

Getting acquainted with the "Word of Truth"

LESSON ONE

THE WORD OF GOD

★ THE BIBLE, GOD'S WORD

The Bible is the most unusual book in the world. It is the unfolding of God's eternal purpose and divine will for man. In this survey course of fourteen lessons, the main events of God's dealings with men will be reviewed in language *simple enough for anyone to understand*.

It is possible for a person to learn the sacred writings of Scripture from a very early age (2 Timothy 1:5; 2 Timothy 3:14-15). When a boy (or girl) is old enough to read for himself, he may read the Bible and understand what God wants him to do (Ephesians 3:4). The Bible is God's inspired word.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
 "Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (2 Peter 1:21).

Because the Bible *can* be understood by the average or common man, the only textbook for this course will be the Bible itself. All

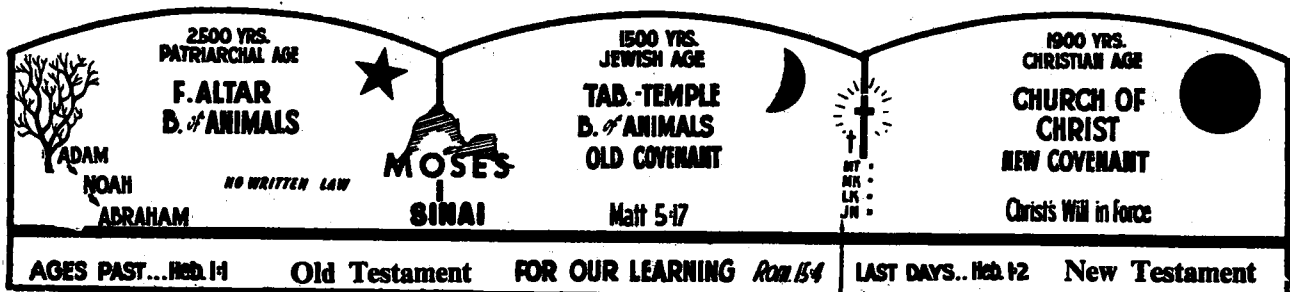
quotations are taken from the **King James Version**. For those using other versions, the words may differ but the meanings are the same.

★ THE PLAN OF THE BIBLE

One of the first things you notice about your Bible is that it is composed of many smaller books. These smaller books are divided into **TWO MAIN SECTIONS**. The first of these main divisions is called "**The Old Testament**," or covenant. It is a record of God's relationship with man from his creation up until the coming of Jesus Christ into the world. The second main division is called "**The New Testament**," or new covenant. It deals with the life of Jesus Christ and tells us how God would have us to live today. There are thirty-nine books in the Old Testament, and twenty-seven books in the New Testament.

The chart at the bottom of this page shows the three ages or periods of Bible history. They have often been referred to as the "starlight," "moonlight," and "sunlight" periods,

THREE AGES OF BIBLE HISTORY

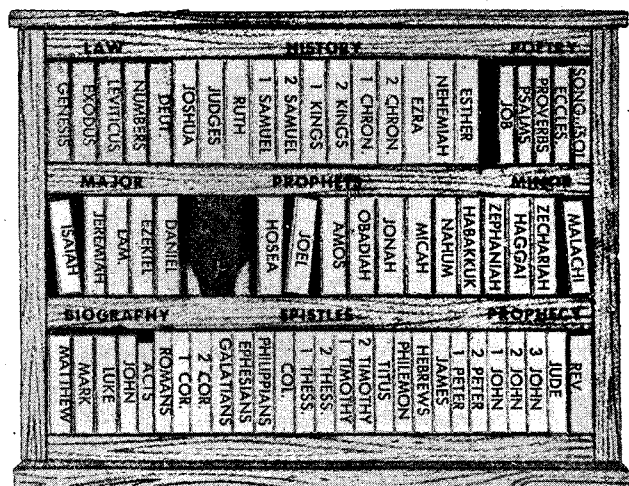


because the knowledge of the gospel was gradually coming to light until it was *fully* made known through the apostles of Christ (1 Peter 1:10-12; Ephesians 3:2-5; 2 Timothy 1:10). The first period is known as the "**Patriarchal Age**," because God dealt with the heads of each family in a family type worship. The father in each family was known as a *Patriarch*. This type worship lasted from Adam until the time God gave the written law to Moses on Mount Sinai. The second period is known as the "**Mosaic Age**" because God used Moses as the law giver. This period lasted from the giving of the law on Mount Sinai until the time it was nailed to the cross (Colossians 2:14-17; 2 Corinthians 3:6-11). The third and last period is known as the "**Christian Age**" because Christ is its law-giver and central figure. This period began at Jesus' death and shall continue until the end of time when He comes again. This period is called "*the last days*" (Acts 2:17).

The Bible's sixty-six books were written by about forty men over a period of about sixteen hundred years. Moses was the writer of the first five books of the Old Testament. He wrote about 1500 years before Christ was born (BC). The last writer was John who wrote the book of Revelation about 90 years after Christ was born (AD).

The books of the Bible are further broken down into chapters, and the chapters are divided into small parts called verses. The chapter and verse divisions were made by men at a much later date, and were not inspired of God. This was done so that places could be found in the Bible more easily.

THE BIBLE LIBRARY



★ OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS

Now take your Bible and turn to the page near the front where there is a list of all the books of the Old and New Testaments. For the purpose of our survey of the Bible, the books of these two testaments will be divided into four sections. First, let us observe the sections in the Old Testament.

1. LAW. The first five books of the Old Testament were written by Moses and are sometimes called the "**Pentateuch**" (meaning five books). It is usually thought that these five books cover about 2500 years of man's earliest existence from the creation to the time of Moses. When men first worshipped, it was usually through families. However, after the giving of the Law to Moses, a national type worship was adopted with the nation of Israel being God's chosen people.

2. HISTORY. The twelve books that follow the Pentateuch are books that tell of the history of the Israelite (or Jewish) nation. These books begin with Joshua and continue through Esther.

3. POETRY. These are primarily books of devotion. They include Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon. These writings are some of the best loved books of the Bible.

4. PROPHECY. There are seventeen books of prophecy. The first five (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel) are called "**Major Prophets**" because their writings are much longer.

The last twelve books of the Old Testament are known as the "**Minor Prophets**," and each book is named after the prophet. These books include Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

★ NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS

1. BIOGRAPHY. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John tell the "good news" of the birth, life and death of Jesus, the Son of God. The word Gospel means "*Good News*." These four books could also be called Biography, for they tell the story of Jesus' life.

2. HISTORY. The book of Acts is a book of history covering the beginning and spread of the church. It is often called the "book of conversions" because it tells how men

and women became Christians.

3. LETTERS. From the book of Romans through the book of Jude we learn from inspired writers how to worship and work as a Christian. Some of these twenty-one books were written to individual Christians and some were written to churches. The first fourteen were "*Pauline Epistles*" (written by the apostle Paul, with the possible exception of the book of Hebrews), and the remaining seven were written by the men for whom the books were named. They are known as "*General Epistles*" (letters).

4. PROPHECY. The last book in the Bible is the book of Revelation. It was penned by John on the Isle of Patmos about things which were "shortly to come to pass" (*Revelation 1:1*).

The New Testament is much shorter than the Old Testament. It is also much more valuable for us today because it tells us how to live and be ready for the day of Judgment.

★ WHY STUDY THE BIBLE?

1. *So that we may be approved of God.*
"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15).

2. *So that we may know God.* There is no other way to know Him. We can know God exists by His wondrous works in nature, but we could never know the *mind* and *will* of God without a revelation from Him.

"No one knoweth the Son save the Father: neither doth any know the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son willeth to reveal Him." (*Matthew 11:27*).

3. *So that we may know Jesus our Saviour.* We need a Saviour, and Jesus said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me." (*John 14:6*). Also see *John 17:3* and *John 8:34*.

4. *So that we might learn God's great plan for our salvation.* It is through the Scriptures that God teaches us how to be "wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

5. *Because we must all be judged by this book.* The words of Christ shall judge us all in the last Great Day.

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that which he hath done, whether it be good or bad." (2 Corinthians 5:10. Also see *John 12:48*; *Revelation 20:12*; *Hebrews 2:3*).

BIBLE QUIZ SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: It is well to read the entire lesson through carefully before attempting to fill out the answers to the questions on this Quiz sheet. You will notice that the questions are numbered to match the section numbers in the lesson proper. If in doubt about the correct answers, check through your lesson again by sections. Use your Bible freely. May God bless you as you study.

THE WORD OF TRUTH

Lesson One



If the statement is true, encircle the T; if false, encircle the F.

- T F 1. Timothy's mother and grandmother taught him the Scriptures from the time he was a child. (2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15)
- T F 2. The Scriptures completely furnish the man of God unto all good works. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- T F 3. The writers of the Bible were inspired in the general thoughts but not in the words. (1 Corinthians 2:13)



Check (✓) the word or phrase in each group that applies to the statement.

1. The writer of the first five books of the Bible was
() Moses
() Solomon
() Abraham
2. The "Patriarchal Age" of Bible history was noted for
() Its magnificent written law from God.
() Its family type of worship through the father in each family.
() Its prophets, priests, and kings.
3. The age of Bible history in which we now live is called
() The Patriarchal Age
() The Christian Age
() The Mosaical Age



Write "OT" or "NT" in the blank before each word to tell whether the book is in the Old Testament or New Testament.

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. _____ Jonah | 6. _____ Acts |
| 2. _____ 1 Corinthians | 7. _____ Psalms |
| 3. _____ 2 Samuel | 8. _____ Daniel |
| 4. _____ Zephaniah | 9. _____ Titus |
| 5. _____ Amos | 10. _____ Leviticus |



Check (✓) each true statement.

- _____ 1. A person may learn how to become a Christian from reading the book of Acts.
- _____ 2. The New Testament is much more important than the Old Testament, therefore we do not need to learn the things written in the Old Testament. (Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:1-11)
- _____ 3. The book of Revelation prophesies in detail concerning events of the world powers in the twentieth century. (Revelation 1:1)



Complete the following texts by writing in the missing words.

1. "_____ to show thyself approved unto _____, a workman that needeth not to be _____, rightly _____ the word of _____." (2 Timothy 2:15)
2. "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in _____ unto the fathers by the _____, hath in these _____ days spoken unto us by _____." (Hebrews 1:1-2).
3. "He that _____ me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that _____ him: the _____ that I have spoken, the same shall _____ him in the last day." (John 12:48)

Have you comments, questions, or requests that you would like to mention here?

My Name (Mr., Mrs., Miss) _____
(Underline which one) (Please print name)

County: _____

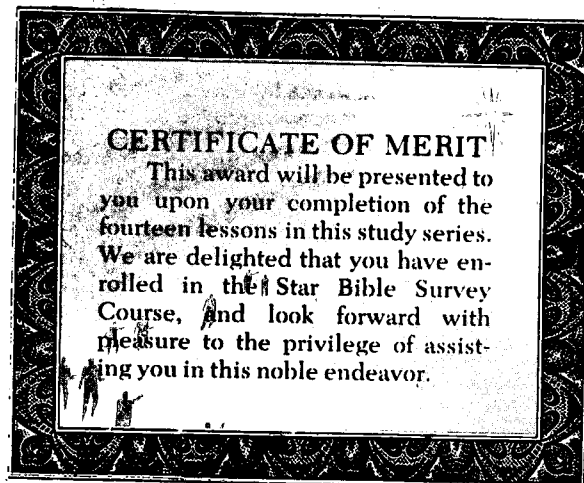
Street and No. _____

Route No. _____ Box No. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail lesson sheet to "The Star", Box 13125, Ft. Worth, Texas 76118

We have reserved in your name a beautiful ...

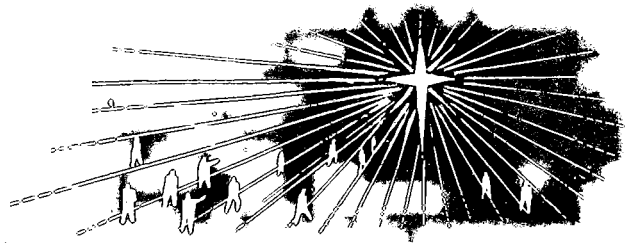


PREVIEW OF NEXT LESSON

Lesson two will cover the account of creation and other important events in the book of Genesis. In preparation, you may begin reading the book of Genesis.

Star

BIBLE SURVEY COURSE



*Leading Wise Men to Their Saviour - Matthew 2:10 **

Suggested Reading: Book of Genesis

LESSON TWO

IN THE BEGINNING

★ INTRODUCTION TO GENESIS

The word "genesis" means "beginning or origin." It accurately describes the contents of the first book of the Bible. For it is a book of beginnings: the beginning of the earth and the universe, the beginning of man, sin, the plan of salvation for man, and the beginning of the Hebrew nation through which the Saviour (Christ) was to come.

The writer of the book of Genesis was Moses. We know that Moses was the writer of the Law as it was delivered by God, and that God commanded him on various occasions to record historical events to be preserved to later generations.

BASIC OUTLINE OF GENESIS

PRINCIPAL EVENT	PRINCIPAL CHARACTER	CHAP- TERS
Creation and begin- ning of human race.	Adam	1-5
Noah, his family, the flood.	Noah	6-11
Abraham and the promised land.	Abraham	12-20
Isaac the promised son.	Isaac	21-27
Jacob, his wives, and family.	Jacob	28-36
Joseph, and life in Egypt.	Joseph	37-50

It is obvious that Moses *could* write the history recorded in Genesis as he was inspired of God (2 Peter 1:21).

The events of the book of Genesis comprise the history of nearly the entire Patriarchal Age, which you studied in your first lesson. By adding up the ages of each of the men in the book of Genesis, we find that the history recorded there covers a period of about 2300 years. The chart at the bottom of page two shows the principal characters of Genesis and their life-span in relation to the entire time of the Patriarchal Age. It is interesting to observe that the first eleven chapters of Genesis cover over 1800 years, and the last thirty-nine chapters cover about 500 years. Thus we can see that the history of the very beginning is sparse, but God has revealed to us enough that we can see how the world came into being, where sin came from, and how this sin affected man and the world in which he lived. God revealed everything we need to know about the early beginning to enable us to understand man and God's actions with man in the remainder of the Bible.

★ THE CREATION

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). This first verse of your Bible expressed a truth which "believers" have accepted in every generation. But today many, both religious and non-religious, have refused to believe this statement from God. They would have us believe that God did *not* create the earth, but instead it came into being by evolution. But, there are several fallacies with evolution: It is only a *theory*, a speculation. It can give no explanation

of any kind of how life itself began; and it lives in spite of the fact it can show no examples of evolution, either past or present. But the Bible says:

"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear" (Hebrews 11:3).

This faith that God is the Creator is a faith based upon sound and reasonable evidence. (NOTE: If you have questions or would like more information on this subject, please indicate in the space provided on page 4 and this information will be provided you).

According to Genesis chapter 1, this is the order of God's creation of the world:

- Day 1—the creation of light (verses 3-5)
- Day 2—the creation of firmament or water in the sky from water on earth (verses 6-8)
- Day 3—separation of water and land, and creation of grass and trees on the land (verses 9-13)
- Day 4—creation of permanent lights, sun, moon and stars (verses 14-19)
- Day 5—creation of bird life and sea life (verses 20-23)
- Day 6—creation of animals and finally, the creation of man (verses 24-31)
- Day 7—God rested from his work of creation (Genesis 2:1-3)

After Adam and Eve had been created and placed in the beautiful garden of Eden, the Devil in the form of a serpent came to them and tempted them to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which God had commanded them not to do. By this first sin, Adam plunged humanity into an existence of sin, sorrow, and death. All the rest of the Bible is a

story of God's dealings with man in bringing him back to a position of fellowship and communion with God as Adam had once enjoyed. This blessing was made available through the death of Christ (See 1 Cor. 15:20-22).

As an explanation of *what sin is*, read 1 John 3:4. To see *why we sin*, and what the result of sin is, read James 1:12-15).

"By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac; and he that received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, that in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure" (Hebrews 11:17-19).

★ THE NATION OF ISRAEL

Isaac, the promised son of Abraham, bore twin sons, Jacob and Esau. Jacob was the son God chose through whom to bring forth the nation of Israel. "Israel" was the name God later gave to Jacob, and thus the people which came from him were called the "Israelites." Jacob in turn had twelve sons who became the fathers of the twelve tribes which made up the nation of Israel. You will find the names of these twelve sons in *Genesis 35:22-26*.

The last 14 chapters in Genesis are principally about Joseph, one of the finest men we read about in the entire Old Testament. As you read these chapters you will see that he had an unwavering faith in God, he patiently allowed God to help him work out his problems so that these became not stumbling-blocks but stepping stones to greater achievements, he maintained his purity even when tempted to commit adultery by the wife of his employer, and he never allowed personal grudges or prejudices to make him act in any way which was not befitting a servant of God, even after

PROMINENT MEN IN THE PATRIARCHAL AGE

Adam 930 Yrs.

Enoch 365 Yrs.

Methuselah 969 Yrs.

Noah 950 Yrs.

Abraham 175 Yrs.

Isaac 180 Yrs.

Jacob 147 Yrs.

Joseph 110 Yrs.

becoming a ruler in Egypt.

From such Old Testament people as Joseph and Abraham and Noah we can learn many lessons which should help us as we strive to serve God also. These were all men of faith — a faith so strong that it compelled them to obey what God told them to do. As we read these accounts of Old Testament men, may we shun their evil actions, but imitate the good.

"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning..." (Romans 15:4).

★ THE FLOOD

The history of man after Adam's sin is a history of sin and degradation. From *Genesis* 6:5-8, read about man's condition and what God determined to do.

Noah was the only man whom God found that was righteous. Upon determining to destroy the earth by a flood of water, he commanded Noah to build an ark (boat). Read *Genesis* 6:14-22 and figure out the dimensions of the ark and how many of each animal went into the ark. (NOTE: a cubit is approximately 1½ feet in our measurement).

We have observed that sin is "*transgression of law*." But God saw that Noah was righteous (*Genesis* 7:1). Why? Because he had obeyed God's commands. Obviously, when God said: "*Make an ark of gopher wood*" Noah did exactly what God said. He did not reason, "God didn't say don't make it of pine." He did not question whether God meant what he said. He knew God was capable of accurately expressing Himself. Noah was different from all the other people on earth. This will make any man different who realizes that *God means what He says and says what He means*.

★ ABRAHAM AND THE PROMISES

Beginning with *Genesis* chapter 12, God chose Abraham, and promised him great blessings if he would obey God. *Genesis* 12:2-3 records four of the promised blessings God would give Abraham. Can you find these? God gave Abraham one other important blessing, this one found in *Genesis* 13:14-15.

In examining some of these promises a little more, find how numerous this nation would become which would spring from Abraham, in *Genesis* 22:17. Which land was it that

BIBLE QUIZ SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: It is well to read the entire lesson through carefully before attempting to fill out the answers to the questions on this Quiz sheet. You will notice that the questions are numbered to match the section numbers in the lesson proper. If in doubt about the correct answers, check through your lesson again by sections. Use your Bible freely. May God bless you as you study.

IN THE BEGINNING

Lesson Two

★ Check (✓) the word or phrase in each group that applies to the statement.

1. The word "Genesis" means:

- () Continuation
- () Beginning
- () Ending

2. The events of the book of Genesis comprise the history of which age?

- () Patriarchal
- () Jewish
- () Christian

3. The man generally considered to be the writer of Genesis is:

- () Adam
- () Abraham
- () Moses

★ Complete the following texts by writing the missing words:

1. "In the _____ God _____ the _____ and the _____." (*Genesis* 1:1)
2. "For as in _____ all die, even so in _____ shall all be made alive." (*1 Corinthians* 15:22)
3. "Whosoever committeth _____ transgresseth also the _____; for _____ is the _____ of law." (*1 John* 3:4)

★ In your own words tell:

1. Why did God determine to destroy man from the earth?
2. Why did God not destroy Noah?
3. What made Noah, and what will make you, different from people around you?

Student may detach and send in shaded Quiz Sheet — it will be graded and returned.



From Hebrews 11:8 - 10 and 17-19 put (T) rue or (F)alse by the following questions:

1. () When God called Abraham to go to another land he obeyed.
2. () Abraham knew where he was going when God called him.
3. () Abraham refused to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice.
4. () Abraham believed that even if he killed Isaac, God could raise him from the dead.



Draw a line from each name to the statement that matches it.

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Abraham — | — "Like a hairy garment" (Genesis 25:25) |
| Isaac — | — An Egyptian ruler |
| Jacob — | — Had twin sons |
| Esau — | — Offered his promised son |
| Joseph — | — Father of 12 tribes of Israel. |

Have you comments, questions, or requests that you would like to mention here?

God would give to Abraham? Find this in *Genesis 17:8*. One of the promises made was that in Abraham all nations of the earth would be blessed. From the genealogy recorded in *Matthew 1:1* beginning with Abraham, find out what great person was the last of that family tree in *Matthew 1:16*.

