

The Bible Unveiled

by Michael Walsh



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The Bible Unveiled

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Contents

	Preface	1
1	Creation and the Fall	9
2	Noah and the Flood	17
3	Abraham and Isaac	23
4	Israel and the Exodus	31
5	The Law	39
6	The Kingdom, Captivity, and Restoration	49
7	Jesus Christ, His Life and Ministry	57
8	Jesus Christ, His Crucifixion and Exaltation	65
9	Jesus Christ, His Second Coming and Judgment	75
10	Personal Application	85
	Appendix A	94
	Appendix B	95
	Appendix C	97
	Appendix D	101
	Appendix E	102

Preface

The purpose of this course is twofold. It is designed to be a means for communicating the gospel to those who have not yet committed their lives to Christ as well as provide a basic understanding for growing Christians of God's overall plan as revealed in the Bible. Most Christians know the Bible in bits and pieces; this course provides a framework for bringing all those pieces together.

Communicating the gospel

In attempting to communicate the gospel to unbelievers, we often find that they lack a basic understanding of the nature and character of God and His requirements of man. Usually, they also lack an understanding of their lost condition and their need for salvation.

Jesus likened men's hearts to different kinds of soil. Just as seed cannot take root in soil which is hard, so the gospel does not take root in hearts which are hardened because of sin and unbelief. *When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.*¹ Without adequate preparation of the soil of the unbeliever's heart, he may not understand the good news we are trying to communicate to him. It is possible to help prepare the soil of men's hearts so that they can more readily receive the gospel.

For thus says the Lord to the men of Judah and to Jerusalem, "Break up your fallow ground, and do not sow among thorns." (Jeremiah 4:3)

There are certain truths which are helpful in bringing people to God. Primarily, a person must understand who God is. *For he who*

¹Matthew 13:19

*comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.*² Job felt justified in his own eyes, but then felt his position defenseless when he received a revelation of who God is and how He really thinks. Job said, *"I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear; but now my eye sees Thee; therefore I retract, and I repent in dust and ashes."*³

God reveals His righteousness and His attitude toward sin in the laws which He gave to Israel.

And the Law came in that the transgression might increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 5:20)

When confronted with the law, we see its just demands on transgressors and our need for a Savior. God reveals His love and grace through His precious Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. *For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.*⁴ It is only after understanding our sin and guilt that we sufficiently appreciate the wonderful gift of God's forgiveness.

These truths are communicated through the stories of how God dealt with people and nations recorded in the Bible.

Progressive revelation

God reveals truth progressively. Genesis, the first book of the Bible, gives glimpses of profound eternal truths which are revealed more fully in the New Testament. A prime example is the Messianic prophecy in Genesis 3:15. God promised to send a Deliverer, but it is not until we get to the New Testament that we find out who that Deliverer is.

God revealed Himself to Adam, Abraham, Jacob, Moses, and others progressively. That is, they came to know more about Him as they continued in their relationship with Him.

Throughout the six thousand year history of mankind, God has been unfolding the revelation of Himself and His eternal plan to us. He did not tell Adam everything, nor did He tell the prophets everything.

²Hebrews 11:6

³Job 42:5-6

⁴John 1:17

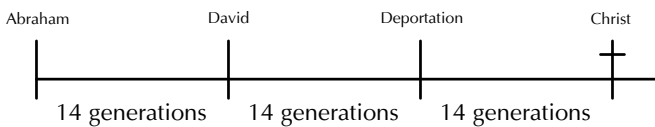
As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful search and inquiry, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven— things into which angels long to look (1 Peter 1:10-12).

When Jesus taught, He took into consideration the people's experience level and their ability to hear what He wanted to tell them.⁵ The Father too has been building truth upon truth as He reveals Himself to mankind. He took at least four thousand years to prepare the world for the coming of His Son.

The timeline

An overview of God's plan is given by means of a timeline.

The gospel writer Matthew uses the fact that there were fourteen generation's from Abraham to David, and fourteen from David to the deportation to Babylon, and fourteen from the deportation to Christ, as evidence of the completeness of God's plan in bringing forth Jesus the Messiah.⁶ The symmetry and design of this timeline are God's fingerprint of divine authorship.



Looking at the timeline below, we see that Israel spans 2,000 years prior to the cross and the church spans 2,000 years of history after the cross.

Thus our timeline shows equal time segments between Adam, the Patriarchs⁷, Jesus Christ⁸, and the present. Again, the symmetry

⁵Mark 4:33; John 16:12

⁶Matthew 1:17

⁷The *Patriarchs* here refer to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. From the time Adam left the garden to when Abraham was born was 2,008 years. The promise from God

seems to indicate a completeness to God's overall plan.



A foundation for Christians

Many Christians lack a clear understanding of how they fit in God's overall scheme of things. They do not understand what God has been doing with mankind over the past six thousand years of human history. Neither do they understand His plan for us in the future. Christians today ought to be like *the sons of Issachar, men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do.*⁹ Understanding God's overall plan provides Christians with a chronological framework through which they can gain perspective concerning their present situation and have an increased hope and expectancy about what lies ahead.

New Christians also need to have a basic understanding of Israel's history in order to understand the meaning of terms such as *Messiah, Son of David, King of Israel, Old and New Covenants, tabernacle, Mount Zion, New Jerusalem, Moses, etc.* When a person gives his life to Christ the veil is lifted and he is now in a position to fully appreciate the significance of the people, places, and events of the entire Bible.

But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ. But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; but whenever a man turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. (2 Corinthians 3:14-16)

that He would bless Abraham was then given to his son Isaac and then to his son Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel. From Israel's birth to the birth of Christ was 2,005 years. Refer to Appendix A for more information regarding the derivation of these dates.

⁹It is commonly believed that Jesus was born between 5 and 3 BC, placing His death at around 28 to 30 AD.

⁹1 Chronicles 12:32

Accuracy of our dating scheme

According to the Bible record, man has been on the earth for about six thousand years. This is a significantly shorter period than what many people have been led to believe. The dating system used in this course is based upon the biblical record. (Refer to Appendix A and B for a detailed explanation of the calculation of these dates.)

However, the biblical genealogies were never intended to provide a complete record. Thus, a dating scheme which is based on these genealogies may not be completely accurate. So why have we used this dating scheme here? The reason is that there is symbolic significance in the time periods derived from the genealogies as they have been given to us by the Holy Spirit. For a more detailed explanation, refer to Appendix E.

Scope of this study

Undoubtedly, there will be additional questions about God or the Bible raised during the course of this study. Because this is merely a brief overview of the Bible, it is impossible to address every question that may arise. It is my hope that your curiosity will be sparked to the point where you continue to search for your answers in the treasure field of God's word.

There is no greater privilege and joy than to know God, our Creator and the Father of all those who believe, and to know His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to whom belongs all dominion, glory, power and might.

Let us give thanks to the Father for sending the Holy Spirit who has come to reveal more fully the glory of the Son. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would take of that which is His (i.e., belonging to Jesus) and disclose it to us.¹⁰ In Jesus are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.¹¹ As we seek to know Him, wisdom and knowledge will be ours.

¹⁰John 16:14

¹¹Colossians 2:3

May the Father continue to grant to us an ever increasing revelation of His glorious Son— who is also the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His wonderful nature.¹²

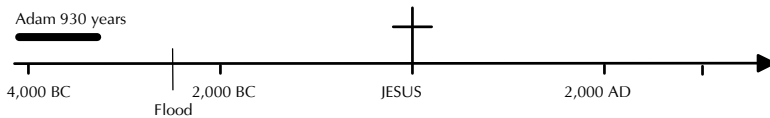
¹²Hebrews 1:3



1

Creation and the Fall

Objective: to understand that God created man for a purpose. Man rejected that purpose and sinned against God, resulting in sickness, death and destruction. God is revealed as Creator, Father, Judge, Redeemer.

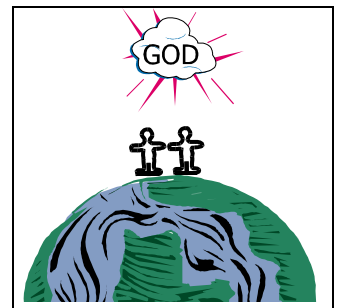


Creation

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. He took six days to finish His work.

God's desire was to have many sons and daughters who would rule and reign with Him forever. So God created man, made in His own image and likeness.

The first man was called Adam and the first woman was called Eve. God placed them in a beautiful garden He called Eden. This was paradise. There was no sin, no sickness, and no death.



God told Adam and Eve to have children, fill the earth and rule over it.

On the seventh day God rested.¹³

The Choice

In the garden was the Tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. God told Adam he could eat from the Tree of Life and of all the other trees of the garden, but that he must not eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil or else he would die.¹⁴

If Adam and Eve obeyed, they would be demonstrating that they really trusted God by allowing Him to decide what was right and wrong for them. If they disobeyed and ate from the Tree of Knowledge, they were showing that they did not trust God to govern their lives, and that they wanted to discover for themselves what was good or bad for them by their own experience and decision making process.

The Rebellion

Satan had been a beautiful angel created by God to guard His creation. But Satan became proud because of his beauty. Wanting to have his own throne just like God, he rebelled against God.¹⁵

He devised a way to separate Adam and Eve from God, convincing them that God did not really care about them and that if they were wise they would make their own decisions in life rather than simply trust God's commandments to be good for them.

Satan came to Eve in the form of a beautiful serpent and contradicted God's word by telling her that she could eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil and not die.¹⁶

¹³Genesis 2:1-3

¹⁴Genesis 2:16-17

¹⁵Ezekiel 28:1-19; Isaiah 14:4-23

¹⁶Genesis 3:4

Satan attacked God's generous and loving character by saying, *"God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*¹⁷

He wanted Adam and Eve to believe that God was mean and not out for their best interest. But actually, God did want what was best for Adam and did not withhold anything good from him.

God still wants what is best for us today. He instructs us about what is good for us through His word, the Bible.

When Adam and Eve ate of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, they demonstrated their desire to decide for themselves what was right (good) and wrong (evil). But God had reserved this right for Himself.

It is usually because of pride and a general distrust of God, that man finds it difficult to simply obey Him. Modern man is given to vain speculations about his origin in an attempt to explain away the existence of God and thus remove any sense of responsibility to God.

God Confronts Adam's Sin

Because of their disobedience, Adam and Eve felt ashamed. Their guilty consciences caused them to be afraid and they hid themselves from God. But they found it is impossible to hide from God; for He knows everything and is present everywhere at all times.

When confronted by the Lord, Adam blamed Eve, and Eve blamed Satan.

And the man said, "The woman whom Thou gavest to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." (Genesis 3:12-13)

✳ Did you ever try to blame someone else for your wrongdoing?
What was the result?

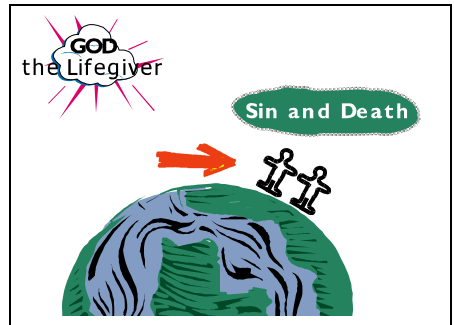
¹⁷Genesis 3:5

Because of their unwillingness to accept personal responsibility for their sin, there could be no forgiveness. Adam and Eve were guilty of treason and now became subject to the powers of sin and death, losing their authority over the earth.

Consequences of Adam and Eve's Sin

Death

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God they separated themselves and all the earth from their Lifegiver. Separated from God, the earth became a hostile place to live, showing signs of death and decay.



- ♦ Death, disease, poverty, and war entered the world, affecting all of Adam and Eve's offspring.
- ♦ Eve was told she would experience pain in childbirth.¹⁸
- ♦ The ground was cursed, requiring sweat and toil to make it produce.¹⁹

✳ God told Adam that on the day he ate from the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil he would die (Genesis 2:17). Yet we find that Adam lived another 930 years after eating the fruit. What do you think God meant when He said they would die?

The answer is in understanding the nature of death. When a tree branch is cut from the trunk, it dies. On the day it is cut, although it still appears to have some life in it, it has been cut off from its source of life and will soon wither and blow away. In a similar manner, to be separated or cut off from God is to die. God is the giver and sustainer of life; and although a person may appear to still have some life in him, it is only a matter of time until he too withers away.

¹⁸Genesis 3:16

¹⁹Genesis 3:17-19

The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever. (Isaiah 40:7-8)

Subjection

God's original plan was for man to rule the earth,²⁰ but when man rebelled against God he forfeited the authority which God had given him. He became subject to Satan and the forces of wickedness that would now control the human race.

Eternal Punishment

When Satan and his angels rebelled against God, they cut themselves off from God's love. God could not allow their sin to pollute heaven so they were expelled. God prepared a Lake of Fire in which they will be punished forever.

**What if
Adam and
Eve had
eaten from
the tree of
Life?
Genesis 3:22**

When Adam and Eve sinned, they too cut themselves off from fellowship with God. They did not trust God but, like Satan, chose to disobey. As a result, they were expelled from the garden and denied access to the Tree of Life.

