
THE LAST DAYS
33 Easy Bible Studies

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This is the first lesson of The Last Days thirty-three lesson course on vital issues of concern today. Featuring the major end-time prophecies and other great Bible themes, each lesson points to Scripture passages which answer today's most important questions.

To begin, you'll need a King James Version Bible which is the textbook for the course. Each lesson contains questions and Bible references. Carefully read each question. Find the text in your Bible, and look for the answer. It might be the entire verse, but usually the question is well answered in a single phrase. Copy the necessary portion of the verse on the line provided.

If you have a hard time finding the answer, first check to make sure you have the right verse. Then read the question again. If the verse still does not make sense, copy it anyway and go on to the next question. As you continue, the verses that follow should help to clarify it. When you are finished, it is always good to read through the lesson again to get the whole line of connected thought before checking the boxes at the end of the lesson.

Lesson 1: How Can We Know The Future?

1. Who controls the course of human events?

Daniel 2:20-21 _____

"The most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men." Daniel 4:17.

A nineteenth century writer once described God's sovereignty in these words: "Above the distractions of the earth He sits enthroned; all things are open to His divine survey; and from His great and calm eternity He orders that which His providence sees best."

And God has not kept His plans secret: "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets." Amos 3:7.

2. How long ago did God reveal or declare His plans?

Isaiah 46:10 _____

3. Where did the holy prophets of God in ancient times get their information?

2 Peter 1:21 _____

4. What guarantee did the Psalmist give that the ancient words of God would still be trustworthy in the last days?

Psalm 12:6-7 _____

The apostle Peter expressed his confidence in the ancient prophecies and also their importance for us today: "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts." 2 Peter 1:19.

The Bereans certainly took heed to the sure word of prophecy: "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily whether those things were so." Acts 17:11.

5. By what should we live our lives?

Matthew 4:4 _____

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15.

6. Is it safe for us to interpret the prophecies of the Bible?

2 Peter 1:20 _____

"Do not interpretations belong to God?" Genesis 40:8. Everyone interprets the Bible differently. That's why it is not safe to rely on anyone's interpretation, not even your own. Do not interpret the Bible; let the Bible interpret itself. When

you read something in the Bible that you do not understand, instead of trusting your own ideas, look for other Bible verses that will explain the meaning of the more difficult passage.

The Bible itself tells us how it is to be studied: “For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little." Isaiah 28:10. Thus "comparing spiritual things with spiritual," Scripture with Scripture, we allow the Bible to explain itself. 1 Corinthians 2:13.

We may be tempted to think that we have a natural ability to understand God's word, but we do not: "The natural man receiveth not the things of the spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them." 1 Corinthians 2:14.

7. Sometimes God hides things from the so-called wise, and reveals them unto whom?

Matthew 11:25 _____

8. Whom do we need to teach us?

John 14:26 _____

Whenever we study the Bible we should always pray that the Holy Spirit will direct our thoughts and help us to understand His word.

9. Is it always safe to follow what seems right to us?

Proverbs 14:12 _____

10. How are the last days described?

2 Timothy 3:1 _____

11. Evil men and seducers will abound, doing what?

2 Timothy 3:13 _____

12. False prophets shall arise and show what?

Matthew 24:24 _____

13. Their miracles are calculated to deceive whom?

Matthew 24:24 _____

14. To prevent deception, what are we to do with all our ideas?

1 Thessalonians 5:21 _____

15. According to what word are we to test all things?

Isaiah 8:20 _____

16. Whose writings must we believe in order to accept the words of Jesus?

John 5:46-47 _____

"If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead." Luke 16:31.

The apostles regarded the Old Testament as "the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." 2 Timothy 3:15.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

17. What is destroying people today?

Hosea 4:6 _____

18. What is God's word to us?

Psalm 119:105 _____

19. What is our duty regarding the light God gives?

John 12:35 _____

20. What must we do to know if a doctrine is of God?

John 7:17 _____

"The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant." Psalm 25:14.

21. What does God want to show us?

Jeremiah 33:3 _____

"Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; if thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God." Proverbs 2:3-5.

In the Light of God's Word…

☐ I understand that the entire Bible is the word of God, wholly reliable, and the test of all things.
☐ I desire to diligently study the word of God, and allow it to direct every aspect of my life.

Lesson 2: Will There Soon Be One World Government?

1. Why does God tell us His plans in advance?

John 14:29 _____

2. Who is one prophet Jesus said we ought to understand?

Mark 13:14 _____

Read Daniel 2:1-30. Then find answers to these questions.

3. Why was King Nebuchadnezzar troubled?

Daniel 2:3 _____

4. What did he ask the wise men to show him?

Daniel 2:6 _____

5. Who had given him this dream?

Daniel 2:28 _____

6. What was the dream to reveal?

Daniel 2:29 _____

Read verses 31-35. Then find answers to these questions.

7. What did Nebuchadnezzar see in his dream?

Daniel 2:31 _____

8. Of what was the image made?
Daniel 2:32

His head: _____

His breast and arms: _____

His belly and thighs: _____

Daniel 2:33

His legs: _____

His feet: _____

9. What did Daniel tell the king the image's head represented?

Daniel 2:36-38 _____

10. What nation did Nebuchadnezzar represent?

Daniel 1:1 _____

11. According to the interpretation, what would arise after Nebuchadnezzar's golden kingdom?

Daniel 2:39 _____

12. When Babylon did fall, what two nations, symbolized by the image's silver breast and arms, shared world rulership?

Daniel 5:28 _____

13. By what animal is Medo-Persia symbolized in Chapter 8?

Daniel 8:3-4, 20 _____

14. What animal smote the ram?

Daniel 8:5-7 _____

15. What nation does this goat represent which would conquer Medo-Persia?

Daniel 8:21 _____

16. Like the others, how extensively would this third kingdom rule?

Daniel 2:39 _____

17. When the first king of Greece fell, the kingdom would be divided into how many parts?

Daniel 8:8, 21-22 _____

The great horn between the goat's eyes represented Alexander the Great, who died at a young age without arranging for a successor to rule the conquered kingdom. True to prophecy, the territory was divided into four smaller kingdoms, and remained divided until superseded by the next world empire.

18. What then came forth?

Daniel 8:9 _____

19. What kind of king was represented by this little horn?

Daniel 8:23 _____

After Greece, the fourth and final nation to rule the world was the Roman empire.

20. The ram was "great" (v.4), the goat was "very great" (v.8). How did the little horn compare with them?

Daniel 8:9 _____

21. From its point of origin, what directions did this kingdom spread?

Daniel 8:9 _____

Rome, coming from the west, gained control of Egypt, Syria, and Palestine.

22. According to Nebuchadnezzar's dream, this fourth kingdom would be as strong as what metal?

Daniel 2:40 _____

23. What would then happen to this kingdom?

Daniel 2:41 _____

The Roman Empire, the last to rule the world, was absorbed by Germanic tribes which divided up the territory and eventually became the modern nations of Europe.

24. How does the prophecy describe the attempts of later kings to unite themselves?

Daniel 2:42, 43 _____

25. What prophetic statement has prevented modern kings from uniting under one world government?

Daniel 2:43 _____

Time and again since the fall of Rome men have attempted to unite the world under a single government. But the word of God has declared that it cannot be done, and according to that decree all attempts have failed.

26. When will God set up His eternal kingdom?

Daniel 2:44 _____

27. What will God's kingdom do to the kingdoms of men?

Daniel 2:44 _____

28. What represented God's kingdom in Nebuchadnezzar's dream?

Daniel 2:45 _____

29. What did Daniel say about the certainty of the dream and its interpretation?

Daniel 2:45 _____

"The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets." Daniel 2:47.

The Imagery of Daniel 2

Head of Gold ..... **Babylon** (605-539 BC)
Breast & Arms of Silver ..... **Medo-Persia** (539-331 BC)
Belly & Thighs of Brass ..... **Greece** (331-168 BC)
Legs of Iron ..... **Rome** (168 BC - AD 476)
Feet of Iron & Clay ..... **Modern Nations** (Since AD 476)
Stone ..... **Kingdom of God**

Chapter 8:

Ram ..... **Medo-Persia**
Goat ..... **Greece**
Four Horns ..... **Greek Divisions**
Little Horn ..... **Rome**

In the Light of God's Word…

☐ I understand that in the Bible God has accurately foretold world events long before they are to happen.
☐ I desire to understand the prophecies God has given for our time.

Lesson 3: Could We Be Earth's Final Generation?

1. What is more important for us to discern than the weather?

Matthew 16:2-3 _____

2. When asked for signs of the end, what was Jesus' first response?

Matthew 24:3-4 _____

His discourse is recorded in Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21.

3. As He began His forecast for the church, after mentioning a few early signs, Jesus prophesied the destruction of what city?

Luke 21:20 _____

In less than forty years from the giving of that warning, Jerusalem fell to the armies of Rome. And just as He had predicted, not one stone of the magnificent temple was left upon another that was not thrown down.

4. What sign would let Christ's followers know that the desolation of the city was nigh?

Luke 21:20 _____

In October, A.D. 66, Cestius besieged Jerusalem. The Christians in the city recognized this as the sign given by Christ. When the Romans suddenly withdrew, the Christians fled, not one losing his life. Soon Roman armies led by Titus returned, and in A.D. 70, the city was destroyed. More than a million Jews perished.

5. What terrible experience would follow that event?

Matthew 24:21 _____

For the next nearly 250 years the church suffered intense persecution from the Roman government. Christians were given to wild beasts, or smeared with pitch and lashed to poles to serve as torches for the arena. Three million were martyred for their faith in Christ.

Then Constantine, realizing that Christianity could not be stamped out, staged a political conversion, and proclaimed Christianity (well mingled with paganism) to be the official religion of the empire. But the long centuries of enforced religion that followed produced even more severe religious intolerance which took the lives of more than 50 million people. Not until the opening up of the American continent were Christians finally permitted full liberty of conscience without threat of persecution.

6. What specific signs did Jesus say would be given immediately after the tribulation of those days?

Matthew 24:29

The sun would _____

The moon would _____

The stars would _____

With the establishment of the United States of America, the centuries of religious persecution came to an end. The Declaration of Independence, perhaps the most famous freedom document of all time, was signed in 1776, stating that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." America opened her doors to all who sought religious freedom, guaranteeing the right of all to worship according to their own conscience.

Jesus said, "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened...." The United States had barely been born when on May 19, 1780 it witnessed what has been remembered in history as the great Dark Day.

According to the Boston Gazette, “there was the appearance of midnight at noonday.” The darkness began around 10 a.m. Candles were lighted; animals thought it was night. The Connecticut Historical Collections describes the tension in the state legislature where, “a very general opinion prevailed, that the day of judgment was at hand.” The poet John Greenleaf Whittier called it “a horror of great darkness.”

Jesus went on to say, “...And the moon shall not give her light.” The Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society, referring to the Dark Day, contains this record: “The darkness of the following evening was probably as gross as ever has been observed....If every luminous body in the universe had been shrouded in impenetrable shades, or struck out of existence, the darkness could not have been more complete. A sheet of white paper held within a few inches of the eyes was equally invisible with the blackest velvet....This gross darkness held ‘till about one o’clock, although the moon had fulled but the day before.”

The third sign Jesus mentioned was “...The stars shall fall from heaven.” On November 13, 1833, from 2 a.m. until daylight, the sky all over North America was aflame with meteors. One observer remarked, “It seemed as if the whole starry heavens had congregated at one point near the zenith, and were simultaneously shooting forth, with the velocity of lightning, to every part of the horizon; and yet they were not exhausted.” Astronomer W. J. Fisher, in The Telescope, called it “the most magnificent meteor shower on record.”

7. According to Revelation, what natural disaster would occur just before the signs in the sun, moon, and stars?

Revelation 6:12-13 _____

One of the most extensively felt earthquakes ever recorded occurred November 1, 1755. Extending over an area of at least four million square miles, it covered the greater part of Europe, Africa, and America. Seventy thousand people were killed. In Lisbon, Portugal violent shaking lasted for at least six minutes, destroying most of the city. The sea rose fifty feet above its ordinary level. Encyclopaedia Britannica called it “the most famous of all earthquakes.” G. A. Eiby, in About Earthquakes, referred to it as “the greatest earthquake on record.”

8. How did Jesus describe the anxiety and trouble that would exist on the earth after these signs?

Luke 21:25 _____

9. What effect would the dreadful outlook have upon people?

Luke 21:26 _____

10. According to prophecy, what reason would scoffers give for denying that the end would be soon?

2 Peter 3:3-4 _____

11. In the end-time economic collapse, what will happen to money that has been saved up?

James 5:1-3 _____

_____

“But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.” 1 Peter 4:7.

12. When will this sudden destruction hit?

1 Thessalonians 5:3 _____

13. List some of the signs of moral deterioration that were predicted to occur in the last days.

2 Timothy 3:2-3 _____

_____

_____

_____

14. What would people love more than God?

2 Timothy 3:4 _____

15. What signs would be seen in the church?

2 Timothy 3:5 _____

16. To what time are the last days compared?

Luke 17:26 _____

17. What was it like in the days of Noah?

Genesis 6:5 _____

_____

18. What about mobility and the extent of knowledge in the last days?

Daniel 12:4 _____

19. What did Jesus say we would know when we saw these signs?

Luke 21:31 _____

20. When we see these signs, how near is the kingdom?

Luke 21:32 _____

"Lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

21. What would make us unprepared for the end?

Luke 21:34 _____

22. To be prepared, what must we do?

Luke 21:36 _____

In the Light of God's Word…

☐ I understand that we are living in the final days of earth's history.
☐ I desire to prepare my life for the events just ahead.

Opening the Seven Seals of Revelation

Supplement to Lesson 3

In the seven seals of Revelation, as in the seven churches and seven trumpets, John was shown a delineation of conditions which would characterize the successive stages of the Christian era. By studying the outline given in these prophecies, we are able to see where we stand in the stream of time.

As the **first seal** is opened (Revelation 6:1-2), a white horse appears, "and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer." This is a description of the advance of the gospel in the first century. Through the missionary zeal of the early church the gospel "was preached to every creature which is under heaven" (Colossians 1:23). The white horse indicates the church in its original purity. The crown, or victory wreath, shows its conquest over the power of the enemy through the direction and leadership of Christ.

The **second seal** (Revelation 6:3-4) reveals a red horse. In this bloody scene, peace is taken from the earth, and many are killed with a great sword. From the beginning of the second century until Constantine's edict of A.D. 313, Christianity was illegal throughout the pagan Roman empire, and Christians were terribly persecuted.

The opening of the **third seal** (Revelation 6:5-6) provides us a view of Christianity's status for the 200 years following A.D. 313. The horse, now black, reveals that the church had lost its original purity. Its rider holds a pair of balances. A voice is heard declaring that the amount of money which previously was equivalent to a full day's

wage (Matthew 20:2), is now only worth a quart of wheat. What an appropriate illustration of how, through Constantine's efforts to blend it with paganism, Christianity had been cheapened. Previously, to declare yourself a "Christian" might cost you your life. Now the word had so lost its value that every vile pagan walking the street was a member of the church.

The opening of the **fourth seal** (Revelation 6:7-8) ushers in a pale horse. Here is a church that is lifeless and pale, its religion a mixture of truth and error. Its rider is Death, and the Grave follows closely behind. This represents the period of the Dark Ages during which the spark of true godliness was almost entirely extinguished by the high hand of church representatives. "And Power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth." The tribulation of those days was so terrible that Jesus said, "Except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved" (Matthew 24:22).

When the **fifth seal** is opened (Revelation 6:9-11), the figure changes. The cumulative deaths of millions of God's people through centuries of oppression are now pictured as crying out to God, calling for justice. "How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?" The answer is given that the dead must "rest yet for a little season.

The first five seals have brought us down from the first century to the mid 1700's. We now turn our attention to the signs of the end which would then appear under the opening of the sixth seal (Revelation 6:12-13).

Sign #1: November 1, 1755, "Lo, there was a great earthquake."

"Probably the most famous of all earthquakes is that which destroyed Lisbon on Nov. 1, 1755. There were three great earthquakes (the first was the largest) at 9:40 A.M., 10 A.M. and at noon. The main shock lasted six to seven minutes, an unusually long duration. Within six minutes at least 30,000 people were killed, all large public buildings and 12,000 dwellings were demolished. It was a church day, and great loss of life occurred in the churches. A fire followed which burned for six days. A marble quay at the riverside disappeared into the river bottom laden with people. Alexander von Humboldt stated that the total area shaken was four times that of Europe." *Encyclopedia Britannica Vol. 7, p 848 (1961 ed.).*

"By far the most spectacular earthquake of earlier times was that of Lisbon, in 1755. This has some claim to be regarded as the greatest earthquake on record. If it is possible to believe reports, the felt area, which was certainly more than 700 miles in radius, extended from the Azores to Italy, and from England to North Africa. A source of confusion in the reports of this shock, which makes it difficult to judge the real extent of the felt area, was the widespread occurrence of seiches,...wave movements in ponds and lakes....

"Oscillations of this kind were observed in France, Italy, Holland, Switzerland, and England, and reports of the movements even came from Norway and Sweden, at a distance of nearly 1800 miles from the epicentre. In those countries, however, the shock was certainly not felt....

"In 1755, the damage to Lisbon itself was very great. At that time, the city had about 230,000 inhabitants, nearly 30,000 of whom were killed, according to conservative estimates. Great numbers of people were in the churches, for it was All Saints' Day, and the time of the first Mass. The shock was followed by a tsunami (tidal wave:) about twenty feet in height, and by fire.

"The disaster shocked all Europe, and the moralists and the wiseacres were not slow to make capital of it." *About Earthquakes, p 141-142, by G.A. Eiby (New York: Harper, 1957).*

Sign #2: May 19, 1780, "And the sun became black as sackcloth of hair."

"About eleven o'clock the darkness was such as to demand our attention, and put us upon making observations. At half past eleven, in a room with three windows, 24 panes each, all open towards the south-east and south, large print could not be read by persons of good eyes. About twelve o'clock the windows being still open, a candle cast a shade so well defined on the wall, as that profiles were taken with as much ease as they could have been in the night. About one o'clock a glin of light which had continued 'till this time in the east, shut in, and the darkness was greater than it had been for any time before, Between one and two o'clock, the wind from the west freshened a little, and a glin appeared in that quarter. We dined about two the windows all open, and two candles burning on the table. In the time of the greatest darkness some of the dunghill fowls went to their roost: Cocks crowed in answer to one another as they commonly do in the night: Woodcocks, which are night birds, whistled as they do only in the dark: Frogs peeped In short, there was the appearance of midnight at noonday." *The Boston Gazette and the Country Journal, May 29, 1780, p 4.*

"People were unable to read common print, determine the time of day by their clocks or watches, dine, or

manage their domestic business, without the light of candles. In some places, the darkness was so great, that persons could not see to read common print in the open air, for several hours together." *Memoirs of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences: to the End of the Year 1783, Vol. 1, p 234-235, by Harvard professor Samuel Williams (Boston: Adams and Nourse, 1785).*

"The 19th of May, 1780, was a remarkable dark day. Candles were lighted in many houses; the birds were silent and disappeared, and the fouls retired to roost. The legislature of Connecticut was then in session at Hartford. A very general opinion prevailed, that the day of judgment was at hand. The House of Representatives, being unable to transact their business, adjourned. A proposal to adjourn the council was under consideration. When the opinion of Colonel [Abraham] Davenport was asked, he answered, 'I am against an adjournment. The day of judgment is either approaching, or it is not. If it is not, there is no cause for an adjournment: if it is, I choose to be found doing my duty. I wish therefore that candles may be brought.'" *Timothy Dwight, quoted in Connecticut Historical Collections, compiled by John Warner Barber, p 403 (2d ed.; New Haven: Durrie & Peck and J. W. Barber, 1836).*

"Twas on a May-day of the far old year Seventeen hundred eighty, that there fell Over the bloom and sweet life of the Spring, Over the fresh earth and the heaven of noon, A horror of great darkness.

"Men prayed, and women wept; all ears grew sharp To hear the doom-blast of the trumpet shatter The black sky, that the dreadful face of Christ Might look from the rent clouds, not as he looked A loving guest at Bethany, but stern As Justice and inexorable Law.

"Meanwhile in the old State House, dim as ghosts, Sat the lawgivers of Connecticut, Trembling beneath their legislative robes. 'It is the Lord's Great Day! Let us adjourn,' Some said; and then, as if with one accord, All eyes were turned to Abraham Davenport. He rose, slow cleaving with his steady voice The intolerable hush. 'This well may be The Day of Judgment which the world awaits; But be it so or not, I only know My present duty, and my Lord's command To occupy till He come. So at the post Where He hath set me in His providence, I choose, for one, to meet Him face to face, No faithless servant frightened from my task, But ready when the Lord of the harvest calls; And therefore, with all reverence, I would say, Let God do His work, we will see to ours. Bring in the candles.'" *"Abraham Davenport," in his Complete Poetical Works, p 260, by John Greenleaf Whittier (Cambridge ed.; Boston: Houghton, 1894).*

"Perhaps some, by assigning a natural cause of this, ascribing it to the thick vapor in the air, will endeavor to evade the force of its being a sign, but, the same objection will lie against earthquakes being signs which our Lord expressly mentions as such. For my part, I really consider the darkness as one of the prodigies foretold in the text; designed for our admonition, and warning." *Discourse by eyewitness Elam Potter, delivered May 28, 1780, in Enfield, Conn., quoted in The Advent Herald, March 13, 1844, p 46.*

[**Note:** Any suggestion of a natural cause can in no wise militate against the significance of the event as a prophetic fulfillment. The time-honored explanation is that seventeen and a half centuries before it occurred, the Saviour had definitely foretold this twofold sign saying, "In those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light" (Mark 13:24); and these signs occurred exactly as predicted and at the time indicated so long before their occurrence. It has long been pointed out that it is the fact, and not the cause, of the darkness that is significant in this connection; as also in the case of earthquakes, falling stars, and other events seen as signs of the times. When the Lord would open a path for his people through the sea, he did it by "a strong east wind." Ex. 14:21. Was it for this reason any less miraculous? In like manner, to account for the remarkable darkening of the sun and moon or of the falling of the stars as events in nature is not to discredit them as merciful signs of the approaching end of probationary time.]

Sign #3: May 19, 1780, "And the moon became as blood."

"The second is that of the moon's turning to blood; this I have not seen, but, from information, I have reason to believe it did take place between 2 o'clock and day break in the morning of the same night after which the sun was darkened, which was said to appear as a clotter of blood; and it is the more probable, as that night, before the moon appeared, was as dark, in proportion, as the day, and of course would give the moon an extraordinary appearance-not suffering her to give her light." *A View of Spiritual, or Anti-typical Babylon, p 73, by Benjamin Gorton (Troy [N.Y.]: the Author, 1808).*

News item from *Providence, R.I., dated May 20, in The Pennsylvania Evening Post (Philadelphia), June 6, 1780, p. 62*, which news dispatch refers to a red moon in certain areas for a three day period.

Sign #4: November 13, 1833, "And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind."

"The morning of November 13th, 1833, was rendered memorable by an exhibition of the phenomenon called SHOOTING STARS, which was probably more extensive and magnificent than any similar one hitherto recorded....

"Probably no celestial phenomenon has ever occurred in this country, since its first settlement, which was viewed with so much admiration and delight by one class of spectators, or with so much astonishment and fear by another class....

"The reader may imagine a constant succession of fire balls, resembling sky rockets, radiating in all directions from a point in the heavens, a few degrees south-east of the zenith, and following the arch of the sky towards the horizon....The balls, as they travelled down the vault, usually left after them a vivid streak of light, and just before they disappeared, exploded, or suddenly resolved themselves into smoke. No report or noise of any kind was observed, although we listened attentively....

"The flashes of light, although less intense than lightning, were so bright as to awaken people in their beds. One ball that shot off in the north-west direction, and exploded a little northward of the star Capella, left, just behind the place of explosion, a phosphorescent train of peculiar beauty....

"The meteors began to attract notice by their unusual frequency or brilliancy, from nine to twelve o'clock in the evening, were most striking in their appearance, from two to five, arrived at their maximum, in many places, about four o'clock, and continued till rendered invisible by the light of day." *The American Journal of Science and Arts, #25, Jan.? 1834, p 363, 365, 366, 386, 393, 394, article: "Observations on the Meteors of November 13th, 1833," by Denison Olmsted.*

"To understand the use of the word shower in connection with shooting stars we must go back to the early morning hours of Nov. 13, 1833, when the inhabitants of this continent [of North America] were in fact treated to one of the most spectacular natural displays that the night sky has produced....For nearly four hours the sky was literally ablaze....More than a billion shooting stars appeared over the United States and Canada alone." *The Telescope, #7, May-June, 1940, p 57, article "The Falling of the Stars," by Peter M. Millman.*

"The shower pervaded nearly the whole of North America, having appeared in nearly equal splendor from the British possessions on the north to the West-India Islands and Mexico on the South, and from sixty-one degrees of longitude east of the American coast, quite to the Pacific Ocean on the west. Throughout this immense region, the duration was nearly the same." *Letters on Astronomy, Addressed to a Lady: in Which The Elements of the Science Are Familiarly Explained in Connexion With Its Literary History, p 348-349, by Denison Olmsted (1840 ed.).*

"Neither language, nor the pencil, can adequately picture the grandeur and magnificence of the scene....It may be doubted, whether any description has surpassed, in accuracy and impressiveness, that of the old negro in Virginia, who remarked 'It is awful, indeed, sir, it looked like ripe crab-apples falling from the trees, when shaking them for cider.'" *The New-England Magazine, #6, Jan.-June, 1834, p 47-48, article "The Meteoric Shower," by J.T. Buckingham.*

"The five winter counts [chronological records in picture writing naming each year (winter) by an outstanding event] next cited all undoubtedly refer to the magnificent meteoric display of the morning of November 13, 1833, which was witnessed throughout North America and which was correctly assigned to the winter corresponding with that of 1833-'34. All of them represent stars having four points, except The-Swan, who draws a globular object followed by a linear track.

"Fig. 1219. It rained stars. Cloud-Shield's Winter Count, 1833-'34. White-Cow-Killer calls it 'Plenty-stars winter.'

"Fig. 1220. The stars moved around. American-Horse's Winter Count, 1833-'34. This shows one large four-pointed star as the characterizing object and many small stars, also four-pointed.

"Fig. 1221. Many stars fell. The Flame's Winter Count, 1833-'34. The character shows six stars above the concavity of the moon.

"Fig. 1222. Dakotas witnessed magnificent meteoric showers; much terrified. The- Swan's Winter Count, 1833-'34.

"Battiste Good calls it 'Storm-of-stars winter,' and gives as the device a tipi with stars falling around it. This is presented in Fig. 1223." *"Picture-Writing of the American Indians," [U.S.] Bureau of Ethnology. Tenth Annual Report...to the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, 1888-'89, p. 723, by Garrick Mallery (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1893).*

"I witnessed this gorgeous spectacle, and was awe-struck. The air seemed filled with bright descending messengers from the sky. It was about daybreak when I saw this sublime scene. I was not without the suggestion, at the moment, that it might be the harbinger of the coming of the Son of Man; and in my then state of mind I was prepared to hail Him as my friend and deliverer. I had read that the 'stars shall fall from heaven,' and they were now falling." *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass, quoting Frederick Douglass, p. 117, Original edition 1855 (New York: Pathway Press, 1941).*

We now stand between verses 13 and 14 of Revelation chapter 6. The next event to occur is the end of the world (verses 14-17).

Lesson 4: How Will the World End?

1. Before Jesus went back to heaven, what promise did He make?

John 14:3 _____

2. To what "blessed hope" did the apostle Paul look forward?

Titus 2:13 _____

3. Jesus came once already to bear the sins of many. Unto whom will He come the second time?

Hebrews 9:28 _____

"For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works." Matthew 16:27.

"Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come...he will come and save you." Isaiah 35:4.

4. The disciples understood that Jesus' coming would mark what point in the world's history?

Matthew 24:3 _____

5. Why is it important for us to know the vital details about how Jesus will come?

Matthew 24:24 _____

_____

The first chapter of Acts describes how Jesus went back to heaven. Notice the emphasis on the fact that the disciples actually watched Him go up: "while they beheld" (verse 9) "their sight" (verse 9) "while they looked" (verse 10) "gazing" (verse 11) "ye have seen him go" (verse 11)

6. What were they then told about the manner in which He will return?

Acts 1:11 _____

7. How many people will see Jesus coming?

Revelation 1:7 _____

8. How easy will it be to see Him?

Matthew 24:27 _____

9. Who will come with Jesus?

Matthew 25:31 _____

10. How many angels are there?

Revelation 5:11 _____

11. What effect can the sight of one angel have upon humans?

Matthew 28:2-4 _____

_____

_____

The coming of Jesus with all His angels will be literally earthshattering. Notice Revelation's description:

"And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" Revelation 6:14-17.

"And there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great....And the cities of the nations fell....And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent." Revelation 16:18-20.

12. What did Jesus say to do when they tell you that He is coming secretly?

Matthew 24:26 _____

"Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people. Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice." Psalm 50:3-5.

13. All the tribes of the earth will mourn as they see Jesus doing what?

Matthew 24:30 _____

14. What will they be mourning?

Jeremiah 8:20 _____

"And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds." Mark 13:27.

15. The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a what?

1 Thessalonians 4:16 _____

"I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth." Isaiah 43:6.

16. As Jesus descends, what is the first thing that will happen?

1 Thessalonians 4:16 _____

17. Then what will happen to the righteous who are alive?

1 Thessalonians 4:17 _____

_____

18. Where will we meet the Lord?

1 Thessalonians 4:17 _____

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:3.

19. Where is the place Jesus has promised to prepare for us?

John 14:2 _____

20. Where is His Father's house?

Matthew 7:21 _____

21. So where is our inheritance?

1 Peter 1:4 _____

"Behold, your reward is great in heaven." Luke 6:23.

22. What will be heard as the angels gather together His elect?

Matthew 24:31 _____

23. Whether alive or asleep, what will happen to all the righteous when the trumpet sounds?

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 _____

24. This corruptible will put on what?

1 Corinthians 15:53 _____

25. This mortal will put on what?

1 Corinthians 15:53 _____

26. Death will be swallowed up in what?

1 Corinthians 15:54 _____

"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" 1 Corinthians 15:55.

27. What must we do now in order to stand before Him then?

1 John 2:28 _____

28. What does every man do that has this hope in Him?

1 John 3:3 _____

29. What offer does the Lord make to every sinner?

Isaiah 27:5 _____

_____

30. Then when Jesus comes, what will we be able to say?

Isaiah 25:9 _____

_____

_____

In the Light of God's Word…

☐ I understand that Jesus will come again, not silently or secretly, but with power and great glory, to take

His redeemed ones home.

☐ I desire to be ready to meet Jesus, and go to heaven with Him when He comes.

Lesson 5: Preview of the Coming Age

1. What two different resurrections did Jesus mention?

John 5:28-29 _____

_____

2. The two resurrections are separated by how many years?

Revelation 20:4-6 _____

3. What two words describe those who have part in the first resurrection?

Revelation 20:6 _____

4. The rest of the dead are not raised until when?

Revelation 20:5 _____

5. The resurrection of the righteous occurs at the time of what great event?

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 _____

_____

6. The resurrected and living righteous will then be caught up together to meet the Lord where?

1 Thessalonians 4:17 _____

Jesus is coming to take the righteous to the place He has prepared for them in heaven (See lesson 4).

7. When Jesus comes, what will He do to the wicked?

2 Thessalonians 2:8 _____

_____

"They shall fall and perish at thy presence." Psalm 9:3.

8. How does Revelation describe what happens to those who are not saved when Jesus comes?

Revelation 19:21 _____

_____

"Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof....The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the Lord hath spoken this word....The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again." Isaiah 24:1, 3, 20.

9. Jeremiah was shown the desolate condition of the earth after that time. How will it resemble the way it was before the creation of man?

Jeremiah 4:23 _____

10. Will anyone be left on the earth?

Jeremiah 4:25 _____

"And the slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they

shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground." Jeremiah 25:33.

11. What will happen to all our great cities?

Jeremiah 4:26 _____

"For thus hath the Lord said, The whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end." Jeremiah 4:27.

12. When the righteous arrive in heaven what responsibility will they be given?

Revelation 20:6 _____

_____

Verse 4 says, "Judgment was given unto them."

13. What will be involved in this work?

1 Corinthians 6:2-3 _____

_____

14. How long will Satan be bound?

Revelation 20:1-2 _____

15. He will be bound from doing what?

Revelation 20:3 _____

16. How will God bind him from doing that?

Zephaniah 1:2-3 _____

_____

_____

_____

17. Where will Satan be during the thousand years?

Revelation 20:3 _____

The Greek word used here is abussos, a word used in the Greek version of Genesis 1:2 to describe the condition of the earth before the creation of man.

18. Will God finally create the world anew?

Isaiah 65:17_____

19. In his vision, what did John notice about the new earth?

Revelation 21:1 _____

20. What did he then see coming down from God out of heaven?

Revelation 21:2 _____

"And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God." Revelation 21:10.

21. What will Satan do to those who come up in the second resurrection?

Revelation 20:7-8 _____

22. For what purpose will the wicked be resurrected?

Revelation 20:13 _____

23. What will every tongue finally confess?

Philippians 2:10-11 _____

24. But their confession is too late; for what then happens to them?

Revelation 20:15 _____

_____

"And fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them." Revelation 20:9.

25. What does the Bible call this experience?

Revelation 20:14 _____

"The earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." 2 Peter 3:10.

26. To what may we then look forward?

2 Peter 3:13 _____

27. Who will inherit the earth made new?

Psalm 37:11 _____

28. When will they inherit it?

Psalm 37:34 _____

29. What will be no more?

Revelation 21:4-5 _____

_____

"And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God." Revelation 21:3.