All believers in every generation have respected and admired Abraham for his great faith in God. *Genesis 22:1-19* tells one example of Abraham's great faith in God. Abraham and Sarah his wife had been unable to have children, but after Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah 90, God gave them the son Isaac. Later God wanted to test Abraham's faith, so he asked him to offer his son as a sacrifice to him. Abraham, without complaint and with firm faith went to the place God told him and prepared to offer his son as God commanded. An angel stopped him from actually killing his son, but by his obedience, he had shown God that he did really believe in Him. This is a powerful lesson for us today as well.



My Name (Mr., Mrs., Miss) _____
(Underline which one) (Please print name)

Street and No. _____

Route No. _____ Box No. _____

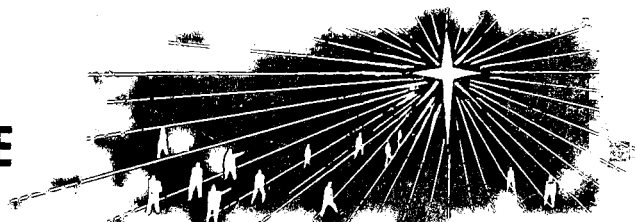
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

PREVIEW OF NEXT LESSON

Lesson three will cover the period from Moses to the Judges. You may begin reading the Books of Exodus through Deuteronomy.

Star

BIBLE SURVEY COURSE



Leading Wise Men to Their Saviour - Matthew 2:10

Suggested Reading: Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

LESSON THREE

THE LAW

☆ CHRIST AND "THE LAW"

One day a group of hypocritical Pharisees, a sect of the Jews, tried to set a trap for Jesus. They had one of their number, a lawyer, to ask him a question, "*tempting him, and saying, 'Master, which is the great commandment in the law?'*" (Matthew 22:35,36). Their question demonstrated their complete lack of understanding of the very law by which they were supposed to be living! They thought Christ would have to say that the greatest law was, "*Thou shalt not kill,*" or "*Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*" Then they could accuse him of neglecting the other nine of the Ten Commandments.

But "*The Law,*" which is the topic of this lesson, was far more than the Ten Commandments. Jesus' answer proved it.

"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets (Matthew 22:37-40).

While this passage is in the New Testament, we use it to introduce to you "*The Law.*" It was far more than the "Ten Commandments." It included the Old Testament books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. Christ quoted two often overlooked principles and said that they were "Number One" and "Number Two." You can find the first in Deuteronomy 6:5 and also in Deuteronomy 10:12, and the second in Leviticus 19:18.

☆ A LOOK AT THE FOUR BOOKS OF THE LAW

You will remember from your first lessons that God, through Abraham, set apart a special, chosen people, the Israelites. He had promised to bless all nations through Abraham's seed (Genesis 12:1-3). Abraham's descendants spent some 400 years in Egypt. Now comes the time when God is ready to deliver his people from the oppression they have suffered in Egyptian bondage. This is where the Book of EXODUS begins. The books of EXODUS, LEVITICUS, NUMBERS and DEUTERONOMY tell not only of the deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt and of their formal organization into a nation, but of the many laws which were given to guide them and help them fulfill their part in God's great scheme of redemption of all mankind. Let us look briefly at these four books.

EXODUS. This book records the *going out* or *exit* of the Israelites from Egyptian bondage. It is a connecting link between the history in Genesis and the other books of The Law. It opens with a brief statement of the growth of the Israelites and of the problems thus raised for them. Then the many preparations for the exodus are given, including the plagues (Exodus 7:14-12:30). The Passover feast is instituted for the Jews (Exodus 12). Then their deliverance and crossing over the Red Sea is recorded. This will cover chapters 1-19 in your study.

The remainder of Exodus, chapters 20-40, concerns the legislation given by God to Israel at Mt. Sinai. First is the basic, moral law; then the ordinances which are the foundation of the

covenant between God and his chosen people. Then come directions for erecting the tabernacle, the dwelling place of God and the center of worship during the period covered by The Law.

LEVITICUS. This third book of Moses takes its name from the tribe of Levi. Levi was one of the sons of Jacob, who, you remember, was the grandson of Abraham. The priests and ministers of the worship came from the tribe of Levi. At Mt. Sinai the people were organized into a formal nation under God — into a “theocratic nation.” The basic law, recorded in Exodus, had been given. The covenant was ratified. God had taken his abode with the people. Before continuing their journey to the Promised Land, however, they must know the laws which would guide them in their worship to Jehovah. These laws are given in the book of Leviticus. Thus, the book is sometimes called the “Law of the Priests,” and the “Priests’ Handbook.”

NUMBERS. The title suggests “numberings” and it takes this name from the various censuses which were recorded in the book. The priestly laws having been given (in Leviticus), the people are now ready for their onward march to the Promised Land. Numbers tells of their preparations to leave Sinai, their coming to the plains of Moab, and the instructions God gives them for the conquest and division of the land.

DEUTERONOMY. The fifth book of The Law is sometimes called “the second law” but this is not a correct title. *It is really merely a repetition of the law.* In Exodus and Leviticus we found the laws given the Israelites at Sinai; in Numbers we had the laws which were revealed during the wanderings in the wilderness. Now, in Deuteronomy, we have the last addresses of Moses to the people, delivered in the plains of Moab. There is no new law given here, but simply a description and an explanation, an elaboration, of the law already given with emphasis on the spiritual nature of The Law.

★ SOME ESSENTIAL FACTS ABOUT “THE LAW”

1. “The Law” period covered in this lesson includes the books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. These books were written by Moses (2 Timothy 3:16; Exodus 3; Exodus 19). From the crossing the Red Sea and leaving Egypt till the close of the book of Deuteronomy covered forty years.

2. “The Law” was given *only to the Jews*, the Israelites, God’s chosen people. Thus, it was a *national law*, and Judaism (which is the religion described in “The Law”) was a *national religion*. *The Law was NEVER given to Gentiles.* Thus, Gentiles were never under it, never subject to its ordinances, its feasts, its holy days, its commandments. God never commanded any but the Jews to keep it. He *did* expect Gentiles to follow *the principles* of The Law, but the covenant was not with any save Jews. On this point, read *Deuteronomy 5:1-3* and *Romans 3:1, 2*.

3. “The Law” was only preparatory for a much greater era, a superior law, an incomparable Leader — Christ and his gospel and the Christian age in which you and all men now live. Note especially Deuteronomy 18:15 where Moses speaks of the coming of Christ and his gospel. Moses said *even to the Jews*, “unto him shall ye hearken.”

Centuries later, Christ took three of his apostles to the Mount of Transfiguration. Moses, Elias and Christ were present. Peter proposed:

“Let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, one for Moses, and one for Elias. While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him” (*Matthew 17:4, 5*).

Thus, The Law was temporary. You will learn more of this in a later lesson in this Course.



Interpretation by Glover Shipp of the famous statue of Moses by Michelangelo.

BIBLE QUIZ SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: It is well to read the entire lesson through carefully before attempting to fill out the answers to the questions on this Quiz sheet. You will notice that the questions are numbered to match the section numbers in the lesson proper. If in doubt about the correct answers, check through your lesson again by sections. Use your Bible freely. May God bless you as you study.

The LAW

Lesson Three

4. The Law contained many **types and shadows** of the better things which would come later. Those help us to better understand Christ, his gospel, his church, the New Testament, heaven, his plan of redemption. Notice *Hebrews 10:1-4*. Especially in the book of *Hebrews* do you read of some of these shadows. Moses, the mediator was a type of Christ; the tabernacle was a type of the church of Christ. In the tabernacle, the Holy Place was a type of the church. Through it, the High Priest entered, going on into the Most Holy Place, which is a type of heaven, once yearly to offer sacrifice for the people.

5. **No one was ever saved under The Law.** That was impossible because animal blood could not remit sins (*Hebrews 10:1-4*). Thus, even under The Law, the people looked forward to the coming of Christ and his saving, redeeming gospel.

6. The principles of The Law are eternal. It was wrong to kill, to commit adultery, to be an idolater, to be covetous, even before The Law was given. The Law was only "added" to the moral law already existing (*Galatians 3:19*).

There are two main areas of legislation in The Law. These are suggested by the answer our Lord gave to the hypocritical Pharisee lawyer with which you began this lesson.

(1) The first is the laws relating to *man's relationship with his God*. The first four of the Ten Commandments (*Exodus 20:3-8*) speak of man's obligation to worship only the One True God, Jehovah God, of the prohibition against using God's name in vain, and of the obligation to worship. There is stated the need to revere only God, to honor His name, and to observe His day of worship. Christ had said that the first commandment in the law is, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (*Matthew 22:37*).

(2) In the second division of The Law, and even of the Ten Commandments, is found laws governing *man's relationship to his fellowman*. Man's actions, his words and his thoughts are governed here, even as in his obligations to God. He is to respect his neighbor's life, his neighbor's wife, his neighbor's good name, his neighbor's property. Christ had correctly summarized it when He said,

"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (*Matthew 22:39*).



If the statement is true, encircle the T; if false, encircle the F.

- T F 1. Jesus thought that the Ten Commandments contained all "The Law."
T F 2. The greatest commandment, according to Jesus, is to worship in Jerusalem
T F 3. The first and second commandments quoted by Jesus summarize all that is found in The Law.



Match the names of the Books of The Law given below with the phrase which suggests the title of each book; put number in correct blank.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| () Exodus | (1) "Law of the Priests" |
| () Leviticus | (2) "Repetition of the Law" |
| () Numbers | (3) "Going out" |
| () Deuteronomy | (4) "Numberings" |



Fill in the blanks:

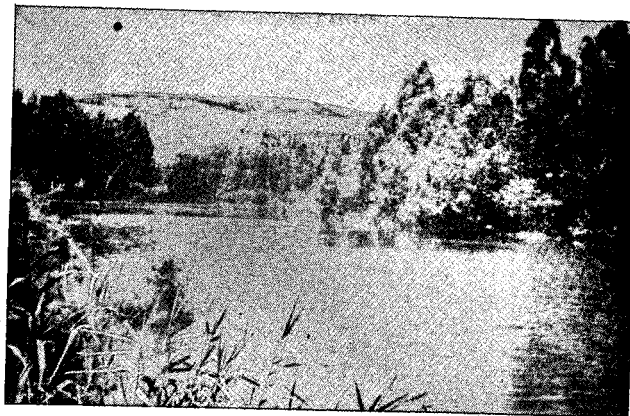
1. The Israelites were delivered from _____
2. The Israelites were organized into a nation under God at _____
_____ wrote the books of The Law.
3. "The Law" is given in _____ books written by _____ and covering a period of _____ years.



Encircle the correct words below.

1. The Law was given (to Jews only) (to Gentiles) (to all men).
2. Judaism was (a national) (a universal) religion.
3. Men ought to obey (Moses) (Christ) today.
4. Men (could) (could not) be saved by The Law and its sacrifices.
5. There are (two) (four) main areas of legislation in The Law.

Have you comments, questions, or requests that you would like to mention here?



THE RIVER JORDAN

COLOR PICTURE OF JORDAN RIVER WAS MADE BY
PERRY B. COTHAM

My Name (Mr., Mrs., Miss) _____
(Underline which one) (Please print name)

Street and No. _____

Route No. _____ Box No. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

PREVIEW OF NEXT LESSON

Lesson four will sketch the interesting works of Joshua and the Judges of Israel, and will cover important events of the united kingdom. In preparation, read the book of Joshua.

PRINTED IN U.S.A.



Star

BIBLE SURVEY COURSE

Leading Wise Men to Their Salvation - Matthew 2:10

Suggested Reading: Joshua through 2 Chronicles

LESSON FOUR

THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL

★ ISRAEL UNDER JOSHUA

(Joshua):

The last lesson closed with the death of Moses. To lead Israel, God had already provided for someone to succeed Moses (*Numbers 27:18-23*). The name of the new leader was Joshua, the son of Nun, one of the spies sent by Moses to Canaan and one of only two who had enough faith in God to urge the taking of Canaan by Israel (*Numbers 14:6-9*).

Under the leadership of Joshua, the Israelites crossed the Jordan and began their campaigns against the pagan inhabitants. The strong city of Jericho was captured, as God caused the walls to fall, after instructing the Israelites to march around the city for a total of thirteen times, carrying the Ark of the Covenant with them (*Joshua 6*). But because one man kept part of the treasure of Jericho, instead of placing it in the treasury of the Lord as commanded, Israel was defeated at first at Ai, but after the punishment of the disobedient man Achan, the city was captured. Other victories followed for Israel, until all the land was taken. According to previous instructions from God, the land was then divided among the different tribes, or divisions, of the Israelites.

In his closing days, Joshua issued a call to Israel to serve God faithfully:

"... choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (*Joshua 24:15*).

★ THE PERIOD OF THE JUDGES

(Judges, Ruth):

Upon the death of Joshua, God raised up

various individuals, called Judges, to lead the Israelites. These served two main purposes: to govern Israel and to deliver them from oppressing enemies. The book of Judges tells of eight occasions when Israel became unfaithful to God; were punished by enforced servitude under pagan nations, but were finally delivered by the different Judges. It was during this time that Samson, the man known for his great strength, lived. Within this same period occurs the history of Ruth, a Moabite woman, and her loyalty to her bereaved mother-in-law. This example of devotion is expressed in the resolution of Ruth:

"Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me" (*Ruth 1:16,17*).

By this act, and her subsequent marriage to Boaz, the great-grandfather of David, Ruth thus enters into the ancestry of Christ (*Matthew 1:5*).



PREPARATION FOR THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL

(1 Samuel 1:1-12:25):

During the time of Samuel, a prophet of God and the last of the Judges, the people became dissatisfied with being led by Judges. They asked for a king. The excuse was that the sons of Samuel were unfit to rule over Israel. But the real reason was their desire to be "like all the nations" (*1 Samuel 8:5*). Samuel warns them of the folly of rejecting God's way, and points out the consequences of such a choice. When the Israelites persisted in their desire for a king, God sent Samuel to the family of a

man named Kish, of the descendants of Benjamin. From this family, God selected Saul as the first king over Israel.



THE REIGN OF SAUL

(1 Samuel 13:1-31:13):

The principal activity of Saul's reign was a series of campaigns against the enemies of Israel: the Ammonites, the Philistines and the Amalekites, pagan and cruel peoples of Canaan.

It was during the struggle against the Philistines that Saul himself presumed to offer the sacrifice to God, instead of waiting for Samuel. Samuel could offer it, because he had been appointed by God to do so, but Saul had not been given this right. For this act of disobedience, Saul lost the right of having one of his sons succeed him on the throne of Israel.

Later, after God had told him to destroy the Amalekites and their property, because of their continued cruelty and oppression toward Israel, Saul again disobeyed by sparing the king of the Amalekites and also keeping part of the property. For this, he was warned that the throne would pass to another man. When Saul offered the excuse that he had kept the property in order to offer it as a sacrifice to the Lord, Samuel reminded him that

"to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry" (1 Samuel 15:22,23).

At first humble and loyal, Saul became more and more arrogant during his reign. His frequent periods of intense jealousy and melancholy led him to despise, and often attempt to kill, the young man David. The latter showed only the greatest respect and kindness toward Saul, even though David was designated as Saul's successor during the time when Saul was king. Saul's son Jonathan formed a close friendship with David and frequently saved his life. Finally Saul and his sons were mortally wounded in a battle with the Philistines and Saul committed suicide by falling on his own sword.



THE REIGN OF DAVID

(2 Samuel 1:1-1 Kings 2:11; 1 Chronicles 10:1-29:30).

Called from his work as a shepherd, David was appointed to succeed Saul as king over Israel. It was during his reign that the Kingdom of Israel came to its greatest point of power, through the final defeat of Israel's

enemies in Canaan. Within this same period, Jerusalem became the capital of the Kingdom, where the Ark of the Covenant was finally brought and where David formally organized the worship in the tabernacle. David expressed a desire to build a "house for the Lord," but was prevented from doing so because of the fact that he had "shed blood abundantly, and had made great wars" (1 Chronicles 22:8). This task was to be left to his son Solomon.

David's example of faithfulness to God, deep reverence and humility, is marred by his immorality with Bathsheba and his cruel act of having Uriah, the husband of Bathsheba, placed in the front line of battle where he was killed. Since God does not permit sin to go unpunished, David suffered for these acts in several ways. His first child died, several of his other sons led rebellions against him and died violently, and David's subsequent rule was marked by repeated instances of violence and unrest. However, because David was a man of faith and humility, he deeply repented of his foolish actions, following the visit of Nathan the prophet and the moving story of the poor man and his beloved lamb (2 Samuel 12:1-14). Psalm 51 is David's prayer of repentance.

David was not only a warrior, but he was also a gifted singer and poet, as evidenced by the many Psalms which he wrote, many of which were prophecies concerning Christ (Psalms 15, 22, 41, 69, 110). He is described as "a man after God's own heart" (Acts 13:22). Because Jesus was a direct descendant of David and because he is often referred to as being seated on the throne of David, "by the right hand of God exalted" (Acts 2:29-36), God promised David that his throne and kingdom would be "established for ever" (2 Samuel 7:16). David ruled over Israel for a total of forty years, as also did Saul.





THE REIGN OF SOLOMON

(1 Kings 2:12-11:43; 2 Chronicles 1:1-9:

31):

Upon the death of David and following the instructions of God, Solomon, David's later son by Bathsheba, was made king over Israel. If both Saul and David's reigns were marked by numerous battles, that of Solomon was one of peace. Indeed, the name of Solomon means "peaceful." When asked by God what he most desired, the young Solomon requested wisdom, in order to rule well his people (1 Kings 3:5-14). Besides great wisdom, God also gave him and the Kingdom of Israel fabulous riches.

During Solomon's rule, the temple was built in Jerusalem. Designed as a permanent place of worship, to replace the tabernacle of the wilderness wanderings, the temple required seven years and over 180,000 workers to complete (1 Kings 5:13ff; 6:37ff).

Because of his desire for wealth and power, Solomon made many alliances with foreign countries and married many wives from these, most of whom were idol worshippers. Unfortunately, Solomon forgot God and permitted openly the worship of these idols. From this he went into a reckless search for pleasure, which ultimately brought the Kingdom of Israel to a state of disorder and oppression.

Solomon was the author of three books in the Bible: Proverbs, in which he sets forth principles of great wisdom; Ecclesiastes, in which the search for pleasure ends in the sober truth: "All is vanity" (Ecclesiastes 1:2), and with the observation that true wisdom lies in fearing God and keeping his commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13); and Song of Solomon, a beautiful love song.



CONCLUSION:

In this lesson we have followed the history of the Israelites, the descendants of Jacob whom God had chosen to form his special people. This history begins with Israel on the borders of Canaan, under the leadership of Joshua, and continues through the various battles with the pagan people in the land, followed by the period of the united Kingdom of Israel, under Saul, David and Solomon.

These events served two purposes: 1) Preserved a single race of people, taught and trained in God's way, and through which Christ could be born; 2) Prepared the world in

BIBLE QUIZ SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: It is well to read the entire lesson through carefully before attempting to fill out the answers to the questions on this Quiz sheet. You will notice that the questions are numbered to match the section numbers in the lesson proper. If in doubt about the correct answers, check through your lesson again by sections. Use your Bible freely. May God bless you as you study.

THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL

Lesson Four



If the statement is true, encircle the T, if false, encircle the F.

- T F 1. The leader of Israel after Moses was Caleb.
- T F 2. Disobedience caused the Israelites to be defeated at Ai.
- T F 3. Joshua gave the Israelites three choices as to whom they could serve (Joshua 24:15).



Check (✓) the word or phrase in each group that applies to the statement.

- 1. Those appointed to govern Israel after the death of Joshua were called:
 - () Kings
 - () Priests
 - () Judges
- 2. Only one of the following men lived during the time of the Judges. Which?
 - () Moses
 - () Adam
 - () Samson
- 3. The Moabite woman whose loyalty to her mother-in-law resulted in her being among the ancestors of Jesus was:
 - () Ruth
 - () Mary
 - () Hannah



Fill in the blank spaces:

- 1. The name of the last Judge over Israel was _____
- 2. The real reason why Israel wanted a king was to be "like all the _____" (1 Samuel 8:5).
- 3. The first king of Israel was chosen from among the sons of _____

Student may detach and send in shaded Quiz Sheet—it will be graded and returned.



Check (✓) each TRUE statement.

- () 1. God used Saul to drive out many of Israel's enemies from Canaan.
- () 2. Samuel told Saul that to offer sacrifices was more important than anything else. (1 Samuel 15:22,23)
- () 3. Saul and David were always very close friends.



Match the names in the right column with the statements on the left.

