



"Behold, I stand at the door and knock..."

*The Stained Glass
Windows of
First Baptist Church*

Montgomery, Alabama

A Dream Fulfilled

Stained Glass Book

Before mankind became as educated as we are, the great majority of people could neither read nor write, but they could look at a picture and learn from what they saw. Stained glass windows became popular because of their lasting beauty, as a teaching tool of Biblical events and for their creation of a sense of worship. Today we continue this tradition of providing stain glass windows in our places of worship to add beauty to the sanctuary, to help create an atmosphere of worship and to assist in the teaching of the Holy Scriptures. These windows were selected for their beauty and content to inspire you to feel as though you are on Holy Ground, as you are! We hope these windows will help you to develop a closer relationship with the Father and will lead you to study the scriptures and understand His message to you.

The main focus of our sanctuary is the large window above the baptismal pool. This large window's theme is the second coming of Christ. In John 14:3 our Lord says, *"I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am there you may be also."*

The seven windows on each side of the sanctuary show different Biblical Scenes from Genesis to Revelations. Each window depicts two scenes or events with an appropriate scripture beneath each. Several scripture references would be possible for the different windows and a few additional scriptures are referenced in some of the narratives. The banner quote at the top of each window inspires the scene in



the center portion. The lower scene or predella depicts another Biblical event with its scripture reference underneath. Some of the scenes could easily support an epic to be written about the teaching it represents and some required only a few sentences. We hope that these windows will remind you of the great stories of the Bible and be a constant reminder of the love that God has for us through Jesus as the Christ, the Anointed One, or Messiah as foretold in the Old Testament and fulfilled in the New.

The Committee chose Willet studios of Philadelphia as the maker of our windows after reviewing several other choices. Mr. Cosby Willet met with the Committee several times over a period of months and displayed his artistic samples. The Committee came to appreciate his knowledge of his profession. He was a great help to us and supported us in every way toward the completion of these windows. We believe he is truly a man who has been able to combine his avocation with his vocation, a rarity today.

Whether Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, or other Christian belief, all those who proclaim Christianity should adhere to the basic teachings of our Bible which include:

1. We all have fallen short of the Glory of God and are sinners in this regard.

2. The price we must pay for our sins is our death
3. However, we believe that Jesus, as foretold by the Old Testament prophets and demonstrated by Jesus' teachings and miracles described in the New Testament, paid the price for our sins by accepting death on the cross. His resurrection on the third day demonstrated His authority to conquer death just as He promised we will be able to do.
4. Our acceptance of His actions on our behalf that is, our faith in Him—is our key to our entrance into the Holy City.
5. Your development of a personal relationship with Him, through prayer, is the “Glue” that supports our faith in the above beliefs.

From the widow's mite to the largest donation this booklet is in honor and memory of all those who made financial sacrifices to make this sanctuary become a reality. When we first started we all realized that it was a "God-Sized" project.

These brochures are dedicated to all those parents who pray for their children, raise them in a Christian home and BRING them to church. *“Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”* Proverbs 22:6

No. 1
“In The Beginning”

(Genesis 1)

The top scene shows God's creation of the heavens, the sun, the moon and stars by His spoken word, which is illustrated by His hand descending out of the clouds. He also created the animals on land and fish in the sea. His master creation, however, was man (*Genesis 1:26-27*) whom He created in His own image.

The lower scene (*Genesis 8*) shows Noah's ark from which he released a dove to seek dry land following the great flood that lasted 150 days. The dove returns with an olive branch in its mouth indicating the presence of dry land and the end of the flood. The ark is shown coming to rest on the mountains of Ararat. The rainbow in the clouds is God's sign or symbol of His promise to never again destroy the world by water. (*Genesis 9:13-16*)



No. 2

“I Am Come Not to Destroy, But to Fulfill”

(Matthew 5:17)

In this scene, God's presence is represented by the clouds, thunder and lightning. Moses is seen receiving the ten commandments as the law of God on Mount Sinai. Moses has removed his sandals because he is in the presence of God and is standing on Holy Ground. The flames at his feet represent the “burning bush” (*Exodus 3*) from which Moses heard the voice of God. The commandments (*Exodus 20*) teach man how he should live but also demonstrate man's hopelessness to be able to follow the law like God wills for us to do. Jesus is the fulfillment of the law in that our faith in Him as our Redeemer is the only way for us to be forgiven for not perfectly following God's laws and to be worthy of spending eternity in heaven with Him.