Every person since Adam has made the same decision to disobey God.

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. (Ephesians 2:1-3)

Although God did not create hell for man, all who choose to reject God's authority will share Satan's terrible punishment forever in the Lake of Fire.²¹ There is no place in heaven for someone who is unwilling to trust and obey God.

²⁰Genesis 1:28

²¹Matthew 25:46; 2 Corinthians 10:6; Hebrews 10:29; 2 Peter 2:9; Revelation 20:10-14

God Provides for Adam and Eve

A Redeemer

Even though Adam and Eve had sinned, God came looking for them in the garden. Because of His great mercy, God promised to send a Redeemer. God cursed the serpent and promised to bring forth One who would ultimately destroy him. God spoke to the serpent:

And I will put enmity [hostility] between you and the woman, and between your seed [i.e., the powers of wickedness] and her seed [i.e., one of her offspring]; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel. (Genesis 3:15)

God promised to send a Deliverer, born of a woman, who would fight against Satan and *bruise* his *head*. (Figuratively, this means that the Deliverer will destroy Satan's power.) Satan will wound him (i.e., *bruise* his *heel*), but will not be able to overpower him. The ultimate victory belongs to the Deliverer who will make a way for man to be again united with God.

Garments of skin

After eating the forbidden fruit, their eyes were opened and they sewed fig leaves together to cover their nakedness.²² But God Himself covered them with the skin of an animal.²³

Man's attempt to cover his sinful condition by his own good works is not acceptable to God. Only God can cover man's sin.

²²Genesis 3:7

²³Genesis 3:21



Something to think about

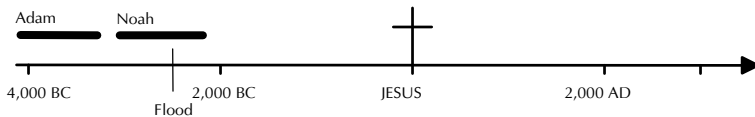
- ✱ What do you feel is the purpose of life? In other words, why are you on this planet?
- ✱ Why did Adam and Eve hide from God?
- ✱ Are you ever afraid of God? Why?
- ✱ What is your most common way of dealing with a guilty conscience?
- ✱ How is God revealed as Creator, Father, Judge and Redeemer in this lesson?



2

Noah and the Flood

Objective: to understand that God is holy and hates sin and to show that God provides a way of escape from judgment by bringing men into covenant relationship with Himself. God is revealed as the Righteous Judge, Merciful.



The Flood

Background

Adam and Eve had children, and multiplied greatly. Adam lived 930 years and his sons and their sons lived very long also.

God continued to pursue a relationship with men and some *called on the name of the Lord*²⁴ but wickedness, violence and corruption filled the earth. Men lived to be several hundred years old in those days, allowing the sin of man to become very great.

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. (Genesis 6:5)

²⁴Genesis 4:26

And the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky...." (Genesis 6:7)

Noah and the ark

Noah was born approximately 3117 BC.

But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.... Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God. (Genesis 6:8-9)

Noah was a *preacher of righteousness*.²⁵ Through his life, others were continually reminded of their sinful state and given opportunity to repent. But no one listened.

God told Noah that, because of its wickedness, God was going to flood the earth. He gave Noah 120 years to build an ark in order to be saved from the coming judgment.

The people mocked Noah. A flood seemed very unlikely because it had never rained; up until that time, the earth was watered by underground springs.²⁶

But Noah believed God and followed His precise instructions. The dimensions that God gave Noah are proportional to the huge oceangoing carrier ships built in the twentieth century. The ark was 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet tall.²⁷

The ark was for Noah, his wife, his 3 sons and their wives.

He was also instructed to take fourteen of every clean animal and bird, and two of every unclean animal.²⁸ Clean animals were those that could be eaten or sacrificed to the Lord.

**How did
Noah gather
the animals?
Genesis 6:20**

²⁵2 Peter 2:5

²⁶Genesis 2:5-6

²⁷Genesis 6:15

²⁸Genesis 7:2-3

God sends the flood

On the day Noah turned 600 years old, it began to rain.²⁹ Then Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives, and all the animals entered the ark³⁰.

The ark had only one door.³¹ When God Himself closed the door and sealed Noah and his family inside, God demonstrated that He alone has the power to save. Once He shut the door it was too late for anyone else to change his mind and enter the ark. No matter how much the people might cry and plead, Noah could not open the door.

For 40 days water burst from underground and fell from the sky above. Worldwide undersea earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occurred simultaneously, throwing massive ocean waves back and forth across the earth.³² The waters covered even the highest mountains by 22 feet.³³

After 150 days the waters began to subside and the ark rested on Mt. Ararat, in what is now called Eastern Turkey.³⁴ Noah and his family were in the ark for a total of one year and 17 days.³⁵

The promise

God made a covenant with Noah and his descendants. A covenant is the means by which God binds himself to a certain course of action by means of a solemn promise or pledge. He promised to never again destroy the earth by flooding.³⁶ He gave us the rainbow as a sign of His covenant.³⁷ In this way, we have a continual reminder of His mercy and His faithfulness to His word.

²⁹Genesis 7:6

³⁰Genesis 7:7-16

³¹Genesis 7:16

³²Genesis 7:11; 8:2

³³Genesis 7:20

³⁴Genesis 8:4

³⁵Genesis 7:11; 8:13-16

³⁶Genesis 8:21; 9:9-11

³⁷Genesis 9:13

Relevance to us today

What does the story of the flood have to do with us today? If God destroyed the earth with a cataclysmic event not so long ago, we should believe Him when He says He will do it again— but this time it will be by fire.

...by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. But the present heavens and earth by His word are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. (2 Peter 3:5-7)

The Bible says that the last days *"...will be just like the days of Noah. For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away..."* (Matthew 24:37-39)

The good news is that if God could save Noah then, He can also save us now.

The Tower of Babel

After the flood, God spoke to Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth.

And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth" (Genesis 9:1)

Ignoring God's command to fill the earth, the descendants of Noah settled together in a fertile plain in the land of Shinar, modern day Iraq, in order to make a name for themselves.³⁸

And they said, "Come let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name; lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." (Genesis 11:4)

**Why did
God want
the people
to be
scattered?
Genesis 11:25**

³⁸Genesis 11:1-2

God saw the people were unified with evil intent.³⁹ They wanted power, they wanted to be independent from God. They were reverting to pagan ways, worshipping the stars and not accepting the rule of God or His commandments. They did not want to depend upon Him for anything.

The whole earth had one language and speech. But one day God gave them new languages. This caused them to group together with others who understood their language.⁴⁰ In this way, God caused them to be scattered over the face of the earth.



Something to think about

- ✳ Would you like to live in a society where wicked people are never punished and never die? Why or why not?
- ✳ Have you ever felt that God was unjust for punishing those who break His laws?
- ✳ If you had been alive in Noah's time, how would you have responded to his warnings?
- ✳ Why do you think nobody took the way of escape that God had made available to them?
- ✳ What lessons do you think this story has for us today?
- ✳ Have you ever tried to make a deal with God? What were you hoping to accomplish?
- ✳ How is God revealed as Righteous Judge and Merciful?

³⁹Genesis 11:6

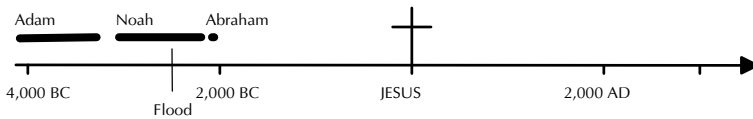
⁴⁰Genesis 11:7-8



3

Abraham and Isaac

Objective: to understand the significance of the promise made to Abraham and to see that the fulfillment of the promise depended not only on God's faithfulness to His word, but also on Abraham's faith and obedience. God is revealed as Covenant-maker and Redeemer.



God Calls Abraham

God promised Adam and Eve⁴¹ that He would send a Deliverer who would crush the head of Satan. In order to bring about the fulfillment of His promise, God chose Abraham (born 2165 BC) who lived in Ur of the Chaldeans.

The commandment

Now the Lord had said to Abram:⁴² Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. (Genesis 12:1)

⁴¹Genesis 3:15

⁴²God later changed his name from *Abram*, meaning "exalted father" to *Abraham*, meaning "father of a multitude."

The promise

I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. (Genesis 12:2-3)

Abraham obeys

Although he didn't know where he was going, Abraham obeyed God and left his home country. Passing through the land of Canaan⁴³, God promised to give this land to Abraham's descendants who would be as numerous as the dust of the earth.⁴⁴

Abraham was 75 years old at this time; his wife was 65 years old and barren.

The Lord Appears to Abraham in a Vision

God's promise

God promised to give Abraham a son.

"... one who shall come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir." And He took him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." (Genesis 15:4-5)

God told Abraham that his descendants would be slaves in a foreign land for 400 years but that God will then return them to their own land.⁴⁵

Blood covenant

It is not uncommon in some parts of the world for two men entering into a covenant relationship to ceremonially cut themselves and then mix a small amount of their blood together in order to demonstrate that they are so inextricably bound together by covenant that they now share a common life. This often includes

⁴³Genesis 12:5-8

⁴⁴Genesis 12:7; 13:14-17

⁴⁵Genesis 15:13-16

the sharing of possessions and a pledge to protect one another and remain faithful to the covenant under penalty of death.

The shedding of an animal's blood reinforces the idea of the permanency of the covenant, that it is unto death. The animal serves as a substitute blood donor for the ceremony. Sometimes the parties would cut an animal in two and stand or walk between its parts. In this way the two parties, surrounded by the animal parts, symbolize that their two lives have now been joined together as one. They pledge their loyalty to one another and usually promise to freely give whatever possessions one might need from the other.

God sealed His covenant with Abraham in this fashion. Following the Lord's instructions, Abraham cut the required animals and God Himself passed through the parts in the form of a flaming torch and a smoking oven.⁴⁶ In this way, God demonstrated His commitment to the covenantal relationship He was initiating with Abraham.

Ishmael

After waiting ten years to become pregnant with a son, Sarah came up with an idea. Since she was now well past the age of childbearing, she asked Abraham to sleep with her maid Hagar.⁴⁷ According to the culture of that time, the child could still be considered to belong to Sarah.

Abraham was 86 years old⁴⁸ when Hagar gave birth to Ishmael; but Ishmael was not the fulfillment of God's promise.

✱ Why do you think Sarah found it difficult to believe God? Do you ever find it difficult to believe that God will do what He has said He will do? Why or why not?

⁴⁶Genesis 15:9-10, 17

⁴⁷Genesis 16:1f.

⁴⁸Genesis 16:16

Abraham and His Son Isaac

The promise reaffirmed

When Abraham was 99 years old, God appeared to him and reaffirmed His covenant. He commanded that Abraham and his descendants be circumcised as a sign of the covenant.⁴⁹

God promised that Abraham's wife Sarah would yet bear a son.

*Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, "Will a child be born to a man **one hundred** years old? And will Sarah, who is **ninety** years old, bear a child?" And Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before Thee!" But God said, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him." (Genesis 17:17-19)*

Three visitors

The Lord, together with two angels, visited Abraham. He again promised that Sarah would give birth to a son during the following year. Sarah laughed at the idea.

And Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have become old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?" And the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, when I am so old?' Is anything too difficult for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son." (Genesis 18:12-14)

God shared with Abraham His intention to destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because of their wickedness. Abraham pleaded with God to spare the city if there are 50, then 45, 40, 30, 20, and finally if there were but 10 righteous people in the city. God agreed to spare the city if there were 10 righteous, but 10 could not be found.

The two angels were sent to rescue Abraham's nephew Lot, his wife and his two daughters.

⁴⁹Genesis 17:11-14

The Lord then rained burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah, completely destroying them.⁵⁰

The promise fulfilled

At the appointed time, Isaac was born. Abraham was now 100 and Sarah was 91 years old.⁵¹

The test

God tested Abraham by asking him to sacrifice Isaac.

Then He said, Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you. (Genesis 22:2)

Abraham obeyed God and went immediately to the mountain.⁵²

And Abraham said to his young men, stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you. (Genesis 22:5)

Isaac asks, "Where is the lamb?" and Abraham answers, "God will provide."⁵³

In his willingness to sacrifice his son, Abraham demonstrated his total trust in God. Abraham believed that even if his son was to die as a sacrifice, God would raise Isaac from the dead in order to fulfill His promise to Abraham.⁵⁴

The substitute

But God did not really want Abraham to sacrifice his son. God was merely testing Abraham to see if he would obey Him. God wanted to see if Abraham loved Him more than anyone or anything else. When God saw that Abraham was willing to obey Him in this, God stopped him from killing his son and God Himself provided a substitute sacrifice.

⁵⁰Genesis 19:24-25

⁵¹Genesis 18:14; 21:1-5

⁵²Genesis 22:3

⁵³Genesis 22:7-8

⁵⁴Hebrews 11:19

And Abraham stretched out his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he [Abraham] said, "Here I am." And he said, "Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son. (Genesis 22:10-13)

The fact that the ram was caught in the thicket by his horns insured that it would not be damaged. God always requires a sacrifice without defect or blemish.