_____ The second king of Israel	1. Nathan
_____ The most famous of David's descendants	2. David
_____ The prophet who rebuked David for his sin with Bathsheba	3. Jesus



Unscramble the answer. (Ex.: sseuj would be Jesus)

1. Who was the third king of Israel? Imoosno = _____
2. The famous building constructed during the reign of Solomon. mletep = _____
3. Solomon's statement of what true wisdom is. "aerf (_____) odG (_____) and epek (_____) his mmmcaetodnsn (_____) " (Ecclesiastes 12:13)



Complete the following texts by writing in the missing words:

1. "For whatsoever _____ were written _____ were written for our _____, that we through _____ and _____ of the _____ might have _____" (Romans 15:4)
2. "Wherefore the _____ was our _____ to _____ us to _____" (Galatians 3:24)
3. "... we are _____ through the _____ of the _____ of Jesus Christ _____ for all." (Hebrews 10:10)

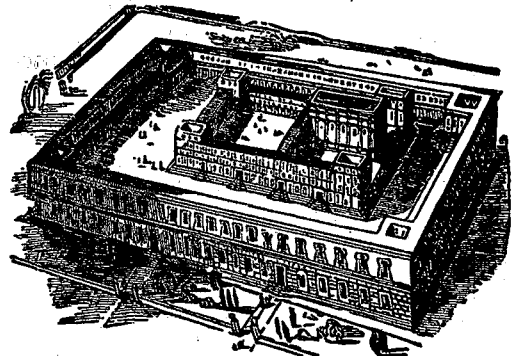
My Name (Mr., Mrs., Miss) _____
(Underline which one) (Please print name)

Street and No. _____

Route No. _____ Box No. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

general for the coming, the teaching and the redemptive work of Jesus-Christ (*Galatians 3:24-28; Hebrews 10:1-10*). From this, we learn two vital lessons: 1) Sin and disobedience always bring punishment (*Hebrews 2:2*), and 2) God loves and richly blesses those who serve Him. (*See Romans 15:4*).



SUPPOSED FORM OF SOLOMON'S TEMPLE.

PREVIEW OF NEXT LESSON

Lesson five will cover the books of prophecy in the Old Testament, plus Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther. You may begin preparation for this lesson by reading Nehemiah.

Star

BIBLE SURVEY COURSE

Leading Wise Men to Their Saviour - Matthew 2:10

Suggested Reading: Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther and the books of prophecy

LESSON FIVE

THE PROPHETS

☆ GOD'S SPOKESMEN

Prophets are the men through whom God revealed his will to the people in the Old Testament Period (*Hebrews 1:1*). They were his mouthpieces (*Exodus 7:1; 4:10-16*). Other names by which they were also known are "seers" (*I Samuel 9:9*) and "men of God" (*I Samuel 9:11*). The prophet's message was not an outcome of his own wisdom, but the prophets were moved to speak what they said by the Holy Spirit (*II Peter 1:20*).

Earlier prophets like Nathan, Elijah and

Elisha did not leave behind books of prophetic oracles, but in the middle of the eighth century B.C. prophets are those whose oracles form the books of the Old Testament.

Could you understand American History if you were not clear whether George Washington is to be connected with the revolutionary period or with the civil war? Neither can you understand the prophets if you do not know their period.

☆ CLASSIFICATION OF PROPHETS

The prophets who left us books are best grouped around the international crises in Israel's history in which they played a part. It

is not certain when Joel and Obadiah prophesied; for this reason they are not included in the following table.

Assyrian Period 8th-7th century B.C.	Babylonian Period 7th century B.C.	Exilic Period 6th century B.C.	Post Exilic Period 6th-5th century B.C.
Jonah Amos Hosea Isaiah Micah Nahum Zephaniah	Habakkuk Jeremiah	Ezekiel Daniel	Haggai Zechariah Malachi Ezra Nehemiah

★ CLASSIFICATION OF PROPHETIC BOOKS

Major prophets:	Minor Prophets:	
Isaiah	Hosea	Nahum
Jeremiah	Joel	Habakkuk
Ezekiel	Amos	Zephaniah
Lamentations	Obadiah	Haggai
Daniel	Jonah	Zechariah
	Micah	Malachi

The basis of this division is the length of the books, not the date nor the importance of the book. A minor prophet may be of equal significance to a major one. The division is a convenience created by men and not a part of the Bible itself. Lamentations is not actually a prophetic book in form, but is composed of elegaic poems lamenting the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians. Its classification with the prophets is due to the poems being connected with the name of Jeremiah.

★ DO YOU KNOW HISTORY?

The prophets fit into the period of Israel's history after the kingdom had been divided. The days of the northern kingdom were numbered. In a rapid succession king followed king until the Assyrians overran and exiled the people. The southern kingdom continued 235 years longer and was in turn exiled by the Babylonians in 587 B.C. The return from exile in 536 during the Persian period reestablished a portion of the people in the land.

Study *II Kings 15-26* along with and in preparation for studying the prophets. You cannot understand the prophets if you do not familiarize yourself with the times in which they lived and the problems they talked about.

Do you know the outline facts concerning Israel and Judah's relationship to the Assyrians, Babylonians and Persians? Your grasp of the prophets will grow as your acquaintance with Israel's neighbors is enlarged. The two books by Andre Parrot, *Nineveh and the Old Testament* and *Babylon and the Old Testament* will help you get the basic facts.

★ BASIC PASSAGES TO STUDY FOR INTERPRETING PROPHECY

A. The Prophet cannot introduce

strange religions (*Deuteronomy 13:1-5*). Prophets did not introduce a new law. It was their function to call men back to the law given by Moses.

B. The true prophet is the man whose oracles come to pass (*Deuteronomy 18:20-22*). The ability to know the future belongs to God alone. The prophet knows things to come only to the extent the Lord speaks through him.

C. Prophecy is conditional (*Jeremiah 18:5-11*). The question must be kept before you — have the conditions of this threat or promise been met? Remember that the Lord did not destroy Nineveh despite Jonah's threat, for Nineveh repented.

D. The prophets lived before and immediately after the Assyrian and Babylonian exiles. Threats of destruction are fulfilled in these calamities. The return promised is the return from Babylon. Zechariah reminds the post-exilic people that the threats against their fathers are fulfilled (*Zechariah 1:5-6*).

E. Christ's first coming and the beginning of the church are important subjects of Old Testament prophecy (*Acts 3:24-26; I Peter 1:10-12*).

★ A LOOK AT THE PROPHETS OF THE ASSYRIAN PERIOD

(Note: You should read the books by each of these prophets.)

A. **Jonah**, son of Amittai, preached to Nineveh. The point of the book of Jonah is not the fish experience. The point is the contrast between the love of God which was able to spare Nineveh when it repented and the narrow patriotism of Jonah who would gladly see it destroyed.

B. **Amos** of Tekoa was called to prophesy to the Northern Kingdom about 750 B.C. Despite repeated warnings Israel had not turned to God. In complacency the people of Samaria were "*at ease in Zion*" in their homes of luxury. Neither God's choice of Israel as his people, nor the blessings of the exodus, nor even extraordinary worship at the temple could save them. Israel must go into exile. The Justice of God demanded that he punish them.

C. **Hosea** is the only writing prophet of the Northern Kingdom. Out of the experience of Hosea's broken down marriage to Gomer Hosea was taught that "God is love." He had been commanded to marry her and to go on loving her despite her unfaithfulness. Israel, engulfed in worship on the high places and in other Canaanite practices, was guilty of adultery against God.

D. **Isaiah**, a man of Jerusalem, has left us the largest of the prophetic books. There

are sixty-six chapters. The book divides itself into two parts. The first thirty-nine chapters are largely threats against Judah. Chapters 36-39 tell of the Assyrian invasion of 701 B.C. which is the tragic fulfillment of Isaiah's threats. Chapters 40-66 envision the return from exile and are largely made up of hope as contrasted to the threats of the first part of the book.

E. **Micah** is a contemporary of Isaiah, but is chiefly concerned with the injustices suffered by the small land owner in the farming region to the south of Jerusalem — the area of Moresheth. There is a trilogy of evil doers: the judges who accept a bribe, the avaricious princes, and the false prophets who give the blessings of religion to the whole sordid affair. Micah brings to our attention that the real demands of God are *"to do justly, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God"* (Micah 6:8).

F. **Nahum** is the prophet of the downfall of Assyria. His book, which is in poetic form, is a great "at last" the ruthless one has received that which is coming to him. Read this book for its great poetic description of the frenzied but vain defense of Nineveh. At this news, Israel could only rejoice.

G. **Zephaniah** is the prophet of the Day of the Lord. The Day of the Lord in the Old Testament is a day within the framework of history in which the Lord metes out to a people their due. It is a day of wrath, distress and anguish. These images furnished by the prophet played an important part in giving us our ideas of God's final judgment day. The fate of Nineveh is further made clear in the prophet's description.

★ THE PROPHETS OF THE BABYLONIAN PERIOD

A. **Habakkuk** complains of the violence in his society, asking how long God will tolerate it. He is told that the Chaldeans are being raised up to deal with the violent ones. But this raises another problem: How can God use such wicked people to punish a less wicked one. He certainly could not agree that Babylon is better than Judah. The answer to the prophet's problem is that violence contains the seeds of its own destruction, but *"the just will live by his faith"* (Habakkuk 2:4). Habakkuk is unique among the minor prophets in that he argues with God.

B. **Jeremiah**. We know more of Jeremiah as a person than about any other Old Testament character. He found his work of being a prophet a great burden and complained of it. We call these sections his "Confessions." Jeremiah played a most important

BIBLE QUIZ SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: It is well to read the entire lesson through carefully before attempting to fill out the answers to the questions on this Quiz sheet. You will notice that the questions are numbered to match the section numbers in the lesson proper. If in doubt about the correct answers, check through your lesson again by sections. Use your Bible freely. May God bless you as you study.

THE PROPHETS

Lesson Five



If the statement is true, encircle T; if false, encircle F.

- T F 1. The prophets are chiefly concerned with predicting the future.
T F 2. Zerubbabel and Nehemiah were contemporaries with each other.
T F 3. Jeremiah is a prophet of the Babylonian period.



Check (✓) the appropriate answer.

1. The longest book of the prophets is:
() Amos
() Malachi
() Isaiah
2. The Temple was rebuilt by:
() Ezra
() Isaiah
() Zerubbabel
3. A True Prophecy
() Must be fulfilled regardless.
() Is conditional upon people's behaviour.
() Dependent upon the whims of God.



Write the period of Israel's history into which the prophet fits in the following blanks.

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. _____ Malachi | 6. _____ Amos |
| 2. _____ Nahum | 7. _____ Micah |
| 3. _____ Daniel | 8. _____ Jeremiah |
| 4. _____ Ezekiel | 9. _____ Habakkuk |
| 5. _____ Isaiah | 10. _____ Hosea |



Check (✓) each true statement.

- _____ 1. Prophets obtained their message by means of the Holy Spirit.
_____ 2. Prophetic books are arranged in the Bible in chronological order.
_____ 3. The threats of the prophets are all fulfilled.

Student may detach and send in shaded Quiz Sheet - it will be graded and returned.



Give the basic theme of each of the following prophets.

1. Hosea
2. Nahum
3. Micah

My Name (Mr., Mrs., Miss) _____
(Underline which one) (Please print name)

Street and No. _____

Route No. _____ Box No. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

(lesson text concluded)

year 457 led back 5,000 people. He found the people intermarrying with non-Jews and promptly reformed the situation. Read *Ezra 7:1-10:44*.

C. Thirteen years after the coming of Ezra, Nehemiah led back an additional group. The primary task of Nehemiah was that of rebuilding the wall of the city (*Nehemiah 1-7:14*). The law was publicly read to the people by Ezra and a covenant was made in which obedience to God was promised (*Nehemiah 8-12*). Nehemiah returned to Persia, but returned to Jerusalem a second time in 432 only to find the people again intermarrying with the people of the land and failing to observe the sabbath. Nehemiah was able to accomplish reforms which put an end to these practices (*Nehemiah 13*). All in all Nehemiah's work covers a period of twelve years and ends not earlier than 104 years after the original return took place.

D. Malachi brings the O. T. to a close by presenting a series of charges by God. The literary form is that God accuses, the people express surprise at the charge, then the Lord enlarges on the charge. They have robbed him; they have despised him by offering polluted food; they have divorced their wives. But even here, God promises another chance. Elijah the prophet will be sent to turn the hearts of the people before the day of the Lord comes and God smites the earth with a curse. Jesus explained that this prophet is John the Baptist (*Matthew 11:14*).

role in the last days of the Judean state and was finally carried into Egypt by refugees who sought to escape Nebuchadnezzar. Jeremiah through his career not only warned of the futility of resisting the Babylonians, but also promised that God would make a new covenant (*Jeremiah 31:31*) which promise is fulfilled in the New Covenant (*Hebrews 8:8-13*).

★ THE RETURN FROM EXILE: THOSE WHO RETURNED AND THOSE WHO STAYED

(Study the books of Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther. These books are to be classified as historical books rather than prophetic ones. They are surveys of history rather than collection of prophetic statements. While most of the Old Testament has been preserved for us in Hebrew, Ezra 4:8-6:18 and 7:12-26 has come down to us in the Aramaic language.)

The return from exile is related to us in three stages just as the onset of the exile is given in three stages:

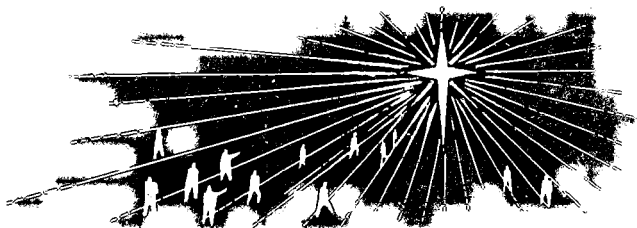
A. Zerubbabel in 536 B.C., taking advantage of the decree of Cyrus, led back 46,897 persons who set up the altar, began worship and laid the foundations for the restoration of the temple. Opposition stirred up by those people who had not gone into exile brought these activities to a halt. For sixteen years the house remained uncompleted while a spirit of lethargy grew up. In 520 B.C. Haggai and Zechariah stirred the people to complete the building by pointing out that all they did was contaminated because of their indifference to the temple. By 516 B.C. the temple was completed and dedicated. You should study Ezra 1-6 and Haggai and Zechariah at this point.

Some Jews did not see fit to return from Persia. Mordecai and his niece, Esther, are among them. The book of Esther gives us an insight into their condition. The book is unique in that it has no occurrence of the name of God and no distinctively religious practices. By her courage Esther was able to deliver her people from the death intended for them. Ahasuerus is probably Xerxes. The book recounts for us the origin of the feast of Purim. If for no other reason it should be read again for the sentence: "*Who knows whether that you have not come to the kingdom for just such a time as this*" (*Esther 4:14*).

B. Some 78 years after the return under Zerubbabel, Ezra, a priest and scribe, in the
(concluded at left)

Star

BIBLE SURVEY COURSE



Leading Wise Men to Their Saviour - Matthew 2:10

Suggested Reading: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

LESSON SIX

THE SON OF GOD

The theme of the Old Testament was: **"Christ is Coming!"** As we read the first four books of the New Testament we see that Christ *had* come, just as the Prophets foretold. That which had once been in the future had now become reality. The heavenly host had lost its most precious gem — the Lord of Glory had come to earth. In this expression of divine love mankind can find redemption. God so loved that He gave His Son. Indeed, as *Romans 5:8* declares:

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

It is eminently important that we come to know Jesus in a very intimate way for it is through Him that salvation is obtainable. Notice *Acts 4:12*:

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Once God's voice boomed forth from heaven:

"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him" (*Matthew 17:5*).

How blessed we are to have a beautiful record of Christ's matchless life within the pages of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. From the angel's song of **"peace on earth"** which attended His birth until the moment He ascended back to heaven (*Luke 2:14; Luke 24:51*) we can read of the greatest One who ever graced this earth. Jesus came down from heaven to do the Father's will (*John 6:38*). With nobility of purpose and solemn resolve, He never wavered from that obedient attitude. And, Christ **"is the author of eternal salvation to all them that obey Him"** (*Hebrews 5:9*).

Not only did Jesus live perfectly (*I Peter 2:21-22*), He also taught authoritatively. At the conclusion of the famous Sermon on the Mount we can read of the reaction of the audi-

ence in *Matthew 7:28-29*).

"And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: For he taught them as one having authority . . ."

Yes, Christ had the authority of Heaven behind every word He spoke and every deed He performed. Even today Jesus has **"all authority in heaven and in earth."** This power leaves no place for any supposed "Vicar of Christ on earth" (*Matthew 28:18*).

Since our Lord **"knew what was in man"** (*John 2:25*), He was fully capable of imparting spiritual truths to the people of all time in a truly magnificent way. The parables of Jesus will live forever as a tribute to His genius, and yet also to His compassion for all. Even casual readers of the Bible have thrilled to "the human touch" contained in the stories of the Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan and the Lost Sheep. At least 30 of these Parables fell from the lips of the Savior as He illustrated spiritual truths by using earthly stories. The officers were correct: **"Never man spake like this man"** (*John 7:46*).

The miracles of Christ magnified His claims to be the long awaited Messiah. As Jesus stilled the tempest, fed multitudes with scanty provisions and raised Lazarus from the dead, the earth echoed with the shout:

"Truly this was the Son of God" (*Matthew 27:54*).

It is no wonder then that Nicodemus exclaimed:

"Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him" (*John 3:2*).

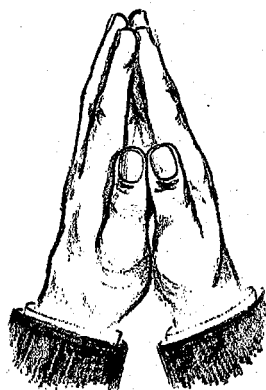
Yet, greater than these marvelous signs of His infinite power was His deep concern for lost mankind. As majestic as He was, still Jesus found time to be the friend of the *individual*.

The Gospel account by John stresses the Deity of Christ, but it also portrays vividly the compassion He had for wayward men. The Savior always found time for the lonely and the lost. Whether it was the Samaritan woman (*John 4*), a lame man (*John 5*) or one born blind (*John 9*) the Lord took time to touch their lives with His splendor. And, praise God, He has an interest in you and me today!

This was proved by His death on our behalf over 1900 years ago. Men have been dying throughout the centuries — but never was death like His!

Jesus died vicariously, that is, on behalf of others. In *II Corinthians 5:14* we learn that “one died for all.” Peter tells us that our perfect Example “bore our sins in his own body upon the tree” (*I Peter 2:24*). Jehovah made Him “to be sin for us even though he knew no sin.” (*II Corinthians 5:21*). Our Savior died painfully. The Roman scourging received prior to the actual crucifixion was enough to kill some men. The heavy burden of the cross was additional agony. Usually, in the first century when one was “nailed to the tree” he was laid on top of the crude cross while it lay on the ground. Spikes were driven sharply into the criminal’s hands and feet. Then suddenly in excruciating pain, the cross would be projected between heaven and earth. These terrible things were experienced by the greatest One who ever walked the sands of time. The throng mocked Him; blood, from the wreath of thorns, flowed down His face. No wonder the hymn writer has touched our hearts with these words:

*“See from his head, his hands, his feet
Sorrow and blood flow mingled down.
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?”*



Lastly, Jesus died alone. Peter had denied Him with a fervent speech; most of the apostles “followed afar off.” A few faithful women were nearby weeping. Nicodemus and Joseph would later prepare His body for burial. Yet, for One who had done so much for mankind the scene about the cross was very lonely. From the Roman tree the Redeemer cried “My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?” The Father looked away from the Son for a moment to view fallen man. In that glance we have hope of redemption.

Praise God for His infinite love and Jesus for His willingness to offer His life that we might never die. A passage in *II Corinthians 8:9* beautifully sums up this glorious result.

“For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich.”

The Law of Moses was Abolished

In *Matthew 26:28* we read that the new testament was ushered in through the blood of Christ. In *Romans seven* we learn that men today are dead to the law that said, “Thou shalt not covet,” that we may be spiritually joined to Jesus who arose from the dead. Paul plainly declares in *Galatians 2:21* that Christ died in vain if we are still under the Law. In three distinct passages in *Hebrews* we read that Christ is the mediator of the new testament and that He could not have been until after His death. Therefore, at the cross our Savior took away the first covenant. We are now under the last will and testament of the Lord (*Hebrews 8:6, 9:16, 10:10*).

Comprehension of this scriptural thought will answer the often asked question about the thief on the cross. He lived and died *before* Jesus shed His blood of the new covenant. We live *after* that notable event. We are under the new testament, the thief was subject to the old testament. While Jesus was on earth He had the authority to forgive sins as He chose (*Matthew 9:6*). But when Christ died, His law for man was revealed in the New Testament. The terms for pardon, sealed in His blood, must not be changed. According to the words of the Savior all accountable beings must now believe the gospel (*Mark 16:16*), repent of their sins (*Luke 24:47*) and be immersed in water (*Acts 8:38; 22:16*). This arrangement will last till the end of the world (*Matthew 28:18-20*).

The book of *Matthew* emphasizes the

kingdom of Christ. Mark's account of the life of our Lord stresses His majesty. Luke set forth the ideal manhood of Christ (*Luke 2:52*) and John underscored the Deity of the Savior. From the first four New Testament books we come to know about Jesus, the greatest One to walk the sands of time. The major purpose of this section of the Bible is aptly summed up in *John 20:31*.

"But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."

Indeed, we must obediently follow the Redeemer for His words will judge us one day (*John 12:48*). On the last page in the Bible we read:

"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city" (*Revelation 22:14*).

Yes, heaven will be the eternal home for those who properly appropriate the life of Christ to their own lives. Jesus is by far the central character in human history. He taught the highest ethics and set the perfect example. Unto Him we owe our life, our love, our very all.

