

The Ancient Path - Versified Translation App Template

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*Thus says the Lord: "Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for **the ancient paths**, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls." Jeremiah 6:16a*

Introduction

1. In India,^[1] many people (including well-educated people) mistakenly believe that Christianity has its origins in the West.

2. This is a serious misunderstanding.

3. This little book will show you that, in fact, it is the oldest "**religion**" on the earth, if it be proper to call it a "**religion**" at all!

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4. The essence of Christianity had its origins four thousand years ago^[2] in modern day Iraq (in the Middle East) 1500 years before Buddha was born, and well before Confucius, Plato, Aristotle and other famous "**ancients**", lived.^[3]

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5. At that time God made a promise to a man named Abraham (and this was the confirmation of a promise that God had made to the first man and woman), that He would send a **SPECIAL MAN** into the world to save us all from our sins.

6. That man would be a "*blessing to all nations*".

7. Since the time of that promise, (2,000 B.C.) this faith in the God who created the Universe and the story of the "**Ancient Path**" spread to Israel, and then starting immediately after the days of Jesus Christ, it spread to all the Middle East and Europe.

8. Since the explosive growth of the first century, this "**Ancient Path**" has reached the entire world.

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9. From that time until now, many millions and millions of people have followed that "**Ancient Path**".

10. This true story is now followed by over one billion people from all over the world, from every tribe and every nation.

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11. What you are about to read in the next few minutes could change your life!

12. So, we urge you to please read this carefully and ask God to help you see the Truth in this world full of confusion and lies.

{13. The authors of this book hope to meet you someday!}^[4]

^[1] Put your country instead of India.

^[2] May need to contextualize the date to something people can relate to.

^[3] May need to contextualize to other well known people known in your country.

^[4] Optional

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The Ancient Path^[1]

1. In the beginning of time God created the universe, and the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, and put them in a beautiful garden with only one command to obey:
2. Don't eat the fruit from one tree.
3. Our first ancestors chose to disobey God and brought misery and death into the world.
4. God promised them that someday He would send a Redeemer who would restore man's relationship with God.
5. If they would believe God's promise, they could be saved.

[Figure 1]

Adam and Eve are driven from the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:22-24)

6. According to the Bible, the descendants of Adam and Eve refused to change and continued to rebel against God.
7. So, God told one man, Noah, to build a huge boat and put two of every animal on it.
8. God was going to flood the entire earth and destroy all life except that which was on the Ark.
9. Just eight persons in Noah's family were saved from among all the people.

[Figure 2]

Noah's Ark (Genesis 6-8)

10. Most cultures record a Flood story, myth, or legend.
11. The word for ship in Chinese consists of three traditional characters:
12. boat, eight, and people.
13. This amazing fact has caused many scholars to date the Chinese characters as early as 3000 B.C.,
14. because the origins of these characters may reflect knowledge of the biblical account of the worldwide Flood recorded in the Bible (see Genesis 7:13).

[Figure 3]

舟 + 八 + 人 = 船

Boat eight people ship

15. After Noah and his family and all the animals left the Ark and started a new world (Genesis 8:18-19),
16. God commanded Noah and his descendants to populate all the earth (Genesis 9:1).
17. But Noah's descendants were prideful and refused to obey, and settled near Babylon in ancient Iraq to build their own city and make a name for themselves.

[Figure 4]

The Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9)

18. Most cultures record a Flood story, myth, or legend.
19. At that time, all people spoke the same language.
20. God came down and confused their language, so they could not understand each other (Genesis 11:1-7).
21. Normal life and work became impossible.
22. Those who spoke the same language gathered together and moved away all over the earth, creating all the different ethnicities in the world today.
23. Still, they went their own way, and weren't interested in knowing God.

^[1] Use the same language for **The Ancient Path**, that is used in your language in *Jeremiah 6:16a*.