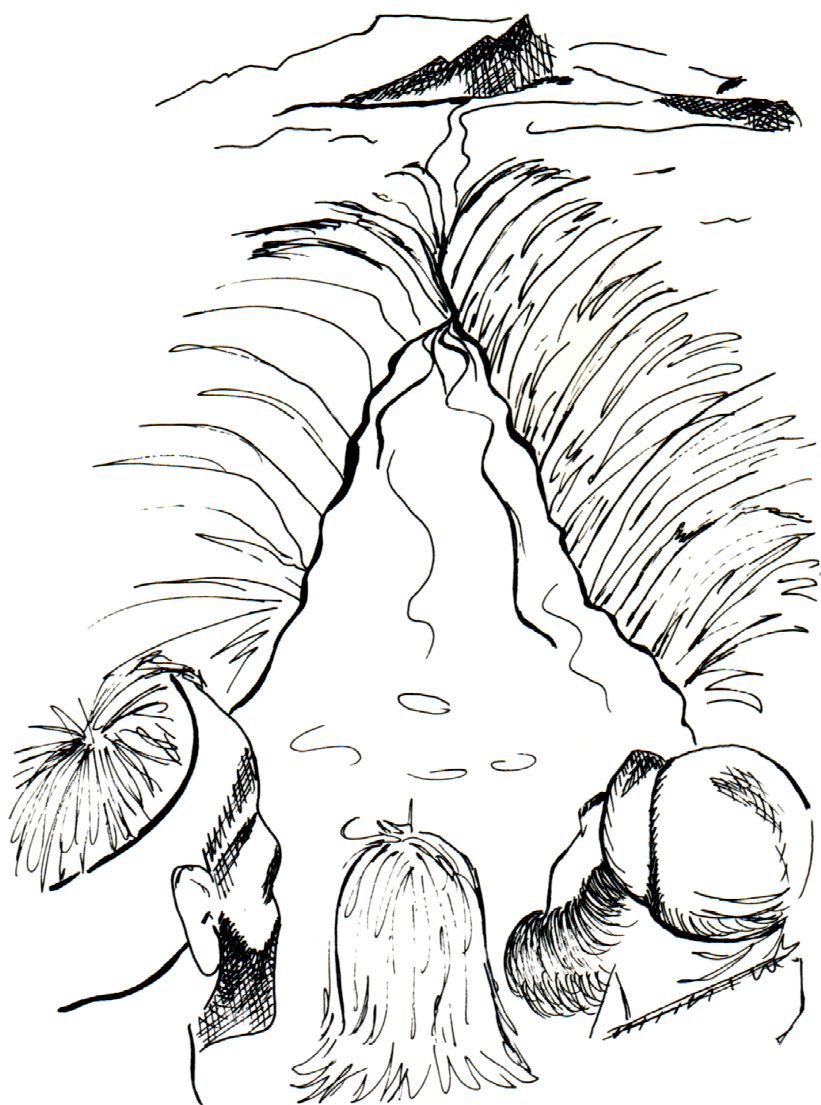
The promise reaffirmed again

Blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice. (Genesis 22:17-18)



Something to think about

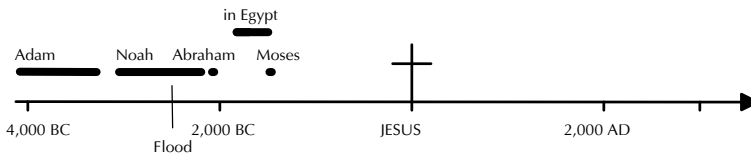
- ✳ Do you feel that God has ever revealed Himself to you or spoken to you about your life? If so, how?
- ✳ Do you find it difficult to sacrifice in the present in order to receive a future reward? Why or why not?
- ✳ Is there anything in your life you would be unwilling to give up today in order to secure eternal life? If yes, what do you hope to gain by holding on to it?
- ✳ Do you believe that God will judge sin? Why or why not?
- ✳ What lesson do you believe this story holds for us today?
- ✳ How is God revealed as Covenant-maker and Redeemer?



4

Israel and the Exodus

Objective: To understand the origin of Israel and the significance of their slavery in Egypt. To also see God's plan of deliverance through Moses. God is revealed as Almighty and Deliverer (from the bondage of sin and Satan).



Israel's Beginnings

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

Abraham's son, Isaac, married Rebekah who gave birth to twins.

And Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD answered him and Rebekah his wife conceived. ...And the LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb; and two peoples shall be separated from your body; and one people shall be stronger than the other; and the older shall serve the younger." (Genesis 25:21-23)

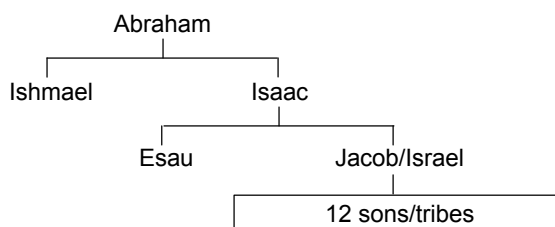
Esau was the eldest and Jacob was the second born son. As the firstborn, Esau received certain privileges. One privilege was that he

would inherit the promises given to Abraham and Isaac. But Esau did not value his birthright. One day when he was very hungry, Esau sold his birthright to his brother Jacob (Genesis 25:29-34).

God then appeared to Jacob changing his name to Israel,⁵⁵ and reaffirming the Abrahamic covenant with him:

..."I am God Almighty; be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come forth from you. And the land which I gave to Abraham and Isaac, I will give it to you, and I will give the land to your descendants after you." (Genesis 35:11-12)

God is referred to many times as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.⁵⁶ Jacob, also called Israel, had 12 sons.⁵⁷



Joseph

Of all of Jacob's sons, he loved Joseph the most.

God revealed to Joseph through dreams that he would become the ruler over his brothers.⁵⁸

But Joseph's brothers were jealous because of the dreams and because their father loved Joseph more than them.⁵⁹

⁵⁵Genesis 35:9-10

⁵⁶Exodus 3:6, 15; Matthew 22:32; Acts 7:32

⁵⁷Genesis 35:23-26

⁵⁸Genesis 37:5-11

⁵⁹Genesis 37:3

Joseph's brothers sold him into Egypt as a slave and told their father that he had been killed by wild animals.⁶⁰

But every time something bad happened to Joseph, God turned it around for good.

When famine came to Israel, Joseph's brothers went into Egypt to buy food. There they discovered that Joseph had become a powerful ruler in Egypt.⁶¹

Joseph was very merciful and forgave his brothers.

And now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to keep you alive by a great deliverance. Now, therefore, it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his household and ruler over all the land of Egypt. (Genesis 45:5-8)

And as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. (Genesis 50:20)

The Israelites in Egypt

Israel and his eleven remaining sons moved to Egypt and settled in the land of Goshen where they remained for 430 years.⁶² God was with them; they were fruitful and became numerous, filling the land.⁶³

The Egyptians became afraid and abused the Israelites. The Egyptians afflicted them and made slaves out of them.⁶⁴

⁶⁰Genesis 37:27-28

⁶¹Genesis 41:37—45:15

⁶²Genesis 46

⁶³Exodus 1:7

⁶⁴Exodus 1:9-14

Pharaoh, the ruler of all of Egypt, commanded all the Hebrew male newborns to be drowned in the Nile River.⁶⁵ Satan knew that the promised Deliverer would be a descendent of Israel; this was his attempt to prevent the Deliverer from being born.

Moses

Moses' mother wanted to save her baby from being killed by the Egyptian soldiers. She made an ark and hid the baby Moses in the bulrushes of the Nile River.⁶⁶

Pharaoh's daughter found Moses and adopted him;⁶⁷ he was trained in Pharaoh's palace in the ways of the Egyptians.

One day he saw an Egyptian and an Israelite fighting, so he killed the Egyptian and fled to Midian. There he tended sheep for the next 40 years.⁶⁸

One day, God appeared to Moses in a burning bush.

And the Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and have given heed to their cry because of their taskmasters, for I am aware of their sufferings. So I have come down to deliver them from the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite. And now, behold the cry of the sons of Israel has come to Me; furthermore, I have seen the oppression with which the Egyptians are oppressing them. Therefore, come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring my people, the sons of Israel out of Egypt." (Exodus 3:7-10)

The Lord gave Moses the power to perform supernatural signs. But Moses tried to make excuses as to why God could not use him. This

⁶⁵Exodus 1:16-22

⁶⁶Exodus 2:2-3

⁶⁷Exodus 2:5-10

⁶⁸Exodus 2:11-3:1

displeased the Lord but He eventually let Moses take his brother Aaron with him.

✳ Do you believe God could use your life to impact the world?

The Exodus

Moses and Pharaoh

God sent Moses back into Egypt to demand that Pharaoh let the Israelites go from Egypt. But Pharaoh refused to let Israel go.⁶⁹

God gave Moses the power to perform miracles as a sign that he was truly sent from God. Moses turned his rod into a serpent as a sign to Pharaoh. But the Egyptian magicians also turned their rods into serpents. Satan often tries to counterfeit the work of God. However, Moses' serpent then ate those of the magicians, demonstrating that God's power is always greater.

But still Pharaoh refused to let Israel go.⁷⁰ Pharaoh became angry with Moses and made the work harder for the Israelite slaves.

The people therefore became angry with Moses and asked him to leave Egypt. Sometimes people get angry with those whom God sends to help deliver them from their bondage. They do not always have the faith to believe that they can really become free.

God sent 10 plagues upon Pharaoh and Egypt, but the plagues did not affect the land of Goshen where the Israelites lived. The plagues consisted of blood in the Nile River, frogs, lice, flies, livestock pestilence, boils, hail, locusts, darkness, and finally the death of every firstborn among the Egyptians.⁷¹

And the Lord said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders which I have put in your power.... you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the Lord, "Israel is My son, My firstborn. So I said to you, 'Let my son go, that he

⁶⁹Exodus 5:2

⁷⁰Exodus 7:8-13

⁷¹Exodus 7:14- 12:36

may serve Me'; but you have refused to let him go. Behold, I will kill your son, your firstborn."'" (Exodus 4:21-23)

The Israelites were protected from the death angel by following the Lord's instructions.⁷²

- ♦ They splashed the blood of a lamb on the doorposts of the house.⁷³ (This was reminiscent of the blood that was shed when God clothed Adam and Eve and when Abraham sacrificed the ram in place of Isaac.)
- ♦ Then they ate the lamb inside their homes.⁷⁴

God instituted the Feast of the Passover as an annual event to remember this occasion.⁷⁵

After the death of the firstborn of every family in Egypt, Pharaoh finally let the Israelites go free.⁷⁶

The Red Sea

God led the Israelites out of Egypt by way of the wilderness at the Red Sea and Pharaoh's army pursued them.⁷⁷

God parted the Red Sea and the Israelites crossed on dry ground.⁷⁸

The Red Sea closed in upon the Egyptian army, drowning them.⁷⁹

**How did
God dry the
ground of
the Red Sea?
Exodus 14:21**

And when Israel saw the great power which the Lord had used against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord and they believed in the Lord and in His servant Moses. (Exodus 14:31)