BIBLE QUIZ SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: It is well to read the entire lesson through carefully before attempting to fill out the answers to the questions on this Quiz sheet. You will notice that the questions are numbered to match the section numbers in the lesson proper. If in doubt about the correct answers, check through your lesson again by sections. Use your Bible freely. May God bless you as you study.

The SON OF GOD

Lesson Six

Student may detach and send in shaded Quiz Sheet—it will be graded and returned.



If the statement is true, encircle the T; if false, encircle the F.

- T F 1. The theme of the Old Testament was: "Christ Is Coming."
T F 2. Salvation is in the name of Christ (*Acts 4:12*).
T F 3. The Old Testament began when Jesus died (*Matthew 26:28*).



Check (✓) the word or phrase in each group that applies to the statement.

1. All Power or Authority in spiritual matters belongs to (*Matthew 28:18*).
() Moses
() The Pope
() Jesus Christ
2. Who taught the Sermon on the Mount? (*Matthew 7:28*).
() Jesus
() Mohammed
() Peter
3. Who told Jesus that He "was a teacher come from God"?
() John
() Nicodemus
() Luke



Check each true statement.

- _____ 1. Jesus died for his own sins.
_____ 2. We are not answerable to the Law of Moses today.
_____ 3. The words of Christ will judge us.



Complete the following texts.

1. "For _____ of the
_____, which is _____ many
for the _____"
(Matthew 26:28).
2. "He that _____ and is _____
shall be _____" (Mark 16:16).
3. "And Jesus came and spake unto them, say-
ing, _____ is given
_____ in
and in _____" (Matthew 28:18).

THE FOLLOWING PERSONS WOULD
LIKE TO BE ENROLLED IN THIS

FREE!

BIBLE COURSE:

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____

My Name (Mr., Mrs., Miss) _____
(Underline which one) (Please print name)

Street and No. _____

Route No. _____ Box No. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



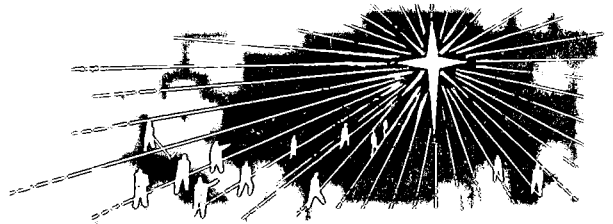
"FEAR NOT THEM WHICH KILL THE BODY, BUT
ARE NOT ABLE TO KILL THE SOUL: BUT RATHER
FEAR HIM WHICH IS ABLE TO DESTROY BOTH
SOUL AND BODY IN HELL." — THE CHRIST
(MATT. 10:28)

PREVIEW OF NEXT LESSON

*Lesson seven discusses the estab-
lishment of the church of the Lord,
and shows its identity as the king-
dom. Read Acts chapters one and
two in preparation for this study.*



BIBLE SURVEY COURSE



Leading Wise Men to Their Saviour - Matthew 2:10

Suggested Reading: Acts Chapters 1 and 2

LESSON SEVEN

THE EVERLASTING KINGDOM

★ THE KINGDOM PROMISED

When Israel was a United Kingdom (see Lesson Four) God promised their great king David that He would give to one of his descendants an everlasting kingdom. A similar expression is that this one would "*build an house*" for the name of God. This house or kingdom was to be set up after the death and burial of David. To him God said through the prophet Nathan,

"And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, . . . And I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever" (II Samuel 7:12,13 Also see verses 14 through 16).

Inspired of God to so, David wrote Psalm 16, a part of which is as follows:

"I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope. For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption" (Verses 8-10).

Without an inspired explanation we could not know the meaning of David's words in the Psalm. But just now, let us keep in mind that he would be dead and buried when the time came for the kingdom to be established.

★ GREAT PROPHETS FORETOLD

Long after the time of Solomon, Isaiah, one of the "Major Prophets," wrote the following:

"The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw con-

cerning Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, . . . and all nations shall flow unto it . . . for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem" (Isaiah 2:1-3).

Micah, one of the "Minor Prophets," who prophesied later, during the period of the Divided Kingdom, made an almost identical prophecy (Micah 4:1,2) and then in the same chapter prophesied thus:

"And thou, O tower of the flock, the strong hold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion: the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Zion" (Micah 4:8).

Both of these prophets, as well as others in the Old Testament, had something to say about the coming of the great ruler of the kingdom, for every great kingdom must have a great ruler. Isaiah devoted all of Chapter 53 to him; and also wrote this:

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given and the government shall be upon his shoulder. . . Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever" (Isaiah 9:6,7).

★ A FOREIGN KING DREAMS OF THE KINGDOM

Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon during the Israelites' captivity there, had a dream, then awoke to find that he had forgotten what he had dreamed. Daniel, a prophet taken from Palestine to Babylon while a young man, not only told the king what he had dreamed, but

also was enabled by God to give the interpretation of the dream. In his dream the king had seen an image with a head of gold, with breast and arms of silver, with belly and thighs of brass, with legs of iron, and with feet of iron and clay. He saw also a stone cut out of a mountain without hands, which came and smote the image on its feet, breaking all the metal parts into small bits which were carried away by the wind. And he saw the stone become a great mountain that filled the whole earth (*Daniel, Chapter 2*).

Having explained that the various kinds of metals in the image represented successive world kingdoms, and having just referred to the last one so represented, Daniel said,

"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever" (*Daniel 2:44*).

A glance at world history reveals that the Babylonian kingdom was superseded by the Medo-Persian Kingdom, and that one in turn by the Macedonian, or Grecian; and then the Roman Empire was next. It does not take a scholar to see that God's promise to David, that a kingdom would be established, was repeated by Isaiah, Micah, and Daniel.

★ THE KINGDOM "AT HAND"

During the height of the power and glory of the Roman Empire, while Caesar Augustus ruled, Jesus was born in Bethlehem (*Luke 2:1*). Angels announced it to the shepherds in this language:

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (*Luke 2:11. See also vs. 4*).

Jesus did not enter into His personal ministry until He was thirty years of age (*Luke 3:23, 4:1*). But before He began this work, John the Baptist had been preaching that "the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (*Matthew 3:2*). Jesus, upon beginning His ministry, sent the Twelve and the Seventy out to preach, saying to the people that the kingdom was then "at hand" or that it had "come nigh" unto them (*Luke 9:1, 2, 27; 10:1, 9*). He also taught His followers to pray to God, "Thy kingdom come" (*Matthew 6:10*).

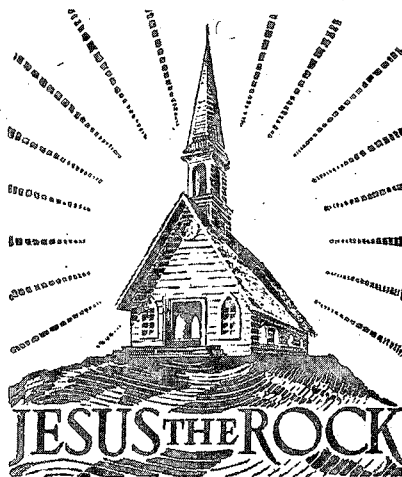
The New Testament teaches that during the personal ministry of Jesus He did not speak of the promised kingdom as being already in existence, but that it was soon to come. Just as He said, "I will build my church" (*Matthew 16:18*), He also taught that the kingdom was then in the future, and that it was to be "not of this earth" (*John 18:36*).

★ THE KINGDOM ESTABLISHED

Before His death Jesus had told His disciples that in their generation they would see the kingdom come with power (*Mark 9:1*). After His resurrection He told His apostles they would receive power when the Holy Ghost (or, Holy Spirit) came upon them, and that they would receive this promise from God within a few days (*Acts 1:4, 5*). But even His apostles did not yet understand the nature of the kingdom, asking Him, "Lord wilt thou at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" (*verse 6*). Apparently they hoped for the restoration of an earthly kingdom, such as David ruled.

Recalling that Old Testament prophets had pointed to Jerusalem as the place for the kingdom to be established (*Isaiah 2:1-4; Micah 4:8*), we see the importance of Jesus strictly charging the apostles that they wait in Jerusalem until they received the promised power (*Luke 24:45-49; Acts 1:4*). So it was that about ten days after His ascension they received the outpouring of the Holy Ghost, which enabled them to speak in other languages, being understood by Jews from many lands (*Acts 2:1-12*).

As a part of Peter's sermon, recorded in Acts, chapter 2, a portion of Psalm 16 is quoted; it is the part that speaks of the resurrection of Christ. Having quoted this, Peter told his hearers that God raised up Jesus to sit on David's throne (*verses 30, 31*). He announced to all Israel that day that God had made Jesus "both Lord and Christ." (*verse 36*) "Lord" means ruler, and "Christ" means anointed; Jesus Christ is the anointed ruler over the kingdom.





THE KINGDOM IS THE CHURCH

Jesus promised to build His church (*Matthew 16:18*), and of course He did just that. It had its beginning on the Day of Pentecost, of which we read in Acts 2. The Book of Acts is an account of the beginning and early history of the church. Prior to Acts, chapter 2, it was spoken of as being in the future; but from Pentecost (*Acts 2*) and following, the New Testament speaks of it as a reality.

So it is with the kingdom. Jesus said it would come with power; the power came on the Pentecost of Acts 2. Before this, Peter had confessed Him to be the Christ, the Son of God, but Jesus told him to tell no man that He was the Christ (*Matthew 16:20*). But on Pentecost Peter proclaimed to all that Jesus was the anointed ruler, "*both Lord and Christ*."

When people hear, believe, and obey Christ, they become members of His body, which is the church (*1 Corinthians 12:13; Colossians 1:18, 24*). The same process makes them citizens in the kingdom in which Christ is "*King of Kings and Lord of Lords*" (*1 Timothy 6:15*). The apostle Paul wrote concerning Christians, that God, the father "... *delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son*" (*Colossians 1:13*). An indirect quotation of John, the Apostle, is as follows: *I am your brother in the kingdom of Jesus Christ* (*Revelation 1:9*).

Jesus told the apostles that he appointed them a kingdom, that they might eat and drink at His table in His kingdom (*Luke 22:29, 30*), evidently referring to the Lord's Supper with which the chapter is concerned. The Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, regulating the eating of this meal in the church. Hence, we see that the kingdom and the church are one and the same. (*See 1 Corinthians 11*).

When Jesus comes again, He will deliver up the kingdom (the "*first dominion*") to God, the Father (*Psalms 110:1; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28*), and the heavenly phase of the eternal kingdom will begin (*II Peter 1:11*).

B I B L E Q U I Z S H E E T

INSTRUCTIONS: It is well to read the entire lesson through carefully before attempting to fill out the answers to the questions on this Quiz sheet. You will notice that the questions are numbered to match the section numbers in the lesson proper. If in doubt about the correct answers, check through your lesson again by sections. Use your Bible freely. May God bless you as you study.

THE EVERLASTING KINGDOM

Lesson Seven



If the statement is true, encircle the T; if false, encircle the F.

- T F 1. King David realized that God spoke only of the immediate future when He promised to give his heir a kingdom. (*II Samuel 7:19*)
- T F 2. David was still living when his son, Solomon, began his long reign as his successor. (*I Kings 1:33, 34, 47, 48*)
- T F 3. The kingdom over which Solomon reigned was not that which God promised to David in *II Samuel 7*.



Check (✓) the word or phrase in each group that applies to the statement.

1. The prophecy that the Lord's house would be established referred to:
 - _____ Rome
 - _____ Jerusalem
 - _____ Boston
2. Paul wrote to Timothy, indicating that the "house of God" is:
 - _____ a material building
 - _____ the Temple in Jerusalem
 - _____ the church of the living God.
3. Luke 2:11 is similar to:
 - _____ Isaiah 2:1-4
 - _____ Micah 4:8
 - _____ Isaiah 9:6, 7



Check (✓) each true statement:

- _____ 1. Nebuchadnezzar had a meaningless dream.
- _____ 2. Ezekiel interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dream.
- _____ 3. The stone in the dream represented an institution that men would establish.
- _____ 4. The kingdom which Daniel foresaw would cut across national and racial barriers.
- _____ 5. It was to be an everlasting kingdom.
- _____ 6. Numbers 4 and 5 (above) are related to what Jesus said in *Matthew 28:18-20*.

Student may detach and send in shaded Quiz Sheet - it will be graded and returned.



Write "True" or "False" in each blank in the following:

- _____ 1. The "seed" of Abraham through whom the world would be blessed had reference to many people (Genesis 22:18; Galatians 3:16).
- _____ 2. Jesus was descended from David. (Matthew 1:1; Luke 3:31)
- _____ 3. Jesus was the seed of Abraham (Galatians 3:14, 16).
- _____ 4. Satan did not tempt Jesus to possess the kingdoms of this world (Matthew 4:8, 9).
- _____ 5. Some of the people wanted to take Jesus by force and make him a king (John 6:15).



Fill in the blanks in the following with the words omitted:

1. "The Lord hath _____ in _____ unto _____; he will not turn from it; Of the fruit of thy body will I set (one) upon thy throne." (Psalm 132:11).
2. The angel Gabriel said unto Mary, "The Lord God shall _____ unto him the _____ of his father _____; and of his _____ there shall be no end." (Luke 1:32,33).
3. "David . . . is both _____ and _____, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a _____, and knowing that God had _____ with an _____ to him that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up _____ to sit on his throne." (Acts 2:29,30).



Complete the following:

1. The prophets Isaiah and Micah foretold events relative to the coming of the kingdom in the last _____. (Isaiah 2:2; Micah 4:1).
2. God has in "these _____" spoken unto us by His Son." (Hebrews 1:2).



Underscore one of the expressions given below to correctly complete the following sentence: The kingdom which the prophets foretold, and over which Christ is King,

- (1) had its beginning on Pentecost.
- (2) is yet in the future.
- (3) has ceased to be.

My Name (Mr., Mrs., Miss) _____
(Underline which one) (Please print name)

Route No. _____ Box No. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



PREVIEW OF NEXT LESSON

Lesson eight covers the inspired history of the early church as recorded in the book of Acts. It also gives vital information as to how men and women became Christians.

Star

BIBLE SURVEY COURSE



Leading Wise Men to Their Saviour - Matthew 2:10

Suggested Reading: Acts, Chapters 3-28

LESSON EIGHT

HEARING, BELIEVING, BEING BAPTIZED

In your last lesson you learned how the Lord planted the church, beginning it in Jerusalem. We shall now see that since the church was composed of those who were being saved (Acts 2:47), as people were saved in various places, the church was begun in those cities. *The saved people were the church.*

In chapters 3-28 of the book, Acts of Apostles, there are several stories of "conversion." This means that people heard the apostles or other workers preach Christ (Acts 8:5); and when they obeyed their preaching, they were converted. They "turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven" (1 Thessalonians 1:9-10). To "turn to God" and to "be converted" means the same thing.

Notice the different ways these things are presented, yet they all add up to the same result: the people became followers of Christ. In Acts 3:19 Peter tells his hearers, "Repent ye therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out." This is the same as telling the people on Pentecost,

"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38).

As the church grew in Jerusalem, the apostles kept preaching the truth. This brought on persecution, so that they were scattered abroad, and "went everywhere preaching the word" (Acts 8:4). This meant that they preached Christ (Acts 8:5). They preached "the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ" (Acts 8:12). In other words, they told men who Jesus is, what

he has done for us, that he has given the kingdom (the church), and that we should wear his name because there is salvation in no other (Acts 4:11-12).

Three chapters in Acts relate the story of Saul's conversion. He was an enemy of the church at first. But after seeing Jesus in the vision on the road to Damascus; after sincerely repenting, he was sent a man to tell him what he must further do. Ananias told him, "Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16).

Just as we have seen that different ways are used to express the preaching done by these Christians, so are there different ways of showing how their hearers accepted it. Sometimes it merely says that they "believed" as in the people of Thessalonica (Acts 17:1-4). Although this does not mention repentance, or other commands, we are not to suppose that it leaves them out. Without repentance we cannot be saved (Luke 13:3). And in fact, we have already seen that when Paul wrote these people he addressed them as "the church of the Thessalonians" (1 Thessalonians 1:1-2). He said that they "turned to God." They also "served" the true God. More, they were taught to expect Christ's return: "to wait for his Son from heaven" (1 Thessalonians 1:9-10). So, all of this is actually included in the one word: they "believed."

Sometimes it is not mentioned that the people confessed Christ. But Jesus had taught that this is necessary (Matthew 10:32). Paul later shows that it is a confession "with the mouth" (Romans 10:9-10). In Acts 8:37 you

will find the confession in simple words: "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." Have you made this confession before men?

In some of the stories of conversion, things are implied rather than stated. For instance, when the jailer (*Acts 16:16-40*) heard "the word of the Lord," it is not said that he repented. But we can see that he did, for he took Paul and Silas out of prison and "washed their stripes" (*Acts 16:33*). This means that he washed the blood from their wounded bodies, where they had been beaten. He **SHOWED** his repentance. Then, he and all his household were baptized "straightway" which means at once. He did not even wait until morning!

If you will take a map of the Mediterranean Sea and the coasts of it, you can trace the spread of the gospel. Start at Jerusalem — this is where the church started. Then you would go north to Samaria (*Acts 8* tells about this). Then we find the church in Antioch (*Acts 13:1-3*). As you turn westward, you will

come to Iconium, and Lystra, and Ephesus. These chapters in Acts mention the work of preaching in all these cities. Then if you cross the Aegean Sea, you will come to the land we now call Greece: Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, Corinth — all these cities were visited by Paul in his "missionary journeys." The people who accepted the gospel became "believers," also called "saints," or "them that call upon the name of the Lord" (*Acts 9:13,14*), or "disciples" (which meant they followed Christ). Sometimes the church was called "this way" (*Acts 9:2*). Remember, then there was only one church, one body. No denominations had existed; people were simply followers of Christ. Wouldn't it be wonderful if this simple pattern were followed everywhere today?

Notice how some people were called by the name of the city they lived in. When Paul preached in Corinth, "many of the Corinthians hearing, believed and were baptized" (*Acts*

Heard	Believed	Repented	Confessed	Were Baptized	Blessings
3000 <i>Acts 2:1-47</i>		Repented		Were baptized	Forgiveness, Holy Spirit
Samaritans <i>Acts 8:5-12</i>	Believed			Were baptized	
Eunuch <i>Acts 8:26-40</i>	Believed		Confessed	Baptized	Rejoicing
Saul <i>Acts 9:1-18, Acts 22:1-16</i>				Baptized	Sins washed away
Cornelius <i>Acts 10:1-48, 11:1-17</i>	Believed			Baptized	Was saved — 11:14
Athenians <i>Acts 17:</i>	Believed 17:34				
Jailer	Believed			Baptized	Rejoiced
Thessalonians <i>Acts 17:1-4</i>	Believed 17:4				
Corinthians <i>Acts 18:1-8</i>	Believed 18:8			Baptized	Washed; saved 1 Cor 6:11, 15:2
Ephesians <i>Acts 19:1-7</i>				Baptized <i>Acts 19:5</i>	

18:8). This is a brief summary of both their work and the results of it. The apostles preached Christ; the hearers believed and obeyed. They then became "*the church of God at Corinth*" (1 Corinthians 1:1-2). The accepting and obeying the truth made them saints, disciples, believers; it made them followers of Christ; it made them "*Christians*" (Acts 11:26). It will do the same for us now if we believe the same gospel of the same Lord.

Study the chart and notice how the people responded to the preaching of the word. Study the blessings it brought them. Ask yourself, will not the same obedience bring to me the same blessings?

When you read on through the New Testament, you will find the letters which were written back to the cities where these churches came to be. The book we called Philippians is the letter Paul wrote to the Christians in that city. The book of Ephesians was written to the church in Ephesus; the Thessalonian letters to the church at Thessalonica.

If it still seems strange to you that sometimes the Bible just says people believed (and does not mention repentance or baptism), consider this. We often use a *part* of anything to speak of *all* of it. A man asks for the "hand" of a girl in marriage — and gets the whole person as his wife. A man speaks of another as a good "hand" — which means, in this case, a good workman. We use such language every day, and understand it. In a way, the writers of the Bible did the same. When we read that people became "believers," as we follow through we can find this meant they turned to the Lord, and became obedient to him in everything. If it is said that God "*granted to the Gentiles repentance unto life*" (Acts 11:18), we can see that this is put for their believing and obeying the words they heard (Acts 11:14). If it is merely said that they were baptized (*as in Acts 19:5*), we can understand that they had already come to believe, and had repented of their sins. Our Savior had said,

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16).

Let us consider the wisdom of a particular soul that was won, as recorded in Acts chapter 8. Read verses 26-40. Philip was eager to guide this man to a full understanding of the passage he was reading. It was a passage that foretold of the sacrifice Jesus would make for the world. Philip began at the same scripture and preached unto him Jesus. What an opportunity!

Philip had preached Jesus unto this man, but is there any connection between baptism and the preaching of Christ? Yes, for the Bible

BIBLE QUIZ SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: It is well to read the entire lesson through carefully before attempting to fill out the answers to the questions on this Quiz sheet. You will notice that the questions are numbered to match the section numbers in the lesson proper. If in doubt about the correct answers, check through your lesson again by sections. Use your Bible freely. May God bless you as you study.