"And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads." Revelation 22:4.

30. What will the redeemed do in the new earth?

Isaiah 65:21-22 _____

_____

_____

_____

31. How peaceful will the new world be?

Isaiah 65:25 (last phrase) _____

32. Will sin be gone forever?

Nahum 1:9 _____

In the Light of God's Word…

☐ I understand that the righteous will be in heaven for a thousand years. Then they will inherit the earth made new.
☐ I desire to receive the home which Jesus has prepared for me.

Lesson 6: Invisible Forces Behind the Scenes

1. Did God create only visible things?

Colossians 1:16 _____

_____

2. What superhuman beings does the Bible mention?

Psalm 8:5 _____

3. Has anyone ever seen an angel?

Numbers 22:31 _____

4. What type of angels were stationed at the entrance to the garden of Eden when man was driven out?

Genesis 3:24 _____

Angels are not the spirits of dead people as some may suppose. No one had yet died when Adam and Eve were driven from Eden. The Bible speaks definitely of the existence of intelligent beings in the universe before the earth was created (Job 38:4, 7).

5. Are angels very strong?

Psalm 103:20 _____

6. How swiftly do they move?

Ezekiel 1:14 _____

7. What have they been sent forth to do?

Hebrews 1:14 _____

8. How might we meet an angel some day?

Hebrews 13:2 _____

_____

9. How do angels protect God's people from danger?

Psalm 34:7 _____

_____

Here are a few stories of angels helping God's people in times of personal crisis: 1 Kings 19:1-8; Daniel 6:16-23; Acts 5:17-23; Acts 12:5-11.

10. How will God protect His people through the calamities of the last days?

Psalm 91:11 _____

_____

"Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh. For the Lord shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken." Proverbs 3:25-26.

11. Are angels assigned even to children?

Matthew 18:10 _____

_____

12. How does the Bible describe the loyalty of the angels to God?

Psalm 103:20 _____

13. God spared not the angels that did what?

2 Peter 2:4 _____

14. What is sin?

1 John 3:4 _____

_____

15. Who is the leader of the rebellious angels?

Revelation 12:9 _____

16. What was he called before he fell?

Isaiah 14:12 _____

17. What position did he hold in heaven?

Ezekiel 28:14 _____

18. What was he like from the day he was created until iniquity was found in him?

Ezekiel 28:15 _____

19. In three words or less, what did Lucifer do that God cast him out and took away his position as covering cherub?

Ezekiel 28:16 _____

20. What sin did he first commit in his heart?

Ezekiel 28:17 _____

21. Whose position did he covet?

Isaiah 14:13-14 _____

"Every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." Luke 18:14.

22. This led to what in heaven?

Revelation 12:7 _____

23. What percentage of the angels (symbolically referred to as "stars") joined Satan in his rebellion?

Revelation 12:4 _____

24. Did their rebellion succeed?

Revelation 12:8 _____

25. What happened to Satan and his angels?

Revelation 12:9 _____

_____

26. They are now being reserved in what condition until the judgment of the great day?

Jude 6 _____

The Bible speaks of the fallen angels as “unclean spirits,” “evil spirits,” and “devils.” Their work of darkness is limited to this world. For an illustration of their destructive work upon man and beast when unrestrained by the mighty angels of God, read Mark 5:1-13.

27. What is Satan doing now?

1 Peter 5:8 _____

_____

28. Why has he come to us now in great wrath?

Revelation 12:12 _____

29. What shall we do to stand against him?

Ephesians 6:11 _____

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Ephesians 6:12.

30. What armor do we need?
Ephesians 6:14

Loins girded with _____

Breastplate of _____

(verse 15) Feet shod with _____

(verse 16) Shield of _____

(verse 17) Helmet of _____

Sword of _____

which is _____

31. In what three traps does Satan get people?

1 John 2:16 _____

Although Satan makes his offers appear enticing, his purpose is to destroy people. Job 1:6-22 unveils the real conflict going on behind the scenes over each one of us.

32. What specific action must we take?

James 4:7-8 _____

_____

_____

33. If we stay close to God, what promise may we claim when Satan bombards us?

Isaiah 59:19 (last half) _____

34. How are the angels of God affected when we decide to place ourselves on God's side?

Luke 15:10 _____

In the Light of God's Word…

☐ I understand that one third of the angels transgressed God's law, were cast out of heaven, and are chained to this earth.
☐ I understand that God is preserving the lives of the wicked angels until the final judgment day.
☐ I choose to be on God's side, and desire His power to resist the snares of Satan and the other rebellious angels.

Lesson 7: You Can Be a New Person!

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Galatians 5:19-21.

1. Whoever commits sin is what?

John 8:34 _____

"His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins." Proverbs 5:22.

"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" Romans 6:16.

2. What are the wages for serving sin?

Romans 6:23 _____

3. What was the mission of Jesus?

Matthew 1:21 _____

4. What does it mean to be saved from our sins?

Romans 6:18 _____

5. Can Jesus really free us from sin's control?

John 8:36 _____

"For sin shall not have dominion over you." Romans 6:14.

6. Can we serve both God and sin?

Matthew 6:24 _____

_____

7. So what must we do?

Joshua 24:15 _____

8. When we choose to serve the Lord, what does He cause to happen within us?

Romans 6:6 _____

9. What may we then reckon ourselves to be?

Romans 6:11 _____

"How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" "For he that is dead is freed from sin." Romans 6:2, 7.

10. We put off the old man, which is what?

Ephesians 4:22 _____

11. And we put on the new man, which is what?

Ephesians 4:24 _____

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." Psalm 51:10.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17.

12. We receive grace and the gift of what?

Romans 5:17 _____

"Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe." Romans 3:22.

13. We are made what?

Romans 5:19 _____

14. How much does this being made righteous cost us?

Romans 5:18 _____

15. Receiving this gift, we become filled with what?

Ephesians 3:19 _____

16. We are then a partaker of what?

2 Peter 1:4 _____

17. When this happens what is our relation to the sinful habits that once enslaved us?

2 Peter 1:4 _____

18. How is a person's life different after being liberated from the servitude of sin?

1 Peter 4:2 _____

_____

"For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries." 1 Peter 4:3.

19. How does Paul emphasize again the new status of the believer?

Romans 6:22 _____

20. How should this new status affect our future plans?

Romans 13:14 _____

"Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God." Romans 6:12-13.

21. Upon what condition may we continue to partake of the power of Christ?

Hebrews 3:14 _____

"If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:31.

22. If through unbelief a person falls back into his former passions, what has he probably forgotten?

2 Peter 1:9 _____

23. Of what may we be confident?

Philippians 1:6 _____

_____

24. What is Jesus able to do?

Jude 24 _____

_____

25. Is that expecting too much of the Lord?

Ephesians 3:20 _____

26. Do we need anything that His divine power has not supplied?

2 Peter 1:3 _____

"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" Romans 8:32.

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19.

27. How may we obtain the transforming gift of God's righteousness?

Matthew 7:7 _____

_____

28. Then what positive action are we to take?

Romans 6:13 _____

_____

"For as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness." Romans 6:19.

29. What will our testimony then be?

Psalm 116:16 _____

_____

In the Light of God's Word…

☐ I understand that God is able to put His righteousness in me, making me a new person, free from sin's control.

☐ I desire to receive that righteousness of God in my life.

Lesson 8: You Can Be a Friend of God!

1. **How was Enoch's relationship with God described?**

   Genesis 5:22, 24 _____

2. **What is said of Noah?**

   Genesis 6:9 _____

3. **What was Abraham called?**

   James 2:23 _____

4. **How did the Lord converse with Moses?**

   Exodus 33:11 _____

5. **Was this kind of relationship only for them?**

   Joshua 1:5 _____

6. **What is it like to be close to God?**

   Psalm 16:11 _____

   _____

   "The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." Proverbs 4:18.

7. **What happens to us as we behold the glory of the Lord?**

   2 Corinthians 3:18 _____

   _____

8. **What time of day did David set aside for prayer?**

   Psalm 5:3 _____

9. **Was David's prayer limited to the morning?**

   Psalm 55:17 _____

10. **What was Daniel's unwavering practice?**

    Daniel 6:10 _____

11. **What example did Jesus set for us?**

    Mark 1:35 _____

    _____

12. **What did He often do in the evening?**

    Matthew 14:23 _____

    _____

13. **How continually essential is prayer?**

    1 Thessalonians 5:17 _____

    "Men ought always to pray." Luke 18:1.

14. How close may we be to Jesus?

John 15:7 _____

_____

"I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears." Psalm 34:4.

15. What reason did Jesus give for His confidence of His Father's presence?

John 8:29 _____

16. On what basis does God fulfill our requests?

1 John 3:22 _____

The Bible gives clear guidelines for prayer:

a. We pray to God the Father in Jesus name (John 16:23).
b. We come to God in faith, believing that He hears and will answer our prayer (Matthew 21:22; Hebrews 11:6; James 1:6).
c. We trust Him to answer our prayers according to His will (1 John 5:14).
d. Vain repetition in prayer has no value (Matthew 6:7).
e. The purpose of prayer is to bring glory to God (John 14:13).

17. What cannot I do and expect God to hear me?

Psalm 66:18 _____

In order to pray acceptably we need to make things right with anyone we have harmed (Matthew 5:23, 24), and put away any grudges we may be holding against others (Mark 11:25, 26).

18. For whom should we pray? Just for ourselves?

James 5:16 _____

19. How effective is prayer?

James 5:16 _____

"For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers." 1 Peter 3:12.

20. Why does God sometimes deny our requests?

James 4:3 _____

21. What phrase did Jesus add to His prayer?

Luke 22:42 _____

22. How vital is it that we know God?

John 17:3 _____

_____

Knowing God is of more value than wisdom, might, and riches (Jeremiah 9:23-24).

23. What is the secret of spiritual success?

Psalm 119:11 _____

God's words "shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." Deuteronomy 6:6-7.

In the Light of God's Word…

- ☐ I desire to walk closely with God.
- ☐ I choose to spend priority time every day in prayer.
- ☐ I desire to make the word of God prominent in my home.

Lesson 9: What Happens to People When They Die?

1. **When a man dies, where does he go?**

   Job 21:32 _____

2. **The wicked are reserved there until they will be brought forth to what?**

   Job 21:30 _____

   "So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep." Job 14:12.

3. **Job said he would wait in the grave until what came?**

   Job 14:13-14 _____

   "We shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." 1 Corinthians 15:51-52.

4. **At what event will they that are Christ's be made alive?**

   1 Corinthians 15:22-23 _____

5. **Has David already gone to heaven?**

   Acts 2:34 _____

6. **Where is David now?**

   Acts 2:29 _____

7. **What has become of him?**

   Acts 13:36 _____

8. **How will God awaken the dead?**

   1 Thessalonians 4:16 _____

   _____

   _____

   "And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds." Matthew 24:31.

9. **Until then, where do the dead wait?**

   Job 17:13 _____

10. **Where did Jesus say the dead are?**

    John 5:28 _____

11. **What words did Jesus use to say that his friend was dead?**

    John 11:11 _____

12. How did David refer to his death?

Psalm 13:3 _____

13. What words did Paul use to say that some of those who saw Jesus were now dead?

1 Corinthians 15:6 _____

14. If there were no resurrection, what would happen to all who have fallen asleep?

1 Corinthians 15:18 _____

15. When Jesus awoke from death, how did He say that He had not yet been to heaven?

John 20:17 _____

16. How much does a dead man know?

Ecclesiastes 9:5 _____

_____

17. What happens to his feelings and emotions?

Ecclesiastes 9:6 _____

_____

18. What happens to all his thoughts?

Psalm 146:4 _____

19. What can we do while we are alive?

Psalm 146:2 _____

20. Can dead people praise the Lord?

Psalm 115:17 _____

"The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I do this day." Isaiah 38:19.

21. Can the dead thank God or even remember Him?

Psalm 6:5 _____

22. Why will many people perish?

2 Thessalonians 2:10 _____

23. If we haven't learned to love the truth while we are alive, can we get it in the grave?

Isaiah 38:18 _____

_____

24. How then should we use the short time in which we are alive?

Ecclesiastes 9:10 _____

25. Why is it so important to do it now?

Ecclesiastes 9:10 _____

In the light of God's Word…

☐ I understand that the dead are unconscious in the grave, awaiting either the resurrection of life or the resurrection of damnation.

Examining Various Texts Used in Promoting the Idea of Consciousness In Death
Supplement to Lesson 9

1 - Being Absent from the Body (2 Corinthians 5:8)
2 - Paul's Desire to Depart and Be with Christ (Philippians 1:20-25)
3 - The Transfiguration (Matthew 17:3)
4 - The Thief on the Cross (Luke 23:42-43)
5 - Jesus Preaching to Dead People (1 Peter 3:18-20)
6 - Stephen's Spirit (Acts 7:59-60)
7 - Baptism for the Dead (1 Corinthians 15:29)

#1: Being Absent From the Body

In **2 Corinthians 5:8** Paul speaks of "being absent from the body" and "present with the Lord". Does this mean that when a person dies, he leaves his body and goes to be with the Lord? Let's read the whole context to see what the apostle is saying.

In 2 Corinthians chapter 4 Paul discusses the trouble and affliction which come to us in this life. Yet, he says, this trouble is nothing when compared to the "far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (4:17) which we will receive in the future life. We don't need to worry about what happens to this body. We are now but "earthen vessels" (4:7). Yet the Lord will one day give us new bodies which will never deteriorate.

In Chapter 5 Paul discusses the two bodies, the earthly, and the eternal. He metaphorically refers to them as "houses". "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (5:1).

Next, the apostle speaks of his longing to be clothed with the immortal body. "For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven" (verse 2). To be clothed here means to be living in a body. In this life we are clothed in a mortal body. In the next life we will be clothed in an immortal body.

Now notice Paul's emphasis in verse 3: "If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked." If clothed means to be in a body, to be naked is to be without a body. Notice that Paul makes it very clear that the future life is a clothed state and not a naked state! He gives absolutely no support to the teaching of life without a body. Speaking of the future life, he says, "Being clothed we shall not be found naked".

In verse 4 Paul re-emphasizes the same idea: "For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon." It was not an unclothed, bodiless state which Paul anticipated, but a clothed state in a body.

The next question is: When will we receive the immortal body? When will "mortality be swallowed up of life" (verse 4)? To the Corinthians this was no question. Paul had already told them in his first letter. He had devoted the whole of 1 Corinthians 15 to the subject of the resurrection. There Paul had clearly told them when mortality is swallowed up in immortality: "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory" (1 Corinthians 15:52-54).

When does it happen? At the last trump, at the resurrection, at the coming of Jesus. Then it will be said, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" (1 Corinthians 15:55).

"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at His coming." 1 Corinthians 15:22-23.

So far we have learned that: (1) There is no life in the unclothed, bodiless state; and (2) It is at the time of Christ's coming that we will be made alive.

Let's go back to 2 Corinthians 5. At this point in our passage Paul begins an evaluation of the two bodies – the mortal body which we have now, and the immortal body which we will receive at the resurrection. Keep in mind that the setting of this whole discussion is Paul's encouragement to his readers not to become discouraged with present afflictions. Not only will the resurrected body be incorruptible and eternal, there is another factor which will make it far more to be desired than the present life. That factor is the presence of the Lord.

This theme of being with the Lord is found also in Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians: "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words" (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18).

As Paul considered the two bodies, the present and the future life, he longed for the privilege available only in the future life, of being bodily with the Lord. Therefore, he continues in 2 Corinthians 5:6-8, "we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the [present] body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."

Keep in mind that Paul is not describing an unclothed, bodiless state. He is referring to the time when he will receive the immortal body. The body from which he will then be absent is his present earthly body, but he will not be bodiless (naked) at that time. He has made that very clear in the preceding verses.

Notice again in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, how Paul expected to get present with the Lord. He describes the glorious coming of Christ, the resurrection of the dead, and the translation of the living saints. Then he says, "And so shall we ever be with the Lord." That word "so" means, "thus, in this way, or by this means". Hence Paul is saying, "This is how we will get to be with the Lord."

Since it is by means of the coming of Christ and the resurrection that we will get to be with the Lord, then it is obvious that we will not be with the Lord before that time.

So it is clear from the above facts that when Paul spoke of being absent from the body and present with the Lord, he was not thinking of the time when he would be dead. He was not earnestly desiring death. He was looking beyond the grave, beyond the resurrection, to that glorious moment when he would greet Jesus face to face, and live with him for ever.

#2: Paul's Desire to Depart and Be with Christ

Another passage which has confused some people is **Philippians 1:20-25**. Some have used these verses to promote a doctrine which is contrary to Paul's own clear teachings on the subject of death. But when we look at it objectively we find the passage to be fully consistent with the rest of the Bible.

Highlighting a few phrases in the passage will show us Paul's train of thought. He is discussing his earnest expectation, his hope, what he shall choose, having a desire, and what is more needful. These are not expressions one uses when presenting a doctrinal discourse. He is opening to his readers his deepest personal aspirations.

Paul's greatest desire in this passage is that Christ shall be magnified in his body, whether it be by life, or by death. The problem is that he cannot tell which is best, to live or to die. He wants to do that which will best glorify Christ.

He longs to be with Christ. He knows that he will be with Him in the next life. This thought is wonderful to him. Yet, realizing that his labors are still needed in this life, he concludes, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith.

The phrase which some people have stumbled over is Paul's desire to depart, and to be with Christ. Notice that he does not say that he will depart and immediately be with Christ. Neither is he discussing a bodiless presence with Him; for his desire was that Christ shall be magnified in his body.

For the purposes of his present discussion he sees no need to digress into the details of the decomposition of his body, the oblivion of death's sleep, and the specifics of the resurrection. That is not the subject at hand.

Yet, even so, the words he uses describe the experience of death most explicitly. To the individual's consciousness, death does not register at all. Thousands of years may pass. The dead know nothing of it. Their first conscious moment at the resurrection knows of no lapse since their last conscious moment before death. After Paul's death, the next thing he would know, is that he would be with Christ. His description is experiential rather than technical, and thus perfectly harmonizes with his direct doctrinal instruction on the state of the dead.

When did Paul expect to be with Christ? In 2 Thessalonians 2:1 he clearly explains that the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together unto him take place at the same time.

In Colossians 3:4 Paul says, "When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory." We will not be with Christ in glory until His appearing, His glorious return in power and majesty.

Paul also speaks of the appearing of Christ in 2 Timothy 4:8: "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." Paul realized that his crown of righteousness would be laid up in store for him, until the coming of Christ, not to be received until that day.

#3: The Transfiguration

Does the appearance of Moses and Elijah at Christ's transfiguration (**Matthew 17:3**) prove that the saints of olden days are now in heaven?

The case of Elijah is easy when we remember that Enoch and Elijah never died, but were translated to heaven (Hebrews 11:5; 2 Kings 2:11).

Moses, however, did die (Deuteronomy 34:5); but then something very interesting happened. Jude 9 mentions a dispute between Michael and the devil over the dead body of Moses. The devil was rebuked, and the Lord's plan prevailed. Deuteronomy 34:6 says that Moses was buried, "but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day." David, on the other hand, "is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day" (Acts 2:29). Why the difference? Moses' appearance on the mount of transfiguration indicates that he was bodily resurrected from the dead.

Moses did not go to heaven as a bodiless spirit; the Lord claimed his body as well (Jude 9). Neither did Elijah leave his body on earth; for fifty strong men searched for him for three days and found nothing (2 Kings 2:17). Jesus Himself ascended bodily to heaven. In all the Bible there is not a single example of anyone ever going to heaven except as a living body.

Moses is not the only one who has been resurrected and taken to heaven. When Jesus died, "many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after his resurrection" (Matthew 27:52-53); so that "when he ascended up on high, he led a multitude of captives" (Ephesians 4:8, margin).

The fact that Moses was alive and bodily present when Jesus was transfigured provides support, not for the doctrine of natural immortality, but for the doctrine of the resurrection.

#4: The Thief on the Cross

Some people have suggested that the dialog recorded in Luke 23:42-43 indicates that the righteous go immediately to paradise when they die.

If so, in order for Christ to be true to His promise, both He and the thief would have had to make it to heaven before the sun set that very day.

Let's see if they actually did. First, did Jesus go to heaven that day? The Bible tells us that He did not. For when He was resurrected He said, "I am not yet ascended to my Father" (John 20:17).

So Jesus didn't go to heaven that day. What about the thief: did he? The Bible tells us in John 19:31-34 that at the end of the day the soldiers went and found the two thieves still hanging there on the cross, both still alive. Then they broke their legs and let them down off the cross for the Sabbath. So the thief didn't make it to heaven that day either.

Well then, did Jesus tell a lie? No. The problem is easily solved when we realize that when the Bible was written, there were no punctuation marks. Commas were added hundreds of years later when the Bible was translated into English. In Luke 23:43 the comma should have been placed after, rather than before, the word

today. It actually reads, “Verily I say unto thee today, thou shalt be with me in paradise.”

Jesus gave him that day a promise that He will not break. “For when the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him,...then shall the King say...Inherit the kingdom prepared for you” (Matthew 25:31-34). “For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works” (Matthew 16:27).

And that’s all the thief was asking for anyway. He didn’t ask to go to heaven that day. He simply said, “Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom” (Luke 23:42).

#5: Jesus Preaching to Dead People

Some have wondered that while Jesus was dead if He could have taken the opportunity to preach to other people who were also dead. The question comes from 1 Peter 3:18-20, a passage which now deserves our close attention.

It is always important to remember that the Bible does not contradict itself. Whatever this verse says must be in harmony with what the rest of the Bible teaches on this subject. Otherwise it could not be the inspired word of God.

Isaiah 38:18 states, “The grave cannot praise thee, death can not celebrate thee: they that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth.” There would be no point in Jesus preaching to those who cannot have hope.

The Bible also states that “the dead know not any thing” (Ecclesiastes 9:5). So preaching to the dead does not fit in with the Biblical description of death.

Let’s look at 1 Peter 3:18-20 to see what it says and does not say. Verse 18 tells us that Jesus was put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit. The word quickened means brought to life. It is when they are raised to life again that the dead are quickened (John 5:21).

Our passage in 1 Peter 3 does not tell us when Jesus was quickened. We are simply told two things: (1) that Jesus was put to death, and (2) that He was brought back to life. To find out when He was brought to life we must go to the actual account in the gospels. It tells us that He was crucified on the day of the preparation (Matthew 27:62), and brought back to life on the first day of the week (Matthew 28:1). Thus the Scriptural account is clear.

Our passage says that Jesus was quickened by the Spirit. That is, the Holy Spirit. Jesus Himself declared that it is the spirit that quickeneth (John 6:63).

So by comparing Scripture with Scripture we have a very good explanation of verse 18. Jesus was put to death in the flesh on Friday afternoon, and raised to life again by the Spirit on Sunday morning.

The next three words in our passage are “by which also”. The word “also” indicates the introduction of a different event, the common factor being the involvement of the Holy Spirit. Christ was resurrected by the Spirit, He also by the Spirit preached.

Christ, by the Spirit, preached unto the spirits in prison. The word “spirits” in this verse simply means people. Often in the Bible a figure of speech is used by which a characteristic part of a thing stands for the whole. Since the spirit or breath of a person is a characteristic part of the person, the word “spirit” is sometimes used to represent the person. For example, in 1 Corinthians 16:18 “my spirit” simply means me. In Galatians 6:18 and 2 Timothy 4:22 your (thy) spirit simply means you.

The prison concept is elsewhere used in the Bible in reference to the condition of those who are entrapped in sin. “The wicked...shall be holden with the cords of his sins” (Proverbs 5:22). “For of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage” (2 Peter 2:19). The work of the gospel is to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound (Isaiah 61:1. See also Isaiah 42:7, 22).

With that thought, 1 Peter 3:19 simply says that it was through His Holy Spirit also that Christ preached to people bound in sin. Notice that verse 19 does not tell us when this preaching took place. To find that out we must go to verse 20 which says: “Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing.” There it is. Verses 19 and 20 are talking about what happened in the days of Noah!

Noah was called a preacher of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5). Through his preaching the Holy Spirit worked upon the hearts of the people. But because of the wickedness of that generation and their refusal to obey God, the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years (Genesis 6:3). For 120 years Noah preached. Those people had more opportunity to hear and accept the gospel than any other generation. Yet, few, that is, eight souls were saved. When those 120 years were up, their opportunity for salvation was forever gone. They would hear no more preaching.

Peter does not say that Jesus did anything while He was dead. He, by the Spirit, preached to the people in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing.

And that's all the text says. It says nothing about a purgatory. It makes no mention of disembodied spirits, and it says nothing about preaching to dead people.

1 Peter 4:6 tells us that the gospel was (past tense) preached to people who are (present tense) dead. They are dead now, but nowhere does it say that they were dead at the time the gospel was preached to them. Such a claim would contradict everything the Bible teaches about death, salvation, and the justice of God. "The living, the living, he shall praise thee,...the father to the children shall make known thy truth" (Isaiah 38:19).

#6: Stephen's Spirit

What happened to Stephen's spirit when he died? The same thing that happens to everyone's spirit when they die. The verse is **Acts 7:59-60**. As Stephen was being stoned, he was calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

Your spirit is simply the spark of life which belongs to God. You lose it when you die. When the Bible says that the breath of life returns to God, it does not say that it carries with it any portion of your mental capacity. Human consciousness is a physiological process which is dependent upon nerve and tissue. In reference to man, the Bible never speaks of any consciousness of disembodied spirits.

#7: Baptism for the Dead

Does Paul teach in 1 Corinthians 15:29 that we should be baptized for the dead? No, he does not.

This chapter is discussing the resurrection. Whatever conclusion we reach as to the meaning of this verse, we must recognize it as an argument in favor of the resurrection. The line of reasoning goes as follows: "Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? Why are they then baptized for the dead?" He is promoting, not consciousness during death, but resurrection after death.

Paul here may have been referring to a pagan custom of being baptized for the dead. Notice that he uses the word "they" rather than "we". He does not say, we should be baptized for the dead. He simply says that they are. Without actually endorsing their practice, he was saying, Even the pagans who are baptized for the dead believe there will be a resurrection. Else why would they be baptized for them? The argument is similar to verses 16-18 where Paul says, "For if the dead rise not,.. then they also which are fallen asleep...are perished." The only hope for the dead is in the resurrection.

The Bible clearly teaches that a man must personally repent, believe in Christ, confess his sins, and be baptized in order to be saved (Acts 2:38; John 3:16; 1 John 1:9). You can only "work out your own salvation" (Philippians 2:12). "They shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness" (Ezekiel 14:20). "None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him" (Psalm 49:7). "The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him" (Ezekiel 18:20).

Those who die in sin have no more opportunity to repent. "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2). "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest" (Ecclesiastes 9:10). Now, while we are still alive, while the blood still flows in our veins, while we are still capable of responding to Christ's invitation now is the time for us to give ourselves fully to Jesus.

So we have discovered, by closely examining the various texts which many use to try and promote the idea that there is consciousness after death, that not one text proves such an idea. But on the contrary: the Bible texts on this subject clearly reveals that once a person dies, they "know not anything", and "also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished" (Ecclesiastes 9:5-6). Thus they remain in their graves without

knowing “any thing that is done under the sun” until they are resurrected.

Lesson 10: What is a Soul?

1. **How many souls came out of the loins of Jacob?**

   Exodus 1:5 _____

2. **How many souls were on Paul’s ship?**

   Acts 27:37 _____

3. **What two elements did God use to form a living soul?**

   Genesis 2:7 _____

   _____

DUST + BREATH = SOUL

The Biblical definition of a soul is simply a breathing body. Notice that the text does not say that man was given a soul, but rather he became a soul. A soul is not something a person has, it is the person. Souls have blood (Jeremiah 2:34). Not only are people souls, but so are fish and animals (Revelation 16:3). The Hebrew word for soul, nephesh, is variously translated “person” (Genesis 14:21), “self” (Leviticus 11:43), “life” (Psalm 31:13), “me” (Judges 16:30), “creature” (Genesis 1:21), “beast” (Leviticus 24:18), “man” (2 Kings 12:4), “thing” (Ezekiel 47:9), and “fish” (Isaiah 19:10). When translated “body” the nephesh is usually dead (Leviticus 21:11). The Greek word for soul, psuche, has the same meaning. In Matthew 16:25 Jesus commends anyone who will lose his soul (psuche) for Christ’s sake. It is often translated simply as “life” (Matthew 2:20). It means “person” (Acts 7:14). “My soul” and “your soul” are idiomatic expressions meaning “I” and “you” (Matthew 12:18; 2 Corinthians 12:15, margin).

4. **How is the process God used in creating a soul reversed when we die?**

   Psalm 104:29 _____

SOUL - BREATH = DUST

“If he set his heart upon man, if he gather unto himself his spirit and his breath; all flesh shall perish together, and man shall turn again unto dust.” Job 34:14-15.

5. **Can a soul die?**

   Ezekiel 18:20 _____

6. **When life ends, what is left?**

   Genesis 3:19 _____

7. **What returns to God?**

   Ecclesiastes 12:7 _____

8. **Where is this spirit located in a person?**

   Job 27:3 _____

9. **What is it that is found in a person’s nostrils?**

   Genesis 7:22 _____

The Hebrew word for spirit (and ghost, Job 3:11), ruach, and the Greek word, pneuma, mean breath, wind, or vital element. It is the spark of life which makes you able to live. It is “the breath of the Almighty” (Job 33:4). When the Bible uses those words in reference to man, not once does it say that ruach or pneuma is something in man that retains consciousness after the person dies.

Angels are called spirits (Psalm 104:4) because to human eyes they are as invisible as breath. But man does not

possess the nature of angels (Psalm 8:5), nor does the Bible indicate that he assumes it at death.

10. What goes forth when man dies?

Psalm 146:4 _____

11. Is the breath in man any different from the breath in beasts?

Ecclesiastes 3:19 _____

12. Is there any difference between a dead man and a dead beast?

Ecclesiastes 3:20 _____

A soul is like the light that results when a light bulb is connected to a power source. The spirit, or breath of life, is the electric current. Electricity will produce light only while it is flowing through the bulb. When the filament in the bulb breaks, the electrical circuit is broken, and the light goes out. Just as the light cannot exist unless there is both electricity and a bulb, so there must be both the breath of life and a functional body in order for there to be a living soul.

13. After a person dies, can he return and appear to those who knew him?

Job 7:8 _____

Job 7:9 _____

_____

Job 7:10 _____

Job 16:22 _____

14. In these last days some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to what?

1 Timothy 4:1 _____

15. What type of spirits will appear, working miracles?

Revelation 16:14 _____

16. In the garden, Satan disguised himself in the form of what?

Genesis 3:1 _____

17. Satan can transform himself into a what?

2 Corinthians 11:14 _____

18. What can his ministers appear as?

2 Corinthians 11:15 _____

19. If they speak not according to the law and to the testimony, it is because of what?

Isaiah 8:20 _____

20. Instead of trying to contact the dead, going to mediums and wizards, whom should God's people seek for truth?

Isaiah 8:19 _____

21. What types of individuals will not be found among God's people?

Deuteronomy 18:10-11 _____

_____

22. All that do those things are what?

Deuteronomy 18:12 _____

23. What words did Paul have for a sorcerer?

Acts 13:10 _____

24. Can a person have fellowship with the Lord and with devils?

1 Corinthians 10:21 _____

25. With Satan's influences all around us, what does God call us to do?

2 Corinthians 6:17 _____

Christians will have nothing to do with magic, fortune telling, horoscopes or seances; or games, books, movies or toys containing elements of witchcraft or spiritualism.

In the Light of God's Word…

- ☐ I understand that a soul is a breathing body, a man or a beast.
- ☐ I understand that one's spirit is the lifegiving breath from God.
- ☐ I understand that the soul dies when the breath ceases.
- ☐ I understand that the dead cannot communicate.

Lesson 11: The Secret of Immortality

"In him was life; and the life was the light of men." John 1:4.

1. What kind of man are we, mortal or immortal?

Job 4:17 _____

2. What is your life?

James 4:14 _____

3. What characterizes God the Father and Jesus the Son?

John 5:26 _____

4. Who is eternal and immortal?

1 Timothy 1:17 _____

5. God is the only one who hath what?

1 Timothy 6:16 _____

6. Yet for us Jesus has brought to light the possibility of life and immortality through the what?

2 Timothy 1:10 _____

7. Who only will receive eternal life?

John 3:16 _____

8. What word describes the fate of everyone else?

John 3:16 _____

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life." John 3:36.

9. How does the Bible emphasize that life can exist only when there is a connection to the Lifegiver?

1 John 5:12 _____

"For in him we live and move, and have our being." Acts 17:28.

10. What are the two alternatives?

Romans 6:23 _____

_____

11. At what event will this mortal put on immortality?

1 Corinthians 15:52-53 _____

_____

_____

12. When will the unfading crown be received?

1 Peter 5:4 _____

"When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory." Colossians 3:4.

13. What two trees grew in the midst of Eden?

Genesis 2:9 _____

14. What was the only tree in the garden from which Adam and Eve were forbidden to eat?

Genesis 2:16-17 _____

15. What punishment did God decree for disobedience?

Genesis 2:17 _____

16. What did Satan say?

Genesis 3:4 _____

17. What are we told about the devil, the truth and lies?

John 8:44 _____

_____

_____

18. Once he sinned, from what tree would Adam have had to eat in order to live forever?

Genesis 3:22 _____

19. Because He does not permit sinners to live forever, what did God do?

Genesis 3:24 _____

_____

_____

20. What river will be in the new earth?

Revelation 22:1 _____

_____

21. What will grow on either side of the river?

Revelation 22:2 _____

22. Who only will have right to the tree of life?

Revelation 22:14 _____

23. But don't sinners also have some undying spark of life in them?

1 John 3:15 _____

"The soul that sinneth, it shall die." Ezekiel 18:20

24. If we want life, what must we do?

Matthew 19:17 _____

25. By what means do we seek for immortality and eternal life?

Romans 2:7 _____

26. What will happen to all evildoers?

Psalm 37:9 _____

27. Will the wicked be any more?

Psalm 37:10 _____

_____

28. Into what will they consume away?

Psalm 37:20 _____

In the Light of God's Word…

- ☐ I understand that immortality will be given only to the righteous.
- ☐ I understand that no wicked person will live forever.
- ☐ I desire to be given immortality when Jesus comes.