⁷²Exodus 12:1-13

⁷³Exodus 12:7, 22

⁷⁴Exodus 12:6-11, 22

⁷⁵Exodus 12:14

⁷⁶Exodus 12:31-33

⁷⁷Exodus 14:8-9

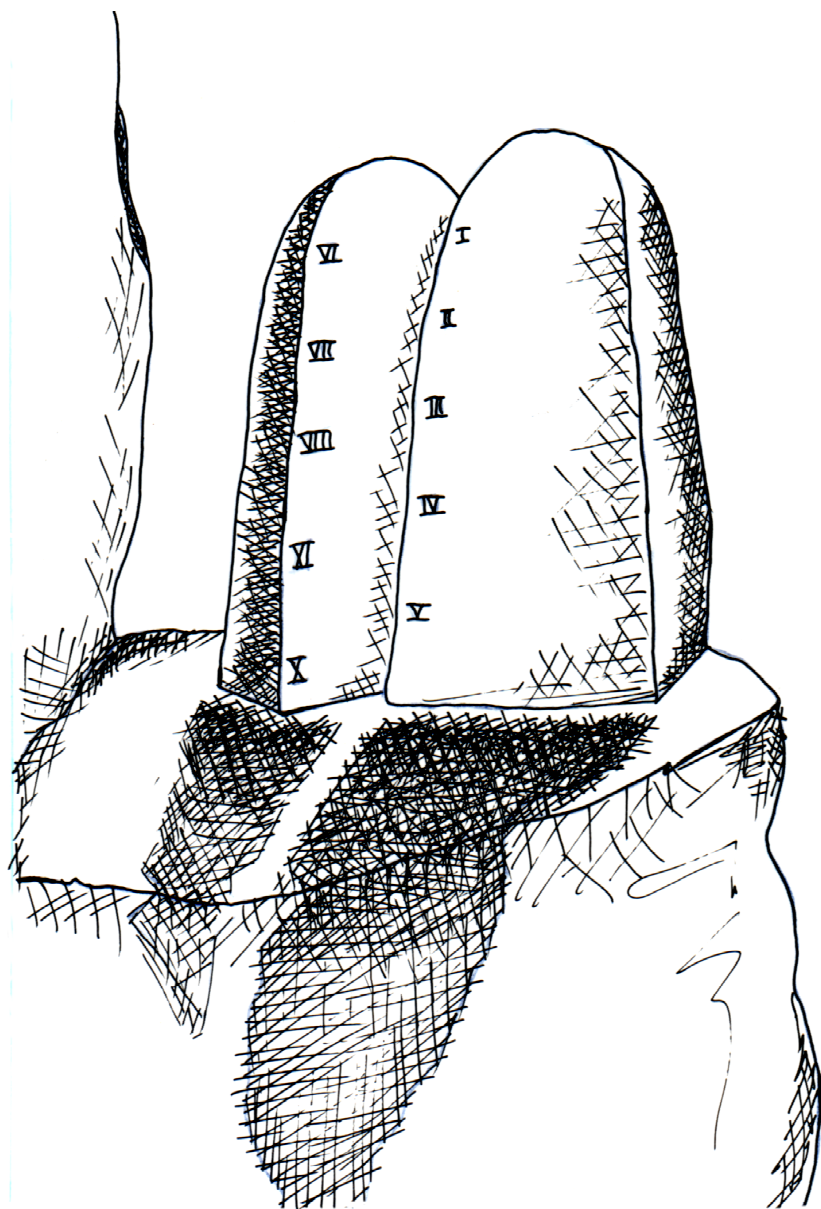
⁷⁸Exodus 14:13-22

⁷⁹Exodus 14: 23-28



Something to think about

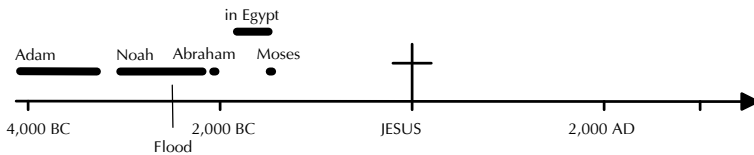
- ✱ Have you ever been in a situation where you felt that only God could deliver you? If yes, why do you think that God allows these situations to come into your life?
- ✱ Do you believe God is able to give you a meaningful life regardless of your background?
- ✱ Who or what do you consider to be your enemies in life? Why?
- ✱ Do you believe that God is willing to deliver you from your enemies?
- ✱ If you could ask God for one thing that you feel would change your life, what would it be?
- ✱ How is God revealed as Almighty and Deliverer?



5

The Law

Objective: To understand God's purpose in giving the Law, His requirement of obedience, and His attitude toward sin. To also understand the need for substitutionary sacrifice. God is revealed as Lawgiver and King.



God Gives Israel His Laws

Background

God brought the people of Israel out of Egypt and through the Red Sea. They were now in the desert being prepared by God to go into the Promised Land. One of the first things God did was to give them His commandments.

A system of justice

Israel was a new nation, born in a day, just freed from 400 years of slavery in Egypt. They had no experience in governing themselves.

God's laws, commanded through Moses, established an order of worship, regulated labor, marriage, money, property, taxation, and many other aspects of everyday life.

God wanted to provide Israel with a just system of government. His laws were not burdensome but were designed to be a great blessing to the people.

For this commandment which I command you today is not too difficult for you, nor is it out of reach.... See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, and death and adversity; in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that you may live and multiply, and that the LORD your God may bless you in the land where you are entering to possess it. (Deuteronomy 30:11, 15-16)

The Ten Commandments

God gave many commandments through Moses to Israel, but the *Ten Commandments*, written by God's own finger⁸⁰ on two tablets of stone, were particularly prominent as a permanent⁸¹ testimony to the character and nature of God. In other words, they show us how God feels about certain actions and what He considers to be acceptable and unacceptable behavior.

First commandment

I am the Lord.... You shall have no other gods before Me. (Exodus 20:2-3)

Have you ever declared allegiance or loyalty to another person, philosophy or system of thought which is opposed to, or different from, the God of the Bible, and which denies His authority, existence or power? This is idolatry.

✳ Do you give more devotion, energy, time, allegiance or loyalty to anything or anybody (whether occupation, possession or

⁸⁰Exodus 31:18

⁸¹Matthew 5:18

relationship) more than you give affection or devotion to God?
This too is idolatry.

Second commandment

You shall not make a carved image... you shall not bow down to or serve them.... (Exodus 20:4-6)

Israel was surrounded by peoples who worshipped images they called gods. No human effort can represent God adequately (for no human eye can see God and live); therefore God forbade the creation of any image of Him. Idolatry is an abomination to God, punishable by death.

Many people have a distorted concept of what God is really like. In effect, he becomes a false god, a god created in their own imaginations. God does not want us to create a god of our own choosing; He wants us to accept Him as He is. God has revealed Himself to us in the Bible.

✳ Who or what has had the greatest influence upon the shaping of your ideas about God?

Third commandment

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.... (Exodus 20:7)

God's name and character are inseparable. To dishonor God's name is to dishonor God. God's name has been abused in magic, profanity, cursing and swearing. One day we will stand before God and give an account for every word we have spoken.⁸²

✳ Why do you think it is important to God that we not abuse His name?

Fourth commandment

Remember the Sabbath, to keep it holy.... (Exodus 20:8-11)

God set the pattern in creation; He worked six days and rested one. He required Israel to take one day out of seven to rest (as well as to work six). This has physical and spiritual implications, and by

⁸²Matthew 12:36; 2 Corinthians 5:10

obeying this commandment we are declaring our dependence, trust, love and reverence for our Creator, who is jealous of our time, energy and affection.

We demonstrate our faith in God's ability to provide for us when we are willing to cease from our own labors for one day a week.

✳ Whom do you trust to meet your needs? How do you demonstrate that?

Fifth Commandment

Honor your father and mother. (Exodus 20:12)

honor — to revere, to respect, to treat with deference; to manifest the highest veneration for, in words and actions; to dignify; to raise to distinction or notice, to elevate in rank; to prize highly.

Adults are to honor their parents; children are to honor **and** obey their parents.⁸³

Parents are also commanded to not harshly provoke their children to anger, but to raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.⁸⁴

Sixth Commandment

You shall not murder. (Exodus 20:13)

Murder is the intentional taking of someone's life (not including accidents, self-defense or capital punishment). This commandment protects the sanctity of all human life, including the unborn.⁸⁵

The New Testament teaches that if we are angry (i.e., having a passion that is furious and rages with a desire for revenge), we shall be in danger of the same judgment as murder.

✳ Have you ever wished someone dead, injured, or removed from your life? Not only will our physical actions be judged, but also every unkind thought or word.

⁸³Ephesians 6:1-3

⁸⁴Ephesians 1:4

⁸⁵Exodus 21:21-24; Psalms 149:14-16; Jeremiah 1:5; Isaiah 44:24; Luke 1:41, 44

Seventh Commandment

You shall not commit adultery. (Exodus 20:14)

God created sex and maintains the right to regulate man's sexual activity. He restricted this privilege exclusively to married couples and prohibited fornication, incest, homosexuality,⁸⁶ and adultery.

God's commandments reveal His love for us, demonstrating His desire to protect us from those activities which will harm us or others.

- ✳ Have you ever been hurt as a result of sexual activity outside of marriage?

Eighth Commandment

You shall not steal. (Exodus 20:15)

People sometimes steal from people, businesses, the government, and God.⁸⁷

- ✳ Have you ever borrowed without permission or without restoring the goods borrowed?

Ninth Commandment

You shall not bear false witness against you neighbor. (Exodus 20:16)

Bearing false witness is bearing an untrue testimony or telling a lie. It includes speaking untrue things about another person to damage his character or reputation, or in order to prove your own case, justify yourself, or make yourself look good. God hates a false witness and a divisive tongue.⁸⁸

Tenth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's house... your neighbor's wife... or anything that belongs to your neighbor. (Exodus 20:17)

⁸⁶Leviticus 18:22-24; 20:13; Romans 1:26-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:8-11

⁸⁷Malachi 3:8

⁸⁸Proverbs 6:19

covet [in an evil sense] — to desire inordinately (i.e., irregularly or excessively); to desire what is unlawful to possess; to crave for intensely.

It is unlawful to covet another's money, possessions, or spouse; it is also unlawful to covet his power, position, freedom, status, reputation, etc.

Are you driven by a desire to accumulate things? Are you jealous, angry or envious when those around you prosper? Are you critical of those who always seem to get the *lucky breaks* in life? This is evidence of a covetous heart.

Which is
the
greatest
command-
ment?
Matthew
22:36-40

Forgiveness through Sacrifice

God provided a remedy for the Israelites if they might break one of His commandments.

Sin is rebellion against God and separates us from Him. Because nothing can continue to live if it is separated from God, the ultimate consequence of sin is death.⁸⁹

God required the blood of an animal as the payment price for sin. That is, the life of the animal became a substitute for that of the sinner. In this way, the sinner was reminded of the consequence of death and at the same time received forgiveness from God.

An altar of earth you shall make for Me, and you shall sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen.... (Exodus 20:24-25)

However, this was not a permanent solution. The blood of bulls and goats could never fully remove the effects of sin because animals are an unworthy substitute for the life of a man.

⁸⁹Genesis 2:17

God's Purpose

God wanted Israel to become a showcase to the world, an example of how a nation could be blessed if it would serve the Lord. God intended that, in this way, His name would be glorified in all the earth.

See, I have taught you statutes and judgments just as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should do thus in the land where you are entering to possess it. So keep and do them, for that is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as is the Lord God whenever we call on Him? Or what great nation is there that has statutes and judgments as righteous as this whole law which I am setting before you today? (Deuteronomy 4:5-8)

Intended for all the nations

God intended for Israel to bless all the nations of the earth by teaching them about God's law and leading the other nations into a covenant relationship with Him.⁹⁰

Pay attention to Me, O My people; and give ear to Me, O My nation; for a law will go forth from Me, and I will set My justice for a light of the peoples. (Isaiah 51:4)

For thus the Lord has commanded us, I have placed you as a light for the Gentiles, that you should bring salvation to the end of the earth. (Acts 13:47)

...My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations.... (Mark 11:17)

Israel fails

Israel did not carry out God's intention for them to be His showcase and to teach His laws to the other nations. However, God will yet

⁹⁰Genesis 12:1-2

accomplish His purpose by raising up a people who will glorify His name in all the earth.⁹¹

Now it will come about that in the last days, the mountain of the house of the Lord will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it. And many peoples will come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that He may teach us concerning His ways, and that we may walk in His paths.' For the law will go forth from Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. (Isaiah 2:2-3)

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. (Habakkuk 2:14)

God promises a leader

Moses told the people of Israel: *"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him."* (Deuteronomy 18:15)

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace.... (Isaiah 9:6-7)

I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven one like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations, and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed. (Daniel 7:13-14)

⁹¹Numbers 14:21; Isaiah 11:9-10



Something to think about

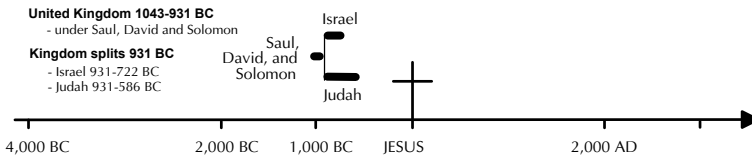
- ✱ Do you think your present system of government is just? If not, what would you like to see changed?
- ✱ Which of the ten commandments present the greatest challenge for you?
- ✱ How do you deal with the guilt of knowing you have broken one of God's commandments?
- ✱ What do you think it would be like to live in a society where everyone kept the *Ten Commandments*?
- ✱ How is God revealed as Lawgiver and King?



6

The Kingdom, Captivity, and Restoration

Objective: To understand the significance of the throne of David as it relates to God's promise of an everlasting kingdom. Also, to see how Israel's rebellion resulted in captivity. Even still, God in his mercy, brought them back to rebuild Jerusalem. God is revealed as the Righteous, Just, and Faithful King.



Background

After Moses died, Joshua led the Israelites across the Jordan River and into the Promised Land of Canaan. For the next 400 years they were ruled by a series of judges. However, the people wanted a king like other nations. God gave them King Saul, but Saul was not faithful to God. Then God raised up David of the tribe of Judah, a man after God's own heart.

King David and His Throne

David's heart

David had a heart for God. Although he was merely a young shepherd boy at the time, God chose David to be the next King of Israel.

...God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart. (1 Samuel 16:7)

David wrote many worship songs and appointed singers and musicians to minister to the Lord.

David was a man of faith and valor. He trusted in God and God used him to defeat Israel's enemies.⁹²

God's promise

God promised to establish David's throne forever.

...Thus says the LORD of hosts, "I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be ruler over My people Israel. ⁹And I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like the names of the great men who are on the earth. ¹⁰I will also appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may live in their own place and not be disturbed again, nor will the wicked afflict them any more as formerly, ¹¹even from the day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies." The LORD also declares to you that the LORD will make a house for you. ¹²"When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever." (2 Samuel 7:8-13)

When the Lord says that He will *make a house* (v.11) for David, He is promising to establish a family dynasty. In other words, the line of kings over Israel will come from David's family.