HEARING, BELIEVING, AND BEING BAPTIZED

Lesson Eight

True or False:

- T F 1. The Thessalonians "believed," which means they turned to the Lord.
- T F 2. We can tell the Jailer repented, by his "washing the stripes" of the preachers.
- T F 3. Since the 3000 on Pentecost were told to repent and be baptized, this means they did not believe.
- T F 4. Since the Jailer was told that he would be saved by believing, this means he was not to be baptized.
- T F 5. There were no denominations in New Testament times.
- T F 6. The people who were saved in New Testament times became the church wherever they lived.
- T F 7. An Athenian was one who lived in Corinth.
- T F 8. Sometimes people waited until a long time after they heard the preaching, to be baptized.
- T F 9. The Corinthians heard, believed, and refused to be baptized.
- T F 10. Baptism is "for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38).
- T F 11. You can find on a map of the Mediterranean World, many cities where the apostles and their helpers planted churches.
- T F 12. There are 8 or more stories of conversion in Acts that show that the converts were baptized.
- T F 13. Every story of conversion in Acts mentions repentance.
- T F 14. Every story of conversion in Acts mentions the confession.
- T F 15. It is safe to leave out baptism, confession, repentance, or believing.
- T F 16. Preaching Christ includes the subject of baptism (Acts 8:5,12,35,36).

Student may detach and send in attached Quiz Sheet—it will be graded and returned.

- T F 17. Philip required a period of probation before allowing believers to be baptized (Acts 8).
- T F 18. Philip and the eunuch both went down into the water.
- T F 19. According to Acts 8:36-37, a person must believe before being baptized.
- T F 20. There are specific instances of infant baptism in the book of Acts.

Have you comments, questions, or requests that you would like to mention here?



My Name (Mr., Mrs., Miss) _____
(Underline which one) (Please print name)

Street and No. _____

Route No. _____ Box No. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

says that in baptism we come "*into Christ*" and "*put on Christ*" (Galatians 3:27). Again, "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:3,4).

Now let us turn our attention to the Ethiopian eunuch and see just what he did in order to be saved. He had *listened* earnestly to the preaching of Christ. He *believed* it, and now he wanted to become a follower of Christ. When they came unto a certain water he said, "See here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?" Philip's reply was, "If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest." The unsaved man then said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." When he had so said, he commanded the chariot to stand still, and the Bible says, "they went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him."

Why did this man want to be baptized? It was that he might come into Christ and put on Christ. He wanted to be saved, and the Bible says that baptism saves us (1 Peter 3:21). He wanted remission of sins and the Bible says that repentance and baptism are "... for the remission of sins ..." (Acts 2:38).

But why did both Philip and the eunuch go down into the water? Because scriptural baptism must be an immersion (Romans 6:3,4). To be immersed, both Philip and the eunuch needed to go down into the water. When they came up out of the water, the Bible says, "... the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing."

As you read on through the book of Acts, you will find stories of Paul's imprisonment, trials, and journey to Rome. There he continued to preach "*the kingdom of God; and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him*" (Acts 28:31). So ends the book of Acts. But the preaching, the believing, the obeying, the planting of churches, will continue until our Lord returns.

PREVIEW OF NEXT LESSON

Lesson nine surveys Romans, Galatians and Hebrews. It shows the superiority and permanence of the New Covenant as contrasted with the Old Covenant.

Star BIBLE SURVEY COURSE



Leading Wise Men to Their Saviour - Matthew 2:10

Suggested Readings: Romans, Galatians, Hebrews

LESSON NINE

TWO COVENANTS

★ INTRODUCTION

A great portion of Paul's inspired letters was devoted to the theme of the superiority of the New Covenant over the Old Covenant. The New Covenant, commonly called the New Testament, was spoken of many centuries before Christ by such inspired prophets as Jeremiah.

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity and I will remember their sin no more" (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

A "Covenant" according to Webster is "an agreement between persons or parties. A contract." Although God has had three laws (the Patriarchal Law, the Law of Moses, and the Law of Christ), only the latter two were written. They were called *covenants*.

★ THE FIRST COVENANT

In Exodus 19:5-8 you may read of the agreement made at Mount Sinai. In verse eight we read:

"All that the Lord hath spoken we will do."

Moses was the mediator of this covenant which was delivered to him at Mount Sinai. This covenant was sealed with the blood of animals (Hebrews 9:19-20); it was made as a contract or covenant between God and the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. It was not made with Adam or Noah or even Abraham or Isaac or Jacob, as is shown in the introduction to the Ten Commandments.

"The Lord our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. The Lord made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day" (Deuteronomy 5:2-3).

This covenant was not for Gentiles, but only for the Hebrew people (Deuteronomy 5:2-3; Exodus 20:2; Amos 3:12; Romans 9:4). It was during the time that this covenant was in force that Jeremiah prophesied that the Lord would make a "new covenant." This prophecy was given six hundred years before Christ, about eight hundred and fifty years after the first covenant had been given unto Moses.

★ INSUFFICIENCY OF OLD LAW

"But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith" (Galatians 3:11).

"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified" (Galatians 2:16).

"For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers..." (Hebrews 8:7-9).

The word *justify* in Galatians 3:11 and elsewhere carried the idea of freeing one from the guilt of sin. In the passages above it is evident that the law could not make a person righteous (right with God), or acquit (free) him from his guilt.

Under the law, when a person transgressed God's law one time, he was constituted a sinner; but the Law of Moses could not offer the remission of sin. Although it did have blood sacrifices for sin, it was only the blood of animals which could never take away sin (*Hebrews 10:4*). Sins were atoned for by animal sacrifices, but still there was a remembrance made of those sins once each year. They were never forgiven as long as there was a remembrance of them.

"The Law of Moses" (also called "the law of the Lord" in *Luke 2:22-23* and "the law of God" in *Nehemiah 8:1-8*) was not designed to last but until the coming of Christ, the promised seed (*Galatians 3:16-19*). It was our "tutor" to bring us unto the perfect and all-sufficient sacrifice, Jesus Christ (*Galatians 3:23-25*).

Because the New Covenant is far superior to the Old, the key word in the book of Hebrews is "better." In it we have a better law, a better High Priest, a better sacrifice, better promises, a better hope.

★ DEAD TO THE LAW

"Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace" (*Galatians 5:4*).

The Mosaic Law had a two-fold purpose:

(1) It prepared men for the coming of Christ and (2) It was a powerful force in discouraging sin in the life of the Israelite nation (*Galatians 3*). When Christ had come and when God was ready to abandon any further favoritism of Israel, the Law having finished its course, was permitted to die. Like a wall or partition no longer needed, it was removed. It ceased to have authority over living men as certainly as a dead husband ceases to have dominion over his surviving widow:

"Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God" (*Romans 7:4*).

In Romans chapters 3 through 5, Paul discourses on the obligation of men now to "the faith" or gospel and that they are now justified "by faith without the deeds of the law" (*Romans 3:28*). Although we have been "discharged from the law" delivered through

Moses, the writers of the New Testament are careful to point out that this new contract (covenant) also has its rules and regulations. The gospel, "the faith once delivered to the saints," is a "perfect law of liberty" and those today who would be counted righteous must walk by that "rule" (*see Jude 3; James 1:25; Philippians 3:16; 2 Timothy 2:2*).

"Shall we sin, because we are not under law, but under grace? God forbid: . . . Being then made free from sin, ye came the servants of righteousness" (*Romans 6:15, 18*).

The main thought of this entire lesson is that before this New Covenant could take the place of the Old one, the old had to be removed and made of no effect. This was accomplished in the death of Christ. The same act that abolished the Old ushered in the New.

"He taketh away the first that he may establish the second" (*Hebrews 10:9b*).

"Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances" (*Ephesians 2:25*. The "enmity" was that between Jew and Gentile).

"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross . . . Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow . . ." (*Colossians 2:14, 16, 17a*).

Since the covenant which included the law written and engraven on stones demanded perfection (*Galatians 3:10*), no one could satisfy its demands. It was thus called a "ministration of death" and a "ministration of condemnation" in 2 Corinthians 3:7-11. This ministration of death and condemnation worked through fear, and men were goaded by the threat of punishment by death into keeping the "oldness of the letter" (*Romans 7:6*).

★ END OF THE SABBATH

The ten commandments, which were part of the law given through Moses, have been done away (2 Corinthians 3; Colossians 2). This includes the commandment to remember the sabbath (seventh day of the week), to keep it holy.

Moreover, the Bible declares *when* the sabbath (which was a sign between God and the Israelites only *Exodus 31:13, 17; Ezekiel 20:12*) ended. Amos declared:

"The end is come upon my people of Israel . . . When will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn? and the sabbath . . . ? It shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord God, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day" (*Amos 8:2, 5, 9*).

When Christ hung on the cross it was the sixth hour of the day — high noon. The sun refused to shine and darkness was on the earth. The sun had gone down at noon; that day was the end of the sabbath.

Christ, the Perfect One, came and fulfilled the law, becoming a curse for us (*Galatians 3:13; Deuteronomy 21:23*). Christ said concerning the first covenant, "I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill" (*Matthew 5:17b*). If Christ had come to destroy the law and the prophets he would have had to prevent the fulfillment of the prophecies; He came not to do this, but rather to fulfill them. He kept the sabbath, the feast days, and other precepts of the Moosaic Law, and taught others to do so during His personal ministry (*Matthew 23:2-3*). However, after His death and the abolition of the old law, it is not surprising to observe that not one single time do we find a record of disciples of Christ gathered into a worship assembly on the sabbath day. The sabbath had commemorated to the Jewish mind deliverance from bondage in Egypt (*Deuteronomy 5:15*), whereas the first day of the week has been appointed as the day in which Christians commemorate their deliverance from bondage to sin by Christ's death. They partake of the Lord's Supper each first day of the week (*Acts 20:7*), also known as Sunday.

★ INFANT MEMBERSHIP?

In the old covenant, male children were to be circumcised on the eighth day (*Deuteronomy 10:16*). When they were born into the family of *fleshly* Israel, this command was to be obeyed. It had nothing to do with sin as far as the child was concerned. Children have in no age been guilty of the sin of Adam or their parents or anyone else.

"The soul that sinneth, it shall die . . . the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him" (*Ezekiel 18:20*).

While it is true that the *consequence* of Adam's sin is passed unto all men (death, *Romans 5:12*), it is not true that the *guilt* of Adam's sin is inherited at the birth of every child. Sin is "transgression of the law" (*1 John 3:4*); but there is no guilt of sin where there is no commandment nor capacity for comprehending good and evil (*Romans 7:7*). Jesus proclaimed of little children, "of such is the kingdom of God" (*Mark 10:14*). They are innocent and pure and safe.

When Jeremiah prophesied that in the last days all brethren would know God, "from

B I B L E Q U I Z S H E E T

INSTRUCTIONS: It is well to read the entire lesson through carefully before attempting to fill out the answers to the questions on this Quiz sheet. You will notice that the questions are numbered to match the section numbers in the lesson proper. If in doubt about the correct answers, check through your lesson again by sections. Use your Bible freely. May God bless you as you study.

THE GOSPEL FOR ALL

Lesson Nine



If the statement is true, encircle the T; if false, encircle the F.

- T F 1. The Old Covenant is superior to the New Covenant.
- T F 2. The first covenant (including the Ten Commandments) was given only to the Jews (*Deuteronomy 5:2-3*).
- T F 3. Isaiah prophesied of a new covenant which would be written in the hearts and inward parts of men.



Check (✓) the word or phrase in each group that applies to the statement.

1. In Exodus you may read of an agreement made between God and the people at:
() Mount Pisgah, () Mount Sinai, () Mount Olivet.
2. This covenant was unknown till the time of:
() Adam, () Noah, () Abraham, () Moses.
3. Romans 9:4 speaks of: () those who were brought out of Egypt, () the ceasing of the Sabbath, () the Israelites to whom the Law was given.



If the statement applies to the first covenant, write "Old"; if it applies to the second covenant, write "New."

1. _____ "No man is justified" (*Galatians 3:11*).
2. _____ "Finding fault with them" (*Hebrews 8:7-9*).
3. _____ "Because of transgression" (*Galatians 3:19*).
4. _____ "First tabernacle" (*Hebrews 9:2*).
5. _____ High Priest after order of Melchizedek (*Hebrews 7:1-17*).
6. _____ "The law of God" (*Nehemiah 8:1-8*).
7. _____ "Better" (book of *Hebrews*).
8. _____ "Unto the end of the world" (*Matthew 28:20*).
9. _____ "Blood of bulls and goats" (*Hebrews 9:13-14*).
10. _____ "Ministration of death" (*2 Corinthians 3:7*).

Student may detach and send in graded Quiz Sheet — it will be graded and returned.



Check (✓) each true statement.

- _____ 1. Christians fall from grace by keeping precepts of the old law (Galatians 5:1-4).
- _____ 2. Observing holy days is good for a Christian's growth and faith (Galatians 4:9-11).
- _____ 3. The New Testament was not of force until Christ's death (Hebrews 9:16-17).



Write "Yes" or "No".

- _____ 1. Was Christ crucified on a cloudy day? (Amos 8:1,9).
- _____ 2. Did Christ destroy the law? (Matthew 5:17).
- _____ 3. Observance of the Sabbath helps the Christian remember his deliverance from bondage to sin (Deuteronomy 5:15).



Match the scripture reference to the corresponding phrase.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1. Ezekiel 18:1-20 | _____ Mediator of a better Covenant |
| 2. Romans 5:12 | _____ Consequence of Adam's sin |
| 3. 1 John 3:4 | _____ "Law of the Spirit" |
| 4. Jeremiah 31:31-34 | _____ Sin defined |
| 5. Mark 16:16 | _____ Shadowy ordinances blotted out |
| 6. Romans 8:2 | _____ Son not guilty for father's sin |
| 7. Galatians 3:24 | _____ Tutor |
| 8. Hebrews 7:12 | _____ Believing required before baptism |
| 9. Colossians 2:14-17 | _____ Change of the Law |
| 10. Hebrews 8:6 | _____ No infant "brethren" under new covenant. |

the least of them unto the greatest of them" (see quote in introduction), it is evident that *none would be in the spiritual family of Israel in the last days except those who had already been taught the things of God.* This had not been so in fleshly Israel of the Old Covenant period, for their little ones had to be taught who God was. In contrast, the prophet pointed out that only those who had been taught would be "neighbors and brethren" in the last days. There is neither religious rite nor ceremony



"Of Such Is The Kingdom"

nor ordinance in the New Covenant that has to do with infants. No infant was ever baptized by heaven's authority. In their innocent state, they are fit for the kingdom.

The law of pardon for men and women of accountable age is taught in the book of Acts and was reviewed in lesson eight of this course.

My Name (Mr., Mrs., Miss) _____
(Underline which one) (Please print name)

Street and No. _____

Route No. _____ Box No. _____

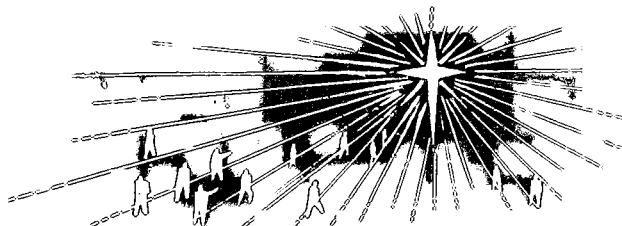
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

PREVIEW OF NEXT LESSON

Lesson ten presents the challenge of the epistles to total commitment to Christ in day-to-day life. It will review 1 and 2 Corinthians, Philipians and Philemon.

Star

BIBLE SURVEY COURSE



Leading Wise Men to Their Saviour - Matthew 2:10

Suggested Bible Readings: 1 and 2 Corinthians, Philippians, Philemon

LESSON TEN

LIVING FOR CHRIST



JESUS CHRIST CAN CHANGE YOU

Jesus Christ appeared to a man named Saul on the road to Damascus. The result was a complete transformation from a worldly man who was the enemy of Christ and His church to a spiritual man who was ready to die for Christ. Jesus can exert that same power of transformation over you today when you let Him into your heart, when you realize that Christ loves you and died for you.

Man often is filled with pangs of discontent, frustration, and longing. Why is this? Because Christ has not been realized in our lives to the fullest extent. We recognize Him; we wear His name; but all too often He is to us a person of sweet sentiment, of stained glass remembrances, a character in a hymn. Christ has not been fully realized in our lives. Man knows about Christ, but does not know Christ.

The scriptures plainly teach that Christ will dwell in anyone who will invite Him in.

"If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him"
(John 14:23).

This indwelling Christ will strengthen and guide and mold a person into a measure of the likeness of Christ. The blessedness of this indwelling is made all the more wonderful when the unworthiness of man is considered. This indwelling Christ will help man be transformed into a spiritual being fitted for a heavenly abode. If Christ dwells in man, He dwells there to control, to guide, to govern, to lead into paths of righteousness for His name's sake. If Christ really dwells in man, nothing else matters to him except those things of

Christ and His kingdom. He has been transformed.



PATTERNING OUR LIVES AFTER CHRIST

Man is prone to measure his stature, his attainments by other men. This is the wrong concept of following Christ. The Bible says,

"We dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise" (II Corinthians 10:12).

Jesus once illustrated this principle by telling of a Pharisee who stood in the temple praying,

"God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess" (Luke 18:11-12).

This Pharisee was measuring himself by other men and felt he had achieved a high morality. But Jesus' attitude was the same that Paul wrote the Corinthians,

"For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth" (II Corinthians 10:18).

A religious educator made the statement, "Behind a great deal of our modern immoralism is not so much downright badness as a sincere confusion as to what is right and what is wrong." This is true many times because man wants to be the judge of what is right and what is wrong, yet God's Word tells us that "the way of a fool is right in his own eyes" (Proverbs 12:15). Many sincerely believe that we should let our conscience be our guide, yet Christ definitely limits the right way when he says,

"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

Man tends to choose the wrong pattern for his life. Jesus is the true pattern for our lives. If we seek heaven, we must walk in His footsteps, for He is the only man who has ever returned to heaven; only He knows the way.

"Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps" (1 Peter 2:21).



★ FORGETTING WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

The dwelling in memory of past successes and attainments may prevent us from achieving more splendid triumphs and successes in the future. We are constantly tempted to make the past our standard of perfection, thereby reducing our consideration of the future and of the present. Our hope for the summit lies in forgetting the past and pressing onward and upward.

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13-14).

Each and every day in our life is a new opportunity for an experience of living for Christ. Each and every day of our life presents duties to be fulfilled in service to Christ. There is no such thing as "storing up" past efforts to take care of our tomorrows.

On the other hand, thoughts dwelling on past defeats may prevent our attaining perfection today. But we have this satisfaction, that those mistakes and sins of yesterday, when forgiven by God, are forgotten. Consciously or unconsciously, every responsible person is building on either rock or sand (Matthew 7:24-27). The foundation of any house, institution or being is extremely important. Man has learned he cannot build on a weak foundation; therefore, "let every man take heed how he buildeth" (1 Corinthians 3:10). Life is lived a little at a time. This is the only way we can

build our lives. We cannot live yesterday, for yesterday is past. We cannot live tomorrow for it has not come. God expects no man to carry the burdens of all the future and to solve today all the problems of the past. He charges us only to do well in the present. The best preparation we can make for the future, for tomorrow, is to live today for Christ.

★ THE GREAT PHYSICIAN HEALS

A doctor attends a man that is sick unto death. After examining him closely, he finds a body filled with such poison that it not only is killing the flesh, but is robbing the individual of joy and peace of what life is left him. Worse, it is endangering the man's soul. Such a doctor was the Apostle Paul. Such a patient was the church at Corinth. Envy, jealousies, selfishness, hate . . . these were the poisons at work in this body. The wise doctor, Paul, wrote the prescription of love. Without a heart filled with love, no man amounts to anything in the sight of God. The poison of sin had crowded love out of the hearts of the Corinthians.

How can health be restored? *First*, the poison must be evicted; *second*, a healthy diet must be imposed; *third*, precautions must be established to prevent a relapse. So it is with man. Spiritual health takes a correct diagnosis and effective treatment. Jesus is the Great Physician who can cure man. He does so by showing us sin in its true light (diagnosis), the shameful and sorrowful result it brings. He then offers Himself as the Divine sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins that we may be restored to favor (health) with God. Then, Christ leads man in the paths of righteousness and purity (preventive medicine), forming in him a righteous character and obedient spirit.

"Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump" (1 Corinthians 5:6-7).

The leaven that must be purged from our lives is any habit or practice that is contrary to the will of God and that will prevent our living for Christ. It can be purged with the help of Christ in our lives.

"But ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Corinthians 6:11).

We should not be the same man we were before Christ came into our lives. Each and every day of our lives there should be less of poison in our bodies and more of love; there should be less of world and more of spirituality; less of self and more of Christ.



IMITATE CHRIST'S FORGIVING SPIRIT

Our thoughts, our attitudes shape and mold us into the life we live. If we live for Christ, we must have the thoughts and the attitudes Christ displayed when he lived in the flesh on earth. A part of our living for Christ is to develop a forgiving spirit toward those with whom we live and work. Perhaps no place in the Bible is the lesson of forgiveness better taught than in Philemon.