The lower panel (*Psalms 23:1-6*) portrays David, the shepherd boy, who cares for his sheep and provides for their needs. The 23rd Psalm (composed by David) teaches how God cares for and provides for His sheep (those of us who trust in Him). There was a direct line from David to Jesus' earthly father, Joseph. One of the messianic titles attributed to Jesus is “Son of David.”



No. 3
"Here Am I,
Send Me"

(Isaiah 6:8)

This scene shows Isaiah in the Temple after he has seen Holy God sitting on His throne. Although Isaiah thought he was a righteous man he suddenly realized that in the presence of God he was a sinner and cried out, "Woe is me! For I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips—for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of HOSTS." The burning altar surrounding the Chi Rho symbol (the first 2 letters of the word Christos in the Greek language) and the crown represent the LORD of HOSTS. When Isaiah confessed that he was a man of unclean lips, an angel of the Lord took a hot coal from the burning altar with tongs and touched Isaiah's lips. The angel then told Isaiah that his sins were taken away and he was forgiven. When God then asked "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us", Isaiah answered, "Here am I, send me." (*Isaiah 6:1-8*) The quill in Isaiah's right hand and the banner or scroll in his left hand represent the Old Testament book of Isaiah.

The lower panel (*Isaiah 11:6-9*) shows the child and the lamb existing peacefully among the lion, ox, wolf and snake and portrays the perfect peace God will establish.



No. 4
"The Word
Became Flesh"



(John 1:14)

This scene shows the angel Gabriel who was sent from God to Mary to announce that she would bring forth God's Son and call His name Jesus. (Luke 1:26-31) The Christ-child (the word became flesh, John 1:1-14) is held by His mother, Mary, and surrounded by Joseph and 3 shepherds who have come to worship Him. (Luke 2:1-20) The angel at the top holds the star shining from heaven on Jesus, the Christ-child.

The lower panel shows Jesus as a young lad in the temple sitting in the midst of Jewish scholars, both hearing them and asking them questions. "And all that heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers." (Luke 2:41-47)

No. 5
"This is My
Beloved Son"

(Matthew 3:17)

John The Baptist is shown baptizing Jesus in the River Jordan with the spirit of God descending like a dove and resting upon Jesus. "And lo a voice from heaven, saying this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

(Matthew 3:17)

The lower scene shows Jesus after His baptism in the wilderness after He has fasted 40 days and was tempted by the devil to turn stones into bread. Jesus refused to be distracted from His redemptive mission and replied, "Man should not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Twice more the devil tempted Jesus, but Jesus' response was, "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God" and "thou shall worship the Lord thy God and Him only shalt thou serve."

(Matthew 4:1-10)



No. 6
“I Am the Light
of the World”

(John 8:12)

In this scene, Jesus is teaching the multitude, and He says to them, “I am the light of the world, he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life.”

The lower scene shows Jesus performing one of His many miracles—healing a blind man. (*Mark 10:46-52*) Jesus performed other miracles including healing a crippled man and raising persons from the dead. (*John 11:41-44, Mark 8: 23-25 and John 5:1-9*)



No. 7
"I Am the
Good Shepherd"



(John 10:11)

Jesus is holding the lost sheep on His shoulders and blessing the children. (Luke 15:3-7; Mark 10:14) The teaching is that Jesus is our shepherd and seeks those of us who are lost to come unto Him. "I am the good Shepherd; the good Shepherd giveth his life for the sheep." Jesus later gave His life on the cross for His sheep (us). (John 10:11)

The lower scene shows Jesus standing at the "door" of our hearts and knocking. The door in the scene has no outside handle so that the "door" of our heart must be opened from the inside. Jesus said, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him and will sup (have fellowship) with him, and he with me." (Revelation 3:20)

No. 8
“This is My Beloved
Son, Listen to Him”

(Mark 9:1-7)

This scene shows Jesus experiencing the transfiguration (exalting, glorifying or spiritual change which involves a change in form or appearance) when He took Peter, James and John with Him to a mountaintop. During His transformation, He was seen in the company of Elijah and Moses which was witnessed by the disciples who became frightened. This experience helped prepare the disciples for their missions of world evangelism.