⁹²1 Samuel 16:18; 17:45-47

The promise to *establish the throne of his kingdom forever* (v. 13) is a reference to the reign of the coming Deliverer who would be a descendent of David.

The coming Deliverer is further described:

*For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the **throne of David** and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.* (Isaiah 9:6-7)

*Then a shoot will spring from the **stem of Jesse** [the father of David], and a branch from his roots will bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And He will delight in the fear of the LORD, and He will not judge by what His eyes see, nor make a decision by what His ears hear; but with righteousness He will judge the poor, and decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; and He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, and faithfulness the belt about His waist.* (Isaiah 11:1-5)

The Deliverer is also called the Messiah, meaning *The Anointed One*. It was customary for the kings of Israel to be anointed with oil; this represented God's favor and blessing upon them. Oil also represents the Holy Spirit many times in the Bible. Therefore, the Messiah is not only appointed by God, but is also empowered by the Holy Spirit of God.

Israel's Rebellion and Captivity

Solomon

When King David died, his son Solomon became the new king of Israel. God spoke to Solomon a promise, a command, and a warning:

"And as for you, if you will walk before Me as your father David walked, in integrity of heart and uprightness, doing according to all that I have commanded you and will keep My statutes and My ordinances, then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever, just as I promised to your father David, saying, 'You shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.' But if you or your sons shall indeed turn away from following Me, and shall not keep My commandments and My statutes which I have set before you and shall go and serve other gods and worship them, then I will cut off Israel from the land which I have given them...." (1 Kings 9:4-7)

Solomon was the wisest man who ever lived; he loved God and ruled the people wisely. But then he married foreign wives who worshipped idols. In doing so, Solomon risked losing all that God had promised him.

Eventually, Solomon's heart turned after his wives' gods and he built temples for them in Israel.

**How many
wives did
Solomon
have?
1 Kings 11:3**

Now the LORD was angry with Solomon because his heart was turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not observe what the LORD had commanded. So the LORD said to Solomon, "Because you have done this, and you have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you, and will give it to your servant. Nevertheless I will not do it in your days for the sake of your father David, but I will tear it out of the hand of your son. However, I will not tear away all the kingdom, but I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of My servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen." (1 Kings 11:9-13)

A divided kingdom

After Solomon's death, the kingdom divided into two kingdoms,⁹³ Israel to the north and Judah to the south.

- ♦ Israel

One of Solomon's servants, Jeroboam, led the ten northern tribes in rebellion against Solomon's son.

Israel went into total apostasy, rejecting God's commandments and even tolerating witchcraft and other practices forbidden by God.

In 722 B.C. Israel was carried away by Assyria and dispersed among the nations,⁹⁴ never to return.

- ♦ Judah⁹⁵

The two remaining tribes of Judah and Benjamin (simply called Judah) were not as evil as the rest of Israel and remained in their land a little longer.

But Judah too mocked the messengers of God, scoffed His prophets, and rebelled against God.⁹⁶

In 586 B.C. the Babylonians captured Jerusalem, destroying the temple, burning the city, and carrying the captives to Babylon.⁹⁷

This is what God had warned Solomon about. The captivity was a result of their disobedience.⁹⁸

God Brings the Jews Back to their Land

God's faithfulness

Jeremiah prophesied that after 70 years in Babylon God would end the captivity of Judah and bring His people back to Jerusalem.⁹⁹

⁹³1 Kings 11:31-39

⁹⁴2 Kings 17:5-6

⁹⁵Judah refers to the tribe of Israel which represented the royal dynasty of David.

⁹⁶2 Chronicles 36:15-16

⁹⁷2 Kings 25

⁹⁸1 Kings 9:6-7

⁹⁹Jeremiah 29:10-14

Despite their unfaithfulness, God used a pagan Babylonian King to proclaim release to His people. King Cyrus allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the city and restore the temple of God.

Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so he sent a proclamation throughout his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying, "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, 'The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all His people, may the Lord his God be with him, and let him go up.'" (2 Chronicles 36:22-23)

The return from exile

After 70 years of captivity God led the Jews back to Jerusalem. He gave them governors and leaders who worked to rebuild the temple and the city of Jerusalem. They also taught the people God's laws.

The Jews responded with deep weeping and repentance. Then they renewed their covenant with God, promising to obey His commandments and separate themselves from the practices of the other nations.

Unfaithful Judah

Even though God had supernaturally delivered the Jews from their captors, eventually the people slid back into the practice of divorce and marrying foreign wives who were idol-worshippers.

God sent prophets to plead with, to rebuke and warn the people and to prophesy concerning the coming Messiah.

Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming, says the Lord of hosts. (Malachi 3:1)

Silence

After the prophet Malachi, there was a *silent period* of 400 years during which there was no prophetic voice in Israel as they awaited the coming of the promised *Son of David*, the Messiah.



Something to think about

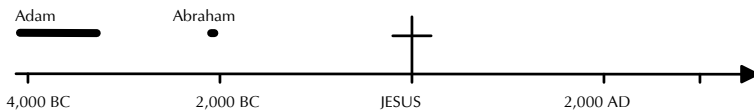
- ✦ What is your most common response to authority: joyful obedience, reluctant obedience, or disobedience?
- ✦ What authorities do you find it most difficult to obey, and why?
- ✦ Have you ever experienced abusive authority figures in your life? If yes, to what extent, if any, do you think that your experience has affected your present attitude toward authority?
- ✦ Would you enjoy living in a world where every person honored God's authority without question? Why or why not?
- ✦ Would your current lifestyle qualify you to live in such a world? If not, what changes would you have to make for you to feel that you would qualify?
- ✦ How is God revealed as Righteous, Just, and Faithful King?



7

Jesus Christ, His Life and Ministry

Objective: To understand how Jesus' life and ministry fulfilled Old Testament prophecies concerning the coming Messiah. To see that God's word is true. God is revealed as faithful. Jesus is revealed as the Son of God and Savior.



Background

After Israel's return from captivity and 400 *silent years*, during which there was no prophetic voice in Israel, Jesus Christ was born. The unique circumstances surrounding His birth were both miraculous and the fulfillment of many prophecies. But most of Israel missed the splendor of God's Son, their Messiah. Looking for a *hero* who would militarily triumph over their political enemies, they overlooked God's meek and humble Son who triumphed over the enemies of sin, Satan, disease and death.

Nevertheless, this was all according to God's foreordained plan and foretold by Israel's holy prophets in Scripture.

Who Jesus Is

The promised Messiah

Refer to the Table of Prophecies in Appendix D. This is a partial list containing many of the prophecies concerning the Christ who was to come. Jesus Christ fulfilled hundreds of Old Testament prophecies. The reasonable mind must conclude that Jesus Christ is the Messiah to whom all these prophecies pointed.

And He continued by questioning them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered and said to Him, "Thou art the Christ." (Mark 8:29)

Christ is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word *Messiah*. Literally, it means *The Anointed One* (i.e., one set apart by God for special duties). The name *Jesus* means *God is salvation*, or *Savior*.

Son of David

Jesus proclaimed the good news of the Kingdom of God. He is the King whom God promised would be seated upon the throne of David.

"What do you think about the Christ, whose son is He?" They said to Him, "The son of David." (Matthew 22:42)

And Pilate questioned Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" And answering He said to him, "It is as you say." (Mark 15:2)

God's Son

Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God who preexisted together with the Father.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.... And the Word became flesh, and

dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-3, 14)

His birth was the product of the Holy Spirit overshadowing a virgin named Mary.¹⁰⁰

The God-man

He took upon Himself the form of man and was revealed as the God-man. This means that He was both fully God and fully man.

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. (Philippians 2:5-7)

Sinless

Jesus is the only person who has never done anything wrong. He obeyed the Father perfectly in every way; He committed no sin.

For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:15)

The only way

Jesus is the only way to the Father. There is no other way by which men can be saved.

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me." (John 14:6)

And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)

For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus (1 Timothy 2:5)

¹⁰⁰Matthew 1:23-25

The Ministry of Jesus Christ

Miracles, signs and wonders

Israel had been 400 years without a prophetic voice. Then John the Baptist heralded Christ's coming by proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand!" God demonstrated His power and kingly authority through Jesus Christ. Scripture records over a hundred times when Jesus referred to the kingdom of God. He not only talked about the kingdom but demonstrated its reality. Jesus declared, *"If I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you".*¹⁰¹ He repeatedly and consistently demonstrated that He was God's Son who had come to destroy the works of the devil.¹⁰²

- ♦ Jesus has power over sickness and disease.

And when Jesus had come to Peter's home, He saw his mother-in-law lying sick in bed with a fever. And He touched her hand, and the fever left her; and she arose, and waited on Him. And when evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill in order that what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, "He Himself took our infirmities, and carried away our diseases." (Matthew 8:14-17)

- ♦ Jesus has power over time, space, nature, and the elements.

He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him ...suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea... But He was asleep. His disciples... awoke Him, saying "Lord, save us! We're perishing!" But He said... "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. (Matthew 8:23-26)

- ♦ Jesus has power over Satan and his demons.

When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass

¹⁰¹Matthew 12:28

¹⁰²1 John 3:8

that way. "What do you want with us, Son of God?" they shouted.... He said to them, "Go!" So they came out and went into the pigs, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and died in the water. (Matthew 8:28-32 NIV)

- ♦ Jesus has power over death.

Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry." Then he went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother. (Luke 7:11-15 NIV)

He also raised Lazarus from the dead. This caused many to believe that He was the promised Messiah since only God can raise someone from the dead.¹⁰³

- ♦ Jesus knows the hearts and thoughts of men.

"I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true." (John 4:17-18 NIV)

Forgiveness of sin

No one can forgive sin but God; the fact that Jesus could forgive sin angered the religious leaders of His day, while proving that He is God.

Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!" Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts?"

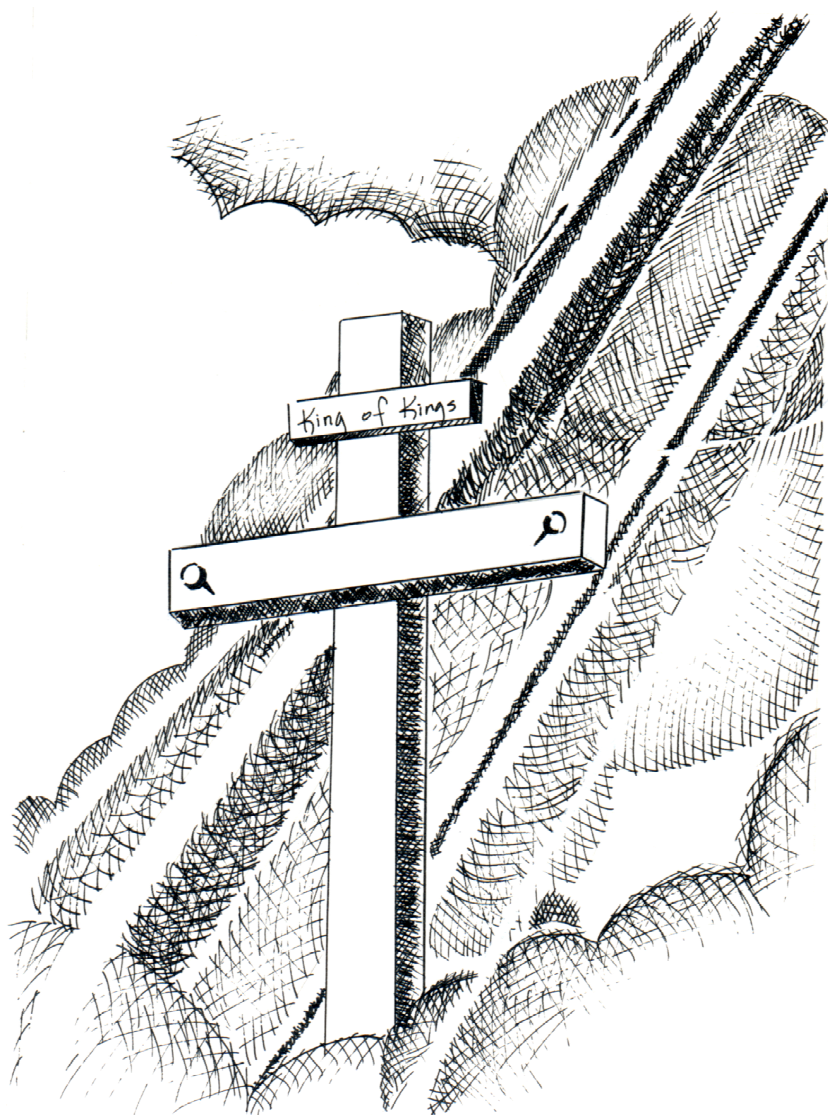
¹⁰³John 11:39-44

Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. . . ." Then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home." And the man got up and went home. (Matthew 9:2-7 NIV)



Something to think about

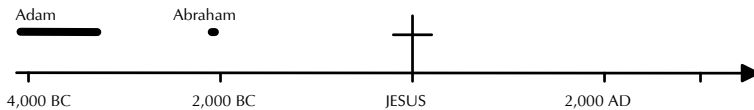
- ✳ Has there ever been anyone in history as wonderful as Jesus?
- ✳ Prior to this lesson, what had been your understanding about who Jesus Christ is?
- ✳ What is your understanding about who Jesus Christ is now?
- ✳ What can you know about God by looking at Jesus' life?
- ✳ Jesus means *Savior*. Have you ever felt the need for a Savior or Deliverer in your life?
- ✳ What are some ways that you have attempted to obtain God's favor in your life?
- ✳ How is Jesus revealed as the Son of God and Savior?