In this short letter the Apostle Paul wrote to Philemon are all the elements of forgiveness. There is an account of the offense (*verses 11 and 18*), compassion (*verse 10*), intercession (*verses 10, 18, 19*), substitution (*verses 18, 19*), restoration to favor (*verse 15*), and elevation to a new relationship (*verse 16*). Every aspect of divine forgiveness of sin is duplicated in the forgiveness which Paul sought for Onesimus, and is a most practical example of Jesus' prayer, "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors."



SO RUN THAT YE MAY OBTAIN

Competition is a wonderful thing because it motivates one to deliver his best efforts, sharpens desires to win the prize. What an honor it is for the Olympic team to bring home the gold medal as the fastest swimmers, highest jumpers, or best runners. Or which one of us does not enjoy rooting for our favorite baseball or football team.

The Apostle Paul reminded the Corinthian Christians that those who race do so that they might obtain a corruptible crown, but Christians should run the race for a better prize, an incorruptible crown. But even the man who strives for the mastery of a race, says Paul in *I Corinthians 9:24-25*, is temperate in all he does. Even the heathen, when he sets out to win the race, realizes the value of temperance, of disciplining the body.

Salvation is difficult at best because of the many obstacles that are in the way of man. Man's love for fleshly things, the ways of the world, Satan's opposition . . . all these are stumblingblocks on the raceway. To overcome and win takes much disciplining and training. In man's race, all run but only one wins. In God's race, all who finish the race are winners.

"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which

BIBLE QUIZ SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: It is well to read the entire lesson through carefully before attempting to fill out the answers to the questions on this Quiz sheet. You will notice that the questions are numbered to match the section numbers in the lesson proper. If in doubt about the correct answers, check through your lesson again by sections. Use your Bible freely. May God bless you as you study.

LIVING FOR CHRIST

Lesson Ten



Complete the following texts by writing in the missing words.

1. "If a man love me, he will keep my _____; and my _____ will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our _____ with him." (John 14:23).
2. Jesus Christ appeared to a man named _____ on the road to _____ (Acts 9:3-5).
3. Christ helps man transform his life as we learn from the passage that reads, "And be not _____ to this world: but be ye _____ by the _____ of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, _____ of _____." (Romans 12:2)



Check each true statement.

1. _____ The Pharisee of Luke 18 was a commendable man because of his tithes and his abstinence from the sins of most men.
2. _____ We should follow our conscience in all that we do religiously because man is a judge of his own sincerity. (Proverbs 12:15).
3. _____ There are many paths to heaven; many roads to follow in living for Jesus. (John 14:6).



If the statement is true, encircle the T; if false, encircle the F.

- T F 1. The Apostle Paul never rested on his laurels, but worked each day to live for Christ (Philippians 3:13-14).
- T F 2. We should be extra careful what pattern we use to build our religious life. (I Corinthians 3:10).
- T F 3. When God forgives sins, he remembers them forever (Hebrews 10:16-17).

Student may detach and send in shaded Quiz Sheet - It will be graded and returned.



Check (✓) the word in each group that applies to the statement.

1. This man wrote the Corinthian church to help cure some ills in their life.

- () Paul
() Christ
() A Doctor

2. "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump" was Paul's way of saying we should:

- () Cook with leavening
() Rid our lives of sin
() Leaven is a poison

3. According to 1 Corinthians 6:11, in the name of Jesus Christ, and by the Spirit of God, we are:

- () Sanctified
() Justified
() Purged



Write the number of the verse in the blank beside each word that shows an element in the pattern of forgiveness in the book of Philemon:

1. _____ Offense
2. _____ Intercession
3. _____ Confession
4. _____ Restitution
5. _____ New Relationship



Check (✓) the word or phrase that applies to the statement.

1. The love of God is defined in 1 John 5:3 as:

- () Keeping his commandments
() Reading the Bible
() Belonging to a church

2. 1 Corinthians 2:9 tells us God has prepared for man:

- () Everything man's heart desires
() Rewards beyond man's imagination
() Only what man is worthy of

3. The man who wins the race is described in 1 Corinthians 9:25 as one who is:

- () Fleet of foot
() Temperate
() Masterful

My Name (Mr., Mrs., Miss) _____
(Underline which one) (Please print name)

Street and No. _____

Route No. _____ Box No. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

God hath prepared for them that love him"
(1 Corinthians 2:9).

This familiar prophecy repeated from the Old Testament is a reminder that God has promised many blessings to His faithful who live for Christ, who love Him. "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments" (1 John 5:3). This is running the race to obtain, the keeping of God's commandments. This is living for Christ, the keeping of God's commandments. This is the assuring ourselves of the prize, the keeping of God's commandments.

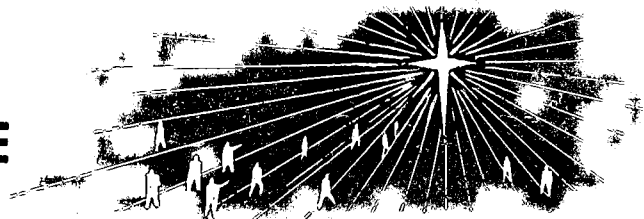


PREVIEW OF NEXT LESSON

Lesson eleven will present the great beauty and simplicity in the pattern of worship as revealed in the New Testament. Read Ephesians and Colossians in preparation.

Star

BIBLE SURVEY COURSE



Leading Wise Men to Their Saviour - Matthew 2:10

Suggested Reading: Ephesians and Colossians

LESSON ELEVEN

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH

★ WORSHIPPING GOD

Satan once *tempted Jesus by saying*, "All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me."

The Lord replied,

"Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve" (*Matthew 4:9,10*).

Later, a woman of Samaria said to Jesus,

"Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father . . . But the hour cometh and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (*John 4:20-24*).

From these conversations on worship at least two conclusions may be drawn: (1) Both Jesus and Satan imply that man is a worshipping being. (2) It is not enough to worship in a "special place;" rather, man may now worship God in any place, but worship *must* be in the way God permits. Acceptable worship must be "*in spirit and in truth*."

★ WORSHIP DEFINED

Worship is a relationship wherein man responds to his Maker. It is not a relationship between equals; nor is it a bowing in terror at the demands of God. Man should not seek ways

to worship. Rather, worship is a response to God in accordance with his will which his children joyously accept. In the presence of a powerful world ruler no respectful person would devise his own rules for governing their relationship. Even more so, man should not attempt to set his own pattern for the relationship of worship to God.

★ FALSE WORSHIP

In that men may worship "*in truth*" (*John 4:24*), it follows that men may also worship falsely. All worship that does not find its authorization in God's word, which is truth (*John 17:17*), must be considered to be false worship.

Jesus condemned a form of false worship in his time with these words,

"This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (*Matthew 15:8,9; Mark 7:6,7*).

Mark records Jesus as saying further, "For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men . . . Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition" (*Mark 7:8,9*).

To avoid "*vain worship*," which by definition is "senseless" or "empty," one should take heed that his worship is more than "lip service" and that it stands upon the word of God rather than the "commandments" and "traditions" of men.

In Colossians Paul warns against "*will-worship*" (*Colossians 2:23*), which is a "self-

devised" worship. God's word contrasts worship Abel offered *"by faith,"* with an example of worship by Cain.

"By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh" (*Hebrews 11:4*).

Apparently Cain devised his own worship and thus did not please God.

A most vivid example of God's displeasure at "self-devised" worship is seen in an Old Testament incident involving unauthorized worship.

"And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the Lord, which he commanded them not. And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord" (*Leviticus 10:1,2*).

Reverence for God demands that man approach God in the way God prescribes.

As Paul observed the places of devotion to idols in Athens he noticed an altar with the inscription, **"TO THE UNKNOWN GOD."** When addressing worshippers of idols in that city he told them,

"Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you" (*Acts 17:23*).

Obviously, one cannot worship "in truth" if he is uninformed.

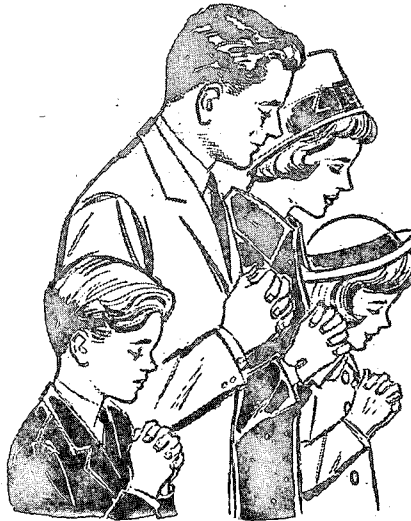
★ TRUE WORSHIP

In that Jesus speaks of *"true worshippers"* (*John 4:23*), it is evident there must be true worship. True worship is offered *"in spirit and in truth."* Worship *"in spirit"* must be more than lip service (*Mark 7:6,7*); it must be an outpouring of praise from the inner man (*Ephesians 5:19*). Shakespeare aptly illustrated this point when he wrote: "Words fly up, my thoughts remain below: words, without thoughts, never to heaven go."

True worship is often misunderstood. Those who comprise the congregation are not an audience assembled to witness a performance, but rather, God is the audience and each worshipper has an active part. In worship according to the New Testament each Christian is a *"priest"* offering up *"spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God"* (*1 Peter 2:5; Revelation 1:6*). True worship begins with the offering of self as a *"living sacrifice"* (*Romans 12:1*) and continues as each worshipper offers up *"sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is the fruit of our lips"* (*Hebrews 13:15*). True worship also benefits the worshippers because they teach and admonish one another (*Co-*

lossians 3:16); for this reason Christians are admonished:

"let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together . . . but exhorting one another" (*Hebrews 10:24,25*).



PATTERN FOR WORSHIP

The New Testament reveals definite ways by which worshippers may approach God *"in spirit and in truth."* Each medium of worship affords a channel for expressing praise, adoration and reverential awe to the Living God.

1. Christians in New Testament days *"continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine . . ."* (*Acts 2:42*). As in Jewish synagogue worship before the church was established, the Scriptures were read aloud in Christian worship (*Colossians 4:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:27; Revelation 1:3*). When disciples of Jesus assembled upon the first day of the week there was **preaching**, as *Acts 20:7* indicates. No doubt they were taught *"to observe all things"* the Lord commanded (*Matthew 28:20*) and were exhorted to be *"doers of the word, and not hearers only"* (*James 1:22*). Worship *"in spirit and in truth"* by those who read God's word, or who exhort hearers in preaching, does not lead one to seek the praise of men. Rather, it is acceptable only if God speaks through them to the people (*1 Peter 4:11*). Hearers worship *"in spirit and in truth"* through this medium, not merely by listening, but by attending to every thought from God's word with sincere effort made at personal application. Those who read and preach for praise do not worship, they perform. Hearers who listen only to compliment or criticize do not worship, they judge.

2. Disciples of Jesus also "*continued steadfastly in . . . fellowship*" (Acts 2:42). Fellowship indicates "joint participation." There are many forms of fellowship in the Christian life. As indicated here, one aspect was probably the sharing of their financial responsibilities in serving God through offerings made in their worship. Christians are to give of their material blessings "*upon the first day of the week*" as they are prospered (1 Corinthians 16:2) and as they have purposed in their hearts (2 Corinthians 9:7).

3. In its early history the church "*continued steadfastly in . . . breaking of bread*" (Acts 2:42). This is the **Lord's Supper** eaten every first day of the week (Acts 20:7). Divinely inspired counsel guides its observance on Sunday, the day of resurrection, in memory of the sacrificial death of the Christ (1 Corinthians 11:20-29). Loving respect for the will of God preserves the day, the frequency and the form of observing that memorial "*in spirit and in truth.*"

4. Prayer is also a medium through which God is worshipped. First century disciples "*continued steadfastly . . . in prayers*" (Acts 2:42). When Jesus taught his disciples to pray he began by saying, "*Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name . . .*" (Matthew 6:9). When worshippers pray, they address God. If there is no sense of God's presence then there is no worship.

5. The New Testament also indicates that Christians are to express adoration and praise to God through singing in worship.

"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:19). "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Colossians 3:16).

Christians do not worship "*in spirit and in truth*" merely by singing together. One might worship only with the lips and thus become a performer rather than a worshipper. God desires men to be worshippers, not performers and spectators.

It is significant to note that the early church did not use instruments of music in worship. Use of music in worship other than singing is not authorized in the New Testament. Just as there is no authority for adding elements to the Lord's Supper other than bread and fruit of the vine, so out of respect for God's pattern of worship men should offer the kind of music God authorizes, i.e., singing. Loving reverence and respect will not presume upon the Living God.

BIBLE QUIZ SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: It is well to read the entire lesson through carefully before attempting to fill out the answers to the questions on this Quiz sheet. You will notice that the questions are numbered to match the section numbers in the lesson proper. If in doubt about the correct answers, check through your lesson again by sections. Use your Bible freely. May God bless you as you study.

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH

Lesson Eleven



Completion 1. "All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and _____ me. Then saith _____ unto him, Get thee hence, _____. for it is _____, Thou shalt _____ the Lord thy _____, and him only shalt thou _____" (Matthew 4:9,10).

2. "God is a _____: and they that _____ him _____ worship him in _____ and in _____" (John 4:24).



True or False

1. The most commonly used word in the New Testament for "worship" denotes homage, reverence and awe. T F
2. True worship is a bowing in terror before God. T F
3. Worship is a relationship between equals. T F
4. In true worship man worships as God permits. T F



Multiple choice

1. Worship "in truth" indicates () that man does what pleases himself. () that man worships God according to the Scripture. () that man follows the traditions of men.
2. Vain worship () pleases God. () is offered in truth. () is senseless.
3. Will-worship () is self-devised () is based upon truth () is pleasing to God.
4. Citizens of Athens worshipped God () in Spirit () in truth () in ignorance.



Matching

1. All Christians. a. God.
2. The audience in worship. b. Offer spiritual sacrifices.
3. True worship. c. Offered "in spirit and in truth."
- d. Lip service.



Check each medium of worship that is according to truth.

- ___ 1. Interpretive dancing.
- ___ 2. Praying.
- ___ 3. Singing.
- ___ 4. Lord's Supper.
- ___ 5. Instrumental Music.
- ___ 6. Preaching God's Word.

Have you comments, questions, or requests that you would like to mention here?

Comments upon the historical accuracy of this conclusion about music in worship abound. In his **History of Music from the Christian Era to the Present Time**, Dr. Frederic Louis Ritter states: "We have no real knowledge of the exact character of the music which formed a part of the religious devotion of the first congregations. It was, however, purely vocal." Richard Wagner, the great composer said: "To the human voice the immediate vehicle of the sacred word belongs the first place in the churches and not to instrumental addition or the trivial scraping found in most of the church pieces today . . . church music can regain its former purity only by a return to a purely vocal style" (Article on "Music by G. Gietman in the **Catholic Encyclopedia**, Volume 10). Unaccompanied vocal music is called a cappella singing. "A cappella" is an Italian phrase meaning "in the church style." Joseph Bingham in his work **The Antiquities of the Christian Church** wrote, "Music in the church is as ancient as the apostles but instrumental music is not."

Worship "*in spirit and in truth*" is a relationship between man and his Maker. True worship is an outpouring of loving reverence to God in the ways authorized in the New Testament. Let every man come to see that

"God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24).



My Name (Mr., Mrs., Miss) _____
(Underline which one) (Please print name)

Street and No. _____

Route No. _____ Box No. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

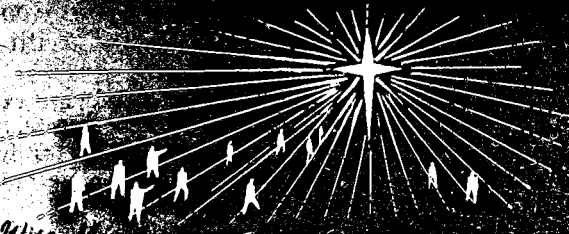
PREVIEW OF NEXT LESSON

Lesson twelve covers instructions to preachers of the gospel. It also gives the divine pattern of organization in Christ's church.

Star

COURSE

Leading Wise Men



Suggested Reading: 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, Jude

LESSON TWELVE

PREACH THE WORD



PREACHING NECESSARY

Nearly fifteen centuries before the coming of Christ, God gave Moses instruction regarding feast days which the people of Israel were to observe (*Leviticus 23*). One of these feast days was the day that is called in the New Testament the day of Pentecost. In the same infinite wisdom by which he "weighed the hills in a balance and the mountains in scales" God selected the first Pentecost following the resurrection of Jesus to be the day for the establishing of his church. It was wise to begin the church and to begin the preaching of the gospel on Pentecost because there were "Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven" abiding in Jerusalem at that time for the observance of Pentecost (*Acts 2:1-5*).

On that great Pentecost following the resurrection of Jesus, as Jesus had promised, the apostles were baptized with the Holy Ghost "sent down from heaven." They were thus guided into all truth (*John 16:13*). They spoke the truth, and when men accepted it and obeyed it as they did on that Pentecost day they were added to the Lord's church which came into being on that day (*Acts 2:36-47*).

The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. (*Acts 2:47*).

This is why being saved or becoming a Christian is the same as becoming a member of the church that we can read about in the Bible, which is God's family (*1 Timothy 3:15*). Being a member of God's family or being a member of the church we read about in the Bible is the same as being a Christian.



SOWING THE SEED OF THE KINGDOM

In the parable of the sower, Jesus emphasized that preaching the gospel is like sowing seed. He said the seed of the kingdom is the word of God (*Luke 8:11*). The Lord's church and the Lord's kingdom are the same. The brethren at Colosse were in the kingdom of Christ (*Colossians 1:13*). But Paul also said they were in the church of Christ, for he said they were in the one body which he described as being the church (*Colossians 1:18, 3:15*). The church or the kingdom cannot be established in any community, therefore, without the preaching of the gospel, for it is the seed of the kingdom.



FOR CHURCHES TO FUNCTION THE GOSPEL MUST BE PREACHED

One cannot establish a congregation of the Lord's church in any community without the preaching of the word of God. One cannot start a new *kind* of church by *just* preaching what inspired men preached, the record of which is in the New Testament. If one preaches just what the Lord wants preached and nothing else he can only start congregations like the congregations we read about in the New Testament, congregations of the undenominational church that our Saviour started on the day of Pentecost. Just as churches of Christ cannot carry on the work which God expects them to do without the preaching of the gospel. Congregations cannot become organized right without following the gospel. Where churches are

organized right and where churches function in a way that pleases God, the gospel has to be taught and followed as a "blueprint" or pattern in all things (Hebrews 8:4-5; 2 John 9-11).



★ PURITY OF DOCTRINE

Preachers who worked with congregations in the days of the New Testament writers were divinely instructed to hold to and preach the pure doctrine of Christ. While Timothy was working with the church in Ephesus, the Holy Spirit through Paul greatly admonished him to preach the gospel and nothing but the gospel.

"As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine, neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do" (Timothy 1:3,4).

Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee" (Timothy 4:16).

"Hold fast the form of sound words which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 1:13).

"Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:1,2).

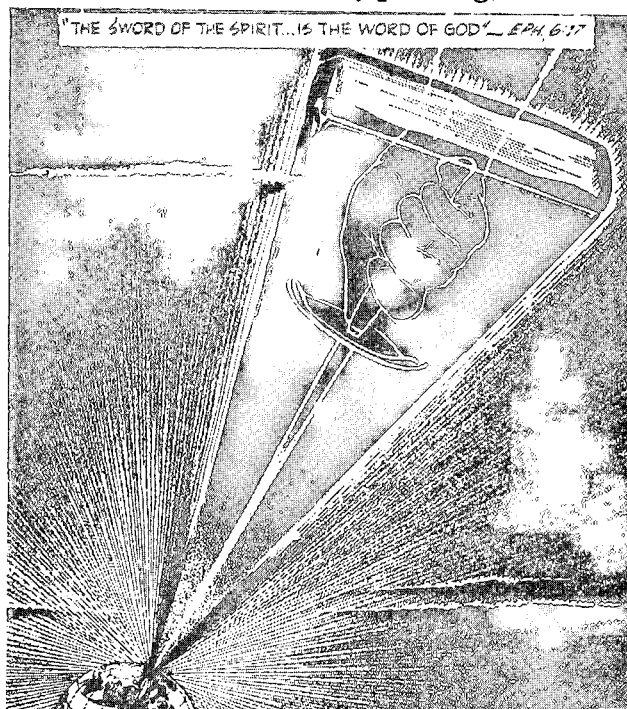
A church can only be as pure as the doctrine taught in it is pure. Often someone says that it does not matter what one's *doctrine* is, as if to say that doctrine is not important, but something else is important. But, the Bible, in the foregoing and many other passages, abundantly emphasizes the necessity of having the right doctrine (John 12: 48; 2 John 9,10). Doctrine is teaching, and *one must receive the right teaching to be right with the Lord. A church that does not receive the doctrine of Christ and teach and practice it cannot be right with the Lord.* This is absolutely obvious to every person that really studies the Bible.

★ RIGHT ORGANIZATION

"Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons" (Philippians 1: 1).