Lesson 12: Questions on Hell

1. **What will God rain upon the wicked?**

   Psalm 11:6 _____

2. **From where will the fire come?**

   Revelation 20:9 _____

3. **When will this happen?**

   Revelation 20:7 _____

   (For information on the thousand years see Lesson 5.)

4. **The Lord is reserving the unjust until when to be punished?**

   2 Peter 2:9 _____

5. **As the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so shall it be when?**

   Matthew 13:40 _____

6. **How does the Bible describe the agony the wicked will experience?**

   Matthew 13:42 _____

7. **All the wicked shall have their part in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone which is what?**

   Revelation 21:8 _____

8. **How do we know that the place of torment is not underground?**

   Revelation 20:9 _____

   _____

9. **What all will be burned on the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men?**

   2 Peter 3:7 _____

10. **How does God feel about the punishment of the wicked?**

    Ezekiel 33:11 _____

    _____

11. **Has God willed for certain ones to perish?**

    2 Peter 3:9 _____

    _____

    _____

12. **For whom is the fire prepared?**

    Matthew 25:41 _____

13. **Who will be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone with the beast and false prophet?**

    Revelation 20:10 _____

14. **What will the Lord do to all the wicked?**

    Psalm 145:20 _____

15. **It is better to lose an eye or a hand, instead of having how much of our body cast into hell?**

    Matthew 5:29-30 _____

16. **Is one's physical body the only thing that hell will destroy?**

    Matthew 10:28 _____

17. **God will punish according to what?**

    Jeremiah 21:14 _____

18. **Who will receive many stripes?**

    Luke 12:47 _____

    _____

19. **Who will receive few stripes?**

    Luke 12:48 _____

20. **When the day comes that shall burn as an oven, all that do wickedly shall be what?**

    Malachi 4:1 _____

21. **How thoroughly will the day that cometh burn them? And what will be left on them?**

    Malachi 4:1 _____

22. **Ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be what?**

    Malachi 4:3 _____

23. **The flames will devour them as what?**

    Nahum 1:10 _____

    "The candle of the wicked shall be put out." Proverbs 24:20

24. **They shall be as though what?**

    Obadiah 16 _____

25. **How completely will the fire burn Satan?**

    Ezekiel 28:18 _____

    _____

26. **Will Satan ever be any more?**

    Ezekiel 28:19 _____

27. **What may we conclude about ultimate justice and about God?**

    Psalm 58:11 _____

    _____

In the Light of God's Word…

- ☐ I understand that the punishment of the wicked will take place at the end of the 1000 years.
- ☐ I understand that the flames will inflict the second death, forever extinguishing the life of the sinner.
- ☐ I understand that that fire will also burn up the heavens and the earth which are now, and that God will

create new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Biblical Expressions, Biblical Explanations
Supplement to Lesson 12

1 - Will Sinners Burn Forever?
2 - Everlasting Fire
3 - The Word "Hell" in the Bible
4 - Killing the Body, But Not the Soul
5 - The Rich Man and Lazarus

#1: Will Sinners Burn Forever?

The doctrine of endless burning of sinners is not taught anywhere in the Bible. Nowhere does it say that God will sustain the lives of those who transgress His law. The wages of sin is not merely suffering or torment, but death. On the cross Jesus paid our penalty for sin by His death. If the penalty for sin was eternal torment, then Jesus could not have fulfilled that requirement and be resurrected on the third day.

So what do you do when you find an occasional expression in the Bible that initially seems to contradict the clearest Biblical passages on a subject? There is only one safe course to follow, and that is to **ALWAYS LET THE BIBLE EXPLAIN ITS OWN TERMS**. By examining the Bible's own use of a particular expression, you discover the perfect agreement that exists throughout the Bible on the subject.

Some people are misled by the expression **"unquenchable fire"**. This term is used in Matthew 3:12; Mark 9:43-48; and Luke 3:17. Does the fact that the fire is unquenchable mean that sinners will burn forever? Let's ask the Bible to show us an actual example of this kind of fire.

Through the prophet Jeremiah, God prophesied that if His people would not hallow the Sabbath, Jerusalem would be burned with fire which "shall not be quenched" (Jeremiah 17:27). That prophecy was fulfilled (see 2 Chronicles 36:19-21; Jeremiah 52:12-13). But notice that although the fire could not be quenched, the fuel was consumed!

In Isaiah we read that the wicked will "burn together, and none shall quench them" (Isaiah 1:31). Yet the same chapter explains that they "shall be consumed" (Isaiah 1:28)!

Did you know that the Bible has also recorded for us an example of a time when **"eternal fire"** was used? Jude 7 states that "Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them...are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire." The story is recorded in Genesis 19. According to this example, how thoroughly does eternal fire burn things? The answer is found in 2 Peter 2:6, "Turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes...making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly."

The Bible indicates that those involved in the final conflict against God will be tormented day and night **"for ever and ever"** (see Revelation 14:11; 20:10). How long, in the Biblical sense of the word, is "for ever and ever?" Are there any Biblical examples of this measurement of time?

Here is one. In the Jewish economy, all Hebrew servants were released every seventh year. But if one should choose not to leave his master, "his master shall bore his ear through with an aul; and he shall serve him for ever" (Exodus 21:6). Obviously "for ever" here would only mean "as long as he lives."

Here is another example. Hannah dedicated her child Samuel to the Lord and took him to the house of the Lord that he might "there abide for ever" (1 Samuel 1:22). She clarified the meaning of her words in verse 28 by saying, "as long as he liveth."

The term **"eternal punishing"** is not found in the Bible. However, Jesus did speak of **"everlasting punishment"** (Matthew 25:46). Do you know the difference? What is the punishment for sin? "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). This is an everlasting death. The Scriptures clearly foretell the fate of the wicked "whose end is destruction" (Philippians 3:19); "everlasting destruction" (2 Thessalonians 1:9). "Thou hast destroyed the wicked, thou hast put out their name for ever and ever. O thou enemy, destructions are come to a perpetual end: and...their memorial is perished with them" (Psalm 9:5-6). "This is the second death" (Revelation 20:14). The Bible is very clear on this subject. (See also Job 8:22; 20:4-9; Psalm 1:6; 21:9; 37:38; Proverbs 2:22; Isaiah 65:17; Zephaniah 1:18.)

#2: Everlasting Fire

Follow the Bible's teaching on this important subject:

Q: What kind of fire will be used to destroy the wicked?
A: "Unquenchable fire" (Matthew 3:12); "fire that never shall be quenched" (Mark 9:43-48); "fire unquenchable"(Luke 3:17); and "everlasting fire" (Matthew 25:41).

Q: What is the source of this never-ending fire?
A: "Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven." Genesis 19:24.

"From God out of heaven." Revelation 20:9.

Q: What do we know about the nature of the eternal God?
A: "Our God is a consuming fire." Hebrews 12:29.

"His throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth before him." Daniel 7:9-10.

"And the sight of the glory of the Lord was like devouring fire." Exodus 24:17.

Q: What ingredient accompanies the fire which is continually in the presence of God?
A: "And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace." Exodus 19:18.

"There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it." 2 Samuel 22:9.

"I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple...and the house was filled with smoke." Isaiah 6:1-4.

"And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power." Revelation 15:8.

Q: What happens to the wicked in the divine presence?
A: "And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live." Exodus 33:20.

"He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb." Revelation 14:10.

Q: What is the effect of the fire upon the wicked?
A: "And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord." Leviticus 10:2.

"And there came out a fire from the Lord and consumed the two hundred and fifty men." Numbers 16:35.

Q: Only what kind of people can survive in the midst of God's everlasting fire?
A: "Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings? He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly." Isaiah 33:14-15.

Q: Will the righteous be able to dwell in the actual presence of God?
A: "He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God." Revelation 21:3.

"Thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire." Ezekiel 28:14.

Q: So the righteous will dwell and prosper in the very fire that consumes the wicked?
A: "For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts." Malachi 4:1-3.

Q: How has this contrasting effect been illustrated in the Bible?
A: "The flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego....He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God." Daniel 3:22, 25.

Q: When the Lord appears, from what will the wicked seek to hide from?
A: "Hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb." Revelation 6:16.

Q: What is the most important question for you?
A: "For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" Revelation 6:17.

Q: What is the answer?
A: "These are they which...have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat." Revelation 7:14-16.

Conclusion:
The everlasting fire of which the Bible speaks is the fire of the presence of God. In it sinners cannot exist. Only those who have been cleansed from all unrighteousness through Jesus Christ will dwell in the presence of the holy God forever.

#3: The Word "Hell" in the Bible

Many people do not realize that there are actually four different original words which are translated "hell" in the Bible. The confusing part is that the four original words do not all have the same meaning. If one attempts to combine the meanings of all four words into one composite concept, he not only emerges with a very confusing picture of the fate of the wicked, but he also does injustice to the Bible's intent.

The word "hell" is used 54 times in the Bible: 31 times in the Old Testament, and 23 times in the New Testament.

Every time you see the word "hell" in the Old Testament, you can know that the Hebrew word used there is "sheol", which means "the grave" (see Jonah 2:2, margin). In half of the instances in which sheol is used, the translators rendered it "hell." In the other half, they used the word "grave." But nowhere in Scripture does sheol denote a place of torment in which bodiless beings suffer.
The Bible makes it clear that all people, both righteous and wicked, go to sheol when they die! The patriarch Jacob said he would go to sheol when he died, and his son Joseph would go to sheol also (Genesis 37:35)! Righteous Job used the word sheol when speaking of his own resting place (Job 17:13). There everyone unconsciously awaits the resurrection.

The New Testament contains three Greek words which are translated "hell." And they each mean something different.

Ten of the 23 New Testament references are translated from the word "hades", which is simply the Greek equivalent of sheol, and means "the grave" (see Matthew 11:23; 16:18; Luke 10:15; 16:23; Acts 2:27, 31; Revelation 1:18; 6:8; 20:13-14.) Hades is not associated with conscious torment anywhere in the Bible except in a parable found in Luke 16:23 (see separate discussion of this parable.)
In 12 instances the Greek word "gehenna" is translated "hell" (see Matthew 5:22, 29-30; 10:28; 18:9; 23:15, 33; Mark 9:43, 45, 47; Luke 12:5; James 3:6). Gehenna, or "Valley of Hinnom," is mentioned repeatedly in the Old Testament (see Joshua 15:8; 2 Kings 23:10; 2 Chronicles 33:6; Jeremiah 7:31). It is a gorge near Jerusalem in which idolatrous kings burned their children as a sacrifice to the heathen god Molech (see 2 Chronicles 28:3; 33:1, 6). Because of this abomination, the Lord declared that He would make it a "valley of slaughter" for His rebellious people where the fowls of heaven would eat the corpses which could not be buried for lack of room (see Jeremiah 7:32, 33: 19:6-7).

The same valley was later used as a refuse dump where animal carcasses and rubbish were continually burned. Such places are generally infested with maggots which help decompose the refuse (see Mark 9:44). Thus gehenna became associated in Jewish thought with the place of final punishment. Therefore Jesus used it as an illustration of the fire which will burn the wicked in the final day of judgment. But nowhere does the Bible say that the sinner is cast into gehenna at the moment of death. The Bible clearly states that the fire which burns the wicked will not touch them until the final day of judgment.

The word “hell” is used in only one other place in Scripture, 2 Peter 2:4. Here the Greek word “tartaros” is used, which means “the deepest abyss.” Peter used this term when speaking of the banishment of the rebellious angels from heaven.

To summarize: Of the four words translated “hell,” we have seen that the Bible distinguishes three separate concepts:

1. *Sheol or hades:* The grave where all people go at death to unconsciously await either the resurrection of life or the resurrection of damnation.
2. *Gehenna:* A place of burning, used as an illustration of the fire which will one day destroy the earth and totally consume the wicked.
3. *Tartaros:* Used only one time in Scripture, but never in reference to the destiny of man.

#4: Killing the Body, But Not the Soul

Question: According to the Genesis 2:7 equation, the body is a component of the soul. How then do you explain Matthew 10:28? “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” Does not this teach that the body is one thing and the soul another, and therefore the soul is a separate entity from the body?

Answer: We must be careful not to read into this verse any more than it actually says. The text does not say that the soul continues to live when the body dies. It does not say that the dead retain consciousness.

The word “soul” refers to the person as an individual life, and Jesus here assures the Christian of eternal life, even though they may experience temporary death in this world, and their present bodies decay. Job said, “And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.” Job 19:26. At the resurrection, clothed in new flesh – new bodies which will never die – we shall see God.

The context of Matthew 10:28 is Christ’s forewarning that persecution will come to His followers. His point is that although in this life we may be killed, no one can steal our eternal inheritance. When God declares that you shall have eternal life, no man can take that privilege from you no matter what he does to you. Whether you live or die, you still have the assurance of receiving immortality when Jesus comes.

Now notice what the rest of the verse says. “Fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” Clearly, this text teaches that no sinner has an immortal soul. Sinners’ souls are destroyed in hell. The verse also clearly states that the bodies of sinners are included in what burns in hell. So the fact that dead bodies can still be dug up today indicates that the wicked have not yet gone to hell. Certainly, if I was trying to find Biblical evidence for the natural immortality of the soul, or for a present burning hell, I would have to avoid this verse.

#5: The Rich Man and Lazarus

In all the Bible there is only one passage which suggests conscious suffering in death – Luke 16:19-31. The inspired testimony of the rest of Scripture teaches that death is as sleep, and that punishment is at a future time. The reason why Christ used this allegory was not to describe the state of the dead, but to teach several important points of truth.

Such as: The parable definitely teaches that every person will reap what he sows. God will not bend the rules in order to spare those who have consistently spurned His grace.

The parable teaches that in this life men decide their eternal destiny. While they are alive, God’s grace is freely offered to all people. But if they selfishly waste their lives, and fail to take eternity into consideration now, they have lost their opportunity for eternal life. There will be no chance to repent after they die.

The parable also is a warning to those who trust in their riches rather than in God. And it tells that the time is coming when those who are poor in this world’s goods but have trusted in God, will be exalted.

When the parable is closely examined, it is doubtful that anyone would claim its details as the basis for a doctrinal position on the subject of life after death. The details certainly do not present the beliefs of those who teach the immediate torment of a bodiless “soul” at death.

For example:

1 – In the parable, there is no mention of a bodiless soul at all. The rich man was in hell with a body. He had eyes, a tongue, etc. No one believes that the bodies of the wicked go into the flames as soon as they die.

2 – Nobody believes that Abrahams's literal bosom is the abode of the righteous dead. In keeping with the nature of the allegory, this is obviously a figure of speech. Incidently, the angels will gather the saints (see verse 22), but according to Matthew 24:31, that takes place at the coming of Jesus, not at death.

3 – Another point is that paradise and hades are here pictured to be so situated that their inhabitants may hold normal conversation with each other across the gulf. But the Bible says that for the redeemed, the former earth will "not be remembered, nor come into mind" (Isaiah 65:17).

4 – The rich man's request in verse 24 is hardly characteristic of someone in his condition. His whole body is on fire, and all he asks for is that Lazarus dip the tip of his finger in water and then come and touch his tongue! How much relief could he expect to get from that? Especially after Lazarus has to traverse the gulf and make his way through the flames to get to him. How much moisture did he think would be left on his finger after such a journey? No one believes that this type of thing takes place between the righteous and the wicked after death.

5 – In speaking of the request for Lazarus to go and warn the rich man's living brothers, the Bible says that Lazarus would have had to have "rose from the dead." (Verse 31). Far from supporting the idea of conscious communication or mobility in death, this gives support to the fact that in order for Lazarus to do anything at all he would have to be resurrected! 6 – In the parable, Jesus points us to the source of divine instruction: "They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them" (verse 29). So this, in other words – the Bible – is where we must look to learn the fate of the wicked.

Jesus made the details of His story so obviously unreal that no one should take them literally. He wanted His hearers instead to focus on the lessons brought out in the parable.

Apart from the intended point or moral of the story, we cannot base doctrinal beliefs on the incidentals of an allegory. For instance, a thistle cannot ask for the daughter of a cedar for the wife of its son (see 2 Kings 14:9). Neither can trees go forth to anoint a king over themselves (see Judges 9:8-15). So when dealing with parables, ask yourself, "What is the speaker trying to illustrate by this parable?" Then if you want to know about the nature of trees or the nature of dead people, find allthe Scriptural passages where that specific topic is being discussed, put all the meanings together, and then you will know the complete truth on that subject.

Lesson 13: The Mystery of Godliness

1. **Jesus referred to Himself as whom?**

   John 3:18 _____

2. **How did the apostle John in his gospel introduce Jesus?**

   John 1:1 _____

   _____

3. **What dwells in Jesus?**

   Colossians 2:9 _____

4. **What is Jesus to His Father?**

   Hebrews 1:3 _____

5. **How long has Jesus been around?**

   Micah 5:2 _____

6. **What names are given to Jesus?**

   Isaiah 9:6 _____

   _____

7. **What did Thomas call Jesus?**

   John 20:28 _____

8. **What is the meaning of the name Emmanuel?**

   Matthew 1:23 _____

9. **What is, without controversy, the great mystery of godliness?**

   1 Timothy 3:16 _____

   _____

   _____

   "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." John 1:14.

10. **Jesus took upon Himself what nature?**

    Hebrews 2:14 _____

    _____

    "God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh." "Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren." Romans 8:3, Hebrews 2:17.

11. **He took the human nature of whose seed?**

    Hebrews 2:16 _____

    "Made of the seed of David according to the flesh." Romans 1:3.

12. **Did Jesus have to face the infirmities and fierce temptations which come to us?**

    Hebrews 4:15 _____

    _____

    "Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity." Hebrews 5:2.

    "For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted." Hebrews 2:18.

    "And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man." John 2:25.

13. **What was one of the things He had to endure?**

    Hebrews 12:3 _____

14. **How did He handle personal abuse?**

    1 Peter 2:23 _____

    _____

15. **In His personal life, how much room did Jesus leave for Satan?**

    John 14:30 _____

16. **What thought did Jesus say will cheer us in the midst of tribulation?**

    John 16:33 _____

17. At the culmination of a life of victory, what did Jesus do?

1 Peter 2:24 _____

"Christ died for our sins." 1 Corinthians 15:3.

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Philippians 2:5-8.

18. What did He say on the cross which reveals an even greater anguish He had to endure?

Matthew 27:46 _____

"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." 2 Corinthians 5:21.

19. Christ did all this for us who are what type of people?

Romans 5:7-8 _____

20. What was the whole purpose of His life on earth?

Matthew 20:28 _____

For an inspiring prophecy of Christ's mission, read Isaiah 53.

In the Light of God's Word…

☐ I understand the Jesus went through all that I experience and much more, yet without sin, so that I might be freed from sin.
☐ I desire for my life to be compelled by love for Christ who went through so much for me.

Lesson 14: The World's Greatest Time Prophecy

You are about to study the longest and most significant time prophecy in the Bible. Given more than 500 years before the death of Christ, it accurately pinpoints the time of His sacrifice. And as the only place in the Old Testament that speaks of a coming "Messiah" by that term, it ranks at the top of all Messianic prophecies. Yet this prophecy, found in the eighth and ninth chapters of the book of Daniel, moves beyond the earthly ministry of Christ to provide a panorama of His present work for us in the courts of heaven.

We will cover the prophecy in three lessons. In the first we will concentrate on establishing the time elements involved. The next two lessons will take us into the throne room of God, opening to our understanding the special work of Jesus for us in these last days.

You will remember from lesson 2 that the prophecy of Daniel 8 begins with a ram and a goat. After discussing the goat's horns, the vision then turns to the activities of the little horn, which magnifies itself to defy heaven, casting truth to the ground and trampling upon the sanctuary and the host.

1. How long would the sanctuary and the host be trodden upon?

Daniel 8:13-14 _____

2. Who was commissioned to make Daniel understand the vision?

Daniel 8:16 _____

The angel began to explain the vision. He told Daniel that the ram represented Medo-Persia; the goat and its horns represented Greece. He enlarged a little on the activities of the little horn, but said nothing more about the time factor involved.

3. When Gabriel stopped short of a full explanation, what happened to Daniel?

Daniel 8:27 _____

"Afterward I rose up, and did the king's business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it." Daniel 8:27.

4. When Gabriel finally returned to explain the time portion of the vision, how much of the 2300 days did he say was designated for the Jewish people?

Daniel 9:21-24 _____

Seventy weeks is 490 days. Subtract that from the total 2,300 days, and 1,810 days of the prophecy are left.

5. In Bible prophecy, God has appointed a short unit of time to represent a longer time period. What scale does He use?

Ezekiel 4:6 _____

"Each day for a year." Numbers 14:34.

Applying this rule, 2,300 prophetic days is actually 2,300 literal years, the first 490 of which pertained to the Jews.

6. The time period would begin when what command went forth?

Daniel 9:25 _____

7. In fulfilling God's command, what three kings of Persia would need to make decrees regarding the rebuilding of Jerusalem?

Ezra 6:14 _____

The final decree, that of Artaxerxes, is recorded in Ezra 7, and went into effect in the autumn of 457 B.C.

8. Who would appear after seven weeks and sixty-two weeks?

Daniel 9:25 _____

Sixty-nine weeks is 483 prophetic days. From the autumn of 457 B.C., 483 years takes us to the autumn of A.D. 27. According to the prophecy, that is when the Messiah would appear. "Messiah" is the Hebrew word for "Anointed one". The Bible tells us that "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power." Acts 10:38.

That anointing took place at His baptism (John 1:32). Jesus was baptized in the autumn of A.D. 27, the precise time foretold in Daniel's prophecy.

9. After Jesus was baptized, what did Andrew tell his brother Simon?

John 1:41 _____

10. As Jesus began His public ministry, what did He say that reveals His awareness of His prophetic dateline?

Mark 1:15 _____

_____

11. Indicating that Jesus came right on schedule, when did Paul say the Saviour appeared?

Galatians 4:4 _____

12. What would Jesus cause to cease in the midst of the seventieth week?

Daniel 9:27 _____

That "week" would be the last seven years of the "70-week" portion of the prophecy. It extended from the autumn of

A.D. 27 to the autumn of A.D. 34.

In the spring of A.D. 31, exactly half way through that seven-year period, Jesus brought to an end the whole system of sacrifices and oblations by offering Himself as the Lamb of God, to whom the whole sacrificial system had pointed.

13. What happened in the temple in Jerusalem when Jesus died which signified that its ritual services would never again have any meaning?

Matthew 27:51 _____

14. Seventy weeks were determined upon the Jewish people to do what?

Daniel 9:24 to finish the _____

to make an end of _____

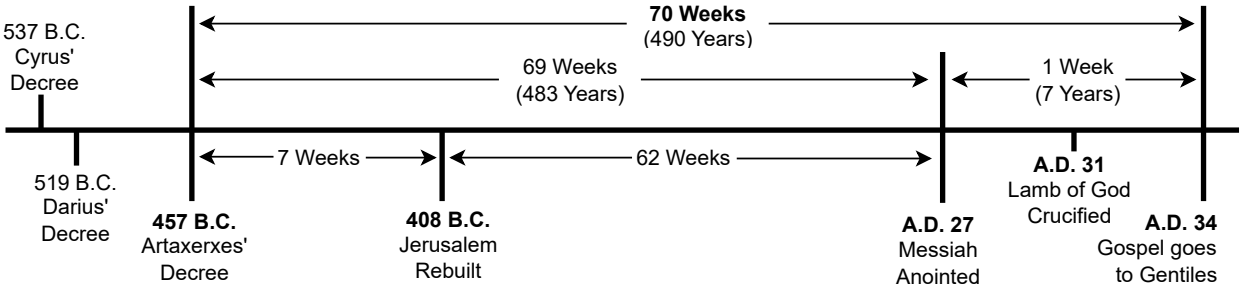
to make reconciliation for _____

to bring in _____

to seal up _____

and to _____

The "seventy-week" portion of the 2,300 years ended in A.D. 34. In that year Israel's probationary time ceased, and they sealed their rejection of Christ by stoning Stephen. With the Jews no longer God's chosen people, the gospel began to be proclaimed to the Gentiles, and the Christian church inherited all the privileges promised to the descendants of Abraham (Galatians 3:29). The temple and the city of Jerusalem were destroyed by Roman armies in A.D. 70 (Daniel 9:26-27, Mark 13:14).



15. The vision of the 2300 days pointed to what period of earth's history?

Daniel 8:17 _____

From the autumn of A.D. 34, 1,810 years of the prophecy remained. Add 1,810 to 34 and it brings us to the autumn of the year 1844, which the prophecy refers to as "the time of the end".

16. What does the Bible say would happen at the end of the "2300-day" period?

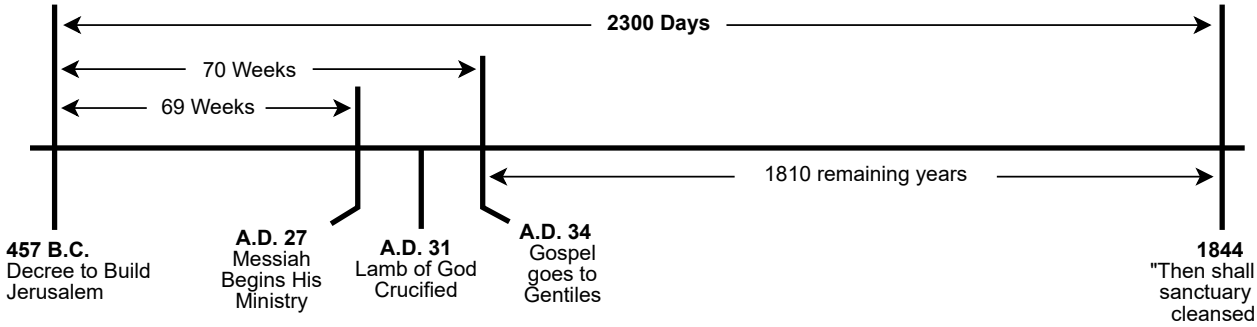
Daniel 8:14 _____

17. What instructions did the angel give which show that the vision was not given for Daniel's day?

Daniel 8:26 _____

18. When would knowledge of the prophecies of Daniel finally be increased?

Daniel 12:4 _____



To check the computations above, remember that there was no year zero. In other words, 1 B.C. was immediately followed by 1 A.D. (A.D. is an abbreviation of “anno Domini”, which is Latin for “in the year of the Lord.)

In the Light of God’s Word…

☐ I understand that the 70-week portion of the 2300-day prophecy was accurately fulfilled in the earthly ministry and sacrifice of Jesus.
☐ I understand that the 1,810 remaining years of the prophecy point to an important cleansing work which was to take place near the end of time.

Lesson 15: Revelation Unseals Daniel’s Prophecy

“And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.” Daniel 8:14

1. To what time did the 2300-day prophecy point?

Daniel 8:17 _____

“Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the time appointed the end shall be.” Daniel 8:19

2. How long was the book of Daniel to be closed up?

Daniel 12:9 _____

3. Revelation pictures a mighty angel with what in his hand?

Revelation 10:1-2 _____

Revelation 10 makes unmistakable reference to the book of Daniel:

Daniel 12:5-7. “Then I Daniel looked, and, behold, there stood other two, the one on this side of the bank of the river, and the other on that side of the bank of the river. And one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders? And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and sware by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.”

Revelation 10:5-7. “And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, and sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer: but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.”

4. The mystery would soon be finished as God had declared to whom?

Revelation 10:7 _____

5. Where were the angel's feet?

Revelation 10:2 _____

"And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas." Genesis 1:10.

6. In Bible prophecy, what do waters symbolize?

Revelation 17:15 _____

"Upon the sea and upon the earth." Revelation 10:5. The book of Daniel was to be opened in an area occupied by many nations, and also in a sparsely-populated land.

In 1800 Daniel was a closed book. In 1812 the study of prophecy began in England. It soon took hold throughout Europe, Asia, and Africa. Soon more than a hundred writers from a wide variety of denominations were interpreting Bible prophecy. Loosed by the hand of a prophetic clock, scores of men, representing over a dozen nations on four different continents, independently and simultaneously began predicting the fulfillment of the 2300-day prophecy.

In the United States, the most noted expositor of Daniel 8:14 was a Baptist, William Miller. He and 43 ministers of 13 denominations unleashed perhaps the greatest prophetic awakening in American history. By a thorough study of the 2300-day prophecy, they discovered that the 2300 days would expire on October 22, 1844.

7. When the book of Daniel was still in their mouths, what would it be like?

Revelation 10:8-10 _____

"Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart." Jeremiah 15:16.

"How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" Psalm 119:103.

8. But after it was swallowed, what would happen?

Revelation 10:9-10 _____

It was commonly believed that the earth was the sanctuary to be cleansed, and that Jesus would come at the end of the 2300-day period. No message could have been sweeter. Many gladly gave up their jobs and spent their life's savings to spread the wonderful news. But when the date passed by and Jesus did not return, they experienced the most bitter disappointment of their lives.

9. Those who had experienced bitter disappointment were told they must do what again?

Revelation 10:11 _____

_____

10. What was to be measured?

Revelation 11:1 _____

11. Where was the temple of God opened?

Revelation 11:19 _____

12. What does the apostle call the temple of God in heaven?

Hebrews 8:2 _____

13. The earthly tabernacle, being true to its pattern, served as an example and shadow of what?

Hebrews 8:5 _____

14. How is the heavenly tabernacle rated, compared to the earthly?

Hebrews 9:11 _____

15. Who is the High Priest of the heavenly sanctuary?

Hebrews 9:11 _____

"Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus." Hebrews 3:1.

16. What two apartments of the earthly tabernacle did the veil divide?

Exodus 26:33 _____

17. What is another name for the most holy place?

Hebrews 9:3 _____

18. How often did the earthly high priest go into that apartment?

Hebrews 9:7 _____

19. What was the purpose of the blood which he took in with him?

Hebrews 9:7 _____

The earthly Day of Atonement which occurred "once every year" is described in Leviticus 16. It symbolized the work Jesus would begin in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary in 1844.

20. What were all the people to do on that day?

Leviticus 16:29 _____

_____

To the Jews the Day of Atonement was a solemn day of judgment. The Jewish encyclopedia describes it as follows: "God, seated on His throne to judge the world...openeth the Book of Records; it is read, every man's signature being found therein. The great trumpet is sounded; a still, small voice is heard; the angels shudder, saying, this is the day of judgment....On the Day of Atonement it is sealed who shall live and who are to die."

21. What would this atonement do for the people?

Leviticus 16:30 _____

22. What would this make for the holy sanctuary and for the tabernacle?

Leviticus 16:33 _____

_____

23. Why did the sanctuary need an atonement?

Leviticus 16:16 _____

24. It was necessary also that the patterns and heavenly things themselves should be what?

Hebrews 9:23 _____

25. In one word, what was to be done to the sanctuary at the end of the "2300 days"?

Daniel 8:14 _____

In the Light of God's Word…

☐ I understand that the Old Testament sanctuary services illustrated Christ's work in the plan of salvation.
☐ I understand that, just as the Old Testament Passover service illustrated Christ's sacrifice on the cross, so the old "Day of Atonement" illustrated the great atonement our High Priest is now making for us in the heavenly sanctuary.

The Gospel in the Old Testament and the End-Time Cleansing Work of Christ

Supplement to Lesson 15

The Gospel in the Old Testament

At no time in the world's history has anyone ever earned salvation by his own works. In both Old and New Testaments, people were saved by the grace of God and the merits of Jesus. The following texts make it clear that people who lived before the cross were saved on the same terms as were people in New Testament times.

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

"For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them." Hebrews 4:2.

"For by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified." Galatians 2:16.

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12.

"But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." Galatians 1:8.

The Old Testament itself teaches salvation through Christ. The "scriptures" spoken of in the following texts are the Old Testament. These texts make it clear that the Old Testament scriptures teach the same gospel of salvation through Christ that we find in the New Testament.

"Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures." 1 Corinthians 15:3.

"From a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." 2 Timothy 3:15.

"Then he said unto them, 'O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?' And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself." Luke 24:25-27.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16.

The Bible presents one gospel from Genesis to Revelation, one plan of salvation for humanity. The Bible calls it "the everlasting gospel" (Revelation 14:6), the "everlasting covenant" (Psalm 105:10; Hebrews 13:20).

How People Before the Cross Demonstrated Their Faith in Christ

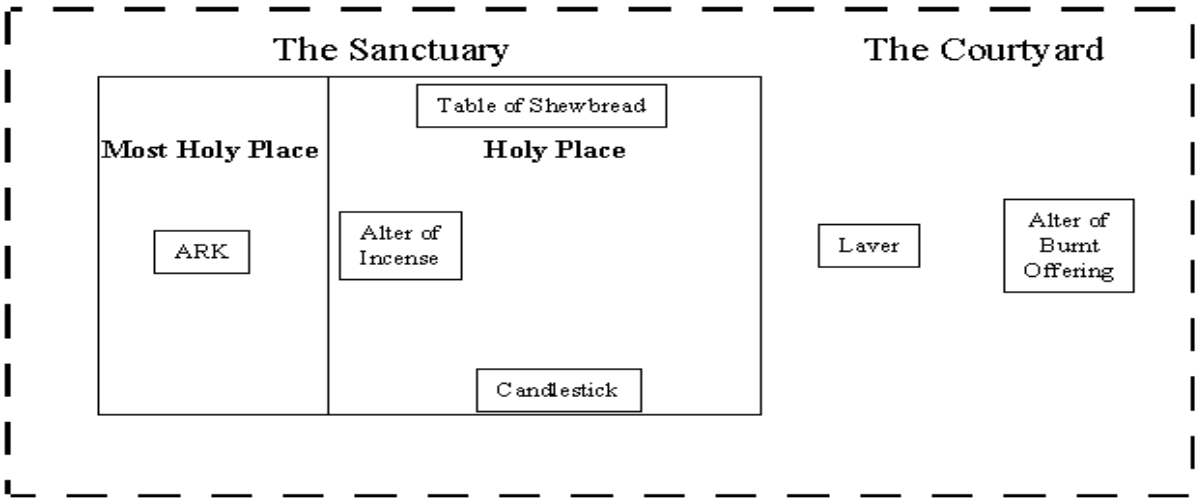
The Bible says that we are saved by grace through faith. Faith, therefore, is the means by which we take hold of God's grace.