The lower panel shows Jesus feeding a multitude of 5,000 people with 5 loaves and 2 fish given by a small boy. (John 6:8-14) This is only one of many miracles performed by Jesus and demonstrates how Christ met physical needs for eternal purposes.



No. 9
“I Am the
Bread of Life”

(John 6:41)

This scene shows Jesus on the eve of His crucifixion when He observed Passover with his disciples and gave new meaning to the bread and wine. He said “the bread is my body and the wine is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.” Throughout Jesus’ ministry, the Jews were angry at Jesus because He said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven” and “I am the bread of life.” (John 6:41-51) At the Passover meal Jesus was teaching symbolically that He is the bread of life that satisfies the hunger of our soul. As Jesus is breaking the bread, Judas is seen at the end of the table with the moneybag. Judas is turning away from Jesus and later betrayed Him. (Matthew 26:26-28)

The lower panel shows Jesus after the Passover meal when He took his disciples, Peter and the sons of Zebedee—James and John, to Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives to pray. Although the disciples slept while Jesus agonized and prayed, “Oh my father, if it be possible let this cup pass from me, nevertheless not as I will but as thy wilt.” Jesus’ prayer showed His complete submission to the will of the Father. (Matthew 26:39)



No. 10
“I Am the Way, the
Truth,
and the Life”

(John 14:1-6)

Jesus' crucifixion is shown with His mother, Mary, and His beloved disciple, John, standing at the foot of the cross. Jesus has a crown of thorns on his head with nails piercing His hands and feet and a sign above His head reading “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.”

The lower scene shows Jesus' body after His crucifixion and death as it was placed in a tomb by Joseph of Arimathaea and Nicodemus. (*John 19:38-42; Matthew 27:57-61*) The chief priests and Pharisees heard Jesus say He would rise from his death on the third day. They then ordered the stone that had been rolled against the entrance to Jesus' tomb to be sealed. They further ordered the placement of guards at the tomb's entrance so that Jesus' disciples could not steal his body and claim His resurrection. (*Matthew 27:62-66*) From this tomb, Jesus arose on the third day, as He said He would, and thus validated His claim that He was the Son of God. (*Matthew 28:5-6*)



No. 11
"I Am the Resurrection
and the Life"

(John 11:25)

This scene shows an angel sitting on the previously sealed stone after rolling it away from the entrance to Jesus' tomb. Early at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene; Mary, the mother of James; and Salome went to Jesus' tomb to anoint his body with spices. The angel told them that Jesus had risen. (*Matthew 28:1-8*) Jesus had said in *John 11:25-26*, "I Am the Resurrection and the Life, he that believeth in Me, thou he were dead, yet shall he live, and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die."

The lower scene shows Thomas thrusting his hand into Jesus' side after Jesus' death and resurrection. Thomas, a disciple, had refused to believe in Jesus' resurrection and stated, "except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails and put my finger into the print of the nails and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe." When Jesus appeared to his disciples, including Thomas, and invited Thomas to thrust his fingers into Jesus' nail prints and his hand into Jesus' side, Thomas replied, "My Lord and My God." (*John 20:24-28*)



No. 12

“Go, Make Disciples”

(Matthew 28:19)

This is one of the more quoted scriptures in the New Testament, commonly called “The Great Commission.” In this scene, Jesus in the red cloak sends His disciples to all parts of the earth to witness, to baptize, and to teach or disciple. Above the disciples is shown a ship sailing across the waters, which was the primary source of distant travel in biblical times. The backdrop of the ship and waters in a globe of the earth teaches that sharing Jesus’ message is a worldwide mission.

