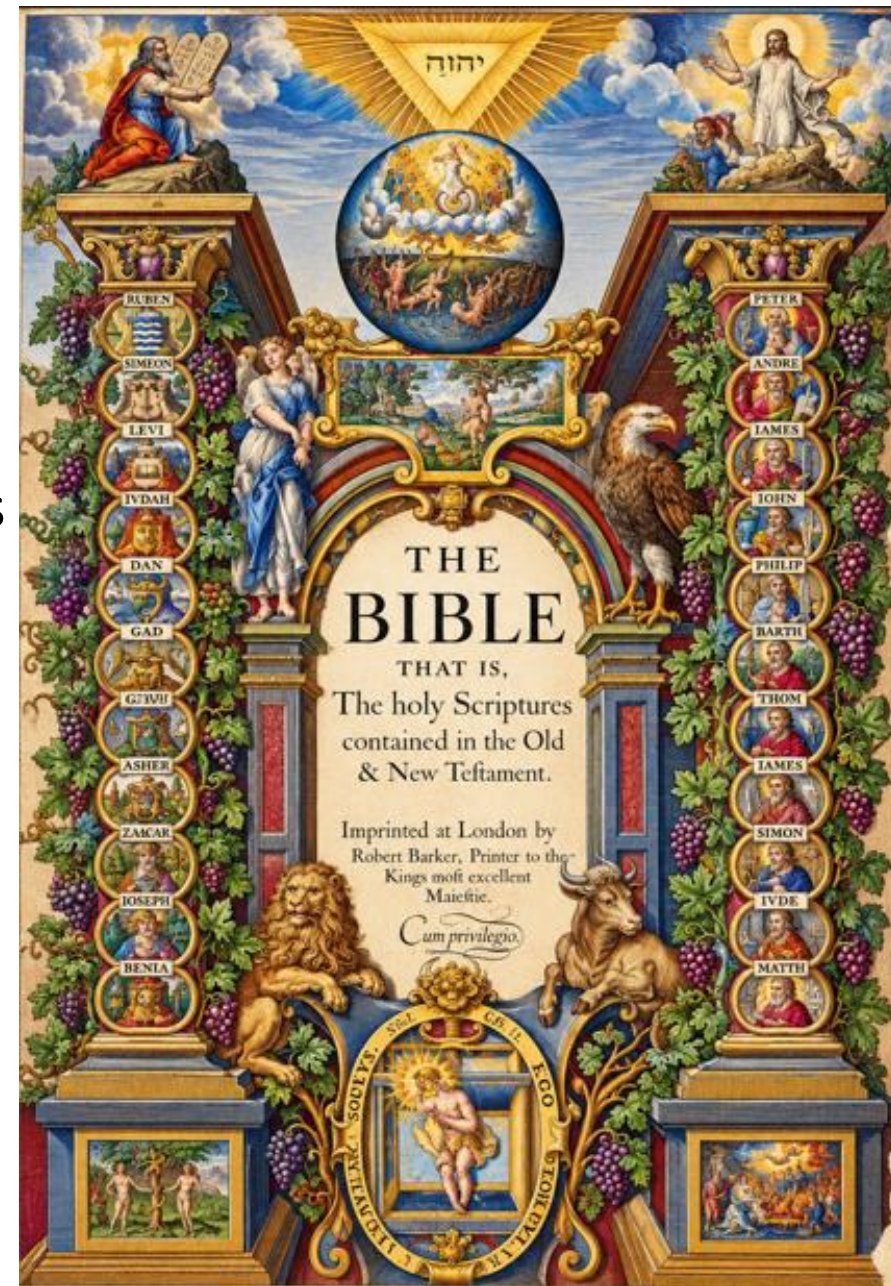
- These Exalted Angelic Beings (Gospel Symbols) then tell us something about Jesus in **Revelation 5:9** “for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God”
- You have been Ransomed by Jesus for God. Ransomed means a slave debt has been paid. The ransomed price was paid by the blood of Jesus.
- You now belong to Jesus; you are his property.
- I Corinthians 6:20 “you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.”
- What were Jesus’ last words on the cross? John 19:30 “‘It is Finished,’ With that he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.”
- The actual word in Greek is **tetelestai** (τετέλεσται), which means paid in full. This word was used in ancient times for invoices when the debt was paid in full
- Jesus paid your debt, Jesus bought you, you belong to Jesus



Jesus on the Cross
Life of Jesus by Jeremy Taylor, 1678

2: Why did Jesus have to Die?