Faith always exhibits itself in real and identifiable action. "I will shew thee my faith by my works." James 2:18. Often the Lord has asked His people to express their faith through the performance of an action. Many of Christ's miracles occurred in response to an act of faith.

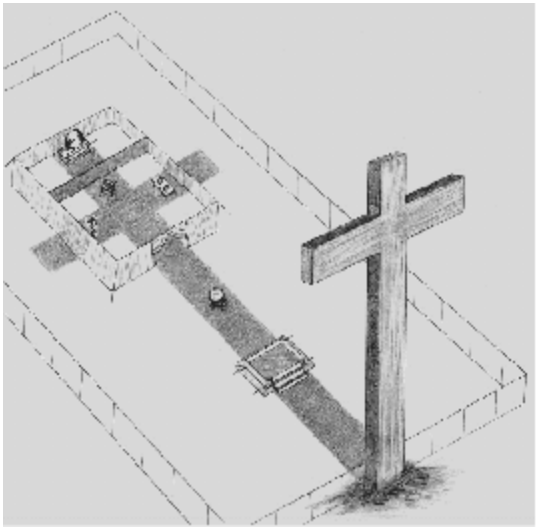
This principle helps us to understand the purpose of the ceremonial ordinances of the Old Testament. Performing those ceremonies did not earn salvation for the Israelites, but served as the means whereby they were to demonstrate their faith in the Saviour who was to come.

Every sacrifice offered, every ordinance performed, was to be an expression of faith in Christ. "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice." Hebrews 11:4. "Through faith he [Moses] kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood." Hebrews 11:28.

The Significance of the Old Testament Sanctuary Services



Every element in the Old Testament ritual system was specifically designed by Christ to illustrate His own work in the plan of salvation. Every lamb that was slain prefigured Christ, the Lamb of God, who would be offered on the cross for the sins of the world. Everything the priests did pointed to Jesus, our great High Priest in the courts above. In fact, even the way the Sanctuary and its furniture was arranged was designed to illustrate the plan of salvation.



By just contemplating the meaning of the Sanctuary, its arrangement and the ceremonies performed, an Israelite could understand the entire gospel of salvation. So the gospel of Christ is clearly illustrated in the Old Testament, and it is definitely plainly proclaimed in the New Testament.

Since the plan of salvation is clearly seen connected in both the Old and the New Testaments, and since the ceremonial system centered around the sanctuary and its services, then it should not surprise us to find that every major scene in the book of Revelation is oriented with respect to the temple in heaven where Christ is ministering for us. The heavenly temple is specifically mentioned 14 times in Revelation (see 3:12; 7:15; 11:1-2, 19; 14:15, 17; 15:5-6, 8; 16:1, 17).

Revelation is full of sanctuary terminology. Twenty-eight times in Revelation Jesus is called the “Lamb”. References to sanctuary furniture such as the candlesticks, the altar of incense, and the ark of the testament are found throughout the book. Other references to the temple in heaven include Psalm 11:4; 18:6; Isaiah 6:1; Habakkuk 2:20; Malachi 3:1; and Hebrews 8 and 9.

The tabernacle on earth was patterned after the temple in heaven. It consisted of two apartments, the Holy

Place and the Most Holy Place, and specific services were carried out in each of these apartments – especially in regards to the Most Holy Place and the day of Atonement.

Three Steps in the Atonement

By studying the plan of salvation as illustrated in the Old Testament sanctuary services, we may learn much about the great work of atonement.

The word “atonement,” or at-one-ment, refers to the process whereby man is reconciled to God. A study of the sanctuary reveals three steps in the process: sacrifice, intercession, and cleansing.

Sacrifice

This step was symbolized in the Old Testament by the daily slaying of animals. A perfect lamb without blemish was required, and sacrificed in the courtyard. Every drop of blood that was shed in those rituals pointed to the sacrifice of Jesus for lost mankind. His death paid the full price for our redemption.

Intercession

This step was symbolized by the daily duties performed by the priests in the holy place, or first apartment of the sanctuary. Incense was continually offered before God, mingled with the prayers of the saints. This represented Christ’s priestly intercession for His people which He began after His ascension to heaven. Through Christ’s first apartment ministry the sinner’s guilt is pardoned, and Christ’s righteousness is imparted to His people.

Cleansing

The third step was illustrated once each year in the Old Testament ceremonies. The tenth day of the seventh month was called the Day of Atonement. It was the day on which the sanctuary was cleansed. It was considered the most solemn and significant event of the year. On that day the whole congregation appeared before the Lord that they might be made “at one” with Him. Sins which had been brought to the sanctuary throughout the year were figuratively removed from it on that day. But those who failed to humble themselves before God were cut off from being considered the people of God.

On that day the high priest alone went past the inner veil into the Most Holy Place and appeared before God. With him he took the blood of a goat and a censer of coals from the altar of incense. This represented the final phase of Christ’s work in the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary, performed in “the time of the end” to atone for all confessed sins. The work of atonement is not complete until the sanctuary is thus cleansed.

Scripture references to the Old Testament Day of Atonement include Leviticus 16 and Leviticus 23:27-32. Information on the end-time cleansing of the sanctuary is found in Daniel 8:14; Malachi 3:1-5; and Hebrews 8 and 9.

Biblical Figures Which Illustrate Christ’s End-Time Cleansing Work

Lesson 16 covers the subject of Christ’s end-time cleansing work. But we would like to preview the subject briefly here. There are at least four different figures which are used in the Bible to illustrate the final, cleansing phase of Christ’s atoning ministry. They are summarized below.

1. The Day of Atonement

Since the Old Testament feasts such as Passover and Pentecost illustrated and pointed forward to events in Christ’s work of salvation, we should also expect the Day of Atonement to point to a significant aspect of Christ’s ministry. The Biblical description of the Day of Atonement presents it as a day of cleansing for the sanctuary and the people.

2. The Pre-Advent Judgment

A second figure used in the Bible to illustrate Christ’s end-time cleansing work is that of a pre-advent judgment. That is, a judgment which Christ performs before He returns at His second coming. Lesson 16 presents the texts referring to this event, which is often called the Investigative Judgment. It involves an examination of the lives of all whose names have ever been entered into the book of life.

3. Preparations for a Wedding

Elsewhere in the Bible the cleansing phase of Christ’s ministry is compared to preparations made for a wedding. The wedding parables of Jesus in chapters 22 and 25 of Matthew speak of an essential preparation on the part of the those who are invited to the wedding feast. Symbolically we are each individually called to be guests at the wedding of Christ and His church. The marriage appears in Revelation 19:7-9 just before Christ

comes back to earth to receive His bride. In Matthew 22:11 the king personally inspects each guest to make sure they are each wearing the wedding garment. Revelation 19:8 tells us that this white raiment is "the righteousness of saints." Only those who by God's grace overcome their sins (Revelation 3:5) are clothed in the required garment. This preparation and inspection of character before the wedding illustrates the end-time cleansing ministry of Christ.

4. Refining of Gold and Silver

A fourth Biblical description of Christ's end-time cleansing work is found in Malachi 3 where the Lord comes to His temple and sits "as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver" (verse 3).

In the purification process of silver, the refiner works so that all the impurities and worthless dross are removed from the precious metal. To accomplish this he continues to raise the temperature of the fire in the melting pot, and as the silver melts, all the dross and impurities rise to the surface which are skimmed off and discarded. But if the refiner allows the temperature to get too hot, then the precious silver will be ruined. So what the refiner has to do is to keep a close watch on the surface of the silver. As soon as the silver takes on a mirrored appearance, and the refiner can see his face reflected back to him, then he immediately removes the heat because the silver has been thoroughly purged and purified.

It is very comforting and encouraging to know that Jesus – our Refiner – not only examines our lives, but also works to purge, refine and cleanse us from all our sins and imperfections. He will not allow any trial to overwhelm us, nor will He needlessly keep the fires of purification on us for too long, because He loves us and wants us to be saved, not lost. And He, along with all of heaven, will continue working for and with us towards perfectly reflecting His righteous character. Thus the strongest influences of heaven are working to help you and me to separate ourselves from sin's destroying hold.

So God is on our side. He wants us to obtain the victory. It has been said that there are three votes which determine each person's eternal destiny. Satan always votes against you. God always votes for you. The deciding vote is left to you.

Where We Stand Today

We now live in the period of Christ's ministry which the Bible depicts in the above four ways. The cleansing of the sanctuary is going on today. It began, according to prophecy, at the end of the "2300 days" of Daniel 8:14. The first "seventy weeks" of that prophecy pointed to the time of Christ's sacrifice on Calvary. The remaining 1810 years of the prophecy point to the time when the cleansing of the sanctuary would commence: the autumn of 1844 (see lesson 14).

How We Arrive at the Date, October 22, 1844

We have noted that every ceremony which God gave to Israel had significance in illustrating some aspect of Christ's ministry. The first-month feasts, also known as spring festivals (Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Wavesheaf Offering, and Pentecost), all pointed to events connected with Christ's sacrifice and intercessory ministry. The seventh-month feasts, or autumn festivals (Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles), pointed to events connected with the final phase of the atonement and the eradicating of sin from the universe.

Christ's fulfillment of the events to which each of the spring festivals pointed took place on the very date of the corresponding ceremonial service in the Jewish calendar. In other words, He actually died on Passover day, was raised on the day of the wave sheaf offering, and the Holy Spirit was poured out on the day of Pentecost. We therefore know that He would begin the work to which the Day of Atonement pointed on that date of the Jewish calendar in 1844, which was October 22.

The Misunderstanding in 1844

The disappointed expectations for Christ's return in 1844 were the result of a misunderstanding as to which sanctuary was to be cleansed. But before we criticize those believers we need to remember that the prophet Daniel misunderstood the same thing. Daniel received the vision of the 2300-day prophecy in 551 B.C. But Gabriel did not provide a full explanation of the prophecy until the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, which was 538 B.C. Chapter nine reveals that during those 13 years Daniel held a misunderstanding as to which sanctuary was to be cleansed. His concern was for the temple in Jerusalem which he hoped would soon be restored. He certainly did not want to see it lay in ruins for 2300 years. That was the reason for his great anxiety and earnest prayer.

William Miller began preaching on the 2300-day prophecy in the year 1831. Until 1844 people incorrectly assumed that the sanctuary to be cleansed was the earth. Just like Daniel, for 13 years they misunderstood which sanctuary was to be cleansed!

Because God may withhold the full light of truth from His people for a time does not mean that He is not leading them. He has a reason for all that He does, and He unfolds His secrets as He sees best. Our duty is to walk in the light as He reveals it, and He will guide us into all truth.

The Close of Probation

The wedding parable in Matthew 25 indicates that salvation is offered for a limited time only. In the parable, those who were prepared for the bridegroom "went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut." After the door was shut no one else who sought entrance was allowed in. They were too late.

Jesus compared His coming to the days of Noah. For 120 years people had opportunity to respond to Noah's invitation. But once the door was shut, no one else could enter.

Jesus is now inviting all who will respond, to allow Him to cleanse them from sin. He is now pleading the merits of His own sacrifice on behalf of all who will choose it. But when His ministry in the heavenly sanctuary is finished and everyone on earth has either cooperated with or rejected His atoning work, He will then leave the sanctuary. His work of intercession ceases. Those who during the time of probation have made an entire consecration of their lives to Him are at that time sealed from the power of Satan. They will sin no more. But those who spurned God's grace while Jesus pleaded, will find no mediator when probation ends. They had chosen to retain their sins, and their decision cannot be reversed.

Revelation 15:5-8 describes the scene after Jesus leaves the temple. The sanctuary is empty; its activities have ended. The wrath of God is now poured out upon the unrepentant. The plagues which then will fall upon the world are described in Revelation 16.

But those who had made the Lord their refuge will have His protection during the time of trouble (see Isaiah 4:4-6; 26:20; and 33:16). The beautiful ninety-first Psalm also describes the protection to be enjoyed by the righteous during that time. Take time to read and memorize these passages so they will be in your heart to strengthen and encourage you in the days ahead.

Lesson 16: The Cleansing of the Sanctuary

1. **Paul taught what three subjects concerning the faith in Christ?**

   Acts 24:24-25 _____

2. **Must only the wicked be judged?**

   Ecclesiastes 3:17 _____

3. **Who must appear before the judgment seat of Christ?**

   2 Corinthians 5:10 _____

4. **How closely are our lives examined?**

   Ecclesiastes 12:14 _____

   _____

5. **What kind of things will come up in the judgment?**

   Matthew 12:36 _____

   _____

6. Where must judgment begin?

1 Peter 4:17 _____

"The house of God, which is the church of the living God." 1 Timothy 3:15.

"And if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?" 1 Peter 4:17-18.

"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." Hebrews 7:25.

7. Who actually does the judging?

John 5:22 _____

8. When Jesus comes, what will He bring with him?

Revelation 22:12 _____

The judgment for all who have ever accepted Christ as their Saviour actually takes place before He comes. This is illustrated in Matthew 22 in the parable of a marriage which a certain king made for his son. Before the wedding begins, the king inspects the guests to see if all are clothed with the wedding garment (verse 11). Notice the parallel in Revelation:

"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints." Revelation 19:7-8.

In the parable, having that robe determined whether one was accepted or cast out. "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Matthew 7:21.

"He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment." Revelation 3:5.

They "which have not defiled their garments," but "have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb," "shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy." Revelation 3:4; 7:14.

This character examination is performed by Christ in the heavenly sanctuary. When His investigation is completed, everyone's destiny will be sealed. He will then announce:

"He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." Revelation 22:11-12.

9. What is the message that must be preached with a loud voice today?

Revelation 14:7 _____

_____

Paul spoke in terms of "judgment to come" (Acts 24:25). The message for today is that "judgment is come" (Rev. 14:7). When Jesus comes, "He hath judged" (Rev. 19:2). This investigative judgment, which evaluates the lives of all who have ever professed faith in Christ, is completed before Jesus comes. It should not be confused with the judgment of the wicked by Christ and His saints, which occurs during the millennium; or the final judgment and punishment of the wicked, which takes place at the end of the 1000 years (see lesson 5).

10. What is to be more valued than having power over evil spirits?

Luke 10:19-20 _____

11. Where are the names of God's people recorded?

Philippians 4:3 _____

12. How has God recorded our good deeds?

Malachi 3:16 _____

_____

13. What else is marked before God?

Jeremiah 2:22 _____

_____

14. Where has God written a description of everyone?

Psalm 139:16 _____

Everything we do is recorded in God's books. Some of the direct or implied references to the heavenly books of record include Nehemiah 13:14; Job 16:19; Psalm 56:8; Hebrews 12:23; Revelation 13:8; 17:8; 21:27; and 22:19.

15. In the judgment, what are opened?

Daniel 7:9-10 _____

16. What are the books used for in the judgment?

Revelation 20:12 _____

_____

17. If the books of record show that one turned back to sin, what will be his doom?

Ezekiel 18:24 _____

_____

18. What will be done to his name?

Exodus 32:33 _____

_____

"Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous." Psalm 69:28.

19. In the end, what will happen to him?

Revelation 20:15 _____

20. What happened in Daniel's vision of the judgment?

Daniel 7:13 _____

_____

This movement of Christ does not describe His coming to the earth, but rather to "the Ancient of days." The same scene is described by the prophet Malachi. Notice the question that is asked, and its answer:

"Where is the God of JUDGMENT? Behold I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his TEMPLE." Malachi 2:17 - 3:1.

Revelation 10 describes the bitter disappointment of those who expected Jesus to come in 1844 (see lesson 15). When He did not come, their question was, "Where is the God of judgment?" The Bible's answer was, "The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple." Jesus moved in 1844 into the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary to begin His work of investigative judgment, His final work before coming to earth to receive His bride.

From Daniel 8:19 we learned that the sanctuary would be cleansed "at the time appointed." Commenting on that, Paul says, "He hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world." Acts 17:31. The time appointed for the judgment was the fulfillment of the 2300 days.

21. What is the Lord's work during this time?

Malachi 3:3 _____

22. What will He do to the names of the overcomers?

Revelation 3:5 _____

_____

23. What will be blotted from their record?

Acts 3:19 _____

24. In the old yearly service, where did the live goat take the sins, thus permanently removing them from the sanctuary?

Leviticus 16:21 _____

25. When the work of cleansing the heavenly sanctuary is finished, what will be poured out upon the earth?

Revelation 15:5 - 16:1 _____

"And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book." Daniel 12:1.

"And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living." Isaiah 4:3.

In the Light of God's Word…

- ☐ I understand that Christ's present work in the heavenly sanctuary involves an investigation of our lives.
- ☐ I understand that this judgment will be completed before Christ comes to bring his rewards.
- ☐ I desire for sin to be overcome in my life and blotted out of my record in heaven.

Lesson 17: How to Give Your Heart to Christ

1. Why should Jesus save us?

Titus 3:5 _____

2. How are we saved?

Ephesians 2:8-9 _____

_____

"Who can say, I have made my heart clean?" "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." "That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." Proverbs 20:9; Zechariah 4:6; 1 Corinthians 2:5.

3. Yet what is an important element in faith?

James 2:14-26 _____

"Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right." Proverbs 20:11.

4. Jesus came to call whom to what?

Mark 2:17 _____

5. **How does one repent?**

   Isaiah 55:7 _____

   _____

   _____

6. **What should we be asking God to do for us?**

   Psalm 51:2 _____

   "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:23-24.

7. **When will our search for God be successful?**

   Jeremiah 29:13 _____

8. **What if I regard iniquity in my heart?**

   Psalm 66:18 _____

9. **Jesus wants people who want to be made what?**

   John 5:6 _____

10. **Why will only a few receive eternal life?**

    Matthew 7:14 _____

    _____

11. **Who will not be worthy?**

    Matthew 10:37 _____

    _____

12. **Will God accept a divided commitment?**

    Matthew 6:24 _____

    _____

13. **What is the cost of discipleship?**

    Luke 14:33 _____

14. **What did Paul say he did daily?**

    1 Corinthians 15:31 _____

    "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20.

15. **If we want Jesus, what do we need to do?**

    Luke 9:23 _____

16. **When we come in that way, will He reject us?**

    John 6:37 _____

    _____

17. When we confess our sins to Him, what two things will He do for us?

1 John 1:9 _____

_____

18. Must we do anything with our sins besides confessing them?

Proverbs 28:13 _____

_____

19. When we give up our sins, how far does He remove them from us?

Psalm 103:12 _____

20. What if we are guilty of the darkest of sins?

Isaiah 1:18 _____

_____

_____

21. He will do this for us upon what two conditions?

Isaiah 1:19 _____

22. Can I obey God without His power?

John 15:5 _____

23. Although I do not find it within myself to perform good works, what one thing is present?

Romans 7:18 _____

24. What then is the first step to victory?

2 Corinthians 8:12 _____

25. Then what are we to do? And how does it work?

2 Corinthians 8:11 _____

_____

In the Light of God's Word…

☐ I understand that God requires an entire commitment of myself to Him.
☐ I understand that choosing Jesus means turning away from every known sin and asking Him to cleanse my heart from all defilement.
☐ I choose to forsake my sins and to accept Jesus as the supreme ruler of my life.

Lesson 18: The Treasure in the Temple

1. When the temple of God was opened in heaven, what was seen in His temple?

Revelation 11:19 _____

2. What was written on tables of stone in the ark of the testament?

Deuteronomy 10:3-5 _____

The ark containing the commandments is depicted in Revelation as being in the sanctuary in heaven. God's

commandments constitute the law of His universal government. The Psalmist declares that God's kingdom "ruleth over all," and that all the angels "do his commandments." Psalm 103:19-20. The Ten Commandments are recorded in Exodus 20:3-17.

3. What dishonors God?

Romans 2:23 _____

4. Why does this subject call for special attention today?

Psalm 119:126 _____

5. How do we show our love for God?

John 14:15 _____

6. What is the evidence that we know God?

1 John 2:3 _____

"He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." 1 John 2:4.

"By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." 1 John 5:2-3.

7. According to the words of Jesus, what are we to do with even the least of the commandments?

Matthew 5:19 _____

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." Matthew 5:17-18.

As an example to us, Jesus was careful to "fulfil all righteousness." Matthew 3:15.

8. What did Isaiah prophesy that Jesus would do?

Isaiah 42:21 _____

Notice how Jesus magnified the sixth and seventh commandments: "Ye have heard that it was said...Thou shalt not kill....But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment." Matthew 5:21- 22.

"Ye have heard that it was said...Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." Matthew 5:27-28.

9. In His flesh, Christ abolished the law of commandments which were contained in what?

Ephesians 2:15 _____

10. What was the passover called?

Exodus 12:43 _____

In Old Testament times God's people performed ceremonial ordinances involving burnt offerings and the sprinkling of blood (Ezekiel 43:18). While it was not the blood of bulls and goats which took away their sins (Hebrews 10:4), such ordinances were a means of demonstrating their faith in Christ and obtaining His righteousness by faith (Hebrews 11:4, 28). Since they served only as a foreshadowing of Christ, those provisional laws were no longer needed after His death.

11. Christ nailed to the cross and blotted out the handwriting of what which was against us?

Colossians 2:14 _____

12. Yet what thing will God not alter?

Psalm 89:34 _____

13. Did the Ten Commandments come from His lips?

Exodus 20:1 _____

We must not confuse the ceremonial ordinances with the moral law which is summarized in the Ten Commandments. As God does not change (James 1:17), neither do His commandments. God's commandments are His righteousness (Psalm 119:172) which He puts in us when He justifies us (compare Romans 3:22 with Hebrews 10:16-17).

14. What law is it that has real significance for the Christian?

1 Corinthians 7:19 _____

_____

15. How did Paul describe God's commandments?

Romans 7:12 _____

16. Looking into the law is like unto a man doing what?

James 1:23-25 _____

17. When we look into the law as a mirror, what does it show us?

Romans 3:20 (last part) _____

18. Would we know what sin is if there was no law?

Romans 7:7 _____

_____

19. To what else are God's commandments compared?

Proverbs 6:23 _____

20. Because God's law reveals to us the sin in our lives, it plays an important role in doing what for the soul?

Psalm 19:7 _____

21. Once the law has shown us our sin, does it have the power to justify us?

Romans 3:20 (first part) _____

22. Who only can save us?

Acts 4:10, 12 _____

23. Do we then make void the law?

Romans 3:31 _____

"I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart." Psalm 40:8.

"These things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works." Titus 3:8.

"For the wages of sin is death." Romans 6:23.

24. What is sin?

1 John 3:4 _____

25. Is sin counted when there is no law?

Romans 5:13 _____

"The strength of sin is the law." 1 Corinthians 15:56.

26. So if the law was abolished, there would be no more sin?

Romans 4:15 _____

Jesus then could have eliminated sin without having to suffer. All He would have to do is change the law. If He would only rewrite the law, then there would be no more violation, no more need for anyone to pay the penalty. Thus Christ would not have had to die.

The very fact that Christ died is the strongest proof that He would not change His law. For "it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail." Luke 16:17.

27. While justifying those who believe in Jesus, God must at the same time be what?

Romans 3:26 _____

28. How long will all God's commandments stand?

Psalm 111:7-8 _____

"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward." Psalm 19:7-11.

In the Light of God's Word…

☐ I understand that the Ten Commandments Law of God is His supreme moral standard, and I choose by His grace to obey it.
☐ I understand that God's law defines sin and righteousness, and cannot be changed.
☐ I understand that the ordinances which symbolized Christ's atoning work were the only laws which His death affected.

What the Bible Says About Being Under the Law

Supplement to Lesson 18
(Numbers in parenthesis refer to footnotes at the end of the supplement.)

The Scripture texts presented in Lesson 18 show clearly that God's commandments are just as binding upon Christians today as they were when God spoke them upon Mt. Sinai. However, some people have developed the idea that Christians have no obligation to keep the Ten Commandments. The purpose of this supplement is to discuss those objections and to demonstrate the unity of the Scriptures on the subject.

The Word "Law" in the Bible

The first thing we need to understand is what the Bible writers meant when they referred to "the law." The primary Hebrew word translated "law" in the Old Testament is "torah", which is so translated 216 times. In the New Testament, the word "law" is generally the Greek word "nomos", which occurs 195 times.

Old Testament Usage

To the Hebrew mind, "law" was a broad term which stood for God's revealed will. It encompassed all divine instruction, all God's communication of His purpose for man. To the devout Israelite, God's "law" was equivalent to His plan for the salvation of man.

The context of an Old Testament passage using the word "law" may indicate that the writer is referring to a particular portion of God's revealed will. God's instructions given through Moses became known as "the Law of

Moses." Because the first five books of the Bible contained those instructions, that portion of Scripture was often called "the law of Moses" or simply "the law." To the Hebrew mind, God's instructions were His law, whether those instructions were moral standards, ritual requirements, or national policies. This general view of the law explains why the term can actually refer to a variety of things, the distinction between which was not necessarily considered significant since it all came from God.

New Testament Usage

By New Testament times, two distinct meanings of the term "law" had emerged, both of which reflected the thinking of the Jews in regard to the law as described above.

First: since the Scriptures were the place where God's revealed will was preserved, the term "law" began to designate the Old Testament Scriptures as a whole or in part.(1) Often the term referred to the Pentateuch, or books of Moses, as distinguished from the Prophets and the Writings; and at times to the Decalogue (Ten Commandments) as a part of the Pentateuch.

Secondly: the term "law" also began to designate the Jewish religious system(2) – whole or in part – which by that time had developed into an elaborate combination of Biblical instructions and rabbinical traditions. For the Jews, this use of the term "law" was natural; for to them Judaism was the practical demonstration of God's revealed will. New Testament references to works of the law often indicated the ceremonial element,(3) as that was the most apparent feature of the Jewish religious system.

So when using texts referring to "the law," it is wise to carefully study the setting of the passage to determine in what sense the word "law" is being used. It is also helpful to be familiar with the major elements of the Old Testament legal system, and understand the distinguishing qualities of each.

Three Types of Laws

The Old Testament contains three basic types of laws – Moral, Ceremonial, and Civil. All three were given under God's direction.

Moral Law

The Moral Law is the basis of God's universal kingdom. It is the expression of God's character. It exists because God exists, and as God is, so it is. The Moral Law combines a perfect blend of justice and mercy. It may be summed up in one word: Love.

All the requirements of God's Moral Law hang upon two great principles. The first is Deuteronomy 6:5 - "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." The second is Leviticus 19:18 - "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

God created men with His law "written in their hearts."(4) But because they "did not like to retain God in their knowledge,"(5) the law was, for the most part, forgotten. It was therefore necessary for God to express His law in such a way that it would ever be remembered. With His own mouth He spoke the Ten Commandments, and with His own finger, wrote them on two tables of stone. The first four commandments, written on the first table, express one's love for God. The last six commandments, written on the second table, express one's love for his neighbor.

To carefully guard the sacredness of the Ten Commandments, God gave Moses additional precepts with minute instructions for everyday life. These "right judgments" and "good statutes"(6) were simply applications of the principles of the Ten Commandments, and as such are classed as moral law.

The Moral Law defines righteousness, but has no power to redeem those who transgress it. A remedial system was therefore necessary whereby God "might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth."(7)

Ceremonial Law

Ceremonial laws were those which regulated the services of the sanctuary, the offering of sacrifices, and the priestly ministration. The Ceremonial Law is clearly distinguished from the Moral Law.

Whereas the Moral Law defines the conduct of the righteous, the Ceremonial Law had to do with the plan of salvation and God's work of grace for the repentant, believing sinner. It was through the Ceremonial Law that the righteousness of God was able to be "witnessed by the law and the prophets."(8)

Every ordinance of the Ceremonial Law pointed to Christ and His work of saving man from sin. Every animal that was slain typified Christ's death on the cross. Every function the priests performed symbolized Christ's ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary. Every sacred festival foreshadowed a saving event in the redemption of the

world.

God never gave the Ceremonial Law as a covenant of works whereby one could earn God's favor through meritorious acts. There was no saving value in the sacrificial activities themselves. But through those activities the believer could by faith(9) claim the righteousness of Christ to atone for his sins. Thus the believer was continually to look forward to the "Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."(10)

Civil Law

Every country has civil regulations and the God-given authority for enforcing law and order. So to Israel as a nation were given laws governing the administration of justice.(11) These laws, distinguished by their very nature, were of an inherently national type. Israel was subject to these laws in the same way in which we are subject to the laws of the land in which we live. "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake." "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For...the powers that be are ordained of God."(12)

Unlike the Ceremonial Laws, which were wholly symbolic in nature, the Civil Laws were not abolished by the death of Christ. Rather, they lost their force when Israel ceased to be a nation. The following chart contrasts the three types of Old Testament law.

TYPE OF LAW	SUBJECTS OF THE LAW	DURATION OF THE LAW
MORAL	All people	Till heaven and earth pass
CEREMONIAL	All believers	From Adam's fall until Christ's death
CIVIL	All Israelites and strangers in the land	From the time of Moses until the dispersion of the Jews

The Moral Law: The Historic Protestant Position

The most widely accepted position on the Ten Commandments is reflected in the following quotations from an introductory article in a popular Bible produced for Sears, Roebuck and Co.(13)

"The enduring stone on which it was written is a clear symbol that His law is permanent and eternal....What Moses received was the Word of God, which had, and still has the force of law....They have been written out so that they may ever be before us, and we may become doers, as well as hearers of God's law. (Rom. 2:12-15)... .It is through His love for us that He has brought these rules together so that we may be better prepared to face life."

However, the idea has been promoted that God has withdrawn His great moral standard of Ten Commandments, so that we are no longer under obligation to obey it. This teaching represents a radical departure from the historic Protestant position. Never in the history of Christianity have churchmen spoken so openly against God's law as they do today.

Considering the admonition in Jude 3 to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints," let us review what our forefathers taught regarding the unchanging, eternally-binding nature of the moral law of God. Here are a few quotations from various individuals and groups.

John Calvin:

"We must not imagine that the coming of Christ has freed us from the authority of the law: for it is the eternal rule of a devout and holy life, and must, therefore, be as unchangeable, as the justice of God, which it embraced, is constant and uniform."(14)

"The law has sustained no dimunution of its authority, but ought always to receive from us the same veneration and obedience."(15)

Martin Luther:

"But how does it follow from this that on this account the law should be done away? Such a conclusion I cannot find in my dialectics; besides, I should like to see and hear the master who could prove it.

"...He was stricken for our sin – is the law thereby discarded?...Can anyone suppose that sin exists where there is no law? Whoever puts away the law must also put away sin."(16)

Samuel Mather:

"The laws...delivered by Moses, were of three kinds – moral, ceremonial, and judicial.... The first, or moral law, being the law of universal or unalterable right, is binding upon all men, and is still in force."(17)

Dwight L. Moody:

"The commandments of God given to Moses in the mount at Horeb are as binding today as ever they have been since the time when they were proclaimed in the hearing of the people....The people must be made to understand that the ten commandments are still binding, and that there is a penalty attached to their violation... .Paul said: 'Love is the fulfilling of the law.' But does this mean that the detailed precepts of the decalogue are superseded, and have become back numbers? Does a father cease to give children rules to obey because they love him? Does a nation burn its statute books because the people have become patriotic? Not at all. And yet people speak as if the commandments do not hold for Christians because they have come to love God....Let us get alone with God and read His law – read it carefully and prayerfully, and ask Him to show us our sins and what He would have us to do."(18)

Charles H. Spurgeon:

"He [Christ] took care to revise and reform the laws of men; but the law of God he established and confirmed....Our King has not come to abrogate the law, but to confirm and reassert it....The Lord Jesus does not set up a milder law, nor will he allow any one of his servants to presume to do so. Our King fulfils the ancient law, and his Spirit works in us to will and to do of God's good pleasure as set forth in the immutable statutes of righteousness."(19)

"The law is one of the most sublime of God's works. There is not a commandment too many; there is not one too few."(20)

John Wesley:

"In the highest rank of the enemies of the gospel of Christ, are they who...teach men to break...all the commandments at a stroke; who teach,...`There is but one duty, which is that of believing.'...It is no other than betraying him with a kiss, to...set light by any part of his law, under pretence of advancing his gospel."(21)

"The ritual or ceremonial law, delivered by Moses to the children of Israel,...our Lord did indeed come to destroy....

"But the moral law contained in the ten commandments, and enforced by the prophets, he did not take away. It was not the design of his coming to revoke any part of this. This is a law which never can be broken, which 'stands fast as the faithful witness in heaven.'...Every part of this law must remain in force upon all mankind, and in all ages; as not depending either on time or place, or any other circumstance liable to change."(22)

Baptist:

"Thus it is, by disowning the law, men utterly subvert the gospel. Believers, therefore, instead of being freed from obligation to obey it, are under greater obligation to do so than any men in the world."(23)

"We believe that the Law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government; and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts arises entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy Law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the means of grace."(24)

Church of England,(25) **Protestant Episcopal,**(26) **Methodist**(27) **:**

"No Christian man whatsoever is free from the obedience of the commandments which are called Moral."