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Men Begin To Create Their Own Religions

1. Although our first ancestors knew God personally, over time that knowledge was lost, and men began to create their own religions.
2. Some said humans were like animals;
3. others said men were descended from “**gods.**”
4. Still others said the universe had always existed and simply proposed rules of ethical living, and avoided the subject of God.
5. Men began to worship trees, rivers, their ancestors, the moon, and the sun.
6. Some said all men were “**God!**”
7. The knowledge of the promises and **The Ancient Path** back to God was lost.

[Figure 5]

Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Paganism
Other Religions

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A Special Promise

1. Around 4,000 years ago, God spoke to a man named Abraham in a place called Ur, in modern day Iraq.
2. Abraham was born in 2166 B.C. and lived among a people who were following a man-made system of worshiping “gods” which they had created.
3. God told Abraham to leave his parents and his country to go to a new country which God would show him (*Genesis 12:1-3*).

[Figure 6]

Ancient Iraq in the time of Abraham, 2100 B.C. (Genesis 11-12)

4. At the age of 75, Abraham followed God’s instructions and traveled to what is now known as Israel in the Middle East.
5. God gave Abraham three great promises.
6. The greatest promise was:
7. *“I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you, I will curse,*
8. *and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Genesis 12:3).*

[Figure 7]

Abraham leaves his father’s house and his country to follow God (Genesis 12:1-4)

9. Abraham became the father of the Jews (the Israelites) and the Arabs.
10. But the blessing to all the nations of the earth would be through his descendant, the One originally promised to our first ancestors (*Genesis 3:15*).

[Paragraph break]

11. God repeated His promise to Abraham’s son, Isaac, and his grandson, Jacob.
12. God gave Jacob twelve sons whose families, called Israelites, were eventually enslaved in Egypt by wicked kings.
13. These wicked kings, Pharaohs, abused the Israelites and made their work harder and harder, hoping they would die (*Exodus 1*).
14. Finally, around 1446 B.C, God sent them a great man named Moses to deliver them from slavery in Egypt.

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Moses the Deliverer

1. Moses was 80 years old when God called him to confront the Pharaoh with God's demand:
2. "Let My people go" (Exodus 3).
3. Though Pharaoh at first refused, God sent plagues upon his nation, and he finally agreed to let the Israelites go (Exodus 4-10).
4. Before God sent the final plague, God told Moses to tell His people, the Israelites, that each household must kill a perfect young male lamb as a sacrifice and to brush its blood on the top and sides of the door of each house.
5. This blood would protect them from the Destroyer that God was about to send to punish Egypt.

[Figure 8]

Israelite puts blood of slain lamb on door of house to protect the house from the "Destroyer" (Exodus 12:21-23)

6. The Jews obeyed God and put the blood of the lambs on their doors.
7. When the Destroyer came, God saw the blood and spared the households whose doors were marked by the blood of a lamb.

[Paragraph Break]

8. Pharaoh finally allowed the Jews to leave Egypt and nearly two million followed Moses to freedom.
9. Then Pharaoh changed his mind and sent his armies to chase God's people.
10. But God did a great miracle and caused the Red Sea to open up for His people to pass through and caused the walls of water to collapse upon the pursuing Egyptians.
11. The Egyptian army was destroyed (Exodus 14).

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God's Law

1. God led the Israelites to a place called Mount Sinai where God gave them the Ten Commandments that they were to keep, as a sign they were agreeing to be His people.
2. Even though God placed them safely in the land as He had promised, the Israelites became ungrateful, forgot God and His Ancient Path, and went their own way.

[Figure 9]

Moses receives the Ten Commandments on Mt. Sinai (Exodus 20:1-21)

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A Substitute to Pay for Their Sins

1. Instead of destroying the Israelites for disobeying Him, God commanded that a spotless, young male lamb, in perfect health, be brought before His place of worship.
2. The man who had disobeyed God was to place his hands on the head of the lamb, symbolizing the transfer of the man's rebellion and disobedience to the lamb.
3. The lamb was then killed.
4. This all happened before 1400 B.C.
5. Still, the people forgot God and His Ancient Path, and went their own way.