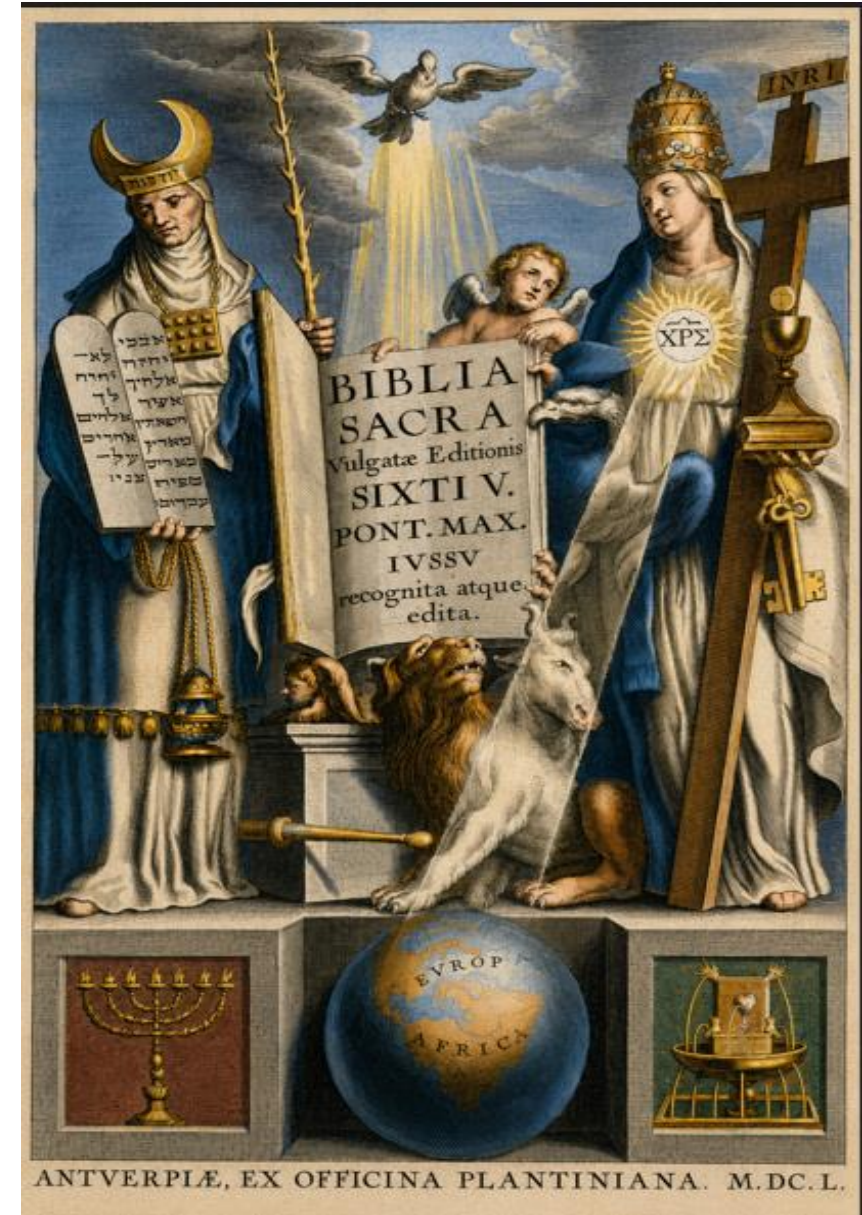
- Man is supposed to keep the law but he cannot keep the law. Since man cannot keep the law, does Jesus just abolish the law? Jesus says in Matthew 5:17-18 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets: I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”
- Jesus the man perfectly keeps the law and he imputes to us his righteousness, as if we’d kept the law perfectly 2 Cor 5:21 “God made him who had no sin to be sin¹ for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”
- What is the solution to the question regarding “What is the requirement to get into heaven”? “Only Jesus.” Jesus makes us Holy by giving us his righteousness and taking away our sin. It is not something we can do.
- What is Eternal Life per Jesus? John 17:3 “Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. Eternal Life is based upon have a Relationship with God. Jesus had to come to make us holy so that we can have fellowship with God.”



1612 Geneva Bible Title Page showing the 4 Gospel Symbols

3: What is Man's Purpose?

- These Exalted Angelic Beings (Gospel Symbols) then tell us something about us in Revelation 5:10
“and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”
- You are priests to serve God.
- Exodus 19:5-6 “Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”
- 1 Peter 2:5 “you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ”
- 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.”
- God wants us to be holy; we are supposed to reflect his character.



1650 Latin Bible showing the Gospel Symbols

Thank You, Jesus

- God is Just and because he is holy, sin has to be punished. But because of his love that punishment does not have to end with man, but with the one who was punished for our sins on the Cross, our Lord Jesus. Sin must be punished; the question is who will pay for it.
- As a Christian, we admit we are sinners in need of forgiveness, believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose again to pay for your sins, and commit our lives to follow him as your Lord and Savior.
- Hopefully you will get a greater appreciation of how these Angelic Beings and Gospel Symbols proclaim the gospel.



1686 *Luther Bible*, published by Johann Enders, showing the Symbols in the Gospels for Matthew the Man, Mark the Lion, Luke the Ox, John the Eagle

Restaurants within a Mile from the church