8

Jesus Christ, His Crucifixion and Exaltation

Objective: To understand why Jesus was crucified and what He accomplished. Jesus is revealed as the Lamb of God, Lord and King.



Why Jesus Died

Our condition¹⁰⁴

...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

¹⁰⁴See also Psalms 53:1-3; Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2:11-12.

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. (Ephesians 2:1-3)

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, everyone, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:6)

The penalty for sin

All sin is disobedience and separates the soul from God. Since God is the source of all life, the soul who is separated from God dies. God told Adam that on the day he ate of the forbidden fruit he would die.¹⁰⁵

...The soul who sins will die. (Ezekiel 18:4)

In Old Testament times God made provision for forgiveness of sin through animal sacrifices.¹⁰⁶ The animal died, shedding its blood as a payment for sins.

And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. (Hebrews 9:22)

The animal sacrifices were not perfect in that they had to be continually offered,¹⁰⁷ and could not take away all the effects of sin; they could not cleanse a guilty conscience,¹⁰⁸ nor could they change people's sinful hearts.

All of the Law and the prophets awaited The Coming Deliverer—Jesus, the Lamb of God.

¹⁰⁵Genesis 2:17

¹⁰⁶Exodus 12:3-13; Leviticus 17:11

¹⁰⁷Hebrews 10:1-4

¹⁰⁸Hebrews 9:9, 14; 10:2, 22

A perfect man

An animal's life is not sufficient to pay the price of man's sin because an animal is not as valuable as a man. When a man is found worthy of death, only another man can take his place in judgment.

Because God is holy, He requires a perfect sacrifice. Since all men have sinned, there is no man who would be suitable to give his life in exchange for another. So God sent His own Son, born of a virgin, to die in our place.

Because He was without sin, Jesus became the perfect sacrifice, satisfying sin's demand. Jesus is the only person who has never done anything wrong. He obeyed the Father perfectly in every way; He committed no sin.¹⁰⁹

And [John] looking at Jesus... said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29, 36)

knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things, ...but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory.... (1 Peter 1:18-21)

What Jesus Accomplished

And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, and the earth shook; and the rocks were split, and the tombs were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now the centurion, and those who were with him keeping guard over Jesus, when they saw the earthquake and the things that were happening, became very frightened and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!" (Matthew 27:50-54)

¹⁰⁹Hebrews 4:15

The veil was a very thick woven curtain between the Holy Place and the innermost Holy of Holies which represented the presence of God. (Only the High Priest was allowed to enter the Holy of Holies and then only once a year to offer the blood which makes atonement for sin.)

The fact that the veil was torn from the top means that it was not torn by a man— it was a miraculous sign from God! It showed us that Jesus had entered into the presence of God and opened the way for us to also enter into His presence.

How did Jesus accomplish this?

- ♦ Jesus took our sin upon Himself.

Read the description of Christ's death in Isaiah 53:4-12. Keep in mind that this was written by the prophet Isaiah 700 years before Christ was born.

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us— for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree" (Galatians 3:13)

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

- ♦ Jesus satisfied the requirement of death which was against us.

The wages of sin is death. (Romans 6:23)

And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him. (Colossians 2:13-15)

Once death was executed against Jesus, the law has no more claim against us. Its just demands have been satisfied.

- ♦ Jesus purchased forgiveness and salvation for us.

...you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. (Revelation 5:9)

...Your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. (1 John 2:12)

There are several words used in the bible to describe what Christ accomplished on the cross. We will look at three of them here.¹¹⁰

redemption — to buy back, to purchase with a price out of the market place. It refers to the act of bringing back from slavery, captivity or death by paying the price of judgment.¹¹¹

In him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace. (Ephesians 1:7)

reconciliation — to restore to harmony; to bring together those who are estranged from each other.¹¹²

For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fulness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven. And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach. (Colossians 1:19-22)

justification — to make righteous, to acquit of a charge and to absolve from guilt. It is the act of God whereby He declares righteous whoever believes on Jesus.¹¹³

...having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. (Romans 5:9)

¹¹⁰Related words worthy of further study include the following: propitiation, atonement, regeneration, adoption, and sanctification.

¹¹¹See also Matthew 20:28; Romans 3:24; Galatians 3:13; Titus 2:14; Revelation 5:9.

¹¹²See also Romans 5:10-11; 2 Corinthians 5:19.

¹¹³See also Psalms 103:12; Isaiah 43:25; Romans 3:24-26; Hebrews 10:17.

His Resurrection

Read the account of the resurrection in Matthew 27:62 through Matthew 28:15.

The resurrection is the foundation and cornerstone of the Christian faith. If Christ had not risen then we would still be in our sins and there would be no hope for the dead.¹¹⁴ Because Jesus was sinless, death had no power over Him. Conquering death's power, He was raised by God the Father on the third day. The resurrection proves the deity of Jesus Christ.

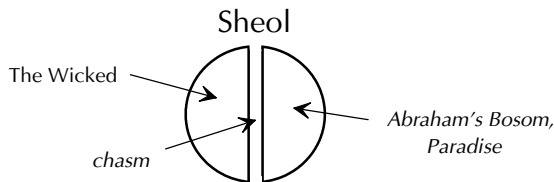
who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 1:4)

...[God] has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead. (Acts 17:31)

Resurrection of the Old Testament saints

Jesus said that He would be in the heart of the earth for three days and nights.¹¹⁵

There He preached the gospel to the spirits of the Old Testament saints who died in faith and were waiting in Sheol, i.e., Abraham's Bosom.¹¹⁶



Because Jesus had conquered death, these saints who believed the promise of God, were then raised from the dead.

¹¹⁴1 Corinthians 15

¹¹⁵Matthew 12:39-40; 27:63; Ephesians 4:8-10

¹¹⁶Hosea 13:14; Psalms 16:8-11; 86:13; Luke 16:19-30; 1 Peter 3:18-20; Jude 6; 2 Peter 2:4-9

and the tombs were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many. (Matthew 27:52-53)

Jesus ascends to heaven

Jesus, after appearing to more than five hundred witnesses, ascended into heaven.¹¹⁷ There He now sits, reigning over the nations and over His church. All authority and power are His; and one day all of Christ's enemies will be made His footstool.¹¹⁸

...He raised Him [Christ] from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church (Ephesians 1:19-22)

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, of those in heaven, and those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord... (Philippians 2:9-11)

Jesus came and spoke to them, saying "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...." (Matthew 28:18-19)

The Holy Spirit

Before Jesus ascended, He promised to send the Holy Spirit to come and be a helper and comforter. The Holy Spirit gives God's people the power needed to fulfill their mission to preach the gospel to every nation.

The Holy Spirit is working in and through the Church today to bring men into a full knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will

¹¹⁷Mark 16:19

¹¹⁸Psalms 110:1

send Him to you. And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment (John 16:7-8)

And gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; for John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." (Acts 1:4-5)

Therefore [Jesus] being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. (Acts 2:33)

The indwelling Holy Spirit in the life of a believer is what causes that person *to be born again*, making him a *new creation*.

Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, "You must be born again." (John 3:5-7)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV)



Something to think about

- ✳ What standard do you use to judge right and wrong, God's word, society's norms, or something else?
- ✳ How confident are you that your standard is correct?
- ✳ What is the consequence of breaking your standard?
- ✳ What standard do you believe God uses to judge right and wrong?
- ✳ What do you believe is the consequence of breaking God's standard?

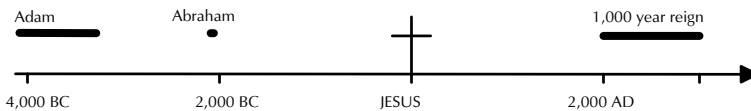
- ✎ What role does the Holy Spirit play in your daily life?
- ✳ How is Jesus revealed as the Lamb of God, Lord, and King?



9

Jesus Christ, His Second Coming and Judgment

Objective: To understand what will happen when Jesus returns to the earth and afterwards. Jesus is revealed as Soon Coming King and Righteous Judge.



The Second Coming of Jesus Christ

A literal, physical return

The ascended exalted Christ is returning physically in his glorified body.

and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF

MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory.
(Matthew 24:30)

Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him.... (Revelation 1:7)

Meeting the saints in the air

The saints will be resurrected to meet the Lord in the air.

Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. (1 Corinthians 15:51-52)

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord.... (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18)

Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him. (Hebrews 9:27-28 NIV)

Returning with the saints

After meeting the resurrected saints in the air, Jesus will return to the earth with them.

And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south. And you will flee by the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains will reach to Azel; yes, you will flee just as you fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD, my God, will come, and all the holy ones with Him! (Zechariah 14:4-5)

When Jesus ascended from the Mount of Olives, the angels told the disciples, "*This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven will so come in like manner as you saw him go into heaven.*" (Acts 1:11)

Signs of His Soon Return

Israel

- ♦ After the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 by the Romans, Israel ceased to exist as a geographic nation and the Jews were scattered (as prophesied by Jesus in Luke 19:43-44).

However, the Bible speaks of God's dealings with Israel as a geographic nation *in the **last days***,¹¹⁹ and God had promised that He would again restore the people of Israel to their land.¹²⁰

On May 14, 1948 Israel was again recognized as a nation, fulfilling the prophecies about God regathering Israel and signifying that we are now approaching the end of the **last days**.

- ♦ Many Jews are beginning to believe that Jesus Christ is their promised Messiah.

In 1975 there was only one Messianic congregation in Israel; it had less than 100 Jewish believers and most of the church members had come from other countries which already had a Christian tradition. However, in 1995 there were 20 Messianic congregations with 4,000 to 5,000 Jewish believers in total.

The Bible tells us that many Jews will be converted just prior to Christ's return.¹²¹

Jesus said He would not return until they say, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."¹²² The increase in the

¹¹⁹Isaiah 2:2-3; Ezekiel 38:16; Hosea 3:5; Micah 4:1; Zechariah 12 and 14

¹²⁰Isaiah 2:2; Ezekiel 11:16-17; 20:34-42; 34:13; 37:21-23; Jeremiah 31:35-37

¹²¹Ezekiel 37:21; Romans 11

¹²²Matthew 23:39

number of Israeli Christians is a sign that we are soon approaching the time of the return of Christ.

The timeline

- ♦ God created the earth in six days and rested for one day. If the 6,000 years of earth history can be likened to God's six days of work, and the 1,000 year reign can be likened to God's day of rest, then Jesus' return can be expected to occur sometime near the turn of the twentieth century.

But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. (2 Peter 3:8)

- ♦ If the 2,000 year history of Israel¹²³ corresponds to an approximate 2,000 year history for the church, then we can expect to enter into a new period of Christ's reign on the earth very soon.

Birth pangs

We are beginning to experience what Jesus called *birth pangs*.

*And as He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many. And you will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. But all these things are merely the beginning of **birth pangs**." (Matthew 24:3-8)*

- ♦ "In all of recorded history the world has suffered thirteen years of war for every single year of peace; but since 1945 the pace has increased tremendously, with more than three hundred wars being fought in the past forty-one years. In fact, a military study, *The War Atlas*, records that since 1945, not

¹²³Abraham's grandson Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel, was born 2005 B.C. Refer to Appendix A for more information.

one single day has passed without the waging of some sort of war or conflict somewhere in the world.¹¹²⁴

- ♦ The following table illustrates the increase in the occurrence of earthquakes during recent years:¹²⁵

Earthquakes 6.5 or Greater or Causing Significant Death or Damage		
1900-1969	48 earthquakes	Average: 6 per decade
1970-1989	33 earthquakes	Average: 17 per decade
1990-Oct. 1992	143 earthquakes	Average: 4.2 per month (504 per decade)

Some people want to believe that it is just because equipment has become more sophisticated that we can better detect earthquakes, but quakes that rate over 6 can be easily felt without any equipment.

Exactly when is He coming?

but of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My father only (Matthew 24:36)

...be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.... (Matthew 24:44)

Christ's Reign on the Earth

Jesus Christ, the descendant of David,¹²⁶ will rule the earth¹²⁷ for a thousand years.

And I saw heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True; and in righteousness He

¹²⁴Grant R. Jefferey, Armageddon (Frontier Research Publications, Toronto, Ontario, Canada), p. 200

¹²⁵*Canadian Global Almanac*, quoted by Peter & Paul Lalonde, The Mark of the Beast (Harvest House Publishers, Eugene, Oregon), p. 172.