[Figure 10]

Symbolic transfer of man's sins to sacrificial lamb (Leviticus 1:4)

6. Around 1000 B.C., God raised up David, a descendant of Abraham, to be a great King in Israel.
7. This was 500 years before Buddha was born.
8. God clarified that the One promised to Adam and Eve, and later to Abraham, would descend from David and would rule on David's throne eternally.
9. God said this future King would be a "**son of David**" (*Psalm 2:7; Matthew 1:1*).

[Paragraph Break]

10. Over time, God sent other prophets to give more details about the great "**son of David**" whom He had promised.
11. Around 800 B.C., one prophet foretold that this "**Son**" would be born in a small town called Bethlehem,
12. and that His "*origins are from eternity*" (*Micah 5:2*).
13. Around 720 B.C., another prophet said that this coming Ruler would be a "**child**" born of a virgin in Israel,
14. and yet would be called "**Everlasting Father**" (*Isaiah 9:6*).

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A Miraculous Birth

1. Finally, around two thousand years ago, in ancient Israel, an angel appeared to a young virgin named Mary, in a small town called Nazareth.
2. The angel told her she would have a child whom she should name "**Jesus**"
3. because He would "*save His people from their sins.*"
4. Because of a government ordered census at the time, Mary and the man she was engaged to, Joseph, had to travel to Joseph's hometown, Bethlehem, to be counted.

[Figure 11]

The virgin Mary gives birth to Jesus in Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-7)

5. While there, Mary gave birth to the child Jesus in a lowly cow stable in fulfillment of all the promises made over thousands of years (*Luke 2:1-8*).
6. That night, angels appeared in the sky to shepherds in Bethlehem to announce that:
7. "*Unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior who is Christ the Lord*" (*Luke 2:11*).

[Figure 12]

Angels announce to the shepherds that Jesus has been born in Bethlehem" (Luke 2:8-20)

8.A great distance to the East a star appeared in the heavens to guide great philosophers to come to Israel to worship this new King (*Matthew 2:1-12*).

9.This child, Jesus, was an earthly descendant of the Jewish king David who lived around 1000 B.C., (this was 500 years before Bhudda was born)

10.and David was a descendant of Abraham (2000 B.C.).

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11.Jesus grew up in Nazareth and became great in wisdom and everyone loved Him.

12.When He was thirty years old, He began the work for which He had been sent to earth.

13.Jesus called Himself the Son of God and said that *"I and the Father are One"* (*John 10:30*).

14.Jesus existed forever as God, but took on the form of a man (*John 1:14*).

15.He said: *"Before Abraham was, I am"* (*John 8:58*).

16.By *"I am,"* Jesus confirmed He had no **"beginning"** but had always existed, from eternity, eons before Alexander the Great, Socrates, Confucius, or Buddha were born.

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17.He created the universe (*John 1:2-3; Colossians 1:16*) and **"upholds"** it even now (*Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3*).

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The Only Sinless Man

1.Despite the fact that God is infinitely holy, and hates sin, Jesus didn't come to earth to punish mankind for its disobedience.

2.Instead, He came to die in our place...just like the little, innocent lamb.

3.When Jesus began to teach about the Kingdom of God, a great prophet at that time saw Jesus and said:

4.*"Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world"* (*John 1:29*).

[Paragraph Break]

5.Jesus lived a perfect life and never sinned (*Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:22; 1 John 3:5*), even though He was tempted in every way that we are.

6.Jesus healed the sick, cast out demons, gave sight to the blind (*Matthew 9:27-35*),

7.and raised people from the dead (*John 11:38-44*).

[Figure 13]

Jesus walks on the water (*Matthew 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-52; John 6:15-21*)

8.Finally, at the age of 33, according to the plan which God determined before He made the universe (*Acts 2:23*),

9.Jesus was arrested and tried for blasphemy (making Himself equal with God).