The lower scene shows believers in worship (the church) praising God through song and prayer. (*Ephesians 5:19-20*) Jesus said, “For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them.” (*Matthew 18:20*)



No. 13
"He Was Taken
Up Into Heaven"

(Luke 24:51)

After Jesus' death and resurrection it is recorded that Jesus appeared 10 times to His disciples and followers. This scene shows Jesus' ascension into Heaven from the Mount of Olives that was witnessed by His followers. (Luke 24:50-52) The scriptures tell us two men in white apparel (angels) appeared to Jesus' followers as Jesus ascended into Heaven. The angels said, "This same Jesus who is taken up from you into Heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into Heaven." (Acts 1:10-11)

In the lower scene, Jesus compared our relationship to Him by comparing the relationship of the vine to its branches and fruit. (John 15:5) In this scene the vine is represented by the Chi-Rho sign (XP—which are the first two Greek letters of the word Christos). In this scene Christ is the vine with the XP sign incorporated into it and his followers are the branches (we) who cannot bear fruit without a relationship with the vine (Jesus). The vine produces the fruit but the branches (we) bear it. The fruit in life may be: 1) converts to Christianity, 2) Christian character (fruit of the Holy Spirit, *Galatians 5:22-23* & *Philippians 1:11*), and 3) Christian conduct (fruit of righteousness). God receives glory when we bear much fruit in His name.



No. 14
“I Am the Beginning
and the End”

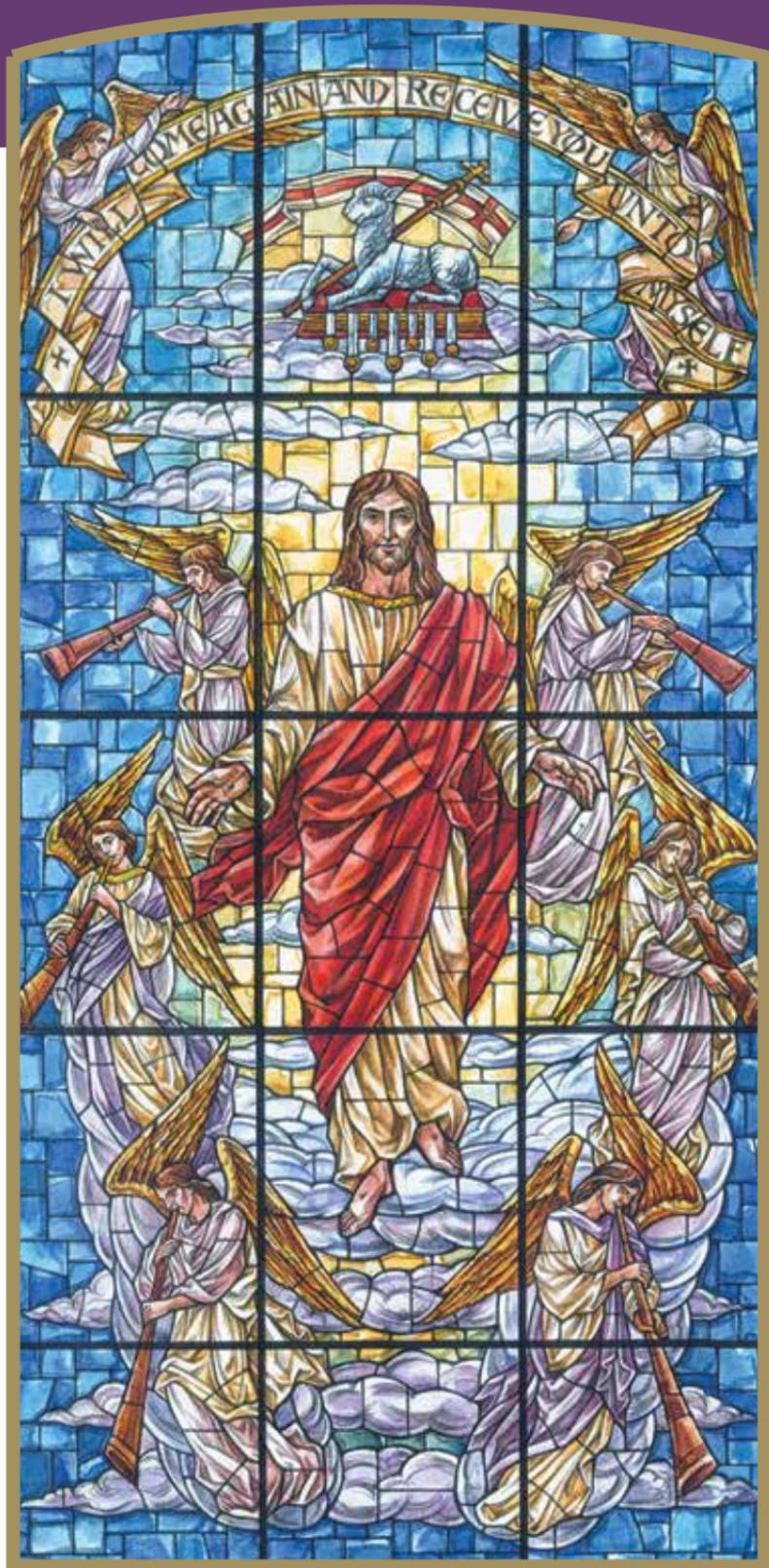
(Revelation 22:13)