¹²⁶Romans 1:3

¹²⁷2 Samuel 7:12-16; Psalm 2:6-9; 89:3-4

judges and wages war. And His eyes are a flame of fire, and upon His head are many diadems; and He has a name written upon Him which no one knows except Himself. And He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood; and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may smite the nations; and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." (Revelation 19:11-16)

Satan bound

Satan's power will be bound for a period of 1,000 years.

And I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, and threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he should not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time. (Revelation 20:1-3)

Peace on earth

There will be peace on earth for 1,000 years.

And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the kid, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little boy will lead them. Also the cow and the bear will graze; their young will lie down together; and the lion will eat straw like the ox. And the nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den. They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:6-9)

Saints ruling

The saints will rule with Him for 1,000 years.

Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years. (Revelation 20:6)

The Final Judgment

Resurrection of the unrighteous dead

After the 1,000 year reign of Christ on the earth, the unrighteous, that is, all those who have rejected Christ, will be resurrected to stand judgment.

And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them, and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. (Revelation 20:12-13)

The Lake of Fire

All unbelievers will then be thrown into the Lake of Fire.

And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:14-15)

But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. (Revelation 21:8)

The Lake of Fire is a place of eternal torment.¹²⁸ It was originally created not for man, but for the devil and his angels.¹²⁹

¹²⁸Mark 9:43-48; Matthew 8:12

¹²⁹Matthew 25:41

God has been very patient with man, desiring that every person be saved.¹³⁰

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)

Who will escape the judgment?

The only ones to escape the final judgment are those whose names are found in the Lamb's book of life. One's name is entered in this book through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.¹³¹



Something to think about

- ✳ When you think about the return of Christ are you fearful or hopeful? Why?
- ✳ If Jesus returned now, what do you think would happen to you?
- ✳ How confident are you that your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life?
- ✳ Are there things in your life that you want to change before Christ returns?
- ✳ Are there some things you would like to accomplish before Jesus returns? If so, what?
- ✳ Suppose you were to die today and stand before God and He asked you, "Why should I let you in heaven?" What would you say?
- ✳ How is Jesus revealed as Soon Coming King and Righteous Judge?

¹³⁰1 Timothy 2:4

¹³¹Luke 10:20; Philipians 4:3; Revelations 3:5; 20:5



10

Personal Application

Objective: To understand the need to repent and believe the gospel. To clarify any unresolved issues that may be a stumbling block in making a total commitment to Christ. To find out what is expected of a follower of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is revealed as Savior, Lord, and King.

Review

The Bible gives us an ever-increasing revelation of who God is. God's ultimate revelation of Himself comes through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.¹³² It is only through Jesus that we can come to know the Father.

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me." (John 14:6)

Let us review how Christ is revealed throughout the Bible:

Lesson 1 — Creation and the Fall

Jesus is the Tree of Life found in the Garden of Eden; all who partake of Him will live forever.

Jesus is the promised Deliverer.¹³³

¹³²Hebrews 1:1-3

¹³³Genesis 3:15

God covered Adam and Eve with the skin of an animal. Jesus is the One who now covers our sin and shame.

Lesson 2 — The Flood and Tower of Babel

God destroyed all men except those who were in Noah's ark. Jesus is our ark of safety. Only in Him can we escape God's wrath and judgment upon sin.

Lesson 3 — Abraham and Isaac

God promised Abraham that he would be the father of a great nation and that in his seed all the nations would be blessed. Jesus is the promised seed.

Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ. (Galatians 3:16)

Isaac is a picture of Jesus Christ.

- ♦ They both had miraculous births which had been promised beforehand.
- ♦ They both submitted willingly to their fathers, even to the death.
- ♦ They both carried and were bound to the wood upon which they were to die.
- ♦ Isaac rose from the altar three days after he began his ascent upon the mountain; Jesus rose from the dead on the third day.
- ♦ They both inherited all from their fathers.

The ram caught in the thicket is also a type of Jesus. It became a substitute sacrifice for Isaac, just as Jesus becomes our substitute sacrifice.

Lesson 4 — Israel and the Exodus

The people of Israel were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, just as we are slaves to sin and Satan. Then God sent Moses to deliver the people from slavery; in like manner, He sent Jesus to be our Deliverer.

When the death angel came to kill the firstborn of every Egyptian home, he *passed over* the homes of the Israelites which had been marked with the blood of a lamb. Similarly, we escape the judgment of death when we appropriate the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, our Passover Lamb.

Lesson 5 — The Law

God revealed His righteousness through the law. Although He made provision for forgiveness by instructing the Israelites to make animal sacrifices for their sin, the blood of animals could never pay the full penalty for our sin. The penalty for sin is death, and an animal's life is not worth as much as the life of a man. The sacrificial animal is simply a foreshadow of Jesus Christ, the sinless man, who has become the perfect sacrifice for the sins of mankind.

For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. (John 1:17)

Lesson 6 — The Kingdom, Captivity and Restoration

God promised King David that one of his descendants would rule a kingdom that would last forever. Jesus Christ is the Son of David who has come to rule the earth.

Lesson 7 — The Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

Jesus proclaimed the good news of the Kingdom of God. Jesus is the promised Messiah, the God-man, the Deliverer. His life and ministry fulfilled the prophecies of the Bible. He demonstrated that He is the Son of God by performing many signs and wonders and by forgiving sin.

Lesson 8 — The Death and Exaltation of Christ

Jesus' death and resurrection was the climactic moment of all of history. Jesus Christ has triumphed over sin, sickness, death and the devil; He has obtained eternal life for all who believe.

Lesson 9 — The Second Coming of Christ and the Judgment

Jesus is coming again soon to judge the earth and bring salvation to those who are His. Are you ready to meet Him?

The Gospel

Knowing what we now do about Jesus Christ, there is but one question. What will you do with Him? The gospel calls for a decision, a choice. It calls for radical action, not just passive acceptance. It calls for allegiance, separation, denying all and following the man— Christ Jesus.

Peter left his friends and fishing boat by the seashore in response to one piercing gaze from Jesus who said, "Follow Me."

To encounter Jesus is to engage in the greatest decision and perhaps the strongest battle involving your will that you may ever face. It is not a matter of going to church or trying to live a good life. He wants you— your passions, your energies, your obedience, and your love.

Jesus' invitation is simple. There are two things He expects us to do:

"Repent and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:14)

Repent

Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent (Acts 17:30)

Repentance is a change of mind about God and His ways. It is a recognition that God is wholly right and the sinner is wholly wrong, accepting full responsibility for his sinful actions against a holy God without making excuses or shifting blame onto someone or something else.

Webster's 1828 Dictionary defines repentance as follows:

Sorrow for sin as a violation of God's holy law, a dishonor to His character and government, and the basest ingratitude to a being of infinite benevolence. Repentance is accompanied and followed by amendment of life.

The nature of sin

Since repentance involves turning away from sin, let us examine the nature of sin.

Sin includes specific sinful actions, such as lying, stealing, murders, adultery, etc.

But the root of sin is our rebellion against God. The self-willed nature of man desires to go its own way, separate and independent from God.¹³⁴ It is this self-will and selfishness of which we need to repent when we give our lives to God.

Sin also includes the adherence to false doctrines, or the attempt to justify oneself through religious activities.¹³⁵

How to repent

Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you. (James 4:7-10)

Jesus told about the wayward son who said:

"I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.' " (Luke 15:18-19)

Believe the Gospel

*He who **believes in the Son** has everlasting life; and he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him. (John 3:36)*

What does it mean to *believe in the Son*? There are four things a person must believe about Jesus:

Belief #1

A person must believe who Jesus is (see Lesson 7).

¹³⁴Romans 7:15-17

¹³⁵Isaiah 64:6; Matthew 15:9; Colossians 2:22; 1 Timothy 4:1

He is the eternally existent and sinless Son of God, born of a virgin. He has all the attributes of God (sovereign, powerful, self-existent, all knowing, all present, infallible, never- changing).

Belief #2

A person must believe what Jesus accomplished on the cross (see Lesson 8).

He took our sin upon Himself and died in our place. Being nailed to the cross, He satisfied the requirement of sin's penalty, death. He purchased forgiveness and salvation for us, reconciling us to God.

Belief #3

A person must believe that Jesus Christ rose from the dead (see Lesson 8).

Christ's resurrection validated His ministry, proving His deity and Lordship.¹³⁶ Because He is alive, He can now impart resurrection life to us.

For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. (Romans 5:10)

Belief #4

A person must believe that he, the sinner, is now made acceptable to God through the work of Christ alone.

He must believe that having repented of his sin, asking God for forgiveness, believing that Jesus paid the price for him, he is made wholly acceptable to God.¹³⁷

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:10)

...if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for

¹³⁶Romans 1:4; 1 Corinthians 15:17. See also Psalms 2:1-12, 110:1-3; Matthew 28:18-20; Ephesians 1:20-23; Philippians 2:5-11.

¹³⁷John 5:24; Acts 2:21; Ephesians 1:7; 1 John 5:1

with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. (Romans 10:9-10)

There is nothing more we can add by our own efforts in order to merit salvation. We are completely dependent upon the grace of God which has been freely given to us through the shed blood of Jesus.

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Some proud, unbelieving and religious people refuse to humble themselves and admit that they are incapable of saving themselves. They believe they can be saved on the basis of their own goodness.¹³⁸

To be saved, a person must admit to his own rebellion and inability to save himself. He must rely upon the grace and mercy of God revealed through the sacrifice of Jesus as his only hope of salvation.

Life in the Kingdom

Receiving forgiveness is the doorway to a whole new way of life in the kingdom of God.

*for the kingdom of God is... righteousness and **peace** and **joy** in the Holy Spirit. (Romans 14:17)*

*The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid; and from **joy** over it he goes and sells all that he has, and buys that field. (Matthew 13:44)*

What makes the kingdom a cause for such joy? The reason is because God is all-wise and perfectly good. His ways are always more desirable than our own. His wisdom can always be trusted. Once we catch a glimpse of the kingdom, we are willing to pay any price in order to experience it.

¹³⁸Romans 9:30-10:4

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had, and bought it. (Matthew 13:45-46)

In order for us to serve God enthusiastically, we must believe that God is a rewarder of those who seek Him.¹³⁹ His rewards include not only escape from judgment, but also a life filled with love, joy, peace, power, wisdom, and other such blessedness as is found in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.¹⁴⁰

These blessings are simply the fruit of obeying Jesus. He said that if we love Him we will keep His commandments.¹⁴¹ And His commandments are all summed up in these two: "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF" (Luke 10:27).

Personal Response

Are you willing to follow Jesus now?

Jesus told a story about two men praying in the temple.

Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. (Luke 18:10-14)

If you have not already done so, simply confess your sin to God. Ask Him to forgive you for having lived a life separate and apart from Him. Tell Him you are now willing to forsake all to follow

¹³⁹Hebrews 11:6

¹⁴⁰Ephesians 2:7; Colossians 2:2-3

¹⁴¹John 14:15

Jesus Christ. Then thank Him for His forgiveness and welcome the Holy Spirit to come and live inside of you.

When He does, you become a child of God, a joint heir with Jesus. You are not left to struggle through life alone. Jesus is with you and He will help you defeat the enemies in your life. He will give you the power to live for Him.



Something to think about

- ✳ How is Jesus revealed as Savior, Lord, and King?
- ✳ Do you have any unanswered questions?
- ✳ Are there any issues that prevent you from making a total commitment of your life to Jesus Christ?
- ✳ Do you understand the gospel message well enough to explain it to someone else? Try it now.

Appendix A

Dates Used in the Timelines

The following table lists the dates used in constructing the timelines.

	Years from Adam*	Date (B.C.)	Total
Adam born	0	4173 [†]	4173
Adam died	930	3243 [†]	4173
Noah born	1056	3117 [†]	4173
FLOOD	1656	2514[†]	4173
Noah died	2006	2167 [†]	4173
Abraham born	2008	2165 [†]	4173
Abraham died	2183	1990 [†]	4173
Jacob born	2168	2005 [‡]	4173
Jacob died	2315	1858 [‡]	4173
Moses born		1525 [‡]	
Moses died		1405 [‡]	
Israel enters Egypt		1875 [‡]	
Israel leaves Egypt		1445 [‡]	

* This column lists the number of years each event occurred after Adam was expelled from the garden. The student who is interested can compute these figures directly from the Bible by completing the table in Appendix B entitled **Genealogy of Christ's Lineage**.

[†] These dates are from *Jensen's Survey of the Old Testament*, Irving L. Jensen (Moody Press 1978), pp. 37, 67, 188.

[‡] Starting with Jacob's birth date of 2005 B.C. and adding the 2168 years from Adam to Jacob gives us a total of 4173 years between Adam and Christ. The remaining dates can be deduced by subtracting the number of years after Adam from the total of 4173.

Appendix B

Genealogy of Christ's Lineage

Assume Adam's beginning was in the year 0. His death would then have occurred in the year 930. Using these dates as a basis, complete the following chart.