10.Though tried by a Roman judge, Jesus was found not guilty, but still sentenced to die (*John 18:38; 19:4,6*).

11.But this was actually the result that God had ordained (*Acts 4:27-28; Revelation 13:8*).

[Figure 14]

Jesus is nailed to the cross as a Substitute for our sins (*Matthew 27:24-62; John 19:17-42*).

12. ***"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son [Jesus], that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"*** (*John 3:16*)

[Paragraph Break]

13.Jesus was nailed to a tree (in the form of a cross), died in our place, and was buried.

[Figure 15]

Jesus rose from the dead (Matthew 28; 1 Corinthians 15:3-9)

14. **BUT** three days later, Jesus rose from the dead.

15. This incredible event was confirmed by over 500 people who saw Jesus **ALIVE** after He had been buried (*1 Corinthians 15:6*).

16. He spoke to them.

17. He embraced them.

18. He walked with them, and taught them, for 40 days.

[Paragraph Break]

19. And then He returned to heaven, promising that **HE WILL COME AGAIN** (*John 14:2-3; Matthew 26:64; Mark 14:62*).

20. At the time of His return, all those who have refused to believe in Him in this life, will die in their sins (*John 3:36; 8:24*).

21. In the future, when He returns, it will be to judge the world (*Rev. 19:11ff*).

[Paragraph Break]

22. Before He went back to heaven, He told His followers to go into all the world and tell others, so they too could find The Ancient Path (*Matthew 28:19; Acts 1:8*).

23. From that time, the truth of Jesus has spread out from Israel to all the world.

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The Ancient Path

1. Since Jesus went back to heaven, most people have continued to go their own way, and don't think about God (*Matthew 7:13-14*).

2. Some follow the old religions and philosophies created by man, and others have created new ones.

3. Most ignore **The Ancient Path** to God.

4. This path is traceable back to God's promise to our first ancestors over six thousand years ago.

5. This promise of a coming Redeemer was repeated to Abraham as the "*blessing to all nations*" (*Genesis 12:3*), and to Israel as the eternal "**Son**" (*Psalms 2:7; Matthew 1:1*).

6. Jesus is God's Way for our sins against Him to be forgiven (*John 14:6*).

7. He lived a perfect life in our place and then died for the sins of all the world (*John 1:29; Ephesians 1:7; Revelation 1:5*).

[Paragraph Break]

8. This wonderful truth is now ours.

9. By putting our trust in Jesus and His death on the cross, **FOR US**, as our Substitute, we can have our sins forgiven, and our relationship with God restored (*1 Peter 2:24; 2 Corinthians 5:21*).

[Paragraph Break]

10. We can live forever...with God, in a place of magnificent beauty, wonder, excitement, adventure, and peace (*John 10:28-29*).

11. Trying to earn our way to heaven by systems of self-merit is "*passion without knowledge*" (*Romans 10:1-3*).

12. If we will just abandon our self-reliance and trust **ONLY** in God's own Son (**The Ancient Path**), we can be forgiven and live with God forever (*Revelation 21:1-4*).

[Figure 16]

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep" (*John 10:11; 1 Peter 2:25*)

13. Jesus said *"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.*

14. No man comes to the Father except by Me" (John 14:6),

15. and "Come unto Me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

[Paragraph Break]

16. Do you want to know God, and know that you are forgiven of all your sins (1 John 5:13)?

[Paragraph Break]

17. Ask Jesus to forgive you, and make Him the Lord of your life, putting all your trust in Him to save you (John 3:16).

18. He will come into your life and give you a new heart and put His Spirit in you and **CHANGE** you (Revelation 3:20; Ezekiel 36:26-27)!

[Paragraph Break]

19. If you are interested in learning more about **The Ancient Path**, please contact the nearest Bible believing church, or the person who gave you this book.^[1]

[Paragraph Break]

20. Come to Me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28).

21. Jesus Christ

^[1] Write what is appropriate for the media, e.g. 'shared this app'