Lutheran:

"The Son of God redeemed them for the very reason that they might meditate on the Law of God day and night, and continually exercise themselves in the keeping thereof."(28)

Presbyterian,(29) **Congregational,**(30) **Baptist** (31)**:**

"The moral law doth forever bind all, as well justified persons as others, to the obedience thereof; and that not only in regard of the matter contained in it, but also in respect of the authority of God the Creator who gave it. Neither doth Christ in the gospel any way dissolve, but much strengthen, this obligation."

Southern Baptist:

"Not only is it unchangeable with respect to places and races, to days and seasons, to conditions and circumstances, but also to ages. It has been unchangeable. It will be unchangeable. This rule is unchangeable because it is in harmony with the unchangeable nature of God."(32)

"Jesus did not give a new code, but he also did not say that the moral teachings of the Old Testament were suspended. The ceremonial and ritualistic laws of the Old Testament are abrogated for the Christian, but not the Ten Commandments."(33)

The New Testament Teaches the Ten Commandments

The Ten Commandments were taught and upheld in the New Testament by Jesus and the apostles. Below are listed several New Testament references for each of the commandments.

I - Matthew 4:10; 22:37; 1 Corinthians 8:4; Galatians 4:8-9

II - John 4:24; Acts 17:29; Romans 1:23

III - Matthew 5:33-37; 1 Timothy 6:1

IV - Matthew 24:20; Mark 2:27; Hebrews 4:4

V - Matthew 15:4-9; 19:19; Ephesians 6:1-3

VI - Matthew 5:21-22; Romans 13:9; 1 John 3:15

VII - Matthew 5:27-28; 19:9, 18; Romans 7:2-3

VIII - Matthew 19:18; Romans 13:9

IX - Matthew 19:18; Romans 13:9

X - Luke 12:15; Romans 7:7; 13:9

Being Under the Law

Some who object to keeping the commandments cite Paul's words in Romans 6:14, "Ye are not under the law, but under grace." What did the apostle mean by that phrase?

It is clear from the rest of the book that Paul believed in the obligation of Christians to keep the commandments (see Romans 2:13; 3:31; 7:12; and 8:4 for example). So what did he mean when he said, "Ye are not under the law"?

If a person robs a bank, he is arrested, handcuffed, and taken to prison. He is locked behind bars and cannot free himself. He is under the law. Then suppose he is pardoned and released from jail. He is able to go home to his family. He is now under grace. Is he now at liberty to go back and rob the bank again without punishment? Certainly not. In fact, because of the pardon he received, he is under even greater obligation to keep the law than before.

To be "under the law" means to be under the condemnation of the law because of our violation of it. Romans 3:19 tells us that the sentence of the law against "them who are under the law" is that they are "guilty before God." Romans 3 emphasizes that all the world is guilty and therefore under the law, because all have sinned and transgressed that law. But Christ came "to redeem them that were under the law" (Galatians 4:5). He came to redeem us, not from the obligation of the law, but "from the curse of the law" (Galatians 3:13). Christ pays our penalty, He pardons our transgression, and places us under grace.

The Bible says, "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace" (Romans 6:14). It is when we are under the dominion of sin that we are under the law. In bondage to sin, we cannot free ourselves from its power. We have no means of escaping the curse pronounced by the law upon us. But when we decide to commit ourselves to Christ, take up our cross and follow Him as our Lord and Master, we are delivered from sin's dominion. By His amazing grace we are released from the chains which held us captive to sin. This is what the apostle meant when he said, "Ye are not under the law, but under grace." And it applies only to those who have surrendered themselves to be "led of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:18).

When Paul wanted to speak of people who recognized no obligation to obey God's law, he did not use the expression, "not under the law." Instead, he used the expression, "without law." And he also made it clear that all such people will "perish without law." Romans 2:12.

The difference between "not under the law" and "without law" is emphasized in 1 Corinthians 9:20-21. In verse 20 Paul uses the expression "under the law" in the same way he always does. "Unto the Jews," he says, "I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law." Then he says, "To them that are without law, as without law..." But at that point, to make it absolutely clear that he recognized that as a servant of God he was under obligation to obey God's law, he added in parentheses, "being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ."

So on the question of whether Christians are today under obligation to keep God's law, Paul made it very clear by stating:

"Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law." Romans 3:31.

"Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth....Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good" Romans 7:1, 12.

Being Delivered from the Law

In Romans 7:1-6 Paul tells the story of a woman who is "loosed from the law to her husband." He concludes his illustration by stating, "Now we are delivered from the law." Some people have used this story to say that Christians do not need to keep God's law. But in fact, the story teaches the exact opposite.

In the illustration, Paul explains that "the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man."

"Wherefore," Paul concludes, "ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God."

To keep us from misunderstanding his point, Paul prefaced the story by declaring that "the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth." That is clear. Even in the illustration he affirms that "if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress." These facts show that Paul considered the commandments to be still binding.

Furthermore, notice that even the death of the husband does not change the law. Even after the man dies, the law still says the same thing it always said about remarriage. The law has not changed, only the woman's relation to it. The woman is freed from the law, not because of any annulling of the law, but because there is no law against remarriage after a spouse's death.

So it is with the one who has the power of Christ in his life. He is delivered from the law because he no longer violates the law. The law has not changed. It still requires just what it always did. But the Christian has changed. His life now exhibits the fruit of the Spirit:
"Love, joy, peace...against such there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23.

The problem of being "in the flesh" (Romans 7:5) lies in "the motions of sins" which are defined by the law. The problem is not the law, but sin (verses 7-13). Here is the point. We are "delivered from the law" when we become "dead to that wherein we were held" (verse 6, margin). Since it was sin which held us, only death to sin (Romans 6:2) can deliver us from the law. By experiencing such death to sin we are enabled to serve the law "in newness of the spirit" (Romans 7:6).

17 Facts About Grace

#1 – God is gracious (Exodus 34:6).

#2 – His throne is described as a throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16).

#3 – In the Old Testament those who served God were under grace (Psalm 84:11; Proverbs 3:34).

#4 – Noah (Genesis 6:8), Lot (Genesis 19:18-19), Moses (Exodus 33:13; 34:9), and Gideon (Judges 6:17) were all under grace.

#5 – The Israelites in the wilderness were under grace (Jeremiah 31:2).

#6 – The post-exilic Jews were under grace (Ezra 9:6-8).

#7 – Grace has been offered to all men (Titus 2:11).

#8 – Salvation comes only by grace through faith (Ephesisans 2:8).

#9 – There is no difference between Jew and Gentile; all must be justified by grace (Romans 3:22-24, 29-30).

#10 – We are justified by grace, not by works (Titus 3:5-7).

#11 – Some, however, turn God's grace into lasciviousness (Jude 4).

#12 – Grace does not give us license to sin (Romans 6:15).

#13 – Grace teaches us to deny ungodliness, to live righteously, and to be zealous of good works (Titus 2:11-14).

#14 – Grace is the power of Christ (2 Corinthians 12:9).

#15 – Grace looses us from sin's dominion (Romans 6:14).

#16 – Grace is given to us for obedience to the faith, not for disobedience (Romans 1:5).

#17 – Never despise the power of God's grace (Hebrews 10:29).

Footnotes

1. See John 12:34; 15:25; etc.
2. See Acts 18:15; 22:3; etc.
3. See Luke 2:22-24; Acts 15:5, 24; etc.
4. Romans 2:15.
5. Romans 1:28.
6. Nehemiah 9:13.
7. Romans 3:26.
8. Romans 3:21.
9. It was "by faith" that Abel "offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous" (Hebrews 11:4). And it was "through faith" that Moses "kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood" (Hebrews 11:28).
10. John 1:29.
11. Specific instructions were given regarding the inflicting of penalties for the violation of the Moral Law (See Leviticus 24:16-20). These Civil Laws reflected mercy as well as justice (See Numbers 35:11-15).
12. 1 Peter 2:13; Romans 13:1.
13. The National Bible Press, Philadelphia, 1958.
14. John Calvin, Commentary on a Harmony of the Evangelists, trans. by William Pringle (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1949), Vol. 1, p 277, comment on Matt. 5:17.
15. John Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion, bk. 2, chap. 7, sec. 15, trans. by John Allen (7th American ed., rev.; Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Christian Education, 1936), Vol. 1, p 392.
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Lesson 19: Remember Now Thy Creator

In Revelation 14:6-12 we find three angels bearing solemn messages to the inhabitants of the earth. The first proclaims that the hour of God's judgment has come. (Remember, the judgment began at the end of the "2300 days" of Daniel 8 and 9.) The second angel announces the fall of modern spiritual Babylon. And the third warns against worshipping the beast and his image and receiving his mark.

Once the messages have been proclaimed to all the world, "the harvest of earth" is reaped (see Revelation 14:15), and "the harvest is the end of the world." Matthew 13:39.

The three angels' messages, therefore, constitute Heaven's final appeal to humanity in these last days of earth's history. As such, they deserve the full attention of all who would prepare themselves for the final events.

"And this GOSPEL of the kingdom shall be PREACHED in all the world for a witness unto ALL NATIONS; and then shall the end come." Matthew 24:14.

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting GOSPEL to PREACH unto them that dwell on the earth, and to EVERY NATION, and kindred, and tongue, and people." Revelation 14:6.

1. According to the passage, whom are we not to worship?

Revelation 14:9 _____

2. In what terms is the One whom we are to worship identified?

Revelation 14:7 _____

3. Upon what basis is God declared worthy to receive glory and honor and power?

Revelation 4:11 _____

Throughout the Scriptures, the fact that God created all things is presented as that which sets Him above all false gods, and makes Him alone worthy of our worship (1 Chronicles 16:25-26; Jeremiah 10:11-12; Isaiah 45:18)

While modern scientists vainly attempt to disprove creation, the first angel of Revelation 14 proclaims a message designed to draw the attention of the world to "Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."

4. The worshippers of God are identified as keeping what?

Revelation 14:12 _____

5. What do the commandments of God say about creation?

Exodus 20:11 _____

_____

_____

Notice that the angel of Revelation 14:7 uses the wording of the fourth commandment to call the world back to the true worship of God.

6. When the heavens and the earth were finished, and God had ended His work, what did He do on the seventh day?

Genesis 2:1-2 _____

7. What two things did God do to the seventh day?

Genesis 2:3 _____

To "sanctify" means: "To reserve for sacred use; consecrate. To make holy. To cause to be piously observed or revered." The American Heritage Dictionary.

8. Why did God make the seventh day special?

Genesis 2:3 _____

9. Did the Creator rest because He was weary?

Isaiah 40:28 _____

10. Then for whose benefit did He make the Sabbath?

Mark 2:27 _____

11. The Lord rested on the seventh day, blessed it, and did what else to it?

Exodus 20:11 _____

To "hallow" means: "To make or set apart as holy." The American Heritage Dictionary.

12. Since he made it holy, we must remember to do what?

Exodus 20:8 _____

THE SEVEN-DAY WEEKLY CYCLE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	**Sabbath**
1st Day	**2nd Day**	**3rd Day**	**4th Day**	**5th Day**	**6th Day**	**7th Day**

The lengths of days, months, seasons, and years are determined by the movements of the earth and moon in relation to the sun. But the seven-day weekly cycle is not a known astronomical unit of any kind. Its existence can be explained only by the fact that God declared and established it when He created the world.

IDENTIFYING THE BIBLICAL SABBATH

Crucifixion Friday	**Jesus Rested in the Tomb**	**Resurrection Sunday**
"The day before the Sabbath" Mark 15:42	*"The Sabbath Day" Luke 23:56*	*"The Sabbath was past" Mark 16:1*

13. On whose day was John in the Spirit?

Revelation 1:10 _____

14. Which day does the Lord claim as His?

Isaiah 58:13 _____

_____

15. Which day is the Sabbath of the Lord?

Exodus 20:10 _____

16. Jesus referred to Himself as Lord of what?

Mark 2:28 _____

17. Did Jesus keep His Father's commandments?

John 15:10 _____

18. Did Jesus observe the seventh-day Sabbath?

Luke 4:16 _____

_____

19. He that says he abides in Him ought to walk how?

1 John 2:6 _____

20. What has God designated as a sign of the relationship between Him and His people?

Ezekiel 20:20 _____

_____

21. What is necessary in order to activate a testament?

Hebrews 9:16 _____

22. At the time of Jesus' death, was there still a Sabbath commandment?

Luke 23:56 _____

23. Once a covenant has been confirmed by the death of the testator, can any alterations be made in it after that time?

Galatians 3:15 _____

_____

24. Will God Himself ever change it?

Psalm 89:34 _____

25. Who will enter in through the gates into the Holy City?

Revelation 22:14 _____

26. Does that include keeping the commandment about the Sabbath?

James 2:10 _____

In the Light of God's Word…

- ☐ I understand that Revelation 14 contains a last-day message for all the world.
- ☐ I understand that the Sabbath was made for man at the creation of the world.
- ☐ I understand that the Sabbath of the Lord is the seventh day of the week, Saturday.
- ☐ I choose to keep holy the day God has made holy.

Lesson 20: God's Commandment Remains Unchanged

"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it."
The Fourth Commandment, Exodus 20:8-11.

1. Can any alterations be made in what God does?

Ecclesiastes 3:14 _____

_____

2. Are His past requirements still required now?

Ecclesiastes 3:15 _____

_____

3. When God blesses something, how long will it be blessed?

1 Chronicles 17:27 _____

4. He hath blessed; and I cannot do what?

Numbers 23:20 _____

5. Why did the Lord bless the seventh day?

Exodus 20:11 _____

_____

6. By whom did God make the worlds?

Hebrews 1:2 _____

7. How involved was Jesus in the whole creation process?

Colossians 1:16 _____

John 1:3 _____

8. What then is Jesus' relation to the Sabbath?

Matthew 12:8 _____

9. What do we know about our Lord?

Hebrews 13:8 _____

10. Looking nearly forty years beyond the crucifixion, what day was Jesus concerned about?

Matthew 24:20 _____

The seventh-day Sabbath is mentioned 59 times in the New Testament. And in no instance does the Bible say that God ever removed its sacredness. By contrast, the first day of the week is mentioned only 8 times in the New Testament. And in not a single case does the Bible attach any sacredness to it.

11. According to Paul, what is the basis of the Sabbath rest?

Hebrews 4:4 _____

12. Paul confessed that he believed all things written where?

Acts 24:14 _____

13. On what day did he go to the house of worship?

Acts 13:14 _____

14. Gentiles wanted him to preach to them when?

Acts 13:42 _____

15. Who came the next Sabbath to hear God's word?

Acts 13:44 _____

16. On what day was prayer wont to be made?

Acts 16:13 _____

17. How does the Bible tell us that gathering for public worship on the Sabbath was Paul's regular practice?

Acts 17:2 _____

_____

18. How often did Paul present the Scriptures to both Jews and Greeks?

Acts 18:4 _____

19. How thoroughly did Paul instruct his converts?

Acts 20:27 _____

Paul declared all the counsel of God. And he never mentioned anything about Sunday sacredness.

20. Of whom would men arise, speaking perverse things?

Acts 20:30 _____

21. To what class of people was he speaking?

Acts 20:17 _____

22. When would this take place?

Acts 20:29 _____

_____

Peter also predicted the rise of false teachers in the church who would bring in "damnable heresies" (2 Peter 2:1).

23. In vision, Daniel was shown a power that would arise which would think to change what?

Daniel 7:25 _____

24. Paul told the early believers not to expect the end of the world except there come what first?

2 Thessalonians 2:3 _____

25. What two names did he call the one who would lead out in this falling away?

2 Thessalonians 2:3 _____

Carefully study 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12. This man of sin who would cause the church to fall away would actually put himself in the place of God (verse 4). The mystery of iniquity was already at work in Paul's day, but was not allowed to fully develop as long as a certain other power was in existence (verse 7). Notice that this falling away would involve serious doctrinal deceptions (verses 9-12). The prophetic development of this apostasy is the subject of the next two lessons.

26. God wants all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of what?

1 Timothy 2:4 _____

27. For what weak reason do some reject God's commandments?

Mark 7:9 _____

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4.

28. The times of our ignorance God winked at; but now He commands men everywhere to do what?

Acts 17:30 _____

29. How should I respond when I learn the truth?

Psalm 119:60 _____

In the Light of God's Word…

☐ I understand that it was Jesus who created the world and set apart the 7th day as the Sabbath.
☐ I understand that neither Jesus nor His apostles ever abolished the Sabbath or sanctified another day in its place.
☐ I choose to follow the example of Jesus and keep the Sabbath holy.

The Sabbath – a Particular Day

There are those who believe that they can choose their own day during the week to worship God on. But this idea cannot be supported in Scripture. Nowhere in the Bible are God's people given the option of deciding which day of the week to keep holy.

God blessed a particular day as a memorial of an event which occurred on that day in creation week. In following God, we cannot keep holy a day in which He has not made it holy. In like manner, we cannot receive a blessing from a day which God has not blessed.

The only place you will ever find any significance attached to Sunday is in the traditions of men. But is it safe to follow these traditions?

Jesus asked, "Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?...Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition....In vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Matthew 15:3, 6, 9.

Exodus chapter 16 records an experience which God gave His people to determine "whether they will walk in my law, or no" (verse 4). For forty years the schedule of the fall of the manna distinguished the Sabbath from all other days of the week.

But some people tried to treat the Sabbath just like any other day. And some tried to treat other days like the Sabbath. Then the Lord said, "How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws?" (verse 28).

Certainly the obligation of the fourth commandment cannot be fulfilled if we choose to worship on a day contrary to that which the commandment specifies.

Consider the following poem which shows from various Bible events that it does indeed matter to God if we choose to follow what He says or not.

IT MATTERS

Two trees in the midst of the garden
Grew in the very same way.
But it mattered which tree Eve partook of,
And the difference is still felt today.

It mattered which type of an offering
Was brought by Abel and Cain.
The Lord had respect unto Abel's,
But Cain's substitute wasn't the same.

It mattered to Nadab and Abihu
Which fire they offered with sin.
"Isn't one fire as good as another?"
They tragically reasoned within.

David well knew God's instructions
How the sacred ark should be moved,
But ignored the crucial specifics
As the death of Uzzah proved.

"Why must I dip in the Jordan?"
Naaman asked in a huff.
"Aren't the rivers of Damascus far better?"
No, Naaman, they're not good enough.
"And why must I dip seven times?
Won't dip number one do the trick?"
Had Naaman ignored the specifics,
He'd have returned to his home still sick.

When God gives specific instructions
For a task that we're to do,

He intends for us to perform it
The way He has asked us to.

When He tells us we are to do it
In a certain particular way,
He doesn't intend us to change it
To suit what others might say.

He often specifies details
Extremely important to Him,
That people regard far too lightly
And make alterations at whim.

There's a purpose for each of God's precepts,
The "why" we may never have heard.
And we, though we may not discern it,
Are safe only in following each word.

No Scriptural Authority for Sunday Observance

Certainly if Jesus had instituted a new day of worship, the Bible would say something about it! If Sunday was to be given special recognition, we should be able to find some mention of it in Scripture.

The word "Sunday" is not in the Bible. There it is called, "the first day of the week." So let's examine all the New Testament references to "the first day of the week" and see what these tell us.

There are only eight such New Testament texts which mention the first day of the week, or Sunday. Lets examine each one.

1 – Matthew 28:1 - This text simply says that it was on the first day of the week that the two Marys went to the sepulchre. It says nothing about Sunday sacredness. But it does show that the Sabbath is the day that comes before Sunday.

2 – Mark 16:2 - This text is basically the same. No mention of Sunday sacredness.

3 – Mark 16:9 - Here we are told that Jesus arose on the first day of the week, but nothing is said about it becoming the special day of worship.

4 – Luke 24:1 - Same basic information.

5 – John 20:1 - Here we read of Mary Magdalene's first visit to the tomb "when it was yet dark." But nothing is said about a change in the fourth commandment.

6 – John 20:19 - Later that same day as Jesus appeared to the disciples. Why had they assembled together? The Bible says that it was "for fear of the Jews." Nothing is said about any special sacredness attached to the day.

So far we have seen that the Bible does not support Sunday-keeping in honor of Christ's resurrection. In fact, the only Biblically recognized institution in honor of the resurrection is baptism (see Romans 6). No other memorial of that event is anywhere authorized in Scripture.

7 – Acts 20:7 - A group of believers had come together "to break bread," which, according to Acts 2:46, early Christians did "daily". While they were gathered, "Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow." This is the only recorded instance of a formal religious service ever held on the first day of the week. Surely no one would suggest that the conducting of a single service on that day would constitute sufficient support for the keeping of every Sunday holy throughout the rest of earth's history. Especially since in Corinth alone there is record of religious services being held, not on the first day of the week, but on "every Sabbath" for "a year and six months"! (Acts 18:4,11).

A closer look at our passage in Acts 20:7 reveals that even here nothing is said about a Sunday morning meeting. It was on the first day of the week, but it was during the dark part of that day (read the whole context). The Bible reckons days from sunset to sunset, not from midnight to midnight, as is done today (see Genesis 1:5, 8, etc.). Thus this particular meeting was held on Saturday night!

According to the Biblical account, the reason for the meeting was that Paul was “ready to depart” the next morning. He later told the Ephesians, “I know that ye all...shall see my face no more” (see verse 25). Considering the occasion, we realize the weakness of any attempt to use this passage as a case for the abolition of God’s express commandment, “The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God.” Exodus 20:10.

At dawn on Sunday morning Paul set out on an 18-mile journey on foot to Assos, obviously displaying no respect for the day since he was willing to travel so far.

8 – 1 Corinthians 16:2 - This text says nothing about a religious service or gathering of any kind. It certainly says nothing about the veneration of Sunday as a holy day. According to this text, the first day of the week is the day to take care of personal financial matters. At the beginning of each week the Christian is to “lay by him in store” his contribution, systematically planning his giving and setting it aside. Figuring out one’s offerings involves a calculation of earnings. If God had transferred the solemnity of the Sabbath to the first day of the week, Paul would not have recommended such activity to be done on that day.

We have just examined every Biblical mention of the first day of the week! And, as you can plainly see, there is not even a hint of a change in worship from Sabbath to Sunday. And such a change cannot be found in the Scriptures. Why, because God clearly states:

“I AM THE LORD, I CHANGE NOT.” Malachi 3:6.

Paul and the Sabbath

Some have asserted that the apostle Paul taught us to disregard God’s fourth commandment. They cite two passages, Romans 14:5-6, and Colossians 2:16-17, to support this assertion.

Before we look at those texts, let’s just think a minute. If Paul had really advocated the abandonment of the seventh-day Sabbath, we could expect to find much intense discussion of it in the New Testament. “No small dissension and disputation” (Acts 15:2) was raised over the issue of circumcision. Then where is there any evidence of a controversy over the Sabbath? There is none.

When given an opportunity to press charges against Paul, the Jews could not even come up with anything that they could prove against him! (See Acts 21:33-34; 24:5-6, 12-13; 25:7, 18-19, 25, 27.) If Paul had broken the Sabbath, which was a crime worthy of death (see Exodus 31:14-15; 35:2; Numbers 15:32-36), then the Jews certainly would have capitalized on it.

Paul is the one, you remember, who said that the law is the standard by which we will be judged (see Romans 2:12), that it is the doers of the law who shall be justified (see Romans 2:13), that to break the law is to dishonor God (see Romans 2:23), and that the law is holy, just, and good (see Romans 7:12). “Do we then make void the law through faith?” he asks in Romans 3:31. “God forbid: yea, we establish the law.”

In Acts 21:24 James and the elders in Jerusalem affirmed to Paul, “Thou thyself also walkest orderly, and keepest the law.” Paul’s own testimony supports this fact: “Neither against the law of the Jews, neither against the temple, nor yet against Caesar, have I offended any thing at all.” Acts 25:8 (see also Acts 25:10; 26:22; 28:17).

What then is the meaning of the two passages commonly cited?

Romans 14:5-6

This passage mentions nothing about the Sabbath. A careful reading of the context reveals that the discussion had to do with eating versus fasting. The fourth commandment says nothing about eating or fasting. So this is a totally different issue.

Fasting was a common practice in Bible times. Mark records that “The disciples of John and of the Pharisees fast” Mark 2:18. The Pharisee in Luke 18:12 fasted twice a week. An ancient Jewish treatise on fasting, Megillath Ta’anith, mentions Jews who at that time regularly fasted on the second and fifth days of the week, that is, Monday and Thursday. The Didache, written later, warns Christians not to fast with the hypocrites on the second and fifth days of the week, but rather on the fourth and sixth days (see Didache 8:1).

Paul says, “One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.” Notice carefully verse 6. “He that regardeth the day” would be “he that eateth not.” And “he that regardeth not the day” would be “he that eateth.” Thus it is clear from the context that Paul here was not addressing the issue of the Sabbath at all, but was commenting about other days that were

not religious days, but were days that were still regarded as special by some.

Colossians 2:16-17

This passage is presented because of Paul's statement regarding holy days and sabbath days. The assertion has been made that Paul was here saying that the fourth commandment is no longer binding for Christians. A closer look, however, reveals that in this text Paul makes no reference to the seventh-day Sabbath.

In verse 17 he tells us very plainly that he is talking about "sabbath days: which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is Christ." In other words, days which typically illustrated and pointed forward to Christ's work of saving man from sin.

Such "shadows" were instituted only because of the problem of sin. Therefore the seventh-day weekly Sabbath does not fit that category. Having been instituted before man ever sinned (compare Genesis 2 with Genesis 3), it wasn't given as a shadow of a coming Saviour; it was established as a memorial to the Creator whose work had already taken place. Found in God's moral law, and being completely unrelated to ceremonial shadows, the seventh-day weekly Sabbath could not be what Paul was talking about.

What then did he have in mind? Were there other "sabbath days" besides the weekly Sabbath of the Lord? Yes, Leviticus chapter 23 mentions seven annual ceremonial sabbaths. Being tied to particular dates, these sabbaths could occur on different days of the week each year, and not just on the weekly seventh-day Sabbath.

"A meat offering" and "drink offerings" (see Leviticus 23:13, 18, 37) were to be presented in connection with these convocations, thus explaining Paul's phrase "in meat, or in drink" in Colossians 3:16.

The word "sabbath" means "rest." A sabbath is a day of rest from one's work. Each of the annual sabbaths listed in Leviticus 23 are accompanied by the words, "Ye shall do no servile work therein" – except on the Day of Atonement. This was the most solemn and most significant of all the annual sabbaths. On it they were commanded, "Ye shall do no manner of work" Verse 31. "And whatsoever soul it be that doeth any work in that same day, that same soul will I destroy from among his people" Verse 30.

The first three ceremonial sabbaths were shadows of events connected with Christ's ministry on earth. The last four pointed to events connected with Christ's closing work in the sanctuary in heaven (see Lessons 14-16 for more information on Christ's heavenly ministry).

To distinguish these yearly sabbaths from the weekly Sabbath, the Lord told Moses, "These are the feasts of the Lord, which ye shall proclaim...beside the sabbaths of the Lord" Leviticus 23:37-38. That distinction was still clear in Paul's day. When he specified "sabbath days: which are a shadow of things to come," there was no misunderstanding which Sabbaths were being referred to.

Ancient Ceremonial Sabbath Days

Occasion	Date	Leviticus 23
1st day of Feast of Unleavened Bread	15th day of the first month	Verses 5-7, 11
7th day of Feast of Unleavened Bread	21st day of the first month	Verse 8
Pentecost	50th day from morrow after 15th of the first month	Verses 15-16, 21
Blowing of Trumpets	1st day of the seventh month	Verses 24-25
Day of Atonement	10th day of the seventh month	Verses 27-32
Feast of Tabernacles	15th day of the seventh month	Verses 34-35, 39
8th day of Feast of Tabernacles	22nd day of the seventh month	Verses 36, 39

The Timing of Christ's Sacrifice

Jesus' Experience	Calendar Date	Ceremonial Day	Day of the Week	Related Texts
Crucified as Lamb of God	14th Day of the First Month	Passover	The Preparation Day	Ex. 12:5-6, 21-28 John 1:29 1 Cor. 5:7
Rested in the Grave	15th Day of the First Month	First Day of Feast of Unleavened Bread	Double Sabbath (High Day)	Num. 28:17-18 John 19:31
Raised as the First Fruits	16th Day of the First Month	Wave Sheaf Offering of First Fruits of Harvest	First Day of the Week	Lev. 23:10-11 1 Cor. 15:22-23 Luke 24:1-3

The Jews and the Sabbath

Often Jesus came into conflict with the Jewish authorities regarding the Sabbath. But the issue was never on whether the Sabbath should be kept. Jesus said, "I have kept my Father's commandments" John 15:10. The question was over what was "lawful" (see Matthew 12:12) to be done on the Sabbath.

The Jewish rabbis had burdened down the Sabbath with hundreds of man-made regulations which God had never authorized. Thus the Sabbath, which had been made to be a blessing, had become a drudgery. If Jesus had conformed to those human traditions He would have been affirming that human authorities have the right to define how God's commandments should be obeyed.

Although Jesus' example of proper Sabbath-keeping stirred up the wrath of the Pharisees, nowhere do we find Him breaking God's law or instructing His followers to do so. When a person accepted Christ's message, it could still be said of that person, as of Ananias, that he was "a devout man according to the law" Acts 22:12. The Christian leaders reported to Paul, "Thou seest...how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous of the law" Acts 21:20.

Also, the designation "Jewish Sabbath" cannot be found anywhere in Scripture. Nowhere is it called the "Sabbath of the Jews." The Bible calls it "the Sabbath of the Lord," and God specifically calls it "my holy day" (see Isaiah 58:13).

Isaiah 58:13

Notice the following: 1) – The Sabbath was instituted at Creation, 2000 years before there ever was a Jew. 2) – The Sabbath was made for "man." Mark 2:27. 3) – Notice carefully in Isaiah 56:6-7 which Gentiles would be accepted by God in their worship:

"Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the Lord, to serve him, and to love the name of the Lord, to be his servants, every one that keepeth the Sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant; Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar." According to this verse, only when Gentiles keep the Sabbath and take hold of God's covenant are they able to enjoy the fullest experience of worship.

The Sabbath does not belong to any particular race, but rather to God Himself and all who connect themselves with Him.

The Special Blessing of the Sabbath

Not only did God bless the Sabbath itself (Exodus 20:11), but he has also promised a special blessing to all who honor the Sabbath.

"Blessed is the man that doeth this, and the son of man that layeth hold on it; that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and keepeth his hand from doing evil. Neither let the son of the stranger, that hath joined himself to the Lord, speak, saying, The Lord hath utterly separated me from his people: neither let the eunuch say, Behold, I am a dry tree. For thus saith the Lord unto the eunuchs that keep my sabbaths, and choose the things that please me, and take hold of my covenant; Even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off. Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the Lord, to serve him, and to love the name of the Lord, to be his servants, every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant; Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer." Isaiah 56:2-7.

The Sabbath Survives Calendar Changes

Some people have wondered if the seventh day of the week is now the same day that it was when the Lord created the world. There is no question as to which day the Sabbath was observed in New Testament times, because the Creator Himself was on earth. His practice confirmed the Sabbath which the Jews had been observing all along was indeed the true Lord's Day. The part people have wondered about is during the centuries that have followed Christ's death. How can we be sure that time has not been lost since then? We will look at five lines of proof.

1 – The Calendar - The calendar which was in use when Jesus was on earth was the "Julian Calendar," named after Julius Caesar, who died 44 years before Christ was born. Its primary drawback was that it considered a year to be exactly 365 1⁄4 days long. Time revealed, however, that an actual solar year is eleven minutes and fourteen seconds shorter than that. Thus after several centuries, the calendar would become out of step with the seasons.

It was discovered that it was necessary to add exceptions to the leap year plan which had been used in the Julian Calendar. Instead of having a leap year every fourth year, it was found necessary to omit the leap year whenever the fourth year landed on the beginning of a century, such as the year 1700, 1800, and 1900. The exception to that exception would occur whenever the century year was divisible by 400, such as the years 1600 and 2000.

Between 1582 and 1923 each of the various nations of the world gradually adjusted its calendar to bring it back into step. The Catholic nations were the first to make the change. Pope Gregory XIII authorized a change in October of 1582 which dropped ten days from the calendar. By deleting October 5-14 from that year's calendar, the dates were caught up where they should have been.

This change dealt only with the dates of that month, and had absolutely no effect upon the weekly cycle. The fifth day of the week, Thursday, October 4, 1582 was followed by the sixth day of the week, Friday, October 15, 1582. Thus the weekly cycle was uninterrupted.

October 1582

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sabbath
	1	2	3	4	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23

In other nations, the changeover was made later: English-speaking countries in 1752, Japan in 1873, China in 1912, Turkey and Russia in 1917, Serbia in 1919, and Greece in 1923. In each case the number of the date of the month was adjusted, but the days of the week were left untouched. For example, in Britain and her colonies, the fourth day of the week, Wednesday, September 2, 1752, was followed by the fifth day of the week, Thursday, September 14, 1752.

Because not all countries adopted the change at the same time, the dates of the months varied from country to country for over 300 years. But one thing was the same through it all – the weekly cycle. They each had their own calendar; yet when it was Sabbath in Russia, it was Sabbath in Germany, England, Italy, and all over the world. The Encyclopedia Britannica calls it "the unalterable uniformity of the week."

2 – The Jewish People - The Jews have been extremely careful to keep track of the true Sabbath. No change would slip past their notice.

3 – Catholic Tradition - The Catholic Church dates back to the early centuries of the Christian era, and a change in the days of the week could not have inadvertently taken place without Catholics having something to say about it. But as their records show, they have guarded the identity of the first day of the week as faithfully as the Jews have the seventh.