Name	Year of birth	Age when son born	Years after son's birth	Age at death	Year died	Genesis
Adam	0	130	800	930	930	5:1-5
Seth						5:3-8
Enosh						5:6-11
Kenan						5:9-14
Mahalalel						5:12-17
Jared						5:15-20
Enoch				TRANSLATED		5:18-24
Methuselah						5:21-27
Lamech						5:25-31
Noah		502*				5:32; 9:29
Shem						11:10-11
Arphaxad						11:10, 12
Shelah						11:14-15
Eber						11:16-17
Peleg						11:18-19
Reu						11:20-21
Serug						11:22-23
Nahor						11:24-25
Terah		130†				11:26, 32
Abraham						21:5; 25:7
Isaac						25:26; 35:28
Jacob	2168	91	56	147	2315	41:46-54; 45:6, 9; 47:9, 28

* Noah was 600 years old at the time of the flood (Genesis 7:11). Thus the flood would have occurred 1656 years ($1056 + 600$) after Adam was created. Shem was 98 at the time of the flood (Genesis 11:10); therefore, Noah was 502 years old ($600 - 98$) when Shem was born.

† Abraham was 75 years old when he left Haran (Genesis 12:4); he left immediately after his father's death. Terah was 205 when he died, so we can assume that Terah was 130 years old ($205 - 75$) when Abraham was born.

Appendix C

Table of Prophecies

Listed below are some of the prophecies regarding Jesus Christ, His origin, deity and manifestation. Many others exist and were fulfilled exactly as prophesied.

OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY		FULFILLED IN CHRIST
<i>...a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)</i>	Born of a virgin	<i>...The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and ...the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God. (Luke 1:35)</i>
<i>But as for you, Bethlehem... from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity. (Micah 5:2)</i>	Place of birth	<i>Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem... behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? ... And they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet (Matthew 2:1-5)</i>
<i>When Israel was a youth I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son. (Hosea 11:1)</i>	Came out of Egypt	<i>And he arose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed for Egypt; (Matthew 2:14)</i>
<i>And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed... (Genesis 22:18)</i>	Seed of Abraham	<i>The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. (Matthew 1:1)</i>
<i>I will establish the oath which I swore to your father Abraham.... by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; (Genesis 26:3-4)</i>	Seed of Isaac	<i>the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, (Luke 3:34)</i>
<i>I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near; a star shall come forth from Jacob, and a scepter shall rise from Israel... One from Jacob shall have dominion... (Numbers 24:17-19)</i>	From Israel	<i>who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons ... whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen. (Romans 9:4-5)</i>
<i>I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And it shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him. (Deuteronomy. 18:18-19)</i>	Prophet like Moses	<i>When therefore the people saw the sign which He had performed, they said, "This is ... the Prophet who is to come into the world." (John 6:14)</i>
<i>The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes, and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples. (Genesis 49:10)</i>	From the tribe of Judah	<i>For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, a tribe with reference to which Moses spoke nothing concerning priests. (Hebrews 7:14)</i>
<i>Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit. (Isaiah 11:1)</i>	From Jesse	<i>and to Jesse was born David the king... (Matthew 1:6)</i>
<i>... I will raise up your descendant after you... and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. (2 Samuel 7:12-13)</i>	From the house of David	<i>... Have mercy on us, Son of David!" (Matthew 9:27)</i>

<i>... but later on He shall make it glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles. The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. (Isaiah 9:1-2)</i>	Ministry in Galilee	<i>And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit; and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district. (Luke 4:14)</i>
<i>I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old, (Psalm 78:2)</i>	Speak in parables	<i>All these things Jesus spoke to the multitudes in parables, and He did not speak to them without a parable, (Matthew 13:34)</i>
<i>And the Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. (Isaiah 11:2)</i>	Wisdom	<i>And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. (Luke 2:52)</i>
<i>Thou art fairer than the sons of men; grace is poured upon Thy lips; therefore God has blessed Thee forever. (Psalm 45:2)</i>	Gracious in word	<i>And all were speaking well of Him, and wondering at the gracious words which were falling from His lips (Luke 4:22)</i>
<i>Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb will shout for joy. For waters will break forth in the wilderness and streams in the Arabah. (Isaiah 35:5-6)</i>	Will perform miracles	<i>the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM. (Matthew 11:5)</i>
<i>Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. (Isaiah 53:4)</i>	Will heal	<i>And when evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill in order that what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, "HE HIMSELF TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES, AND CARRIED AWAY OUR DISEASES." (Matthew 8:16-17)</i>
<i>The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives, and freedom to prisoners; to proclaim the favorable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God... (Isaiah 61:1-2)</i>	Anointed to preach	<i>And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book, and found the place where it was written, "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE DOWNTRODDEN, TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD." ... And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." (Luke 4:17-22)</i>
<i>Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, humble, and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a donkey. (Zechariah 9:9)</i>	Triumphal entry	<i>... Jesus sent two disciples... "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied there and a colt with her; untie them, and bring them to Me.... Now this took place that what was spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, "SAY TO THE DAUGHTER OF ZION, 'BEHOLD YOUR KING IS COMING TO YOU, GENTLE, AND MOUNTED ON A DONKEY, EVEN ON A COLT, THE FOAL OF A BEAST OF BURDEN.'" (Matthew 21:1-5)</i>
<i>Even my close friend, in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me. (Psalm 41:9)</i>	Betrayed by a friend	<i>... I know the ones I have chosen; but it is that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'HE WHO EATS MY BREAD HAS LIFTED UP HIS HEEL AGAINST ME.' From now on I am telling you before it comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am He... Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me. (John 13:18-21)</i>
<i>He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth. (Isaiah 53:7)</i>	Silent as a lamb before accusers	<i>And the high priest stood up and said to Him, "Do You make no answer? ... But Jesus kept silent... (Matthew 26:62-63)</i>
<i>I gave My back to those who strike Me, and My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard; I did not cover My face from humiliation and spitting. (Isaiah 50:6)</i>	Smitten and spit upon	<i>Then they spat in His face and beat Him with their fists; and others slapped Him, and said, "Prophecy to us, You Christ; who is the one who hit You?" (Matthew 26:67-68)</i>

And by His scourging we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)	Scourged and beaten	Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged Him. (John 19:1)
He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face, He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. (Isaiah 53:3)	Despised and rejected	And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God, (1 Peter 2:4)
Just as many were astonished at you, My people, so His appearance was marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men. (Isaiah 52:14)	Appearance marred	Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged Him. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and arrayed Him in a purple robe; and they began to come up to Him, and say, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and to give Him blows in the face. (John 19:1-3)
They have also surrounded me with words of hatred, and fought against me without cause. In return for my love they act as my accusers... Thus they have repaid me evil for good, and hatred for my love. (Psalm 109:3-5)	Hated without a cause	... they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well. "But they have done this in order that the word may be fulfilled that is written in their Law, 'THEY HATED ME WITHOUT A CAUSE.' (John 15:24-25)
My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me? ... (Psalm 22:1)	Forsaken by God	... Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, LAMA SABACHTHANI?" that is, "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME?" (Matthew 27:46)
They also gave me gall for my food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink. (Psalm 69:21)	Given vinegar	... so they put a sponge full of the sour wine upon a branch of hyssop, and brought it up to His mouth. (John 19:29)
They pierced my hands and my feet. (Psalm 22:16)	Hands and feet pierced	Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand, and put it into My side; and be not unbelieving, but believing." (John 20:27)
They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots. (Psalm 22:18)	Cast lots for garments	The soldiers therefore... took His outer garments and made four parts, a part to every soldier and also the tunic; now the tunic was seamless... They said therefore to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, to decide whose it shall be" (John 19:23-24)
Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, and interceded for the transgressors. (Isaiah 53:12c)	Prays for enemies	But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34)
Because He poured out Himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors... (Isaiah 53:12)	Numbered with transgressors	... they crucified two robbers with Him... [And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And He was numbered with transgressors."] (Mark 15:27-28)
... so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him, like the bitter weeping over a first-born. (Zechariah 12:10)	His side pierced	but one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately there came out blood and water. (John 19:34)
"And it will come about in that day," declares the Lord God, "That I shall make the sun go down at noon and make the earth dark in broad daylight. (Amos 8:9)	Sun went dark at noon	Now from the sixth hour [noon] darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour. (Matthew 27:45)
... He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel." (Genesis 3:15)	Bruised the serpent's head	Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; (Hebrews 2:14)
But the LORD was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief; (Isaiah 53:10)	Bruised by the Lord	this Man, delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. (Acts 2:23)

<i>His grave was assigned with wicked men, yet He was with a rich man in His death, because He had done no violence, nor was there any deceit in His mouth. (Isaiah 53:9)</i>	With rich at death	<i>And when it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph... And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb... (Matthew 27:57-60)</i>
<i>For Thou wilt not abandon my soul to Sheol; neither wilt Thou allow Thy Holy One to undergo decay. (Psalm 16:10)</i>	Body did not see corruption	<i>And God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power. For David says of Him, "...BECAUSE THOU WILT NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES, NOR ALLOW THY HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY." (Acts 2:24-27)</i>
<i>For Thou wilt not abandon my soul to Sheol; neither wilt Thou allow Thy Holy One to undergo decay. (Psalm 16:10)</i>	His resurrection	<i>"He is not here, for He has risen... go quickly and tell His disciples" and they departed quickly from the tomb... and behold, Jesus met them... and they came up... and worshipped Him. (Matthew 28:6-9)</i>
<i>The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet." (Psalm 110:1)</i>	Sits at right hand of God	<i>...when He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high; (Hebrews 1:3)</i>
<i>The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet." The LORD will stretch forth Thy strong scepter from Zion, saying, "Rule in the midst of Thine enemies." ... The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind, "Thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." (Psalm 110:1-4)</i>	Exalted King-Priest	<i>So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. (Mark 16:19)</i>

Appendix D

Resource Materials

For more information regarding the scientific study of creation, evolution, dinosaurs, and the flood of Noah, contact the following organizations:

Institute for Creation Research

P.O. Box 2667, El Cajon, California 92021

1-800-628-7640

www.icr.org

Answers in Genesis

P.O. Box 6330, Florence, KY 41022

1-800-778-3390

www.AnswersInGenesis.org

Recommended reading

The following books may be obtained from the organizations listed above:

The Collapse of Evolution, Scott M. Huse. This book also contains an excellent list of reference materials.

Creation and Evolution, Alan Hayward. This book critically examines the positions of both Creationists and Evolutionists and presents some interesting ideas in an effort to reconcile the biblical account of creation with current scientific evidence of an old earth.

Origins: Creation or Evolution Video, Richard B. Bliss. This video and accompanying reference book demonstrate the scientific superiority of the creation model of origins over the evolution model.

The Great Dinosaur Mystery, Paul S. Taylor. This book provides an excellent treatment on the subject of dinosaurs. Although it is written for children, it addresses the basic questions asked by adults.

Appendix E

The Flood of Noah

Scientific evidence of the flood

In addition to the over 100 Biblical references to the global flood of Genesis, there is much that science and history have contributed to this account. Evolutionists would like to discount these proofs but cannot account for them apart from affirming a worldwide, global catastrophic flood. Some evidences are listed below:

1. Worldwide flood traditions

Virtually every culture has a flood story; over 200 accounts have been gathered. But they are often filled with mythical characters and other deviations from the Genesis account. This is because the stories were often handed down verbally. However, all state that a great flood, covering the mountain tops, wiped out all life. They mention a vessel of safety and the saving of a human seed.

2. Billions of fossils

Fossils require sudden death, sudden burial, and sudden pressure to form simultaneously. Oftentimes, even the soft body parts remain fossilized. Fossils require unique conditions such as might have occurred during a worldwide flood.

3. Fossilized trees spanning different strata levels

Trees standing upright, with their bark intact, have been found spanning strata levels that are believed by evolutionists to have taken millions of years to form.

4. Ocean salt content

Cross-sectional cores of ocean floor sediment revealed that in an age not too far past, there was a sudden drop in the saline content of the ocean of 10%. Only a worldwide, fresh water deluge could have produced such a drop.

5. Huge woolly mammoths have been discovered in Siberia that were quick frozen, standing upright, with tropical food undigested in their stomach, and green foliage semi-chewed in their mouths.

Only a catastrophe such as the Flood could produce such specimens.

The Ark of Noah

Some people may question how all the animals could possibly fit into the ark. In *The Genesis Record*, Henry Morris writes that

"...the total volumetric capacity of the Ark was approximately 1,400,000 cubic feet, which is equal to the volumetric capacity of 522 standard livestock cars... over 125,000 sheep could have been carried in the ark... there might have to be a total of about seventy-two thousand animals on the Ark... and since the average size of land animals is surely less than that of a sheep... no more than 60 percent of its capacity would have to be used for animals.... There were a few large animals... probably represented by young (therefore small) individuals...." (pp. 181, 185)

Dinosaurs were probably on the ark also. Undoubtedly, they would have been small dinosaurs; like all lizards, it is believed that dinosaurs continue to grow as long as they are alive. They probably died out after the flood due to the atmospheric changes resulting from the flood. Prior to the flood, the earth probably experienced a greenhouse effect of warm humid air because of a layer of water or ice surrounding the planet.

For further study, refer to the sources listed in Appendix D.

Would you like to learn more?



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