Each congregation of the church that we read about in the New Testament was independent or autonomous. Where there were men qualified, each congregation had bishops to oversee it and deacons to serve under these bishops. There was a plurality of bishops in each congregation that had bishops (Titus 1: 5-9; Acts 14: 23). The qualifications of bishops, or elders are given in Titus 1, and 1 Timothy 3. The qualifications of deacons are given in 1 Timothy 3.

The terms "elders", "presbyters", "bishops", "overseers", and "pastors" are used in the New Testament to refer to the same persons. These terms did not designate different offices. There is no authority in the word of God for one man being "the pastor", or "the elder", or "the bishop" over a congregation of the Lord's people, or over a group of congregations. One or more or all of the elders might be able to preach the word, but they would not have to be preachers in the sense that others may be who devote their full time to preaching the word. The government of the Lord's church is that each congregation be overseen by its overseers (bishops or elders) as they are guided by the Head, even Christ Colossians 1:18. The gospel has to be preached, accepted and followed if the church is everywhere organized in the way pleasing to God.



★ WHY PREACH THE WORD?

1. That souls may be saved.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first and also to the Greek" (Romans 1: 16).

2. That men may be made free from their sins.

"And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" (John 8: 32).

3. For the obedience of faith. Speaking of the gospel, Paul said:

"But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith" (Romans 16: 26).

4. That people may be added to the Lord's church wherein they can reach the blood of Christ.

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls" (Acts 2: 41). "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2: 47).

5. That congregations may be organized properly and that they may do the work God expects of them and that they may worship God as he directs.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15: 58).



BIBLE QUIZ SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: It is well to read the entire lesson through carefully before attempting to fill out the answers to the questions on this Quiz sheet. You will notice that the questions are numbered to match the section numbers in the lesson proper. If in doubt about the correct answers, check through your lesson again by sections. Use your Bible freely. May God bless you as you study.

PREACHING AND ORGANIZING CHURCHES

Lesson Twelve



Check (✓) the word or phrase in each group that applies to the statement.

(1) Jesus said the seed of the kingdom is:

- () The traditions of men;
- () Whatever one thinks is right;
- () The word of God.

(2) Congregations of the Lord's people can function properly only as the people in them follow:

- () Their feelings;
- () The pure gospel of Christ;
- () A well written human creed book.

(3) While Timothy was at Ephesus the Holy Spirit admonished him to be sure to preach and teach:

- () Whatever the people wanted to hear;
- () The best traditions and philosophies of the Greeks;
- () Nothing but the gospel.



If the statement is true, encircle the T; if false, encircle the F.

T F (1) The day of Pentecost following the resurrection of Jesus was the day the Lord started his church. (Acts 2: 1-4; 41-47).

T F (2) On that day of Pentecost the apostles told men they could have remission of sins by faith without being baptized. (Acts 2: 36-38).

T F (3) Those who gladly received the word argued with Peter and the other apostles and contended that baptism was not necessary to reaching remission of sins. (Acts 2: 38, 41).

Student may detach and send in shaded Quiz Sheet—it will be graded and returned.



Match by a connecting line each item in the first column with the item in column two that means the same.

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. church | writers of the New Testament |
| 2. elder | kingdom of Christ |
| 3. seed of the kingdom | teaching |
| 4. doctrine | word of God |
| 5. inspired men | bishop |



Check (✓) each true statement:

- _____ 1. A person can become a member of the Lord's church without having to hear the gospel.
- _____ 2. The church of the Lord cannot be established anywhere unless the gospel is preached and people accept and obey it.
- _____ 3. No stress is given in the New Testament on the importance of the right doctrine.



Complete the following texts by writing in the missing words.

1. "In all things shewing _____ a pattern of _____; in _____ shewing _____, gravity, sincerity, sound speech, _____
- _____; _____ he that is of the _____ may be _____ having no evil _____ of you.

(Titus 2: 7,8).

2. "These _____, and exhort, and _____ with all authority. Let no man _____ thee" (Titus 2: 15).
3. "Beloved _____ diligence to write unto you of the _____, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you _____ earnestly _____ faith which was once _____ saints" (Jude 3).

My Name (Mr., Mrs., Miss) _____
(Underline which one) (Please print name)

Street and No. _____

Route No. _____ Box No. _____

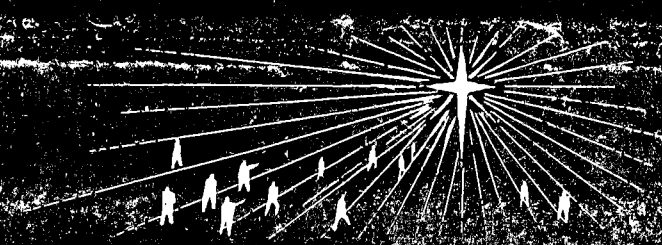
City _____ State _____ Zip _____



PREVIEW OF NEXT LESSON

Lesson thirteen shows the vital relationship between faith and works. In preparation, you may begin reading the book of James.

Star BIBLE SURVEY CO.



Suggested Reading: James, I & II Peter, I, II, & III John

LESSON THIRTEEN

FAITH AND WORKS

INTRODUCTION

In the days when the letters of James, Peter and John were being written, Christians suffered severe persecution. Those who believed in Jesus Christ were naturally tempted to hold their faith in secret, to avoid contempt or bodily harm. But faith must not only be held in the mind; the inspired writers taught that faith must be expressed in action, shown by deeds, and proven by enduring, rather than avoiding, persecution. Faith and works have the same relationship today. "Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works" (James 2:18). (emphasis supplied)

★ JAMES - FAITH AND ITS EFFECT

In each chapter of the book bearing his name, James stressed a different principle or effect of faith. In the first, he described the basis of faith; it is placed in the "Father of lights" (James 1:17), who gives every good and perfect gift. It is brought about by God with "the word of truth" (James 1:18), and men are to put aside every hindrance, "and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls" (James 1:21).

The second chapter of James shows the effect faith has on personal conduct; it causes man to quit being partial, and regard all men alike. Faith causes a Christian to *do good works*, such as clothing the naked and feeding the hungry (James 2:14-16), else his faith is useless. "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is

dead, being alone." (James 2:17. Also see 2:24, 27)

Chapter three shows the effect of faith on the Christian's speech; it causes him to make a real effort to control the tongue, that unruly little member that causes so much grief! Faith prompts one to "show out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom." (James 3:13)

"If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridlETH not his tongue, but deceiveth his heart, this man's religion is vain" (James 1:26. Also see 3:10)

Faith is demonstrated in a man's character, according to chapter four. To develop Christian character, one must avoid lust, envy and pride.

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." (James 4:7)

Faith which fails to result in doing good is plainly condemned,

"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:17).

In the final division of the book, James warned that riches are perishable and pleasure fleeting, but faith gives the power of endurance (James 5:11), and healing (James 5:14,15).

So, when tempted by threat of persecution or ridicule to hide his faith, the true Christian should

"count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience" (James 1:2,3). "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves" (James 1:22).



I PETER - HOPE BASED ON ACTIVE FAITH

While James pointed to the joy to be found in time of temptation, Peter emphasized hope for the ultimate end of persecution, and the reward for continuing in the faith. Christians are to be sustained in temptation by the power of God exercised through their faith (*I Peter 1:5*). But faith must first be tried, as gold in the refiner's fire (*I Peter 1:7*), before it can end in the final salvation of the soul (*I Peter 1:8,9*).

Faith *includes obedience*, for to those who believe, Christ is precious; but he is disallowed by the *disobedient* (*I Peter 2:7*). no matter how strongly they may speak of their faith. That Christian works prove faith was borne out by Peter, as he wrote,

"that, whereas they speak against you as evil-doers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation" (I Peter 2:12).

When faith is proven by well doing, unjust critics will be silenced (*I Peter 2:15*).

Peter also wrote that faith is demonstrated by wives being in subjection to their husbands, as the word decrees (see *Ephesians 5:24*). A woman's faith shows in her behaviour, and even in the way she dresses (*I Peter 3:2-4*). A Christian's faith should be such, that those who speak of him as an evildoer will "be ashamed" that they "falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for *well doing*, than for evil doing" (*I Peter 3:16,17*).

A life of faith prevents indulgence in the works of the flesh, such as described in *I Peter 4:3*. Faith is shown by works of love, stewardship, scriptural speech, and ministering to others, as pointed out in the fourth chapter. Any reproach, then, that must be borne, will be for the name of Christ.

"Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf" (I Peter 4:16).



PETER - FAITH BASED ON KNOWLEDGE OF TRUTH

In his second letter, Peter warned his readers against accepting false doctrines which were then, and are now, prevalent in the world. There were those who denied the deity of Christ, who indulged all sorts of fleshly and passionate appetites in the name of religion, and who rejected the apostles' teaching regarding the judgment, the end of the world, and the final destruction of heaven and earth. Peter strongly advised that, in order to maintain

his faith, the Christian must possess knowledge of the truth which is from God.

The precious faith is obtained through knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue" (II Peter 1:3).

To this faith must be added the Christian characteristics (*II Peter 1:5-7*), if a Christian is to be fruitful and acceptable to God. Faith is not based upon fables (*II Peter 1:16*), but upon the accounts of faithful eyewitnesses and the prophecy of Scripture, which came not "by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (*II Peter 1:21*).

Peter also described how a saving faith can be undermined by false teachers who bring in damnable heresies, "even denying the Lord that bought them" (*II Peter 2:1*). He assured his readers, however, that these would have their ultimate reward:

"For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them" (II Peter 2:21).

The letter concludes with an admonition to carefully consider our manner of life, and to be steadfast in faith by growth "in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (*II Peter 3:18*).



I JOHN - FAITH AND LOVE IN DEED AND TRUTH

The first letter of John begins with the testimony of faithful witnesses, who heard, saw and felt Christ, the Word of life; and this testimony is the foundation of faith today. This writer too, testified that faith is proven by our actions, our walk in the light. (*I John 1:7*). The proof of our faith, or that we know Him, is that "we keep his commandments" (*I John 2:3*).

It is not the man that says he has faith, but the one who demonstrates it who is acceptable with God.

"Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous" (I John 3:7).

Again, the proof is in the *doing*. Love, John's theme and the outgrowth of faith, is also shown by tangible acts or deeds.

"My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth" (I John 3:18).

John had just stated that if a man has this world's goods, sees a brother in need, and does not respond to that need, the love of God does not dwell in him. Faith and love are mere

empty words without deeds of love, concern, and obedience.

In the last two chapters of the book, John warned his readers to try the spirits, lest their faith be placed in a falsehood, and admonished all to prove their love for God by loving their fellow man. He asserted that faith is the principle by which man is born of God (*I John 5:1*), and defined love as obedience.

"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments" (*I John 5:3*).

★ II & III JOHN - TWINS OF TRUTH

In the final twin letters of John, the aged apostle enjoined love, which he again described.

"And this is love, that we walk after his commandments" (*II John 6*).

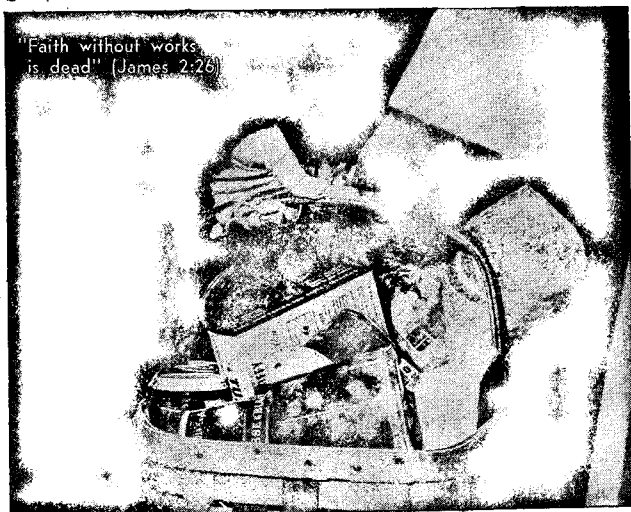
He emphasized the importance of doctrine (*II John 9,10*), or truth (*III John 3-5*). John concluded his writing with the same key thought of this lesson:

"He that doeth good is of God: he that doeth evil hath not seen God" (*III John 11*).

In this lesson, through our survey of the letters written by James, Peter and John, we have seen the relationship of faith and works as complementary and completely harmonious with one another. Each writer, in order, seems to develop the theme of Paul in *1 Corinthians 13:13*:

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity (love), these three; but the greatest of these is charity (love)"

James deals with faith, the foundation; Peter with hope, the framework; and John with love, the peak or zenith of the Christian life. All three maintain that these parts of a developing faith are proven by works. The challenge which every true believer should not only accept, but welcome, is, "*show me thy faith*" (*James 2:18*).



B I B L E Q U I Z S H E E T

INSTRUCTIONS: It is well to read the entire lesson through carefully before attempting to fill out the answers to the questions on this Quiz sheet. You will notice that the questions are numbered to match the section numbers in the lesson proper. If in doubt about the correct answers, check through your lesson again by sections. Use your Bible freely. May God bless you as you study.

FAITH AND WORKS

Lesson Thirteen

★ If the statement is true, circle T; if false, circle F.

- T F 1. Faith is miraculously bestowed in a way unknown to man. (*James 1:18*. Also see *Romans 10:17*)
- T F 2. Faith only, without works, is enough to save the soul. (*James 2:17, 24*)
- T F 3. It is sinful to fail to do the good we know we should do. (*James 4:17*)
- T F 4. God expects believers to be doers of the word, not just hearers. (*James 1:22*)

★ Check (✓) each true statement.

- () 1. The end result of true faith is the preservation of the body from death. (*1 Peter 1:9*)
- () 2. Christ is precious to a true believer, but a stumbling stone to the disobedient. (*1 Peter 2:7,8*)
- () 3. The word of God has nothing to say about how a person dresses. (*1 Peter 3:3,4*)
- () 4. If a person suffers as a Christian, he should not be ashamed, but glorify God in that name. (*1 Peter 4:15,16*)

★ Fill in the chapter and verse location of each quotation. All are in *II Peter*.

- _____ 1. "And besides this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue, knowledge;"
- _____ 2. "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."
- _____ 3. "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptation, and to reserve the unjust

unto the day of judgment to be punished."

4. "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."



Check (✓) the phrase in each group that correctly completes the statement.

1. That which cleanses us from all sin is (I John 1:7)
☐ Faith apart from works
☐ The blood of Jesus Christ
☐ Infant christening
2. The proof of our faith, love and knowledge is (I John 2:3,4; 5:3)
☐ Keeping his commandments
☐ Talking to everyone we meet
☐ Saying "I know him"
3. The person who does righteousness (I John 3:7)
☐ Makes his faith void by works
☐ Is trying to hide something
☐ Is righteous
4. One who does not immediately believe every spirit, but tests them, (I John 4:1)
☐ Is a suspicious trouble-maker
☐ Lacks faith in God's power
☐ Wisely follows scriptural teaching



Complete the following texts by writing in the missing words.

1. "And this is _____, that we _____ after his _____." (II John 6)
2. "Whosoever _____, and abideth not in the _____ of Christ, hath not _____. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the _____ and the Son." (II John 9)
3. "Beloved, follow not that which is _____, but that which is good. He that _____ is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen _____." (III John 11)
4. "Yea, a man may say, Thou hast _____, and I have works: _____ me thy faith without thy _____, and I will show thee my _____ by my _____." (James 2:18)

My Name (Mr., Mrs., Miss) _____
(Underline which one) (Please print name)

Street and No. _____

Route No. _____ Box No. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

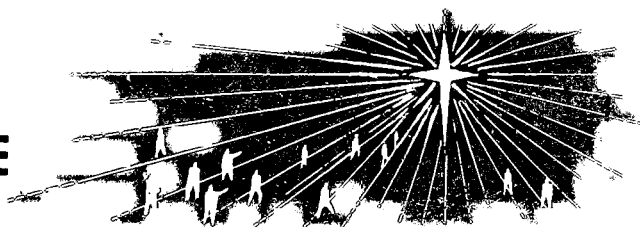


PREVIEW OF NEXT LESSON

The last lesson in this survey series gives the when, why, and how of the second coming of the Lord Jesus. The curtain is drawn back and a view is given of future rewards and punishment.



BIBLE SURVEY COURSE



Leading Wise Men to Their Saviour - Matthew 2:10

Suggested Bible Readings: 1 and 2 Thessalonians and Revelation.

LESSON FOURTEEN

JESUS IS COMING!



Some of the last words that Jesus uttered upon the earth were, "I will come again" (John 14:3). The angel's message to the apostles after Jesus' ascension was, "Jesus . . . shall so come in like manner" (Acts 1:11). The encouragement that Paul gave to Christians who were sorrowing over the death of loved ones was, "them that sleep in Jesus will God bring with him" (1 Thessalonians 4:14). The desire of the early church for Jesus' return is expressed in the term "*maranatha*" meaning "Our Lord Come!" (1 Corinthians 16:22). Then, as now, the expectancy of Jesus' return is a vital part of a Christian's faith. God has confirmed to man that Jesus will come again by raising him from the dead.

"He hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world . . . whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead" (Acts 17:31).

If someone we love and enjoy being with is coming to see us, we are happy. If, on the other hand, someone is coming to see us who is a stranger and who will bring bad news, we dread his coming. Even so, some will look forward to the coming of Jesus with loving expectation. Others do not like to think of it because it brings dreaded fear.

Jesus is coming again. Our chief concern is to be ready. The New Testament books of I and II Thessalonians and Revelation tell much about Jesus' return.



WHEN WILL HE COME?

Setting a date for Jesus to come again is foolishness. Jesus said, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels in

heaven" (Matthew 24:36). There are three things one can know about *when* Jesus shall return.

1. Paul said that Jesus would return after the falling away (2 Thessalonians 2:13). This "falling away" actually took place at the end of the apostolic age. Paul warns Timothy that the "falling away" would come in the latter times (1 Timothy 4:1-3). John could write at a later time and say that he was living in the last days (1 John 1:18). Paul told the elders at Ephesus that some of the very men to whom he was speaking would draw disciples away by speaking perverse things (Acts 20:29-30). Since the "falling away" is already an historical fact, one is able to look for Jesus' coming at any time.

2. Jesus' delay in coming again is due to his long-suffering. The early Christians grew discouraged because of the delay of Jesus' return. Peter wrote,

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise . . . but is long-suffering . . . not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

The return of Jesus has been delayed as long as it has because the Lord wishes to give lost man opportunity to repent.

3. Jesus will come at a time when it is least expected. Jesus said, "in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh" (Matthew 24:44). His coming will be as unexpected as a thief in the night (2 Peter 3:10). Like the world was not expecting the flood, the world will not be expecting the coming of Jesus (Matthew 24:38). It is this unexpected aspect of Jesus' return that should motivate men to live in such a way that they will be ready to meet him at any time (2 Peter 3:11, 14).

The theory that Jesus will come to rule a thousand years upon the earth is without Bible foundation. Many facts show this.

1. The earth will be destroyed at Jesus' coming (2 Peter 3:10-11). Jesus will not be able to rule on an earth that has been burned up and dissolved.

2. There is no passage in the Bible that literally speaks of Jesus setting foot on this earth again. He is to come in the clouds (Revelation 1:7). Saints will meet him in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:17). Nothing is said about his either setting foot upon the earth or ruling upon the earth when he returns.

3. Jesus is already reigning on the "throne of David" (Acts 2:30-31). He has authority in heaven and in earth (Matthew 28:18). There is no other throne for him to sit on. There is no other kingship for him to receive (1 Timothy 6:14ff).

★ HOW WILL HE COME?

The New Testament reveals many things about the nature of Jesus' coming.

1. His coming will be viewed by all. John says, "every eye shall see him" (Revelation 1:7). Jesus said that it would be like the lightning that cometh out of the east and is seen even in the west (Matthew 24:27). When He comes, it will not be secret. Everyone will

know it at once.

2. His coming shall be in the clouds (Revelation 1:7). This was the promise of the angels at the time of Jesus' ascension (Acts 1:11).

3. His coming will be with angels (2 Thessalonians 1:7). Jesus says that the Son of man shall come in glory with his holy angels (Matthew 25:31).