4 – The Languages of Man - Here is a most fascinating evidence of a long-held and deeply embeded recognition of the seventh day throughout the world. In more than 100 languages the actual common name for the day we call Saturday is "Sabbath." Here are just a few of them:

Polish: "Sobota"
Greek: "Sabbaton"
Russian: "Subbata"
Portuguese: "Sabbado"
Spanish: "Sabbado"

Italian: “Sabbato”

5 – The Scientific Records of Astronomers -

“We have had occasion to investigate the results of the works of specialists in chronology and we have never found one of them that has ever had the slightest doubt about the continuity of the weekly cycle....There has been no change in our calendar in past centuries that has affected in any way the cycle of the week.” Dr. A. James Robertson, Director, American Ephemeris, Navy Department, U.S. Naval Observatory, Washington, D.C.

“As far as I know, in the various changes of the Calendar there has been no change in the seven day rota of the week, which has come down from very early times.” Sir Frank W. Dyson, Astronomer Royal, Royal Observatory, Greenwich, London.

“It is a strange fact that even today there is a great deal of confusion concerning the question of so-called ‘lost time.’ Alterations that have been made to the calendar in the past have left the impression that time has actually been lost. In point of fact, of course, these adjustments were made to bring the calendar into closer agreement with the natural year. Now, unfortunately, this supposed ‘lost time’ is still being used to throw doubt upon the unbroken cycle of the Seventh-day Sabbath that God inaugurated at the Creation. I am glad that I can add the witness of my scientific training to the irrevocable nature of the weekly cycle.

“Having been time computer at Greenwich for many years, I can testify...that all our days are in God’s absolute control – relentlessly measured by the daily rotation of the earth on its axis. This daily period of rotation does not vary one-thousandth part of a second in thousands of years....Not a day has been lost since Creation, and all the calendar changes notwithstanding, there has been no break in the weekly cycle.” Dr. Frank Jeffries, Research Director of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, England.

“The continuity of the week...is without a doubt the most ancient scientific institution bequeathed to us by antiquity.” Edouard Baillaud, Director of the Paris Observatory.

Even if all records of time should suddenly be lost, astronomers could rediscover the time simply by calculating the positions of the stars which God has set in place “for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years.” Genesis 1:14.

Since God has asked us to keep the Sabbath day holy, He has also made sure there would be no confusion as to which day that is.

Lesson 21: Winds, Waves, and Beasts from the Sea

1. **In Daniel’s vision, four winds strove upon what?**

   Daniel 7:2 _____

2. **In symbolic prophecy, what do bodies of water represent?**

   Revelation 17:15 _____

3. **What came up from this “sea”?**

   Daniel 7:3 _____

4. **These great beasts, which are four, are what?**

   Daniel 7:17 _____

5. **What was the first beast like?**

   Daniel 7:4 _____

6. **What nation, as a lion, broke Israel’s bones?**

   Jeremiah 50:17 _____

7. What nation had great eagle's wings?

Ezekiel 17:3, 12 _____

Archaeology has revealed that composite lion-eagle creatures were common symbols in ancient Babylon. Regarding lions as royal beasts, Nebuchadnezzar engraved them on his walls and stamped bricks with them.

8. What was the second beast like?

Daniel 7:5 _____

_____

Historically, Babylon was followed by the combined dominion of the Medes and Persians (Daniel 5:28-31). This kingdom was represented in Daniel 2 by the image's silver breast and arms, and in Chapter 8 by a two-horned ram. Just as one of the ram's horns was higher than the other (8:3), so the bear of Daniel 7:5 raised up itself on one side. At first the Medes were the more dominant of the two. But soon the Persians became the more powerful side, fulfilling the prediction that "the higher came up last" (8:3). Daniel 8:4 says that the Medo-Persian ram would push "westward, and northward, and southward." Between 547 and 525 B.C. they conquered Lydia, Babylon, and Egypt. Perhaps that explains the three ribs between the bear's teeth (7:5).

9. What was the third beast like?

Daniel 7:6 _____

_____

Medo-Persia was followed by Greece. This winged leopard kingdom corresponds to the brass belly and thighs on the image in Chapter 2, and the goat in Chapter 8. Wings give the connotation of swiftness. As the goat in Chapter 8 came from the west "and touched not the ground," so Alexander's conquests were accomplished speedily. Just as the leopard had four wings and four heads (7:6), so the goat grew four horns (8:8) which represented the four divisions of the Greek empire (8:22). It is also interesting to note that Macedonian coins were minted with the likeness of a goat.

10. The fourth beast was dreadful, terrible and what?

Daniel 7:7 _____

11. What did this fourth beast represent?

Daniel 7:23 _____

_____

The fourth and final secular world empire was Rome. The great iron teeth (7:7) of this beast remind us of the iron legs of the image in Chapter 2.

12. How many horns did the fourth beast have?

Daniel 7:7 _____

13. What did the horns of that kingdom represent?

Daniel 7:24 _____

By A.D. 476, western Rome had fully given over its power to ten barbaric nations: Franks (French), Alemanni (Germans), Burgundians (Swiss), Suevi (Portuguese), Vandals (in Northern Africa), Visigoths (Spanish), Anglo-Saxons (English), Ostrogoths, Lombards, and Heruli (each in Italy).

14. What came up among these horns?

Daniel 7:8 _____

15. What happened to three of the first horns?

Daniel 7:8 _____

Verse 24 says, “He shall subdue three kings.” Historically, this horn power was responsible for the fall of the Heruli in the year 493, the Vandals in 534, and the Ostrogoths in 538. The other seven still exist today as nations of Europe.

16. What kind of eyes did this little horn power have?

Daniel 7:8 _____

17. What else did he have?

Daniel 7:8 _____

18. How did he look compared to his fellows?

Daniel 7:20 _____

These characteristics, along with the contextual indications that he acted in a spiritual realm as well as having political authority, account for the statement that “he shall be diverse from the first” (7:24).

19. Daniel beheld until what happened?

Daniel 7:9 _____

20. The judgment was set, and what were opened?

Daniel 7:10 _____

“Cast down” in verse 9 is old English for “set in place.” The passage indicates that this judgment occurs among the heavenly host, while on earth the final activities of the kingdoms of men are nearing their close. This, of course, is the investigative judgment which we studied in lesson 16.

21. How will the outcome of the judgment affect the little horn?

Daniel 7:26 _____

_____

In the Light of God’s Word…

☐ I understand that the ten horns of Daniel 7 represent kingdoms which would come into power after the fall of Rome.
☐ I understand that three of those kingdoms were to be uprooted by the emergence of another power.

Lesson 22: The Beast of Revelation 13

1. What happened to the fourth beast of Daniel 7?

Daniel 7:11 _____

2. The dominion of the other three beasts was taken away, yet what about their actual lives?

Daniel 7:12 _____

3. John saw a beast rise up out of what?

Revelation 13:1 _____

4. This beast was composed of characteristics from what three other beasts?

Revelation 13:2 _____

_____

5. **From whom did this beast receive his power, and his seat, and great authority?**

   Revelation 13:2 _____

6. **Who is the dragon?**

   Revelation 12:9 _____

7. **What name was written on the beast's heads?**

   Revelation 13:1 _____

8. **Blasphemy is when you, being a man, do what?**

   John 10:33 _____

9. **The man of sin opposeth and exalteth himself how high?**

   2 Thessalonians 2:4 _____

10. **He as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself what?**

    2 Thessalonians 2:4 _____

    We are not to worship man (Acts 10:25-26), good angels (Revelation 22:8-9), fallen angels (Matthew 4:9-10), or any created being (Romans 1:25). We are to worship Jesus (Hebrews 1:6; Philippians 2:10).

11. **There was given unto the beast a mouth doing what?**

    Revelation 13:5 _____

12. **What is said about the little horn's mouth?**

    Daniel 7:8 _____

13. **He shall speak great words against whom?**

    Daniel 7:25 _____

14. **He opened his mouth in blasphemy against whom?**

    Revelation 13:6 _____

    _____

15. **What was he allowed to do to the saints?**

    Revelation 13:7 _____

16. **Daniel beheld, and the same horn did what?**

    Daniel 7:21 _____

17. **They would be given into his hand until when?**

    Daniel 7:25 _____

18. **He would think to change what?**

    Daniel 7:25 _____

19. **Power was given to him over all what?**

    Revelation 13:7 _____

20. He was given power to continue how long?

Revelation 13:5 _____

21. John saw one of the beast's heads as it were what?

Revelation 13:3 _____

22. What then happened to his deadly wound?

Revelation 13:3 _____

23. How popular did he become after that?

Revelation 13:3 _____

24. What are we told about all that dwell upon the earth that worship him?

Revelation 13:8 _____

25. What is the number of the beast?

Revelation 13:18 _____

26. What is one distinguishing doctrine of the anti-christ?

1 John 4:3 _____

_____

In the Light of God's Word…

☐ I understand that the beast of Revelation 13:1-10 and the little horn of Daniel 7 are the same power.
☐ I understand that that power held supremacy in the world for hundreds of years, warring against God and His people.
☐ I understand that that power, claiming the right to change God's law, instituted Sunday observance.

The Man Who Claimed to Change God's Law
Supplement to Lesson 22

Identifying the Beast

1. Its Geographic Location
2. The Time of its Rise to Power
3. The Circumstances of its Rise
4. Its Comparison with Other Kingdoms
5. Its Inherited Characteristics
6. Its Inherited Authority
7. Its Claims
8. Its Persecuting Activity
9. Its Duration
10. Its Apparent Death
11. Its Healing
12. Its World-Wide Popularity
13. Its Number
14. Its Doctrine
15. Its Attempt to Tamper with God's Law – The Origin of Sunday Observance

This supplement assumes that you are familiar with the Scripture passages presented in The Last Days – Lessons 21 and 22.

Jesus tells us that "God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved" (John 3:17). The message of the Bible is never against people, but is for them. Its admonitions

"are written, that ye might believe… and that believing ye might have life" (John 20:31). Sometimes its message cuts across long-standing traditions and established religious systems. Error must be pointed out, and warnings given. But the intent is never to destroy, but to heal. In this study, no attempt is being made to harm individuals. Many have been sincere in their error. It is therefore with genuine concern that we direct your attention to the Bible's own explanation of its symbolic terms which describe and identify the beast power of Revelation 13. To the Biblical specifications we simply add historical data, unfolding the facts in the past and present story of Sunday observance.

The little horn in Daniel 7 and the composite beast in Revelation 13:1-10, are two symbols for the same power. Through Bible prophecy God has given a more detailed description of this power than of any other apocalyptic figure. Daniel 7 describes his rise to power; Revelation 13 gives additional details regarding his work. A third description of him is given in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-12.

There is only one political power which fits these three descriptions – the Roman Catholic Papacy. Holding much more than ecclesiastical authority, the pope for hundreds of years enjoyed practically complete control of princes and rulers.

"In all ages of the Church, from the days of Gregory the Great down to the present, men have pointed to the Papacy as the fulfillment of the prophecy. That interpretation is set forth in the Homilies of the Church of England and by all the Reformed Churches. The interpretation, however, has been ignored or rejected by critics, for reasons which need not be specified. It can, however, stand all the tests of criticism." Daniel and His Prophecies, p 168, by Dr. Charles H.H. Wright, London: 1906.

So let us examine each of the identifying marks of this little horn to confirm that the union of religious and civil power embodied in the Papal office is indeed the very entity predicted in these Scripture passages.

#1 – Its Geographic Location
"AMONG THEM" Daniel 7:8

In order to rise among the other horns, it would have to arise where the ten nations existed which had taken over the Western Roman Empire. The papacy did indeed arise in the very city of Rome itself.

#2 – The Time of its Rise to Power
"AFTER THEM" Daniel 7:24

Since the Roman Empire is considered by historians to have fully given over its authority to those ten nations by the year A.D. 476, we must look for the little horn to receive its power sometime after 476. It did, as we will see later.

#3 – The Circumstances of its Rise
"HE SHALL SUBDUE THREE KINGS" Daniel 7:8; Daniel 7:20; Daniel 7:24

The Heruli, the Vandals, and the Ostrogoths would not recognize the Bishop of Rome as the head of the church, and were deposed.

#4 – Its Comparison with the Other Kingdoms
"DIVERSE FROM THE FIRST" Daniel 7:24

The papacy was a different kind of power than the other kingdoms. While they possessed strictly secular authority, the pope claimed religious as well as civil power. The eyes, mouth and stoutness of this horn reveal its superiority over the other kingdoms.

#5 – Its Inherited Characteristics
"LIKE UNTO A LEOPARD,...A BEAR, AND...A LION" Daniel 7:12; Revelation 13:2

The vital aspects of the kingdoms of Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece are all preserved in the papacy. The priesthood and sacramental ritual of Catholicism were taken directly from the Babylonian cults. Also from ancient Babylon came the worship of a virgin mother-goddess. The Persian sun-worship religion – Mithraism – has been preserved in amazingly precise detail in the holidays and religious customs of the Catholic people. Doctrines and philosophies of Greek Gnosticism taught by the church fathers and adopted by early Catholic councils are still alive today. The Catholic Cardinal Newman gives an extended list of things "of pagan origin" which the papacy brought into the church "in order to recommend the new religion to the heathen": "the use of temples, and these dedicated to particular saints, and ornamented on occasions with branches of trees;

incense...candles...holy water...holydays...processions...sacerdotal vestments...the ring in marriage...images.. .the ecclesiastical chant...” An Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine, p 373, by J.H. Newman, 1920 ed.

#6 – Its Inherited Authority

“THE DRAGON GAVE HIM...HIS SEAT” Revelation 13:2

Revelation 2:13 also mentions Satan’s seat. Before the rise of the papacy, Satan used pagan Rome as his persecuting agent against Christianity. This was “he who now letteth...until he be taken out of the way.” 2 Thessalonians 2:6-7.

On the vacated seat of the Roman Empire arose the papacy. Said one historian, “The Pope...is Caesar’s successor.” What is Christianity?, p 270, by Adolf Harnack (New York: G.P. Putnam’s Sons, 1903).

#7 – Its Claims

“A MOUTH SPEAKING GREAT THINGS AND BLASPHEMIES” Daniel 7:8, 11, 20, 25; 2 Thessalonians 2:4; Revelation 13:1, 5-6

The Bible gives two definitions of blasphemy: 1) John 10:33 - When a man makes himself God; and 2) Luke 5:20-21 - Claiming the power which belongs only to God to forgive sins. The papacy makes both of these great claims. Notice the following quotations:

“Thou art another God on earth.” Christopher Marcellus’ Oration in the Fifth Lateran Council, 4th session.

“We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty.” Pope Leo XIII, Encyclical Letter “The Reunion of Christendom.”

“All names which in the Scriptures are applied to Christ...all the same names are applied to the Pope.” Robert Bellarmine, Disputationes de Controversiis, Tom. 2.

“Hence the pope is crowned with a triple crown, as king of heaven and of earth and of the lower regions.” Lucius Ferraris, Prompta Bibliotheca , “Papa”, art. 2.

The very title, pope, means “papa,” or “father.” It is a title which in religious usage belongs only to God, as Christ pointed out: “And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.” Matthew 23:9.

“They have assumed infallibility, which belongs only to God. They profess to forgive sins, which belongs only to God. They profess to open and shut heaven, which belongs only to God. They profess to be higher than all the kings of the earth, which belongs only to God. And they go beyond God in pretending to loose whole nations from their oath of allegience to their kings, when such kings do not please them. And they go against God, when they give indulgences for sin . This is the worst of all blasphemies.” Adam Clarke, Commentary, on Daniel 7:25.

#8 – Its Persecuting Activity

“SHALL WEAR OUT THE SAINTS OF THE MOST HIGH” Daniel 7:21, 25; Revelation 13:7

“For professing faith contrary to the teachings of the Church of Rome, history records the martyrdom of more than one hundred million people. A million Waldenses and Albigenses perished during a crusade proclaimed by Pope Innocent III in 1208; beginning from the establishment of the Jesuits in 1540 to 1580, nine hundred thousand were destroyed; one hundred and fifty thousand perished by the Inquisition in 30 years; within the space of thirty-eight years after the edict of Charles V against Protestants, fifty thousand persons were hanged, beheaded, or burned alive for heresy; eighteen thousand more perished during the administration of the Duke of Alva in five and a half years.” Brief Bible Readings for Busy People, No. 8.

“That the Church of Rome has shed more innocent blood than any other institution that has ever existed among mankind, will be questioned by no Protestant who has a competent knowledge of history....It is impossible to form a complete conception of the multitude of her victims, and it is quite certain that no powers of imagination can adequately realise their sufferings.” History of the Rise and Influence of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe, Vol 2, p 40, by W.E.H. Lecky, (1955 ed.).

#9 – Its Duration

“A TIME, AND TIMES, AND HALF A TIME” Daniel 7:25; Daniel 12:7; Revelation 12:14
“FORTY AND TWO MONTHS” Revelation 11:2; Revelation 13:5

"A THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED AND THREESCORE DAYS" Revelation 11:3; Revelation 12:6

These three expressions all refer to the period of time during which the papacy was to exercise its supremacy.

"A time and times and the dividing of time"

A "time" in the Bible represented a year (see Daniel 4:16; 11:13, margin). One prophetic year equals 360 prophetic days. In Aramaic (the original language used in Daniel 7:25) the word "times" means "two times". So let's add it up.

1 time = 360 prophetic days
+ 2 times = 720 prophetic days
+ half time = 180 prophetic days
TOTAL = 1260 PROPHETIC DAYS

"Forty and two months"

A prophetic month consists of 30 prophetic days. So let's multiply it.

30 days per month
x 42 months
TOTAL = 1260 PROPHETIC DAYS

With seven references in Scripture to this time period, one thing is clear. The papacy was to be in power for exactly 1260 prophetic days.

In lesson 14 we learned that the scale for interpreting prophetic time periods in the Bible is "each day for a year." Two Biblical instances when this scale was used are Numbers 14:34 and Ezekiel 4:6. In Daniel 9:24-27 this scale was used to predict the very year of Christ's crucifixion. By adding that information to the details given in the first part of that same prophecy (Daniel 8:14), we figured the starting point of the great Day of Atonement foreshadowed in the ancient ceremonial system.

That same scale applies to the prophecy at hand:

1 prophetic day = 1 literal year
1260 prophetic days = 1260 LITERAL YEARS

History confirms the fact that the papacy held supremacy for exactly 1260 years! In 533 A.D., emperor Justinian issued a decree recognizing the bishop of Rome as the "head of all the holy churches." But full sovereignty could not be realized as long as the Ostrogoths held power in Rome. You remember that the Ostrogoths were the last of the three kingdoms which would not recognize the Roman bishop's authority. Then in 538 the Ostrogoths were overwhelmingly defeated. The bishop of Rome, with unchallenged political and ecclesiastical authority, was now the most powerful man in the West. That year, 538, marks the beginning of the 1260 years of papal supremacy. Now let's do some addition.

538 A.D.
+ 1260 years
= 1798 A.D.

On February 10, 1798, during the French Revolution, Napoleon's general, Berthier, entered Rome, proclaimed a republic, and then took the pope prisoner. The pope died shortly thereafter in Valence, France. Thus the year – 1798 – marks the end of the 1260 years of papal supremacy.

#10 – Its Apparent Death

"AS IT WERE WOUNDED TO DEATH" Revelation 13:3

We have just described the death blow which the papacy received exactly 1260 years after it had gained its supremacy. Two factors reveal the significance of this event:

1 – Unlike any previous schism, this de-poping was inflicted by an outside authority whose sole motive was to destroy the entire papal structure.

2 – By 1798 the world had changed its attitude toward the papacy.

Following this event, the nations of the world considered the papacy as dead.

#11 – Its Healing

"HIS DEADLY WOUND WAS HEALED" Revelation 13:3

In 1870 the Italian government took over the city of Rome. But in 1929 Cardinal Gasparri met Premier Mussolini in the Lateran Palace to sign the Treaty of the Vatican, returning political power to the papacy.

The Catholic Advocate in Australia of April 18, 1929, on page 16 stated that its effect was to "heal a wound of 59 years." The front page of the San Francisco Chronicle of February 12, 1929 carried the headline, "Heal Wound of Many Years." The Associated Press dispatch of the event said, "In affixing the autographs to the memorable document, healing the wound which has festered since 1870, extreme cordiality was displayed on both sides." Thus in 1929 Vatican City was recognized as an independent state, with the pope as its king. Religious and civil power were once again united in the papal office.

#12 – Its World-Wide Popularity

"ALL THE WORLD WONDERED AFTER THE BEAST" Revelation 13:3

On March 9, 1929 the pope could say, "The peoples of the entire world are with us." Today there is not a man on earth who receives more publicity, or whose movements are more closely followed, than the pope.

#13 – Its Number

"SIX HUNDRED THREESCORE AND SIX" Revelation 13:18

Let us notice four facts about the mystical number 666:

1. It is "the number of the beast" (verse 18).
2. It is "the number of a man" (verse 18).
3. It is "the number of his name" (verse 17).
4. If a person "hath understanding" he can "count the number" (verse 18).

The Catholic Douay Bible has this note on Revelation 13:18: "The numeral letters of his name shall make up this number." So all we need is an understanding of the pope's name and we will be able to add it up ourselves. The Catholic weekly called Our Sunday Visitor, on April 18, 1915, stated plainly:

"The letters inscribed in the Pope's miter are these: VICARIUS FILII DEI, which is the Latin for 'VICAR OF THE SON OF GOD.'"

This title is applied to the pope in Roman Catholic literature of high standing (see Prompta Bibliotheca, by Ferraris, in the article "Papa"). In English this expression is applied to the pope eleven times by Cardinal Manning in his book, The Temporal Sovereignty of the Pope. Thus the title is of undisputed authenticity. It expresses very plainly the position the pope claims to possess.

So how does one count the number of his name? Before the use of numbers as we have them today, letters of the alphabet were given numerical significance. In ancient heathen cults much thought was given to the preparing of titles which contained the desired numerical significance.

Most are familiar with Roman numerals. The numbering system used in ancient Rome was I = 1; V or U = 5; X = 10; L = 50; C = 100; and D = 500. Now let's add up the numerical value of the pope's title using this Roman numbering system.

V = 5	**F** = 0	**D** = 500
I = 1	**I** = 1	**E** = 0
C = 100	**L** = 50	**I** = 1
A = 0	**I** = 1	
R = 0	**I** = 1	
I = 1		
U = 5		
S = 0		

TOTAL = 666

#14 – Its Doctrine

"CONFESSES NOT THAT JESUS CHRIST IS COME IN THE FLESH" 1 John 4:3; 2 John 7

According to the Bible, a primary characteristic of antichrist is its teachings regarding the human nature of Christ. In two of his epistles, the apostle John (who also recorded the book of Revelation) warned that antichrist would deny that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh.

The Bible says that Jesus came "in the likeness of men," "in the likeness of sinful flesh." He came in the nature of those whom He wished to save. "In all things" he was "made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest." (Hebrews 2:17. See also Lesson 13.)

But Catholic belief denies that Jesus came in the nature that you and I possess. The Catholic doctrine of the immaculate conception teaches that Mary was born without the ability to sin. Jesus, therefore, was born with a nature so far removed from us that He could not fully be "touched with the feeling of our infirmities," or be "in all points tempted like as we are."

#15 – Its Attempt to Tamper with God's Law – the Origin of Sunday Worship

"HE SHALL...THINK TO CHANGE TIMES AND LAWS" Daniel 7:25

Primarily, the activities of the Little Horn are directed not merely against human authority, but against God Himself. Says the text, "He shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High." The "times and laws" that he would "think to change" would therefore be "of the most High." The papacy would actually claim the right to alter divine precepts.

Consider the following statement made in Pope Nicholas' time.

"The pope has authority and has often exercised it, to dispense with the commands of Christ...He can dispense above the law, and of wrong make right, by correcting and changing laws....

"The pope is of so great authority and power that he can modify, explain, or interpret even divine laws....The pope can modify divine law, since his power is not of man, but of God, and he acts in the place of God upon earth, with the fullest power of binding and loosing his sheep." Prompta Bibliotheca, by Lucius Ferraris, under "Papa," art. 2.

You remember that the Ten Commandments are the only part of the Bible which God both spoke with His own voice and wrote with His own finger. They are found in Exodus 20:3-17. Let's notice a few examples of where the papacy has thought to change God's law. You will find these changes in any Catholic catechism.

God's second commandment says in Exodus 20:4-6, "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image." But because it speaks against the use of graven images which are a vital part of Catholic worship, the papacy has completely removed God's second commandment from its teachings. Then in order to come up with ten, they divide the tenth into two separate commandments, again attempting to change God's law.

Our text says he shall "think to change times and laws." The only law of God that has to do with time is His fourth commandment. It says: "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work."

The current widespread profaning of God's holy Sabbath day, and the veneration of the day of the sun, were brought about by no other authority than the Roman Catholic papacy itself. The papacy picked it up as just another practice inherited from heathenism. The following documentation traces the gradual transfer of Sunday observance from its heathen origin to its position in popular contemporary denominations.

The Origin of Sunday Observance

"It is certain, that Christ himself, his Apostles, and the Primitive Christians, for some good space of time did constantly observe the seventh-day Sabbath." A Briefe Polemicall Dissertation, Concerning...the Lords day-Sabbath, p 33, by William Prynne.

"Until the second century there is no concrete evidence of a Christian weekly Sunday celebration anywhere. The first specific references during that century come from Alexandria and Rome, places that also early rejected observance of the seventh-day Sabbath." The Sabbath in Scripture and History, p 330, by Dr. Kenneth Strand.

"It is certain that the ancient Sabbath did remain and was observed...by the Christians of the East Church, about three hundred years after our Saviour's death." A Learned Treatise of the Sabbath, p 77, by Professor E. Brerewood.

"Down even to the fifth century the observance of the Jewish Sabbath was continued in the Christian church." Ancient Christianity Exemplified, chap. 26, sec. 2, by Lyman Coleman.

"Although almost all churches throughout the world celebrate the sacred mysteries on the sabbath of every week, yet the Christians of Alexandria and at Rome, on account of some ancient tradition, have ceased to do this." Socrates Scholasticus (written about 440 A.D.), quoted in Ecclesiastical History, Book 5, chapter 22.

"The Christian Church made no formal, but a gradual and almost unconscious, transference of the one day to the other." The Voice From Sinai, p 167, by F.W. Farrar.

"Christianity and the higher forms of paganism tended to come nearer and nearer to each other as time went on....They tended to merge into one another like streams which had been following converging courses." Introduction to the History of Western Europe, p 31, by J.H. Robinson.

"The two opposed creeds moved in the same intellectual and moral sphere, and one could actually pass from one to the other without shock or interruption....The religious and mystical spirit of the Orient had slowly overcome the whole social organism and had prepared all nations to unite in the bosom of a universal church." Oriental Religions in Roman Paganism, p 210-211, by Franz V. M. Cumont, reprint 1956.

"Remains of the struggle are found in two institutions adopted from its rival by Christianity in the fourth century, the two Mithraic sacred days, December twenty-fifth, dies natalis solis, as the birthday of Jesus, and Sunday, 'the venerable day of the Sun,' as Constantine called it in his edict of 321." Paganism to Christianity in the Roman Empire, p 60, by Walter Woodburn Hyde.

"The Church made a sacred day of Sunday...largely because it was the weekly festival of the sun; for it was a definite Christian policy to take over the pagan festivals endeared to the people by tradition, and to give them a Christian significance." The Paganism in Our Christianity, p 145, by Arthur Weigall, 1928.

"The church...took the pagan Sunday and made it the Christian Sunday....The Sun was a foremost god with heathendom....And thus the pagan Sunday, dedicated to Balder, became the Christian Sunday." Dr. William L. Gildea, quoted in The Catholic World, March, 1894.

"What began, however, as a pagan ordinance, ended as a Christian regulation; and a long series of imperial decrees, during the fourth, fifth, and sixth centuries, enjoined with increasing stringency abstinence from labour on Sunday." Rest Days, p 270, by Hutton Webster.

"The Roman Church...reversed the Fourth Commandment by doing away with the Sabbath of God's word, and instituting Sunday as a holiday." History of the Christian Church, p 415, by Nicolas Summerbell, 3rd edition, 1873.

"The Catholic Church for over one thousand years before the existence of a Protestant, by virtue of her Divine mission, changed the day from Saturday to Sunday." The Catholic Mirror, September 23, 1893.

"The Sunday, as a day of the week set apart for the obligatory public worship of Almighty God...is purely a creation of the Catholic Church. It is...not governed by the enactments of the Mosaic law. It is part and parcel of the system of the Catholic Church." John Gilmary Shea, quoted in The American Catholic Quarterly Review, January, 1883.

"Q. Which is the Sabbath day?
"A. Saturday is the Sabbath day.
"Q. Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?
"A. We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday." The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine, p 50, by Peter Geiermann (1957 ed.).

"They will needs have the Church's power to be very great, because it hath dispensed with a precept of the Decalogue." The Augsburg Confession, 1530.

"The church has changed the Sabbath into the Lord's day by its own authority, concerning which you have no Scripture." Handbook of Common Places Against the Lutherans, by Johann Eck, 1533.

"If you follow the Bible alone there can be no question that you are obliged to keep Saturday holy, since that is the day especially prescribed by Almighty God to be kept holy to the Lord. In keeping Sunday, non-Catholics

are simply following the practise of the Catholic Church for 1800 years, a tradition, and not a Bible ordinance... .With the Catholics there is no difficulty about the matter. For, since we deny that the Bible is the sole rule of faith, we can fall back upon the constant practise and tradition of the Church." Francis G. Lentz, quoted in The Question Box, p 98-99, 1900.

"Like two sacred rivers flowing from Paradise, the Bible and divine Tradition contain the Word of God, the precious gems of revealed truths. Though these two divine streams are in themselves, on account of their divine origin, of equal sacredness, and are both full of revealed truths, still, of the two, TRADITION is to us more clear and safe." Catholic Belief, p 45, by Joseph Fa di Bruno.

"We have, therefore, the same authority for Purgatory as we have for Sunday." Things Catholics Are Asked About, p 136, by Martin J. Scott, 1927.

"Protestantism, in discarding the authority of the Church, has no good reason for its Sunday theory, and ought, logically, to keep Saturday as the Sabbath." John Gilmary Shea, quoted in The American Catholic Quarterly Review, January, 1883.

"You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we [Catholics] never sanctify." The Faith of Our Fathers, p 72- 73, by James Cardinal Gibbons, 1917 ed.

"Is it not strange that those who make the Bible their only teacher should inconsistently follow in this matter the tradition of the Church?" Bertrand L. Conway, quoted in The Question Box Answers, 1910, p 255.

"But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?" Jesus, Matthew 15:3.

"But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Jesus, Matthew 15:9.

"No; it never was changed, nor could it be, unless creation was to be gone through again: for the reason assigned must be changed before the observance, or respect to the reason, can be changed!! It is all old wives' fables to talk of the change of the sabbath from the seventh to the first day. If it be changed, it was that august personage changed it who changes times and laws ex officio – I think his name is DOCTOR ANTICHRIST." Alexander Campbell, quoted in The Christian Baptist, February 2, 1824, vol. 1, no. 7.

"We ought to obey God rather than men." Peter, Acts 5:29.

"The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate." Isaiah 24:5-6.

"Reason and common sense demand the acceptance of one or the other of these alternatives: either Protestantism and the keeping holy of Saturday or Catholicity and the keeping of Sunday. Compromise is impossible." Catholic Mirror, December 23, 1893.

Lesson 23: The Sign of Loyalty

1. John saw another beast coming up out of what?

Revelation 13:11 _____

In previous lessons we have learned that "beasts" in prophecy represented nations, and that the "sea" and the "earth" represent, respectively, the eastern and western hemispheres. Therefore the nation represented by this beast which was "coming up" in a continent uncrowded by "peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues" (compare Genesis 1:10 with Revelation 17:15), when at the same time the first beast of Revelation 13 was being taken "into captivity" (see Revelation 13:10-11), can only be the United States of America.

2. How is this beast described?

Revelation 13:11 _____

From the start, the United States was characterized by its unique separation of church and state, allowing freedom

of religion to all people. But its lamb-like bearing is to retrograde into a power that speaks as a dragon.

3. How much power will this beast exercise?

Revelation 13:12 _____

4. He will cause the world to do what?

Revelation 13:12 _____

5. What great wonders will he do?

Revelation 13:13 _____

6. What does he do by means of those miracles?

Revelation 13:14 _____

7. What will he propose that the people shall do?

Revelation 13:14 _____

"And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast." Revelation 13:15. During the supremacy of the first beast, the religious decrees of the church were enforced by the strong arm of the state, effecting a union of religious and civil power. When the United States adopts the same course, it will have created an image of the beast.

8. No longer hesitant to enforce religious duties, what will the government attempt to make everyone do?

Revelation 13:16 _____

9. What means will be employed to compel all to receive this mark?

Revelation 13:17 _____

_____

10. What ultimate penalty will be set for violating the law?

Revelation 13:15 _____

11. With a loud voice, a warning is given against those who do what?

Revelation 14:9 _____

12. Who will have no rest day nor night?

Revelation 14:11 _____

13. A noisome and grievous sore fell upon whom?

Revelation 16:2 _____

14. The mark is received in their right hand, or where else?

Revelation 13:16 _____

15. John saw an angel ascending from the east having what?

Revelation 7:2 _____

16. The people of God are to be sealed where?

Revelation 7:3 _____

17. What is to be sealed among God's people?

Isaiah 8:16 _____

18. How will God seal His law among His disciples?

Hebrews 10:16 _____

_____

19. When God's law is written in our minds, what will be our testimony?

Psalm 40:8 _____

20. What are they called who are sealed in their foreheads?

Revelation 7:3 _____

"Servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart." Ephesians 6:6.

21. Christ's people are described as having what written in their foreheads?

Revelation 14:1 _____

22. When God proclaimed His name to Moses, what characteristics did He mention?

Exodus 34:5-6 _____

_____

23. What engraved words were to be displayed upon Aaron's forehead?

Exodus 28:36-38 _____

24. What does God require of us, that we may possess His character?

Leviticus 20:7 _____

1 Peter 1:16 _____

We learned in a previous lesson that "sanctify" means to reserve for sacred use, to consecrate, or to make holy.