In this scene, heaven is represented by the Holy City with its mansions and the Lamb of God (Jesus) reclining on His throne with the pure river of the water of life proceeding out of the Throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of it and on either side of the river is the tree of life which bears twelve kinds of fruit—and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. (Revelation 22:1-2) The scriptures at the base of the river represent the way for us to enter this Holy City through Jesus who is the Alpha and Omega (the beginning and the end). (The symbols A and Ω are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet). Jesus’ use of this term teaches us to believe that He meant the only way for us to gain entrance into the Holy City was through Him. The seven seals described in the Book of Revelation represent the judgment of God upon those who reject Jesus as the Christos (Messiah) which was foretold in the Old Testament.

The lower panel shows Saul’s (Paul’s) experience with Jesus while on the road to Damascus. Saul described himself as “circumcised on the eighth day of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin,



a Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee.” (*Philippians*. 3:5) Saul’s zeal for his beliefs as a Pharisee caused him to persecute the early Christian believers and the “Church” (the disciples of Jesus). While he was on the road to Damascus to continue persecuting Christians he was confronted by Jesus (*Acts* 9:3-16) who said, “Saul, Saul, why persecute thou me?” Saul replied, “Who art thou Lord”, and the Lord said, “I am Jesus whom thou persecute.” This personal encounter with Christ converted Saul who became Paul and led him to become God’s missionary to the Gentiles. Later, Paul wrote many of our New Testament books as letters to the different churches and believers in his day. Just as Jesus reached out and revealed himself to Paul, Jesus continues today to reach out to all people in all places and Christ still calls us to serve as His Ambassadors to the world.



“I Will Come Again And Receive You Unto Myself”

(John 14:3)

The main focus and new signature of our sanctuary is the large window above the baptismal pool. This window is 21-feet-tall by 10-feet-wide and its theme is the second coming of Christ. In *John 14:3*, our Lord says, *“I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am there you may be also.”*

This scene depicts Jesus as the resurrected, reigning, returning and receiving Savior of humanity. With open arms Jesus invites you to come and follow Him as your personal redeemer, savior and forever friend. The angels herald His coming by sounding their trumpets. The Lamb symbolizes Christ at rest on the “Book of Life” which contains the seven seals of judgment. (*Revelation 5:6-14*) The Lamb represents Jesus as the ultimate authority and judge of all mankind. Let this magnificent portrayal of the resurrected, returning and inviting Jesus encourage you to faithfully follow the Savior all the way.



23rd Psalm

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he
leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths
of righteousness for his name's sake.
Yea, through I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art
with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the
presence of mine enemies: thou anointest
my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy will follow me
all the days of my life: and I will dwell
in the house of the Lord for ever.*

(Psalm 23: 1-6)



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