

EXCERPT



### **First Nations Version**

An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament

August 31, 2021 | \$20, 576 pages, paperback | 978-0-8308-1350-6

The First Nations Version (FNV) is a retelling of the Creator's Story—the Scriptures—following the tradition of the storytellers of these oral cultures. Many First Nations tribes communicate with the cultural and linguistic thought patterns found in their original tongues. This way of speaking, with its simple yet profound beauty and rich cultural idioms, still resonates in the hearts of First Nations people.

## The Gospel of John from the First Nations Version

<sup>1-2</sup>Long ago, in the time before all days, before the creation of all things, the one who is known as the Word was there face to face with the Great Spirit. This Word fully represents Creator and shows us who he is and what he is like. He has always been there from the beginning, for the Word and Creator are one and the same. <sup>3</sup>Through the Word all things came into being, and not one thing exists that he did not create.

<sup>4</sup>Creator's life shined out from the Word, giving light to all human beings. This is the true Light that comes to all the peoples of the world and shines on everyone. <sup>5</sup>The Light shines into the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it or put it out.

<sup>6-7</sup>Into the wilderness of the Land of Promise (Judea) came a man named Gift of Goodwill (John). He was sent by the Great Spirit to tell what he knew about the Light so everyone could believe. <sup>8</sup>He was not the Light but came to speak the truth about the Light. <sup>9</sup>The true Light that shines on all people was coming into the darkness of this world.

<sup>10</sup>He came down into this world, and even though he made all things, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup>Even his own tribe did not welcome or honor him. <sup>12</sup>But all who welcome and trust him receive their birthright as children of the Great Spirit. <sup>13</sup>They are born in a new way, not from a human father's plans or desires, but born from above—by the Great Spirit.

<sup>14</sup>Creator's Word became a flesh-and-blood human being and pitched his sacred tent among us, living as one of us. We looked upon his great beauty and saw how honorable he was, the kind of honor held only by this one Son who fully represents his Father—full of his great kindness and truth.

<sup>15</sup>Gift of Goodwill (John) told what he knew about him and cried out with a loud voice, "The one I have told you about is here! He comes after me, but is much greater—*my elder! He has more honor, for even though he is thought to be younger, he existed before I was born.*"

<sup>16</sup>From the fullness of his being we have all had many gifts of kindness poured out on us. <sup>17</sup>Drawn from the Water (Moses) gave us our tribal laws, but the gift of great kindness and truth came from Creator Sets Free (Jesus), the Chosen One.

<sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen the Great Spirit, but the one Son, who is himself the Great Spirit and closest to the Father's heart, has shown us what he is like.

—Taken from the Gospel of John, He Shows Goodwill Tells the Good Story

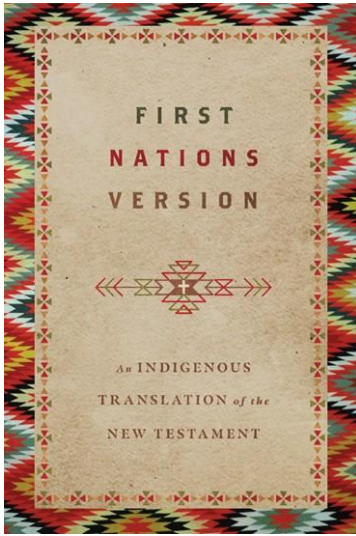


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## ENDORSEMENTS



### ***The First Nations Version*** ***An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament***

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**Terry M. Wildman** (Ojibwe and Yaqui) is the lead translator, general editor, and project manager of the *First Nations Version*. He serves as the director of spiritual growth and leadership development for Native InterVarsity. He is also the founder of Rain Ministries and has previously served as a pastor and worship leader. He and his wife, Darlene, live in Arizona. For more information visit [FirstNationsVersion.com](http://FirstNationsVersion.com).

## "Get Swept Away into the Story of the Great Spirit"

### ★ Publishers Weekly Starred Review

"Reading the *First Nations Version* of the New Testament is like listening to a wise elder pass down ancient teachings. Its oral cadences give the Scriptures new room to breathe. While contemporary translations focus on updating language in a modern mode, the FNV recaptures the sense of tradition that binds faithful readers to our past and to the story that tells us who we are. It is a good gift to everyone who walks the Jesus Way."

—L. Daniel Hawk, professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at Ashland Theological Seminary

"I've often wondered what it might look like if Jesus incarnated within another culture. Jesus, a first-century Jewish teacher in a corner of Rome's empire, lived, died, and rose as a human being within a specific time and place. What I love about the *First Nations Version* is how it translates this gospel story into a language of another context: First Nations! So get swept away into the story of the Great Spirit as he invites us to the blessing way of the good road. Read this beautiful retelling of the Scriptures that is not only beneficial for First Nations communities but for all who desire to allow the Great Spirit to transform their imaginations!"

—Kurt Willems, pastor and author of *Echoing Hope: How the Humanity of Jesus Redeems Our Pain*

"From the beginning, the story of Jesus has been a translated story. Jesus spoke in Aramaic, but Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John wrote their Gospels in Greek. The story of Jesus is intended to be translated to every tribe, tongue, people, and nation. That translation is intended, not just permitted, serves to show how we must resist any cultural domination of the gospel. Terry Wildman has done a masterful job of rendering the New Testament into the storytelling motif characteristic of Native Americans. It should tell us something important when we realize how beautifully the story of Jesus can be adapted to the style and vocabulary of indigenous people. I deeply appreciate Terry Wildman's retelling of the story of Jesus for First Nations people. I believe the Great Spirit is pleased."

—Brian Zahnd, pastor of Word of Life Church in St. Joseph, Missouri, and author of *Beauty Will Save the World*

"The *First Nations Version* (FNV) has quickly become a go-to resource for Native InterVarsity across the nation. We are using it in our small group Bible studies, and it is influencing the words we choose when we invite students to the full life that Creator Sets Free (Jesus) offers. The word choices of the FNV not only resonate with Native students but are also offering a fresh hearing of Scripture for non-Natives. For example, when we talk about sin, defenses and blinders go up immediately. But when the FNV talks about 'bad hearts' and 'broken ways,' people can see that in themselves and others. I would recommend the FNV to any Native person who wants to learn more about Jesus and any non-Native person who longs to be able to read Scripture with new eyes."

—Megan Murdock Krischke, national director, Native InterVarsity



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