25. What has the Lord done which reveals His authority as the true God?

1 Chronicles 16:26 _____

26. At creation, what did God sanctify as the sign of His authority?

Genesis 2:3 _____

_____

27. What has He given us as a sign that He is the Lord that sanctifies us?

Ezekiel 20:12 _____

_____

28. What has He asked us to do as the sign of our allegiance to Him?

Ezekiel 20:20 _____

_____

29. In contrast, what has the Beast declared to be the mark of its authority?

"But the Protestant mind does not seem to realize that in...observing the Sunday...they are accepting the authority of the spokesman for the church, the pope." Our Sunday Visitor, Catholic weekly, February 5, 1950.

"Sunday is our mark of authority!...The Church is above the Bible, and this transference of sabbath observance is proof of that fact." The Catholic Record, London, Ontario, September 1, 1923.

"Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change was her act....And the act is a mark of her ecclesiastical power and authority in religious matters." Office of Cardinal Gibbons, through Chancellor C.F. Thomas, November 11, 1895.

"The observance of Sunday by protestants is an homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the church." Plain Talk About the Protestantism of Today, p 213, by Louis Segur, 1868 ed.

30. All their worship is in vain who are doing what?

Matthew 15:9 _____

31. When man-made laws go contrary to the law of God, whom ought we to obey?

Acts 5:29 _____

32. Who will stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God?

Revelation 15:2 _____

_____

33. How were they able to overcome?

Revelation 12:11 _____

In the Light of God's Word…

☐ I understand that Sabbath observance signifies an acknowledgment of the Creator's authority.
☐ I understand that Sunday observance marks those who acknowledge the Beast's authority.
☐ I desire to obey God with my whole heart, having His image inscribed in my forehead.

The United States in Prophecy
Supplement to Lesson 23

America in Prophecy

This supplement provides additional information on the second beast of Revelation 13 as described in Lesson 23. Please complete Lesson 23 before reading this material.

"And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon." Revelation 13:11.

This Bible passage introduces a beast which has been identified as the United States of America. Notice that it lists seven identifying details:

#1 – It is a "beast"

Daniel 7:17 tells us that a beast in symbolic Bible prophecy represents a king or political nation.

#2 – It is "another" beast

It is not identical to the first beast of chapter 13.

#3 – It is "Coming up"

Coming up indicates that it was at that time rising to power as John watched in vision. The context of verse 10 is talking about the period of time when the first beast was taken into captivity, which was in 1798. So this nation would be gaining its power right at that time.

#4 – "Out of the earth"

This is in contrast with the beasts of Daniel 7 and the first beast of Revelation 13 – which all came up out of the sea. Sea is the gathering together of the waters, and waters in Bible prophecy represent "peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues" Revelation 17:15. So this nation coming up out of the earth would arise in an area which was not crowded with many peoples and nations. In Revelation 10:2 the terms "sea" and "earth" refer to the eastern and western hemispheres, respectively.

John Wesley, in his note on Revelation 13:11, written in 1754, says of this beast: "He is not yet come: tho' he cannot be far off. For he is to appear at the end of the forty-two months of the first beast." Explanatory Notes Upon the New Testament, vol 3, p 299 (1791 ed.).

In 1798, when the papal power received its deadly wound, the United States, located in the western hemisphere, was the only great world power then coming into prominence in territory not previously occupied by peoples, multitudes, and nations. Only nine years preceding this, in 1789, the U.S. adopted its national Constitution.

"Is it reasonable to suppose that God would leave out from the prophecies of his Book this whole Western Hemisphere? No, No!" Selected Sermons, vol 2, p 9, by De Witt Talmage, 1900.

#5 – "He had two horns"

Horns symbolize the ruling power of a nation, and this is a striking depiction of the two main foundational principles of the ruling power of the United States – being the principles of Republicanism and Protestantism. Republicanism represents freedom from the despotic and arbitrary rule of kings and emperors, by allowing all its citizens to control their own government. Protestantism represents freedom to follow what you believe to be true, by eliminating forced obedience in religious matters.

#6 – "Like a lamb"

The nations depicted in Daniel 7, which were Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, were pictured as ferocious beasts of prey. They were characterized by intolerance, persecution, and oppression. The United States, on the other hand, is pictured as a docile, domestic lamb, characterized by liberty, equality, and tolerance.

#7 – And "spake as a dragon"

It is clear from the text that the United States would sadly not always remain as innocent as it began, but would eventually speak as a dragon.

A nation "speaks" through its decrees and legislative enactments. This verse indicates that the U.S. government would act on the principles of the dragon which, according to Revelation 12:9, is Satan.

The Voice of a Dragon

"And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed." Revelation 13:12.

"**Exerciseth all the power** of the first beast before him" tells us that the United States will enforce the power of the papacy. It will cause the whole world "**to worship the first beast**, whose deadly wound was healed." This nation will sadly repudiate its principles of religious liberty.

"And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live." Revelation 13:13-14.

"**Great wonders**" indicate that there will be supernatural signs which work to deceive the world, and usher in the forming of "**an image to the beast**". An image of something is a likeness to it, or a duplicate of it. So the

characteristics of the papacy will be duplicated in the United States. The papacy has been distinguished historically as a combination of religious and civil power. So when the United States begins to employ its civil power to enforce the decrees of religious leaders who are clamoring even now for such enforcement, the United States will have formed an image of the Roman Catholic religio-political structure.

"And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed." Revelation 13:15.

"**Give life unto the image**" so that it "should **both speak and cause**...many...(who) would **not worship the image...(to) be killed**." This image of Roman Catholicism – this combination of church and state – religious and civil power, will become a reality in America. Any religious decrees that this image enacts will become legally enforceable as a religious duty to obey. Those who do not obey these religious commands, thus refusing to worship this image, will be given the death penalty. Forced religion, practiced by the papacy during its supremacy, will be given life once again in America. But it is totally contrary to the principles of God founded in His word. Thus you can see that the real issue here centers around who are you going to "worship"!

"And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads." Revelation 13:16.

This tells us that it will be the United States which instigates the enforcement of the mark of the beast – or Roman Catholicism – and "**causes all...to receive a mark**". Lesson 23 documents the fact that the beast plainly states that Sunday observance is the mark of its authority. This is in stark contrast with the seventh-day Sabbath, which God the Creator has established as the sign of His authority. Since this mark is received by knowingly following the day that the papacy has made holy, then the mark is not something tangible, such as a computer chip implant, or a credit card, etc. That is why the real issue here centers around whom you are going to "worship"!

This mark is either received "**in their right hand, or in their foreheads**". Your "right hand" signifies your labor and strength, whereas your "forehead" signifies your beliefs and decisions. So to receive this mark in your right hand would signify that even though you may not agree that all people should be forced to worship on Sunday under penalty of death, yet you will not fight against the command, but will work right along it. And to receive this mark in your forehead would signify that you actually believe that Sunday worship is pleasing to God, and that all who refuse this mark of the beast should be killed.

"And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." Revelation 13:17.

It is very clear that those who obey God and refuse to give their allegiance to the beast and his image, will be prohibited by law from carrying on any business dealings. Their dependence will then be totally upon God. Although every earthly support will be cut off, they will still trust God for all their sustenance. And the promise is given to only these faithful ones:

"His place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure." Isaiah 33:16.

Notice what is to be enforced: the mark of the beast – Sunday observance. This will be the deciding issue regarding one's loyalty and whom they worship. Are you going to worship the beast or its image by obeying their commandments? Or are you going to worship God by obeying His commandments?

Satan hates the Sabbath because it is the sign of Christ's authority as Creator and King. And in all ages Satan has tried to work through the governments of nations in his attacks against Christ and His people.

Just as in Bible times, so today, the major movements of nations and kings are actually the battleground of an even greater war – the same war which began in heaven between Christ and Satan. In this war every person of the world, whether small or great, rich or poor, free or bond, will be involved. These final events of earth's history will be the final climax of the great controversy which has been raging now for some 6,000 years.

The outcome of that battle is described in Revelation chapter 19. Verses 7 and 8 describe the purification of God's people which will take place during this trying time. Although outwardly it may appear difficult, "yet the inward man is renewed day by day" 2 Corinthians 4:16. Texts such as James 1:3-4 and 1 Peter 4:1 describe the blessings which come to those who stand for the truth and honor of God.

Revelation 19 also describes the glorification of Christ's church, the victorious return of our Lord, and the destruction of the earthly powers which attempted to enforce upon all the world the disobedience of God's Law.

Then the promise is given that those "which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands;...lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years." Revelation 20:4.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

It's time to do a study such as never done before;
The end of time's upon us, even at the very door.
A test will come to everyone who dwells upon the land;
And only by the word of God will anybody stand.

It's what the Bible says that really matters now;
Only to what the Bible says should my knee bow.
It doesn't matter what popes, councils, or governments may decree,
If they try to take the place of what THE BIBLE says to me.

It may be different from what I've always thought;
It may not go along with what my parents taught.
But if the Bible says it, who am I to be one who disagreed?
The word of God is the standard and the test for every creed.

It's what the Bible says that really matters now;
Only to what the Bible says should my knee bow.
It doesn't matter what popes, councils, or governments may decree,
If they try to take the place of what THE BIBLE says to me.

Lesson 24: A Day to Remember

1. **What and what were the first day?**

   Genesis 1:5 _____

2. **What and what were the second day?**

   Genesis 1:8 _____

3. **From when unto when shall ye celebrate your Sabbath?**

   Leviticus 23:32 _____

4. **"Even" meant when the sun did what?**

   Mark 1:32 _____

5. **At what time of day were the gates of Jerusalem shut for the Sabbath?**

   Nehemiah 13:19 _____

6. **It is lawful to do what on the Sabbath days?**

   Matthew 12:12 _____

7. **God tells me that I am to turn away from doing what on His holy day?**

   Isaiah 58:13 _____

8. **The Sabbath is called what three things?**

   Isaiah 58:13 _____

9. **I shall honor Him not doing what three things on that day?**

   Isaiah 58:13 _____

10. Then what promise is given?

Isaiah 58:14 _____

_____

_____

11. What are the first six days of the week called?

Ezekiel 46:1 _____

12. What are we not to do on the Sabbath?

Exodus 20:10 _____

The rest of the verse indicates that we are not to employ others to do secular work for us on the Sabbath either.

13. What about in harvest time or in other times when there is much urgent work to be done?

Exodus 34:21 _____

14. What instructions illustrate how certain household details are not to be taken care of during the Sabbath hours?

Exodus 35:3 _____

15. What is Friday called which indicates that all cooking and cleaning for the Sabbath is to be done the day before?

Luke 23:54; Mark 15:42 _____

16. What did Nehemiah say to those who purchased food and wares from merchants on the Sabbath?

Nehemiah 13:16-17 _____

17. What are we not to forsake?

Hebrews 10:25 _____

18. The Sabbath of rest is for an holy what?

Leviticus 23:3 _____

The Hebrew word used here means, “A public meeting...assembly, calling, reading.” Strong’s Exhaustive Hebrew Concordance.

19. What did Jesus say about where there are only two or three gathered together in His name?

Matthew 18:20 _____

_____

20. The ruler of the synagogue was indignant because Jesus had done what on the Sabbath day?

Luke 13:14 _____

21. In reply, Jesus declared that those whom Satan has bound may be what on the Sabbath?

Luke 13:16 _____

In following our Lord’s example, we may find many ways on the Sabbath day to loose others from Satan’s bonds, bringing encouragement to the lonely, and hope to those in need of comfort and cheer. Some suggestions may be found

in Matthew 25:35-40.

22. The Sabbath is to remind us of what?

Genesis 2:1-2 _____

_____

_____

Through nature, we may be brought closer to our Creator on the Sabbath day. As a weekly memorial of God's perfect creation, the Sabbath hours may be appropriately spent in a contemplation of His handiwork, as well as in communion with Him through Bible study and prayer.

23. What has the Lord said about those who can't wait for the Sabbath to be over?

Amos 8:5, 7 _____

_____

24. What will we do in the Lord's day?

Psalm 118:24 _____

25. God's blessing is upon those who do what?

Isaiah 56:2 _____

_____

26. In the earth made new, how often will all flesh come to worship before the Lord?

Isaiah 66:22-23 _____

It is important to understand that the Sabbath was given to this world at creation and before sin entered (see Genesis 2:1-3). It was not just given to the Jews, since there were no Hebrews in existence until after Abraham – some 1500 years after creation. So the Sabbath cannot be a Jewish institution, nor could it be included with their ceremonial laws which were added after sin and ended at the cross. Therefore, just as Jesus plainly stated: "The Sabbath was made for man"(see Mark 2:27), He did not mean just the Jews, but all mankind. So the Sabbath is for all mankind to rest, cease from their worldly cares, turn their attention to help one another and especially enjoy worshiping their God and Creator. And this enjoyment of the Sabbath will continue on the new earth and throughout all eternity!

In the Light of God's Word…

☐ I understand that the Sabbath is 24 hours of holy time which is not to be used for secular purposes.
☐ I choose to keep the Sabbath as God has outlined, and receive the blessing He has promised.

Lesson 25: God's Claim Upon Your Body

1. Jesus came that we might have life, and that we might have it how?

John 10:10 _____

2. In what four ways did Jesus develop?

Luke 2:52 _____

"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thessalonians 5:23.

3. How important is our physical health to God?

3 John 2 _____

4. **What reasonable service does God ask of us?**

   Romans 12:1 _____

5. **Why is God so concerned about our bodies?**

   1 Corinthians 3:16 _____

   _____

6. **What will happen to the person who mistreats his body?**

   1 Corinthians 3:17 _____

7. **As a vital ingredient in man's restoration, how was Adam to spend his time?**

   Genesis 3:23 _____

   Physical exercise is a great blessing to man, promoting physical, mental, and spiritual health.

8. **What is as good as medicine?**

   Proverbs 17:22 _____

9. **What has God asked us to do for others which will benefit our own health?**

   Isaiah 58:7-8 _____

   _____

   _____

10. **What should guide our eating habits?**

    1 Corinthians 10:31 _____

11. **What was the original diet of man?**

    Genesis 1:29 _____

    _____

12. **On that diet, how long did Adam live?**

    Genesis 5:5 _____

13. **For several generations, how long did men live?**

    Genesis 5:8 - Seth _____

    Genesis 5:11 - Enos _____

    Genesis 5:14 - Cainan _____

    Genesis 5:17 - Mahalaleel _____

    Genesis 5:20 - Jared _____

    Genesis 5:27 – Methuselah _____

14. **After the flood, what was added to man's diet?**

    Genesis 9:3 _____

15. What immediately happened to man's life span?

Genesis 11:10-11 _____

16. After just a few generations, how long did men live?

Genesis 11:32 _____

17. God has given permission for only what kind of beasts to be eaten?

Leviticus 11:2-3 _____

18. Unclean animals such as what, are forbidden?

Leviticus 11:7 _____

Unclean animals are defined in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14. Large animals which are not clovenfooted, or do not chew the cud, are unclean. Sea food which "hath no fins nor scales" is unclean. Birds of prey and certain other birds are unclean. And so are many small animals such as weasels, mice, lizards, and snails.

19. To whom did God originally make the distinction between clean and unclean animals?

Genesis 7:1-2 _____

This was long before there ever was a Jew. It is not just the Israelites who can be harmed by eating unhealthful things. Some of the diseases which are commonly associated with pork include trichinosis, toxoplasmosis, salmonella, tapeworms, and undulant fever. Christians who recognize that their bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit will not defile themselves with anything that will dishonor God.

20. When Jesus comes, He will consume together those who eat what three things?

Isaiah 66:15-17 _____

21. God never allowed man to eat flesh with what in it?

Deuteronomy 12:23-25 _____

Like the prohibition against unclean meats, the restriction against eating blood was not just for the Jews. It dates back to the very beginning of flesh eating, hundreds of years before there was a Jew (see Genesis 9:4). Even Gentiles who accepted the Lord were to abstain from eating blood (see Leviticus 17:10-15). And the restriction continues to apply for New Testament Christians (see Acts 15:20).

22. What two animal products were never to be eaten?

Leviticus 3:17 _____

Today it is well known that dietary fat is a major cause of heart disease, strokes, diabetes, obesity, and certain cancers – the major killers in western societies. Animal fat, being saturated, is especially harmful.

23. God has promised to satisfy our mouths with what?

Psalm 103:5 _____

24. What did Daniel purpose in his heart?

Daniel 1:8 _____

_____

25. What did he and his friends request to eat and drink?

Daniel 1:12 _____

Pulse is vegetable foods. More and more people today are learning that the best diet is the one God originally gave man at his creation.

26. What did this diet do for them?

Daniel 1:15 _____

_____

27. What additional benefits did God give them?

Daniel 1:17 _____

_____

28. Considering all the sickness around us, why has God placed certain restrictions on our lifestyle?

Deuteronomy 6:24 _____

29. What does the Lord want to do for us?

Deuteronomy 7:15 _____

_____

"And ye shall serve the Lord your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee." Exodus 23:25.

30. When people violate God's laws of health, what other god are they serving?

Romans 16:18 _____

31. What will be their end?

Philippians 3:19 _____

_____

32. Every man that strives for the mastery is what?

1 Corinthians 9:25 _____

33. What did Paul say would happen to him if he didn't keep his body under subjection?

1 Corinthians 9:27 _____

In the Light of God's Word…

☐ I realize that God asks me to do all that I can to keep my mind and body, which belong to Him, in the very best condition.
☐ I choose to glorify God in my body by eating those things which promote health, and by avoiding all that is detrimental to it.

Secrets of the Abundant Life
Supplement to Lesson 25

"My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh." Proverbs 4:20-22.

Introduction

Three fourths of all deaths in the United States are caused by cardiovascular diseases and cancer. But these are diseases which are unknown in many other parts of the world. Studies have confirmed that the major degenerative diseases in the United States and other western nations are caused by our lifestyle. Heart disease,

cancer, strokes, diabetes, obesity, osteoporosis and senility are brought on, not by fate, but by our own choices. In most cases these diseases are not only preventable, but also reversible through simple lifestyle changes.

Let's take a look at cardiovascular diseases (heart and blood vessel diseases) which are responsible for every second death in the United States. Extensive research during the last fifty years has identified a number of risk factors for determining your chances of heart disease. The top three are high blood cholesterol, smoking, and high blood pressure. Other significant indicators include high triglycerides, diabetes, obesity, lack of exercise, and stress. These are all lifestyle related. The way we eat and live determines both the length and quality of our lives.

Smokers are 10 times more likely to die by age 60 than nonsmokers. Men only 20 percent overweight are five times more likely to die of cardiovascular disease by age 60 than are men of desirable weight.

Most of the risk factors have to do with our eating habits, primarily our intake of fat and cholesterol. The average fat intake in America amounts to around 40 percent of total calories consumed! The fat intake in China, however, averages less than 15 percent of calories. Not surprisingly, only 4 out of every 100,000 men in China die of heart disease each year.

A blood cholesterol of 200 mg% may be considered normal in the United States, but normal does not mean safe. Autopsies of young American soldiers (average age: 22!) who died in the Korean war showed that three out of four of them already had significantly narrowed coronary arteries. No wonder 200,000 coronary bypass operations are performed every year in the United States.

The American people are now spending nearly a trillion dollars every year on sick care. The real tragedy is that most of those illnesses could have been prevented if people would simply follow God's health plan.

Health Secrets of the Bible

The Bible is the "owner's manual" for our bodies, supplied by our Designer. Careful attention to its guidelines will ensure optimum performance. Let's begin with some basic specifications.

1 – Eat No Unclean Meat

Unclean meat is defined in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14. These animals are scavengers, carnivorous, or have filthy ways. Their diseases are easily transmitted to humans.

2 – Eat No Meat With Blood In It

"Ye shall not eat any thing with the blood." Leviticus 19:26.

The blood is the transportation system for chemicals, waste products, and disease. Closely related to HIV, the human AIDS virus, is BIV (bovine immunodeficiency virus) which is widely distributed among cattle in the United States. The USDA National Animal Disease Center has been able to transfer the infection among goats, sheep, and rabbits by blood transfer. No testing has been done to determine if the virus is transferable to humans. Certainly the safest course is to follow God's instructions.

3 – Eat No Animal Fat

"Ye shall eat no manner of fat, of ox, or of sheep, or of goat. And the fat of the beast that dieth of itself, and the fat of that which is torn with beasts, may be used in any other use: but ye shall in no wise eat of it." Leviticus 7:23-24.

It is now well known that dietary fat is the most common culprit in heart disease, cancer, high blood pressure, diabetes, and atherosclerosis. The latest U.S. government recommendations call for Americans to eat more foods high in complex carbohydrates and fiber.

4 – Eat Only At Mealtime

"Blessed art thou, O land, when...thy princes eat in due season." Ecclesiastes 10:17.

Digestive functions are accurately timed and do the most efficient work when kept on a regular schedule. Meals should be eaten at the same time every day. After a meal, the stomach normally empties itself in 2 ½ to 4 hours. When the stomach and small bowel are completely empty, an interdigestive cleansing phase follows, which rejuvenates the entire bowel. If anything is eaten before this interdigestive phase is permitted to do its cleansing work, the contents of the stomach and intestine become stagnated, contributing to cancers, ulcers, and other gastrointestinal problems.

Studies have shown the detrimental effects of eating between meals. A person was given a regular breakfast at 8:00 in the morning. Twice during the morning and twice during the afternoon a bit of chocolate candy was given. At 9:30 that night, 13 1⁄2 hours after breakfast, x-rays showed that more than half of the morning meal was still in the stomach. It has been found that even a little peanut nibbling delays digestion to the extent that eleven hours after breakfast there is still a large residue in the stomach.

5 – Do Not Overeat

"Blessed art thou, O land, when...thy princes eat...for strength, and not for drunkenness!" Ecclesiastes 10:17.

Any abuse to our system will bring weakness and disease.

6 – Keep Away From Alcohol

"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." Proverbs 20:1.

In addition to damaging the liver, brain, and other organs, alcohol also affects the heart tissue, is associated with many cancers, and diminishes immunity to disease (see Sixth Special Report to Congress on Alcohol and Health, released by the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services). According to The Washington Monthly, thirty-five percent of all hospital beds in America are occupied by people who are there because of alcohol-related problems.

The Best Diet

God designed the human body to operate most efficiently on a diet of plant foods: fruits, vegetables, grains, and nuts. The diet God gave to Adam and Eve is the best diet for us today.

Dr. T. Colin Campbell, a Cornell University scientist, has worked with the National Academy of Sciences in a study of the relationship between nutrition and cancer. Their research revealed that replacing animal products with fresh fruit, vegetables, and whole-grain products is the best way to guard against cancer. They found that regardless of the number of cell mutations caused by environmental factors, those who have a low-protein, low-fat diet have significantly lower cancer rates. In fact, a natural, whole-food diet has even been shown to reverse the growth of cancer cells that have already formed malignant tumors.

Whether you are concerned with cancer, atherosclerosis, obesity, diabetes, osteoporosis or hypertension, the only diet which can prevent or reverse the problem is the diet God gave to man at his creation. According to data supplied by the National Cancer Institute, countries with the most bowel cancer deaths and the most heart disease deaths are the countries with the highest per capita of meat consumption.

Strokes and heart attacks occur when important arteries become clogged, a condition known as atherosclerosis. Cholesterol, the primary factor in atherosclerosis, is found only in animal products. Plants do not produce it. Before western culture and eating habits were introduced to the Japanese, atherosclerosis was so unheard of in Japan that Japanese medical schools had to import plaque-filled coronary arteries from the United States to demonstrate to their medical students the disease that was causing half of all deaths in America.

Antonio Gotto, M.D., president of the American Heart Association, stated in a U.S. Senate hearing that "In societies where the blood cholesterol is under 160 mg% there is virtually no coronary artery disease or atherosclerosis." His conclusion?-- "If we lower the cholesterol count of everyone in the United States to below 150 mg%, we would probably wipe out heart disease."

One of the most respected authorities on diabetes, Dr. James Anderson, after working with low-fat, low-protein, high-fiber, unrefined starchy food diets for fifteen years, stated, "Ninety-five percent of adult onset diabetics on oral drugs could be off such drugs in less than eight weeks, and 50 to 75 percent could normalize their blood sugar and get off all insulin within weeks."

A few years ago, people thought a high-protein diet was best. But it was found that the highest rates of heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and osteoporosis are found among those who consume the most protein. The average adult probably needs less than 30 grams of protein per day, which is easily obtained from fruits, vegetables, grains, and nuts. Most Americans consume 100 grams of protein or more per day. This overconsumption of protein increases urinary excretion of calcium and other minerals, weakens the bones, and places stress on the kidneys.

Athletes know that complex carbohydrates are the best fuel for our bodies, providing the most energy and endurance. Unrefined plant foods also provide the natural fiber necessary for health. Animal products contain no

fiber, but are loaded with cholesterol and excessive amounts of protein. Typically, meats provide no carbohydrates, and are the single largest source of fat in the American diet.

It sounds too easy, but it's true: A simple switch to a broad vegetarian diet would lower our fat and cholesterol, provide all the starches and fiber we need, guard against overconcentration of protein, lower our blood pressure, our weight, and our chances of early death.

The Bible has much to say about the benefits of vegetarianism. Adam lived nearly a thousand years on a pure vegetarian diet. After the introduction of "clean" meats at the time of the flood, man's lifespan was immediately cut by a third. After just a few generations of meat eating, people were dying at age 200. And just a few generations later Moses wrote, "The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off." Psalm 90:10.

When the Israelites were in the wilderness, God provided manna for them – bread from heaven – and water from a rock. But many of them "fell a lusting" and said, "Who shall give us flesh to eat?" God had hoped to bring His people back to the original diet of Eden. Their craving for flesh meats greatly disappointed Him. So He gave them the flesh they wanted, but "while the flesh was yet between their teeth, ere it was chewed, the wrath of the Lord was kindled against the people, and the Lord smote the people with a very great plague. And...there they buried the people that lusted." Numbers 11:33-34.

This experience was so significant to God's people that it was recounted in its entirety in Psalm 78:18-31, and referred to again in Psalm 106:15, "He gave them their request, but sent leanness into their soul." God often allows us to have what we want, but the result is a loss of vitality – both physically and spiritually.

Referring to the same event, Paul counsels, "We should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted." 1 Corinthians 10:6.

Notice in these texts that eating flesh is associated with God's displeasure:
"Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh." Proverbs 23:20.
"Slaying oxen, and killing sheep, eating flesh, and drinking wine: let us eat and drink; for tomorrow we shall die." Isaiah 22:13.

When we consecrate our lives to the service of God, our bodies become the temple of the Holy Spirit. As Christians we are called to glorify God in all our habits and practices. We will seek to do all we can to live in the most healthful way possible, to the glory of God.
"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31.

The book of Daniel, with its vital message, was written for us who live in "the time of the end." How significant it is to us that the book of Daniel opens with the message of abstinence from rich and unwholesome foods, and emphasizes the benefits of a pure vegetarian diet!

Practical, Biblical Instructions on Eating

"Thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread." Genesis 3:18-19.

"Eat thy bread with joy." Ecclesiastes 9:7.

"Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith." Proverbs 15:17.

"Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an house full of sacrifices with strife." Proverbs 17:1.

"My son, eat thou honey, because it is good; and the honeycomb, which is sweet to thy taste." Proverbs 24:13.

"Hast thou found honey? eat so much as is sufficient for thee, lest thou be filled therewith, and vomit it." Proverbs 25:16.

"It is not good to eat much honey." Proverbs 25:27.

"When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before thee: And put a knife to thy throat, if thou be a man given to appetite. Be not desirous of his dainties: for they are deceitful meat." Proverbs 23:1-3.

"He should have fed them also with the finest of the wheat." Psalm 81:16.

“Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.” Isaiah 55:2.

“For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.” Psalm 84:11.

“There is nothing better for a man, than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour. This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God.” Ecclesiastes 2:24.

Abstaining from Harmful Substances

“Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.” Proverbs 20:1.

“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkard...shall inherit the kingdom of God.” 1 Corinthians 6:9-10.

“Which eat swine’s flesh, and broth of abominable things is in their vessels.” Isaiah 65:4.

“For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.” Proverbs 23:21.

“Their wine is the poison of dragons, and the cruel venom of asps.” Deuteronomy 32:33.

“Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them!” Isaiah 5:11.

“Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.” Proverbs 23:29-32.

“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey: whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?” Romans 6:16 (see also verse 13).

“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.” Ephesians 5:18.

“Do not drink wine nor strong drink...that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean.” Leviticus 10:9-10.

“Be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the Lord.” Isaiah 52:11.

“Abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.” 1 Peter 2:11.

“If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the master’s use, and prepared unto every good work.” 2 Timothy 2:21.

“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing.” 2 Corinthians 6:17.

“Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.” Hebrews 12:16.

Notice: Man’s first sin in the garden of Eden was related to appetite. Jesus’ first temptation in the wilderness was also related to appetite. Christ conquered where Adam failed, thereby making it possible for you and I to gain the same victory over appetite.

But some try to ignore these plain dietary principles of God, and believe they have found other Scriptural passages which allow them to excuse their lack of control over dietary habits. So let us take some time to examine these so-called excusing passages.

On 1 Timothy 4:1-5

Some people have used this passage to say that Christians are really free to eat anything they want. But that is not what it says.

This passage speaks of some who depart from the faith, and command "to abstain from meats which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth." Notice that these people are commanding to abstain from meats which God created to be received.

The vital question is, What "meat" did God create to be received? The Genesis account is clear: "Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat." Genesis 1:29. Thus, the meats which God created for us to receive are herbs and fruits and seeds.

The word "meat" today almost always means flesh meat. But in the Bible it can simply mean "food." When Paul's ship was about to be wrecked, he invited the passengers to "take some meat," adding, "for this is for your health" Acts 27:34. But notice then what meat he took. He "took bread, and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all: and...began to eat" Verse 35.

1 Timothy 4:4 says, "For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving." Some people claim that this means that we are to eat anything and everything. Following that line of reasoning, we should not refuse to eat rats or cockroaches. Obviously Paul's "every creature" is to be qualified by the previous verse – foods which God hath created to be received!

Verse 5 gives additional qualifications: foods which are "sanctified by the word of God." Sanctified means set apart and designated for a specific purpose. So far from giving license to eating anything we please, this passage is fully consistent with the rest of Scripture, permitting only those foods which are designated by the word of God.

On Acts 10 - Peter's Vision

Peter's vision of the sheet full of animals is sometimes cited in an attempt to sidestep the Bible's dietary guidelines. Actually, its message does not pertain to food at all.

The vision occurs in the context of the opening of the gospel to the Gentiles. At that time all the Christians were Jews. They viewed the Gentiles as beyond the reach of the grace of God. God wanted to break down that wall of prejudice, and used this strange dream to do it.

While messengers were on their way from Cornelius to get him, Peter, on a housetop, fell into a trance. He saw a large sheet let down before him "wherein were all manner of four-footed beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean. And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common. This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven."

If God was indeed instructing Peter to add all those creatures to his diet, then it would be our Christian obligation to eat skunks and mice and snakes. But the purpose of the vision was not to change Peter's dietary intake, but his outlook. It was not given him so that he could expand his selection of food at mealtime, but so that he could expand his mission.

We have learned in previous lessons that beasts in symbolic visions represent nations. Just as in Revelation 10, John in vision was asked to eat a book, here Peter in vision was asked to eat beasts. These beasts, being unclean, represented the uncircumcised nations. Peter represented the church, as did John in Revelation 10. Eating a thing symbolized receiving it. God was graphically illustrating to Peter that the church was to receive "every nation" (verse 35) into it.

The words that were spoken to Peter were, "What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common." While Peter still wondered what God was referring to, the messengers from Cornelius reached the house where Peter was staying. Then "the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee. Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them." Peter then began to understand the meaning of the vision. When he arrived at Cornelius' house he found a large group of Gentiles assembled, all waiting to hear the gospel of Jesus.

Peter said, “Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean. Therefore came I unto you without gainsaying, as soon as I was sent for.” “Of a truth,” He concluded, “I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.”

Here, Peter himself plainly explained what his own vision meant. It was not that God wanted to cast aside His own dietary laws, and now allowed His people the freedom to eat anything they wanted to. But that God wanted His followers to cast aside the Jewish wall of prejudice and allow the Gospel to go to all nations, tongues and peoples.

On 1 Timothy 5:23

What was Paul recommending when he told Timothy to “use a little wine for thy stomach’s sake”? Was he suggesting that alcohol is good for our system? The fact is that alcohol does not benefit the stomach at all.

The word “wine” in the Bible means grape juice. The same word is used for both fermented and unfermented juice. The practice of using unfermented grape juice for medicinal purposes in Paul’s day is well documented. Aristotle (384-322 B.C.), Athenaeus (200 A.D.), and Pliny (24-79 A.D.; who was a contemporary of Paul’s), each advised the use of sweet grape juice to alleviate stomach disorders.

Both Paul and Peter taught abstinence from alcohol. This is evident from their frequent use of the word “sober” (see 1 Thessalonians 5:6-8; 1 Timothy 3:2, 11; Titus 2:2; 1 Peter 1:13; 4:7; 5:8). The Greek word translated “sober” in these verses is “nepho” or “nephalios”. Nepho means “to abstain from wine” and nephalios means “abstinent in respect to wine.”

By that definition, which is also attested in the writings of Josephus and Philo, Paul admonished in 1 Timothy 3:2 that a bishop must be abstinent in respect to wine. In verse 3 he declared that a bishop must be “me paroinon”, which literally means “not around wine.” Having so strongly thus instructed Timothy to abstain from alcohol and not even be around it, Paul certainly would not have advised him in the same book to take some for his stomach’s sake. Obviously in Chapter 5 he was recommending unfermented grape juice.