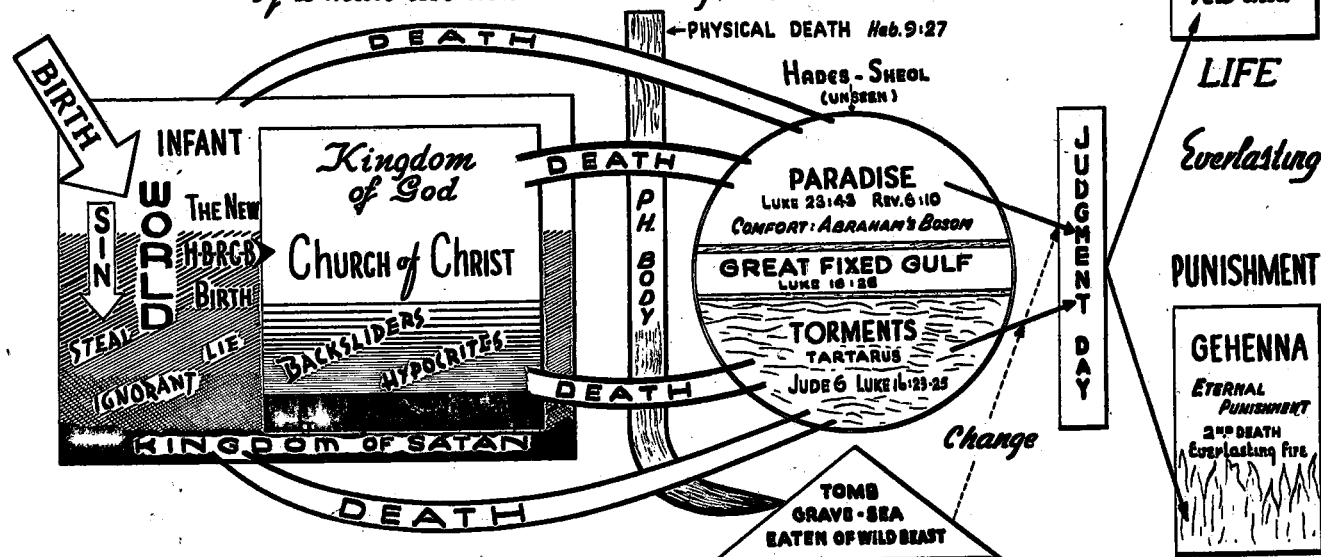
4. At His coming the world shall be destroyed (2 Peter 3:9ff). Matter which was formed by the word of God (Genesis 1:1) and is presently sustained by the same word (Hebrews 1:3), shall dissolve into the nothingness from which it was created.

5. At His coming the dead shall be raised (Revelation 20:12ff). Paul said that at Jesus' coming the dead in Christ shall rise first and then the living shall be caught up from the earth (1 Thessalonians 4:16) and changed in a twinkling of an eye (1 Corinthians 15:51-52). Both the good and the bad shall be raised in that "hour" (John 5:28-29).

If one should hear some theory of man about Jesus' second coming which does not conform to these Scriptural facts, then he can know that the theory is untrue. Jesus warns, "if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs" (Matthew 24:24).

The State of Man

"If a man die shall he live again?"





WHY WILL HE COME?

When Jesus came the *first* time, it was to save the world (*John 3:17*). The *next* time he comes, he will come as a judge (*Acts 17:31*). The judgment that Jesus will exercise when he returns will involve three things.

1. His judgment will separate the good from the bad. This separation is figuratively spoken of as a separation of the sheep and goats (*Matthew 25:31ff*). John pictures Jesus sitting on a great white throne, judging the living and the dead with the "books" and the "book of life" (*Revelation 20:12ff*).

2. Jesus will come to render vengeance (*2 Thessalonians 1:7-9*). Those who are unprepared to meet him will be left out of the marriage feast (*Matthew 25:1ff*). Those who did not practice Christian charity will be cast into everlasting fire (*Matthew 25:46*). Those who did not use their talents will be cast into outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth (*Matthew 25:30*). Those who have not obeyed Jesus will be rejected as workers of iniquity (*Matthew 7:23*).

3. Jesus will come to reward. The same passages which tell of vengeance above also tell of reward to the righteous. Paul said, "For I recognize that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (*Romans 8:18*). A good figurative description of the reward of the righteous is found in *Revelation 21:1-27*.



A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO YOU

Peter said that one should be "looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God" (*2 Peter 3:12*). This is possible only when one is a faithful Christian. Too often people are prone to wait for a "convenient season" to become a Christian or to start living the Christian life. The primary practical lesson to be learned from Lesson 14 is this: *My life should be such that I am ready to meet Jesus any time.*

If you are not ready to meet Jesus, then your mind is troubled. You are being denied the "peace that passeth understanding" and the faith that can give meaning to life and hope in death. Jesus came and died on the cross to make these blessings possible for you. If your life is such that you are not ready to meet Jesus, *then for you, Jesus died in vain.*

There are Christians who follow the

BIBLE QUIZ SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: It is well to read the entire lesson through carefully before attempting to fill out the answers to the questions on this Quiz sheet. You will notice that the questions are numbered to match the section numbers in the lesson proper. If in doubt about the correct answers, check through your lesson again by sections. Use your Bible freely. May God bless you as you study.

JESUS IS COMING!

Lesson Fourteen



If the statement is true, encircle the T; if false, encircle the F.

- T F 1. The term "maranatha" means "Our Lord Come!" (*1 Corinthians 16:22*)
- T F 2. The New Testament teaches that faithful Christians are to dread the time when Jesus shall come again (*2 Peter 3:12*)
- T F 3. The resurrection of Jesus from the grave is the assurance that God has given the world that Jesus is coming again (*Acts 17:31*)
- T F 4. The books of Genesis and Ruth tell about the second coming of Jesus.



Check (✓) the word or phrase in each group that applies to the statement.

- 1. Setting a date for the coming of Jesus is
 - () a sign of great learning
 - () indication that God has spoken to the individual
 - () foolishness
- 2. The period of the "last days" began
 - () in the days of John the apostle
 - () after the First World War
 - () when the first Pope began in rule in 606.
- 3. The reason that Jesus has not already come is:
 - () because he has to wait for all the prophecy to be fulfilled
 - () because of his long-suffering
 - () because it is a false hope
- 4. Jesus will come
 - () after all of the world is expecting him
 - () and be seen of only a few
 - () as a thief in the night



Check (✓) each true statement

- 1. Jesus will come again to rule in Jerusalem.
- 2. There is no passage which tells of Jesus setting his foot on earth again.
- 3. The earth will be destroyed at Jesus' coming.
- 4. Jesus is presently ruling on David's throne.
- 5. Jesus will not punish the evil in judgment.
- 6. When Jesus comes again, he will be our judge.

Student may detach and send in shaded Quiz Sheet - it will be graded and returned.



Complete the following texts by writing the missing words.

1. "Behold he cometh with _____; and _____ shall see him." (Rev. 1:7)
2. "The heavens shall _____ with a great noise, and the elements shall _____ with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be _____ (2 Peter 3:10)
3. "For the hour is coming, in the which _____ that are in the _____ shall hear his voice. And shall _____; they that have done good, unto the _____ of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of _____." (John 5:28-29)



Fill in the blanks

1. The primary practical lesson of Lesson 14 is this: _____
2. My greatest spiritual need is _____

Please read the following statements closely and check the ones which apply in your individual case.

- ☐ I would like to have the address of the church of Christ nearest me.
- ☐ I would like to continue my Bible Study in a more advanced Bible Correspondence Course.
- ☐ I would like to become a Christian and would like for you to send someone to assist me in my obedience.

Have you comments, questions, or requests that you would like to mention here?

My Name (Mr., Mrs., Miss) _____
(Underline which one) (Please print name)

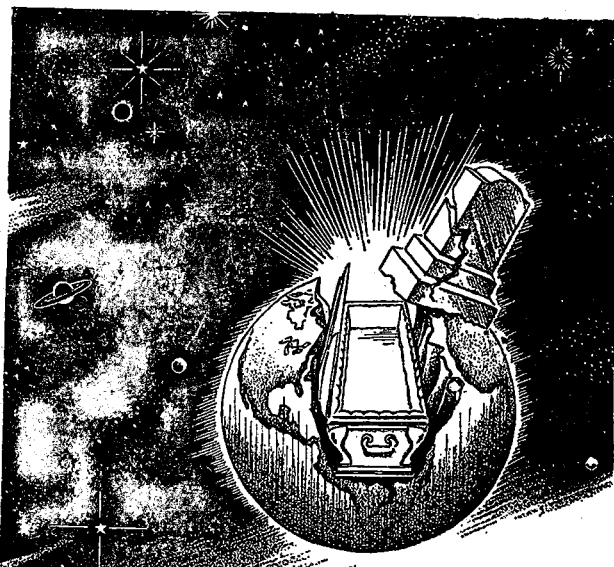
Street and No. _____

Route No. _____ Box No. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Bible as their only guide near to where you live. They are believers in Jesus as the Son of God. They have turned from their sins in repentance and have been baptized into Christ for the remission of sins. They now worship and work after the same pattern the apostles gave in the New Testament. They are waiting for the Lord's return. They would like for you to share with them in their hope. We will be glad to send you the location of the church of Christ nearest you.

Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. (Matthew 24:44).



"MARVEL NOT AT THIS: FOR THE HOUR IS COMING, IN THE WHICH ALL THAT ARE IN THE GRAVES SHALL HEAR HIS VOICE, AND SHALL COME FORTH; THEY THAT HAVE DONE GOOD, UNTO THE RESURRECTION OF LIFE; AND THEY THAT HAVE DONE EVIL, UNTO THE RESURRECTION OF DAMNATION" — THE CHRIST (JOHN 5:28,29)

OTHER COURSES AVAILABLE

If you wish to enroll in another Bible course, make your request known and we shall be happy to serve you in further study.

Star

GRADING KEY

BIBLE SURVEY COURSE

Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4	Lesson 5	Lesson 6	Lesson 7
<p>1. TRUE - FALSE</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>1. TRUE - FALSE:</p> <p>1 - T</p> <p>2 - T</p> <p>3 - F</p> <p>2. CHECK THE WORD:</p> <p>1 Moses</p> <p>2 Its family type of worship through the father in each family</p> <p>3 The Christian Age</p> <p>3. "OT" or "NT":</p> <p>1 OT 6 NT</p> <p>2 NT 7 OT</p> <p>3 OT 8 OT</p> <p>4 OT 9 NT</p> <p>5 OT 10 OT</p> <p>4. CHECK THE TRUE STATEMENT:</p> <p>Number 1</p> <p>5. COMPLETE THE TEXTS:</p> <p>1. Study, God, asham- ed, dividing, truth</p> <p>2 time past, prophets, last, his Son</p> <p>3 rejecteth, judgeth, word, judge</p>	<p>1. CHECK THE WORD:</p> <p>1 Beginning</p> <p>2 Patriarchal</p> <p>3 Moses</p> <p>2. COMPLETE THE STATEMENT:</p> <p>1 Beginning, created, heavens, earth</p> <p>2 Adam, Christ</p> <p>3 sin, law, sin, transgression</p> <p>3. IN YOUR OWN WORDS:</p> <p>1 The wickedness of man was so great that it repented God he had made man. Gen 6:5-8</p> <p>2 He was a righteous man who found favor in the sight of God Gen. 7:1</p> <p>3 He obeyed God, realizing that God means what he means.</p> <p>4. TRUE - FALSE:</p> <p>1 T</p> <p>2 F</p> <p>3 F</p> <p>4 T</p> <p>5. MATCH:</p> <p>Abraham - Offered his promised son</p> <p>Isaac - Had twin sons</p> <p>Jacob - Father of 12 tribes</p> <p>Esau - Like a hairy garment-</p> <p>Joseph - An Egyptian ruler</p>	<p>1. TRUE - FALSE:</p> <p>1 - F</p> <p>2 - F</p> <p>3 - T</p> <p>2. MATCH:</p> <p>1. 2.</p> <p>3. 4.</p> <p>3. FILL IN BLANKS:</p> <p>1 Egypt</p> <p>2 Mt. Sinai,</p> <p>3 four, Moses, 40</p> <p>4. CHICIE CORRECT WORDS:</p> <p>1 To Jews only</p> <p>2 National</p> <p>3 Christ</p> <p>4 Could not</p> <p>5 Two</p>	<p>1. TRUE - FALSE:</p> <p>1 - F</p> <p>2 - T</p> <p>3 - T</p> <p>2. CHECK THE WORD:</p> <p>1 Judges</p> <p>2 Samson</p> <p>3 Ruth</p> <p>3. FILL IN BLANKS:</p> <p>1 Samuel</p> <p>2 Nations</p> <p>3 Kish</p> <p>4. CHECK THE TRUE STATEMENT:</p> <p>1 true</p> <p>(2 & 3 are false)</p> <p>5. MATCH:</p> <p>2 (David)</p> <p>3 (Jesus)</p> <p>1 (Nathan)</p> <p>6. UNSCRAMBLE:</p> <p>1 Solomon</p> <p>2 Temple</p> <p>3 fear, God, keep, commandments</p> <p>7. COMPLETE THE TEXTS:</p> <p>1 things, aforesaid, learning, patience, comfort, Scriptures, hope</p> <p>2 law, schoolmaster, brring, Christ</p> <p>3 sanctified, offering, body, once</p>	<p>1. TRUE - FALSE:</p> <p>1 F</p> <p>2 T</p> <p>3 T</p> <p>2. CHECK THE ANSWER:</p> <p>1 Isalah</p> <p>2 Zorubabel (Ezra 6:2)</p> <p>3 Is conditional upon the peoples' behavior</p> <p>3. PERIOD OF HISTORY:</p> <p>1 Post Exile-Mel.</p> <p>2 Assyrian -Nah.</p> <p>3 Exile -Dam.</p> <p>4 Exile -Ezek.</p> <p>5 Assyrian -Isa.</p> <p>6 Assyrian -Amos</p> <p>7 Assyrian -Mic.</p> <p>8 Babylonian-Jer.</p> <p>9 Babylonian-Hab.</p> <p>10 Assyrian -Hos.</p> <p>4. CHECK TRUE STATEMENT:</p> <p>1 (others false)</p> <p>5. BASIC THEME:</p> <p>1 Hosea, see 6-C in lesson text</p> <p>2 Nahum, see 6-F in lesson text</p> <p>3 Micah, see 6-E in lesson text</p>	<p>1. TRUE - FALSE:</p> <p>1 - T</p> <p>2 - T</p> <p>3 - F</p> <p>2. CHECK THE WORD:</p> <p>1 Jesus Christ</p> <p>2 Jesus</p> <p>3 Nicodemus</p> <p>3. CHECK THE TRUE STATEMENT:</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>(1 is false)</p> <p>4. COMPLETE THE TEXTS:</p> <p>1 this is my blood, new testament, shed for, remission of sins</p> <p>2 believeth, baptized saved</p> <p>3 all power, unto me, heaven, earth</p>	<p>1. TRUE - FALSE:</p> <p>1 - F</p> <p>2 - T</p> <p>3 - T</p> <p>2. CHECK THE WORD:</p> <p>1 Jerusalem</p> <p>2 the church of the living God</p> <p>3 Isalah 9:6-7</p> <p>3. CHECK THE TRUE STATEMENT:</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>6</p> <p>(1, 2, & 3 are false)</p> <p>4. TRUE - FALSE:</p> <p>1 - F</p> <p>2 - T</p> <p>3 - T</p> <p>4 - F</p> <p>5 - T</p> <p>5. FILL IN BLANKS:</p> <p>1 sworn, truth, David</p> <p>2 give, throne, David, kingdom</p> <p>3 dead, buried, prophet, sworn, oath, Christ</p> <p>6. COMPLETE:</p> <p>1 days</p> <p>2 last days</p> <p>7. UNDERSCORE THE CORRECT ONE:</p> <p>had its beginning on Pentecost</p>
Deduct 3 points for each one mislased	Deduct 4 points for each one mislased	Deduct 5 points for each one mislased	Deduct 3 points for each one mislased	Deduct 4 points for each one mislased	Deduct 3 points for each one mislased	Deduct 3 points for each one mislased

GRADING KEY

Lesson 8	Lesson 9	Lesson 10	Lesson 11	Lesson 12	Lesson 13	Lesson 14
<p>TRUE - FALSE:</p> <p>1 - T</p> <p>2 - T</p> <p>3 - F</p> <p>4 - F</p> <p>5 - T</p> <p>6 - T</p> <p>7 - F</p> <p>8 - F</p> <p>9 - F</p> <p>10 - T</p> <p>11 - T</p> <p>12 - T</p> <p>13 - F</p> <p>14 - F</p> <p>15 - F</p> <p>16 - T</p> <p>17 - F</p> <p>18 - T</p> <p>19 - T</p> <p>20 - F</p>	<p>1 TRUE - FALSE:</p> <p>1 - F</p> <p>2 - T</p> <p>3 - F</p> <p>2. SELECT RIGHT</p> <p>ANSWERS:</p> <p>1 Mount Sinai</p> <p>2 Moses</p> <p>3 Israelites to whom the Law was given</p> <p>3. "NEW" or "OLD":</p> <p>1 Old</p> <p>2 Old</p> <p>3 Old</p> <p>4 Old</p> <p>5 New</p> <p>6 Old</p> <p>7 New</p> <p>8 New</p> <p>9 Old</p> <p>10 Old</p> <p>4. CHECK RIGHT STATEMENT:</p> <p>1</p> <p>3</p> <p>5. YES OR NO:</p> <p>1 No</p> <p>2 No</p> <p>3 No</p> <p>6. ORDER OF SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:</p> <p>10</p> <p>2</p> <p>6</p> <p>3</p> <p>9</p> <p>1</p> <p>7</p> <p>5</p> <p>8</p> <p>4</p>	<p>1. COMPLETE THE TEXT:</p> <p>1 words, Father, Abode</p> <p>2 Saul, Damascus</p> <p>3 conformed, transformed, renewing, will, God</p> <p>2. CHECK TRUE STATEMENT:</p> <p>(none correct)</p> <p>3. TRUE - FALSE:</p> <p>1 - T</p> <p>2 - T</p> <p>3 - F</p> <p>4. CHECK THE WORD:</p> <p>1 Paul</p> <p>2 Rid our lives of sin</p> <p>3 Sanctified and (or) Justified</p> <p>5. WRITE VERSE NUMBER:</p> <p>1 11, 18</p> <p>2 9, 10, 18, 19</p> <p>3 18</p> <p>4 15, 18, 19</p> <p>5 16</p> <p>(answers may vary somewhat in some cases)</p> <p>6. CHECK THE WORD:</p> <p>1 Keeping his commandments</p> <p>2 rewards beyond imagination</p> <p>3 temperate</p>	<p>1. COMPLETION:</p> <p>1 worship, Jesus, Satan, written, worship, God, serve</p> <p>2 Spirit, worship, must, spirit, truth</p> <p>2. TRUE - FALSE:</p> <p>1 - T</p> <p>2 - F</p> <p>3 - F</p> <p>4 - T</p> <p>3. MULTIPLE CHOICE:</p> <p>1 that man worships God according to the Scripture</p> <p>2 Is senseless</p> <p>3 Is self-devised</p> <p>4 In ignorance</p> <p>4. MATCHING:</p> <p>1 b</p> <p>2 a</p> <p>3 c</p> <p>5. CHECK THE MEDIUM:</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>6</p>	<p>1. CHECK THE STATEMENT:</p> <p>1 The word of God</p> <p>2 The pure gospel of Christ</p> <p>3 Nothing but the gospel</p> <p>2. TRUE - FALSE:</p> <p>1 - T</p> <p>2 - F</p> <p>3 - F</p> <p>3. MATCH:</p> <p>1 church -- kingdom of Christ</p> <p>2 elder -- bishop</p> <p>3 seed -- word of God</p> <p>4 doctrine -- teaching</p> <p>5 inspired men-- writers of the New Testament</p> <p>4. CHECK TRUE STATEMENT:</p> <p>2</p> <p>5. COMPLETE THE TEXTS:</p> <p>1 thyself, good works, doctrine, uncorruptness, that cannot be condemned, that, contrary part, ashamed, thing to say</p> <p>2 things speak, rebuke, despise</p> <p>3 when I gave all, common salvation, that you should, contend for the, delivered unto the</p>	<p>1. TRUE - FALSE:</p> <p>1 - F</p> <p>2 - F</p> <p>3 - T</p> <p>4 - T</p> <p>2. CHECK THE TRUE STATEMENT:</p> <p>2</p> <p>4</p> <p>(1 & 3 are false)</p> <p>3. FILL IN CHAPTER AND VERSE:</p> <p>1 2 Peter 1:5</p> <p>2 2 Peter 1:20, 21</p> <p>3 2 Peter 2:9</p> <p>4 2 Peter 3:9</p> <p>4. CHECK THE PHRASE:</p> <p>1 The blood of Jesus Christ</p> <p>2 Keeping his commandments</p> <p>3 Is righteous</p> <p>4 wisely follows scriptural teaching</p> <p>5. COMPLETE THE TEXTS:</p> <p>1 love, walk, commandments</p> <p>2 transgresseth, doctrine, God, Father</p> <p>3 evil, doeth good, God</p> <p>4 faith, shew, works, faith, works</p>	<p>1. TRUE - FALSE:</p> <p>1 - T</p> <p>2 - F</p> <p>3 - T</p> <p>4 - F</p> <p>2. CHECK THE WORD:</p> <p>1 foolishness</p> <p>2 in the days of John the apostle</p> <p>3 because of his long-suffering</p> <p>4 as a thief in the night</p> <p>3. CHECK EACH TRUE STATEMENT:</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>6</p> <p>(1 & 5 are false)</p> <p>4. COMPLETE THE TEXTS:</p> <p>1 clouds, every eye</p> <p>2 pass away, melt, burned up</p> <p>3 all, graves, come forth, resurrection, damnation</p> <p>5. FILL IN BLANKS:</p> <p>1 My life should be such that I am ready to meet Jesus any time.</p> <p>(Grader notice: the last paragraph is personal and needs special attention.)</p>
Deduct 5 points for each one missed	Deduct 3 points for each one missed	Deduct 3 points for each one missed	Deduct 3 points for each one missed	Deduct 2 points for each one missed	Deduct 3 points for each one missed	Deduct 3 points for each one missed