A Recommended Health Program

The ABC’s of Health
(A simple program for avoiding illness or restoring health)

A – Abstain from intemperate practices.
B – Breathe deeply of fresh, pure air.
C – Carefully expose to sunlight.
D – Drink pure water freely and bathe.
E – Eat simple, whole, plant foods.
F – Follow an exercise program.
G – Get regular, adequate rest.
H – Have faith in God’s power.

Lesson 26: The Christian and the World

1. How should the Christian relate to the things of the world?

1 John 2:15 _____

_____

2. What similar appeal does Paul give?

Romans 12:2 _____

3. Anyone who is allied with the world is what?

James 4:4 _____

4. How is our need of distinction from the world emphasized?

2 Corinthians 6:17 _____

_____

"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17.

5. We are to be transformed by renewing what?

Romans 12:2 _____

Our mind is made up of what we feed it. If we would develop the mind of Christ we must be very selective in what we allow to enter it through our eyes and ears.

6. When must we stop our ears and shut our eyes?

Isaiah 33:15 _____

7. How did Job control his eyes?

Job 31:1 _____

8. What did David resolve?

Psalm 101:3 _____

_____

9. What should we think about?

Philippians 4:8

"Whatsoever things are _____

whatsoever things are _____

whatsoever things are _____

whatsoever things are _____

whatsoever things are _____

whatsoever things are _____

if there be any _____

and if there be any _____

think on these things."

A true Christian will allow these principles to direct all his choices of reading, listening, viewing, recreation and leisure activities. As a reminder, why not place the words of Philippians 4:8 on top of the television?

10. How does the Bible describe people's great desire for entertainment today?

2 Timothy 3:4 _____

11. Under what description would someone who loves fiction fall?

Revelation 22:15 _____

12. When people were converted in Ephesus, what did they do with their evil books?

Acts 19:19 _____

13. What type of music is best for the Christian?

Colossians 3:16 _____

14. What about our associations?

Proverbs 13:20 _____

_____

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." Psalm 1:1-3.

15. What is the best defense against sin?

Psalm 119:11 _____

16. What should be our prayer?

Psalm 19:14 _____

_____

17. How ought Christians to adorn themselves?

1 Timothy 2:9-10 _____

_____

18. When preparing to go before God, Jacob's household washed, changed their garments, and gave what two things to Jacob?

Genesis 35:2-4 _____

_____

The Bible associates cosmetics and jewelry with the vain worldliness of the wicked:
"They had golden earrings, because they were Ishmaelites." Judges 8:24.

"Jezebel...painted her face, and tired her head." 2 Kings 9:30.

"Though thou clothest thyself with crimson, though thou deckest thee with ornaments of gold, though thou rentest thy face with painting, in vain shalt thou make thyself fair." Jeremiah 4:30.

"The Lord said,...wilt thou judge Aholah and Aholibah? yea, declare unto them their abominations." "That ye have sent for men to come from far,...for whom thou didst wash thyself, paintedst thy eyes, and deckedst thyself with ornaments." "Which put bracelets upon their hands, and beautiful crowns upon their heads." "Thus will I cause...that all women may be taught not to do after your lewdness." Ezekiel 23:36-49.

"She decked herself with her earrings and her jewels, and she went after her lovers, and forgat me, saith the Lord." Hosea 2:13.

"And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication." Revelation 17:4.

Isaiah 3:16-24 provides a very revealing list of worldly decorations which the Lord rebukes among the daughters of Zion. In verse 9 He says, "The shew of their countenance doth witness against them."

19. What did the Lord command Israel to take off at Horeb?

Exodus 33:5-6 _____

20. What did Peter say about the proper adorning of a Christian?

1 Peter 3:3-4 _____

_____

21. What has God said about distinction in clothing?

Deuteronomy 22:5 _____

_____

22. What, on a man, would blur that distinction?

1 Corinthians 11:14-15 _____

23. What motive is behind the dress of the world?

Matthew 23:5 _____

24. What has God's grace been given to teach us?

Titus 2:11-12 _____

_____

25. Why did Jesus give himself for us?

Titus 2:14 _____

_____

26. How did Paul indicate that it was with gladness that he gave up all things in order to have Christ?

Philippians 3:8 _____

_____

_____

27. A true Christian will want not only to keep God's explicit commandments, but also do those things he knows are what?

1 John 3:22 _____

28. Whatsoever is born of God does what?

1 John 5:4 _____

In the Light of God's Word…

☐ I understand that the lifestyle of a true Christian is markedly different from that of an unbeliever.
☐ I understand that God requires me to reveal His principles in my thoughts, my dress, my reading, and in all my activities.
☐ I desire to do all that is pleasing to God.

Lesson 27: Recognizing God's Ownership

1. Who owns the world?

Psalm 24:1 _____

2. **What does God claim as His?**

   Psalm 50:10 _____

3. **What about the world's wealth?**

   Haggai 2:8 _____

4. **The kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who did what?**

   Matthew 25:14 _____

   We are "stewards of the mysteries of God." 1 Corinthians 4:1.

5. **What happens to treasures laid up on earth?**

   Matthew 6:19 _____

6. **What are we to do with the treasures entrusted to us?**

   Matthew 6:20 _____

7. **What do our investments show?**

   Matthew 6:21 _____

8. **If our heart is with the Lord, what question will we ask?**

   Psalm 116:12 _____

9. **What will we bring when we come into His courts?**

   Psalm 96:8 _____

10. **How much offering shall we give?**

    Deuteronomy 16:17 _____

    _____

11. **What happens when we give?**

    Luke 6:38 _____

    _____

    _____

12. **Wherein have some robbed God?**

    Malachi 3:8 _____

    Notice that tithe and offerings are two different things.

13. **What happens if I rob God?**

    Malachi 3:9 _____

14. **To whom does the tithe belong?**

    Leviticus 27:30 _____

15. **What are we to do with what belongs to God?**

    Matthew 22:21 _____

16. **Ought we to tithe as well as perform the weightier matters of the law?**

Matthew 23:23 _____

17. **How should we feel about anything we give to God?**

1 Chronicles 29:14 (last half) _____

18. **What did Abraham give Melchizedek?**

Genesis 14:20 _____

Jesus is "made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec." Hebrews 6:20. Notice that tithing was practiced by God's people even before the Levitical priesthood came into existence.

19. **How much is a tithe?**

Hebrews 7:1-2 _____

20. **How much shall be holy unto the Lord?**

Leviticus 27:32 _____

21. **What did Jacob vow to God?**

Genesis 28:22 _____

22. **Do we return God's tithe after we have paid everything else, or do we return His tithe first?**

Proverbs 3:9 _____

23. **To whom were Israel's tithes given?**

Numbers 18:24 _____

24. **What service did they perform which qualified them to receive tithes?**

Numbers 18:21 _____

25. **Even so hath the Lord ordained that who should live of the gospel?**

1 Corinthians 9:13-14 _____

26. **Bring ye all the tithes into what?**

Malachi 3:10 _____

27. **That there may be meat in what?**

Malachi 3:10 _____

"The house of God...is the church of the living God." 1 Timothy 3:15.

28. **If we faithfully return His tithe, what will God do?**

Malachi 3:10 _____

_____

Malachi 3:11 _____

_____

29. What else does He promise?

Proverbs 3:10 _____

30. What is one way of laying up treasure in heaven?

Matthew 19:21 _____

31. How does that kind of investment bring returns?

Proverbs 19:17 _____

32. What should we remember about God?

Deuteronomy 8:18 _____

33. If we don't have as much wealth as we would like, what should we do?

Hebrews 13:5 _____

"Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith." Proverbs 15:16.

"He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity. When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good is there to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of them with their eyes?" Ecclesiastes 5:10-11.

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness." 1 Timothy 6:6-11.

34. What should we concentrate on? And what is promised?

Matthew 6:33 _____

In the Light of God's Word…

☐ I understand that God has designated the tithe for the support of the gospel ministry, and that a tenth of my increase belongs to Him for that purpose.
☐ I understand that God also asks for freewill offerings according as He has blessed me, and that these offerings reveal the condition of my heart toward Him.
☐ I choose to faithfully return to God His tithe and my offerings, because of my love for Him.

Lesson 28: God's Special People

1. Is God responsible for religious confusion?

1 Corinthians 14:33 _____

2. Does more than one true faith exist?

Ephesians 4:4-5 _____

3. **Christ's body of believers on earth is called what?**

   Colossians 1:18 _____

4. **When souls were baptized, they were added to what?**

   Acts 2:41, 47 _____

5. **The house of God, which is the church of the living God, is what?**

   1 Timothy 3:15 _____

   As we begin this lesson, notice should be given to three specific characteristics of God's church in its early days.

   1) A respect for God's law (Acts 24:14; 1 John 3:22).

   2) The presence of the gift of prophecy (Acts 11:27-28).

   3) Recognition of a world-wide mission (Matthew 28:19; Colossians 1:23).

6. **How long would Christ be with His people?**

   Matthew 28:20 _____

   We will now trace the history of God's people as it was foretold in prophecy.

7. **What great wonder appeared in heaven?**

   Revelation 12:1 _____

   _____

   "Who is she that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners?" Song of Solomon 6:10.

8. **God has likened the daughter of Zion (His people, Isaiah 51:16) to what?**

   Jeremiah 6:2 _____

   In the Bible, the church is often symbolically represented as a woman. "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." Ephesians 5:25-27.

9. **Paul wished to present the church as what kind of woman?**

   2 Corinthians 11:2 _____

10. **What other wonder appeared in heaven?**

    Revelation 12:3 _____

11. **Who is the dragon?**

    Revelation 12:9 _____

12. **The woman brought forth a man child who was to do what?**

    Revelation 12:5 _____

    This child, who would one day rule the nations "with a rod of iron," was Jesus (see Revelation 19:15).

13. **The dragon stood before the woman, intending to do what?**

    Revelation 12:4 _____

Matthew 2:13-16 tells the story of how Satan tried to kill Jesus as a baby.

14. After Jesus went back to heaven (verse 5), what did Satan then do to the church?

Revelation 12:13 _____

15. Where did the true church then have to flee?

Revelation 12:14 _____

16. How long was the church in the wilderness?

Revelation 12:6 _____

The 1260 years of papal supremacy extended from 538 to 1798. Due to the corruption of the Roman church and its persecution against dissenters, the true church was forced to go into seclusion during this time. Although not recognized by the world, Christ's faithful followers, among the rocks of the mountains, maintained their loyalty to the truth. Foremost among those who resisted Rome's attacks were the Waldenses of the southern European Alps, who for hundreds of years preserved the pure Scriptures and honored the true Sabbath.

The church, however, was not to remain in obscurity for ever. Just as surely as it went into the wilderness, it would come out. Christ's church, the pillar and ground of the truth, had a mission which was to last even unto the end of the world. Therefore we must look for that church to visibly appear again after 1798 in order to complete its work.

But among the hundreds of religious organizations in existence today, how are we to recognize and identify the true church? Fortunately, we are not left to guess. The word of God has supplied a clear description.

17. When the church emerged from the wilderness, Satan went to make war with whom?

Revelation 12:17 _____

The woman would represent the churches existing at the period of 1798, or the Protestant churches. The seed of this woman would be a church of God that would appear shortly after 1798. And the Remnant of that seed would be the final church or people of God that would appear in the last days of earth's history. A remnant is "Something left over....A leftover piece of fabric, as one remaining after the rest of the bolt has been sold....A small, remaining group of people." The American Heritage Dictionary. Thus the "remnant of her seed" is that which is left of Christ's true church in the final days of earth's history after the 1260-year period has ended and the general apostasy of all the churches of Christendom has occurred.

18. The first identifying mark of the remnant when they appear after 1798 is that they keep what?

Revelation 12:17 _____

19. Should we look for them to be keeping all ten of the commandments, including the one about the Sabbath?

James 2:10 _____

_____

20. What will they do with God's commandments besides just doing them?

Matthew 5:19 _____

21. The second identifying mark of the remnant is that they have what?

Revelation 12:17 _____

The Greek word for "have" is #2192 in Strong's Greek Concordance, and it means to hold or to follow. So to "have the testimony of Jesus" does not mean just to possess it, but it means to hold or to follow it as part of your beliefs.

22. The testimony of Jesus is what?

Revelation 19:10 _____

23. Who, in the angel's words to John, have the testimony of Jesus?

Revelation 19:10 _____

24. Who are John's brethren?

Revelation 22:9 _____

Since the prophets are the ones who have it, the testimony of Jesus, or spirit of prophecy, is actually the spiritual gift of prophecy. The existence of this gift, along with the keeping of all the commandments of God, are the two Biblical identifying marks of Christ's church in the last days.

25. What did Jesus say the church would do, and then the end would come?

Matthew 24:14 _____

26. How does Revelation describe the fulfillment of that prophecy?

Revelation 14:6 _____

_____

_____

Symbolically represented as angels flying in the midst of heaven, God's remnant people will be seen carrying the gospel to all the world. Thus the characteristics we noted of the church in its early days are presented in Revelation as those which are to identify it in the last days.

In the Light of God's Word…

☐ I understand that the subject of the church is of major importance in the book of Revelation.
☐ I understand that there can only be one true faith.
☐ I understand that the true church is identified by its observance of all ten of the commandments, and by it being benefited by the gift of prophecy and following its teachings.

Lesson 29: The Spirit of Prophecy

1. When Christ ascended, He gave what unto men?

Ephesians 4:8 _____

2. What are some of the gifts that He gave?

Ephesians 4:11 _____

_____

The word "Apostle" is a transliteration of a Greek word meaning "one sent forth," or in other words, a missionary.

3. Why did Jesus give these spiritual gifts to members of His church?

Ephesians 4:12 _____

_____

Unlike known talents which anyone might possess, spiritual gifts are given to God's people so that each believer will have some specific ministry they may perform in the service of God.

4. How long will each of these gifts be needed?

Ephesians 4:13 _____

_____

Until the church reaches the perfection which measures with the fullness of Christ's stature she will have missionaries, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. All the gifts were to continue operating until the end of time.

5. These gifts are to protect us from being tossed to and fro, and carried about with what?

Ephesians 4:14 _____

6. Which two gifts were noted at Antioch?

Acts 13:1 _____

7. What was Philip's gift?

Acts 21:8 _____

8. The same man had four daughters which did what?

Acts 21:9 _____

God often endowed women with the spirit of prophecy: Miriam (see Exodus 15:20), Deborah (see Judges 4:4), Hulda (see 2 Chronicles 34:22), Anna (see Luke 2:36).

9. What has God set before us, for us to walk in?

Jeremiah 26:4 _____

10. What second source of instruction are we also to hearken to?

Jeremiah 26:5 _____

11. Since the law and the prophets go together, what happens when the law is upheld no more?

Lamentations 2:9 _____

12. How did God reply to some who inquired of Him?

Ezekiel 20:3 _____

13. Why did the Lord refuse to give them any new counsel at that time?

Ezekiel 20:11-13 _____

_____

_____

If people forsake God's law and break His Sabbath, they cannot expect to receive the gift of prophecy. But restore the commandments of God, and the testimony of Jesus appears again also (See Revelation 12:17).

14. When would it come to pass that the spirit of prophecy would be manifested again?

Acts 2:17 _____

15. How does God give messages to His prophets?

Numbers 12:6 _____

_____

The natural possession of keen insight or the gaining of knowledge by study do not constitute the gift of prophecy. Prophecy is when God speaks directly to His chosen messenger through a vision or dream, giving specific information which the prophet had no other way of obtaining. The prophet is not the source of the information he reveals, but simply the channel through which God speaks.

16. He that is now called a prophet was beforetime called a what?

1 Samuel 9:9 _____

17. What prophet and what seer wrote books which are not in our Bible?

1 Chronicles 29:29 _____

_____

From the above text it is clear that a prophet's writings do not have to be in the Bible in order for that prophet to be inspired. When Ahab disregarded the counsel of the prophet Micaiah (who never wrote a single word of the Bible) he suffered the consequences for disobedience just as if it had been Isaiah or Jeremiah who had given the warning (see 1 Kings 22). When the Lord inspires a prophet, whether the message serves only to meet a specific need at a specific time, or whether it is canonized in the Scriptures for people in all ages, the degree of inspiration is the same. And the messages of all true prophets of God, whether they are Bible writers or not, will be in perfect harmony with the written Scriptures, by which all things must be tested.

18. What two vital roles did the gift of prophecy play in the experience of ancient Israel?

Hosea 12:13 _____

_____

"Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets." Amos 3:7.

19. How important is it to believe God's prophets?

2 Chronicles 20:20 _____

_____

In the Light of God's Word…

☐ I understand that the spirit of prophecy and other spiritual endowments are Christ's special gifts to His church.
☐ I understand that God planned for these gifts to be present in His church until the end of time.

Lesson 30: Testing the Gifts

1. Why do we need to test all spiritual manifestations?

1 John 4:1 _____

2. What will the Lord say to many who have prophesied?

Matthew 7:22-23 _____

3. What did He say would arise in the last days?

Matthew 24:24 _____

4. What four specific injunctions does Paul give?

1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 _____

_____

5. According to what word must we test all things?

Isaiah 8:20 _____

The first and most important test of a prophet is that his message is in harmony with the law of God and the testimony of earlier prophets of God.

6. How does a false prophet's appearance deceive people?

Matthew 7:15 _____

7. How then can we distinguish the genuine from the false?

Matthew 7:16-20 _____

8. False prophets strengthen the hands of the wicked, so that what?

Ezekiel 13:22 _____

The second test of a prophet is the fruit of his ministry. Does his own life reveal God's character? Does his work bear the marks of the high and holy calling of God? Are people's lives elevated through his influence?

9. What does the accuracy of a prophet's predictions indicate?

Jeremiah 28:9 _____

10. What would inaccuracy of prediction indicate?

Deuteronomy 18:21-22 _____

_____

_____

11. Yet even if a sign should come to pass, what in a prophet's message would prove him to be false?

Deuteronomy 13:1-5 _____

The third test of a prophet is the accuracy of his predictions. Predicting, however, is not the primary function of a prophet. A prophet's work is to bear the messages which God gives, and those messages may or may not contain information about the future. But when God does reveal future events, we may be sure that it will happen just as He has foretold.

Sometimes God gives conditional prophecies. Jonah's message of the fall of Nineveh, for example, was conditioned upon the response of the people.

Because Satan can also sometimes accurately predict certain events before they happen, fulfilled predictions cannot be considered conclusive evidence of the genuine gift of prophecy. But Satan cannot predict with 100% accuracy as God does. For this reason, when a prophet's predictions are consistently fulfilled throughout his entire career, we must take it as evidence of his authenticity. We should then look for the other tests to be met as well.

12. What is one key teaching that must be checked?

1 John 4:3 _____

13. What two physical effects did Daniel report from his vision?

Daniel 10:17 _____

The effects of Daniel's vision are described in detail in Daniel 10:7-19.

a) - Daniel alone saw the vision. The men with him did not see it, but were afraid.
b) - He lost all his own strength.
c) - He lost consciousness, then heard a voice.
d) - A hand touched him, which set him on his hands and knees.
e) - He then arose to his feet.
f) - He became dumb.
g) - His lips were touched; he was able to speak.
h) - There was no breath in him.
i) - He was given strength.

14. When the prophet Balaam heard the words of God and saw the vision of the Almighty, how was his physical condition described?

Numbers 24:4 _____

Although never a conclusive test of divine inspiration, supernatural phenomena accompanying a vision do lend credibility to a prophet's message. But because Satan can counterfeit such signs, we cannot base our confidence in a prophet solely upon physical manifestations. Physical signs are not always present when a prophet receives a revelation. God has often spoken to His prophets in dreams while they were sleeping.

15. We have many members in one body; and in what respect are all members of the body different?

Romans 12:4 _____

16. What does each member have differently?

Romans 12:6 _____

Please also read 1 Corinthians Chapter 12, especially verses 4-11, 14-19, 28-30. The Bible does not say that a true believer has to have any one particular gift. Neither does it say that the believer may choose his gift. The Holy Spirit gives different gifts to different people, "dividing to every man severally as He will."

17. Among the signs Jesus said would follow them that believe, they would speak with what?

Mark 16:17 _____

The word "tongue" (glossa) means "language."

18. On the day of Pentecost, how did each foreign visitor hear the apostles speak?

Acts 2:6 _____

A second manifestation of the gift of tongues took place at the house of Cornelius, a Roman centurion (Acts 10:46).

19. How did Peter explain that the gift of tongues at the house of Cornelius was no different from what was experienced at Pentecost?

Acts 11:17 _____

The only other recorded instance of tongues in the Bible is Acts 19:6. And there is nothing in the passage to indicate that its manifestation was any different.

20. Though I speak with tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as what?

1 Corinthians 13:1 _____

21. What is the only Biblically acceptable procedure for speaking in other tongues?

1 Corinthians 14:27 _____

_____

22. What if there is no one to interpret it?

1 Corinthians 14:28 _____

_____

23. Let all things be done unto what?

1 Corinthians 14:26 _____

"Except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? For ye shall speak into the air." 1 Corinthians 14:9.

"Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me." 1 Corinthians 14:11.

"If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?" 1 Corinthians 14:23.

24. Does confusion come from God?

1 Corinthians 14:33 _____

25. What is the purpose of tongues?

1 Corinthians 14:22 _____

_____

26. How therefore should all things be done?

1 Corinthians 14:40 _____

In the Light of God's Word…

☐ I understand that the Bible has set forth specific tests for determining the genuineness of prophets.
☐ I understand that spiritual gifts are distributed according to God's will, not ours.
☐ I understand that the purpose of the gifts of tongues is to communicate the gospel, and would be useless where it is not needed for that purpose.

Lesson 31: When All Religions Unite

1. Unclean spirits came out of the mouths of what three apocalyptic figures?

Revelation 16:13 _____

2. The false prophet is identified as being the one that did what?

Revelation 19:20 _____

Those activities are done by the second beast of Revelation 13, the United States of America (Compare with Revelation 13:14). When referred to as a "beast," as in Chapter 13, the focus is on the political government of the nation. But when referred to as a "false prophet," the focus is unmistakably on the religious element of the country. The primary religion in the United States is Protestantism. Revelation 16:13 therefore describes the ecumenical uniting of three classes of religion: Paganism or Spiritualism, Catholicism, and Protestantism.

Many Protestants do not realize or fear the steady, rapid progress of the papal power. Downplaying their differences, Protestant leaders have begun to court the favor of Rome, slowly playing themselves into the hand of the system their fathers gave their lives to resist.

3. What are we told about these unclean spirits?

Revelation 16:14 _____

Spiritualism is here depicted as one of the greatest deceptions in the last days. Spirits of devils, working miracles, may appear as ministers of righteousness, heavenly messengers, or as departed loved ones (see Lesson 10). These miracles, performed by the power of demons, will be presented as proof of their divine origin. Our only safeguard against deception is a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures.

The belief that the dead are conscious, as held by nearly every Protestant denomination, lays the foundation of spiritualism, and is the first great error through which Satan unites the people under his deceptions. This, with the error of Sunday sacredness, unites the denominations and binds them with Rome.

4. This three-fold religious union will lead to the gathering together of whom?

Revelation 16:14 _____

"Associate yourselves, O ye people, and ye shall be broken in pieces." "Take counsel together, and it shall come to nought." Isaiah 8:9-10.

5. Those who trust in a confederacy ought rather to put their trust in whom?

Isaiah 8:12-13 _____

6. John was shown the judgment of whom?

Revelation 17:1 _____

We learned in Lesson 28 that a "woman" in symbolic prophecy represents a church or religious system. While a pure woman represents God's true church, a whore is the most appropriate symbol for a corrupt religious system (see Jeremiah 3:1-8, 20; Ezekiel 16:15-43; Jeremiah 13:27).

7. With whom has she committed fornication?

Revelation 17:2 _____

No religious organization has historically been as entangled with the kings of the earth as has the Roman papal system.

8. The inhabitants of the earth have become drunk with what?

Revelation 17:2 _____

In Matthew 9:17 Jesus used the figure of wine to refer to teachings or doctrines. The "wine" of Revelation 17:2, being fermented, would indicate false or corrupt doctrines.

9. What extravagant embellishments illustrate the immense wealth of this religious organization?

Revelation 17:4 _____

_____

_____

10. With what was she drunken?

Revelation 17:6 _____

11. What name is written on the woman's forehead?

Revelation 17:5 _____

_____

The Creed of Pope Pius IV, Article 10, states, "I acknowledge the Holy Catholic Apostolic Church for the mother and mistress of all churches."

12. What have her daughters become?

Revelation 17:5 _____

"As is the mother, so is her daughter." Ezekiel 16:44. Those denominations that have come out of Catholicism, yet which cling to her doctrines and follow her worldly practices are described in no more pleasing terms than their mother.

13. What will happen to her children?

Revelation 2:23 _____

14. What message does the second angel of Revelation 14 proclaim?

Revelation 14:8 _____

_____

This text calls for a wider interpretation of the term “Babylon.” Because this angel announces Babylon’s fall, he must be referring to religion which was once pure and has now become corrupt. This Babylon cannot be Catholicism; for that system has already been corrupt for many centuries and has not made any changes.

According to this verse, Babylon is identified by her “wine,” which is a product of her fornication with the world. That description would apply to any organization that teaches doctrines which are contrary to the word of God.

The word Babylon, derived from Babel, denotes confusion (Genesis 11:9). Does not this term describe the innumerable conflicting sects of Protestantism? This second angel is sent to declare the moral fall of all denominations which have departed from the pure doctrines of the word of God to teach doctrines based upon the commandments and traditions of men.

15. In what vivid terms is the moral fall of Babylon described?

Revelation 18:2 _____

_____

_____

This angel declares that spiritualism has infiltrated modern churches. “For by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.” Revelation 18:23.

16. What three additional charges are laid against her?

Revelation 18:3 _____

_____

_____

“The wine.” Among the false doctrines which all nations have drunk, the most serious is that of Sunday observance, which tramples upon God’s fourth commandment.

“The kings of the earth.” Protestants are becoming increasingly involved in government affairs. This relationship of religious groups with the kings of the earth is threatening the wall of separation which must exist between church and state. When this wall is removed, the results are fearful.

“The merchants of the earth.” The prophecy predicted that economic factors were to play a significant role in end-time religious political issues.

What a sad picture of modern religion. Although the Protestant Reformers followed every ray of light they had, the organizations that bear their names have failed to advance into fuller light, and have fallen from the purity of the faith which they once held.

17. What final call is heard from heaven?

Revelation 18:4 _____

_____

In the Light of God’s Word…

☐ I understand that the Bible predicts an ecumenical uniting of religions, and refers to it as being Babylon.
☐ I understand that, as the great Babylonian whore represents the mother apostate church, so her daughters represent religious groups which have developed from her.

Lesson 32: Will You Become a Son or Daughter of God?

1. What two classes of people are depicted in the Scriptures?

1 Thessalonians 5:5 _____

2. **The children of the night or of darkness are also identified by what other two names?**

   Luke 16:8 _____

   Romans 9:8 _____

3. **As both groups are identified as being children, then who is the father of each group?**

   1 John 3:10 (first part) _____

4. **How is a child of light or of God manifested?**

   Romans 8:13-14 _____

5. **What other fruits or actions will someone who is led by the Spirit of God manifest?**

   Galatians 5:22-24 _____

6. **All of these good fruits or actions of the children of God are depicted as being what?**

   Ephesians 5:9 _____

   By following the truth of God, they have developed their characters in righteousness, and their actions of obedience to God's law prove that they are the children of God.

7. **How is a child of darkness or of the devil manifested?**

   1 John 3:10 (last part) _____

8. **What other fruits or actions will someone who is a child of the flesh or of the devil manifest?**

   Galatians 5:19-21 _____

9. **All of these unrighteous fruits or actions of the children of the devil are depicted as making them what?**

   Ephesians 5:6 _____

   By refusing to follow the truth of God, they have developed their characters in unrighteousness, and their actions of disobedience of God's law prove that they are the children of the devil.

10. **If we reveal actions of adultery, fornication, envy, drunkeness, murder, etc., then who do we show is our real father?**

    John 8:44 _____

11. **How can we distinguish between one who is a child of God versus one who is a child of the devil?**

    Matthew 7:20 _____

Thus by the actions we manifest, anyone can easily determine exactly whose child we are – either of God or of the devil.

12. For any who desire to become children of God, what must they do?

Galatians 3:26-27 _____

13. If we have been baptized into Christ, then we become baptized into what?

1 Corinthians 12:13 _____

14. Whose body do we become part of?

Romans 12:4-5 _____

15. What is another name for all those who have become a part of the body of Christ?

Colossians 1:24 _____

16. Who is the head or leader of this church or the body of Christ?

Colossians 1:18 _____

_____

17. What further relationship do we enter into by becoming part of the body of Christ and of His church?

2 Corinthians 11:2 _____

_____

18. What is another name given for a chaste virgin that has become espoused or engaged?

Isaiah 62:5 _____

19. Is it really true that Christ, as the Bridegroom, enters into a marriage covenant with all those who have chosen to become His bride by becoming part of His body or church?

Ephesians 5:23-24, 31-32 _____

_____

20. Why does Christ enter into marriage with His true followers?

Ephesians 5:25-27 _____

_____

_____

_____

Thus the bride or the members of the church of Christ are depicted as becoming just like Christ in character and action – being holy, perfect and without blemish.

21. As Christ is the Husband of His church or bride, does the Devil have a church of his own that is made up of his body of followers?

Revelation 3:9 _____

As the members of the synagogue or church of Satan are depicted as lying, this tells us that they exhibit the same disobedient fruits as their father the Devil, and thus they will be easily recognized by these evil fruits. As the members of Satan's church claimed to be Jews, or they claimed to be the true followers of God, then this tells us that there will be groups of people or denominations that will deceptively claim to be God's true church. Yet because they do not obey

God and keep all of His commandments, and do not reveal the holy fruits of the Spirit in their lives and actions, then they prove themselves to be nothing more than deceptive agents of the Devil trying to trap unwary souls to join and stay within their corrupted church ranks.

22. By what other two descriptive symbols is the synagogue or church of Satan depicted as?

Revelation 17:1, 5 _____

_____

The Babylon spoken of here is not the literal kingdom of Babylon whose ancient capital city was located in what is now Iraq. But the Babylon referred to here is a symbol representing all those who have chosen Satan as their leader and have become corrupted by union with him. As the Bible depicts that there are only two different groups into which all classes of people will be found in – either the obedient children of God, or the disobedient children of the Devil – so there are only two different kinds of churches that all classes of people will be found members of – either Christ's faithful bride, or Satan's harlot of Babylon.

Even though there are hundreds of different named churches of today, yet every one of these will be found classified under just one of these two different churches depending on what fruits they exhibit. As nearly all of the Christian churches of today refuse to keep God's seventh day Sabbath commandment and instead worship on Sunday, then by their disobedient actions they reveal themselves to be part of Babylon.

23. Is there to be any union between these two very different groups of followers or churches?

1 Corinthians 6:15-16 _____

_____

_____

24. What if you should find yourself connected in fellowship, communion or membership with a group or church that professes to serve God, but who are actually exhibiting fruits of disobedience showing them instead to be part of Satan's church of Babylon?

2 Corinthians 6:17 (first part) _____

25. Why do we need to separate ourselves out from all the unclean churches of Babylon?

Isaiah 52:11 _____

_____

26. How will we become unclean just by resting or remaining within corrupted churches?

Revelation 18:4 _____

_____

God is calling all of His followers to come out from and completely forsake all that is corrupted by Babylon, so that they will not become unclean by being a partaker or sharer of her sins, and thus will not have to be punished along with her by suffering the plagues.

27. What consequences are there if we should refuse to separate ourselves away from all corrupt and polluted connections with Babylon, and instead be content to remain with the unclean?

Micah 2:10 _____

_____

If we disobey God's specific call to come out of Babylon, and instead choose to remain in fellowship, communion or membership with any group or church that is not keeping all of God's commandments, then by our disobedience we show that we love the society of the rebellious more than we love following God. Thus we will become polluted by sharing in all their sins, and will lose everlasting life by suffering the wrath of God and being destroyed along with the wicked.

28. Is our eternal life really at stake if we choose to remain within any church of Babylon?

Jeremiah 51:6, 45 _____

_____

_____

_____

29. What is the promise from God if we choose to obey His command and separate ourselves from Babylon and away from all of the unclean followers of Satan?

2 Corinthians 6:17 (last part) and 18 _____

_____

When do we become the actual sons or daughters of God? It is not until after we have showed our obedience to God by separating ourselves out of all unclean groups or churches of Babylon. Once we have broken all fellowship, communion and membership with any disobedient church of Babylon, have then connected ourselves fully with Jesus Christ, covenanting to be His chaste virgin and allowing His truth and righteousness to work in us to "cleanse us from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (2 Corinthians 7:1), that we then become part His body, part of His bride or church, and God becomes our Father and we His children.

30. After we have obeyed God and separated away from all churches that make up Babylon, are we to remain alone and worship God by ourselves?

Hebrews 10:23-25 _____

31. As we cannot go back to those in Babylon, then who are we safe to fellowship with?

1 John 1:7 _____

When possible, we are to seek to fellowship and worship with others who have also separated themselves from all Babylonian churches, and who are also walking in the light of truth as it is in Jesus, even if our church service occurs in our very homes (Romans 16:5; 1 Corinthians 16:19; Colossians 4:15; Philemon 1:2).

32. What if we only find 1 or 2 others to fellowship with? Will Christ ignore our church service because of there being so few worshipers participating?

Matthew 18:20 _____

_____

33. What are we to do with this glorious heaven-sent light about the need to separate from Babylon so that we can become the sons and daughters of God?

John 13:17 _____

In the Light of God's Word…

☐ I understand that the Bible reveals that there are only two groups that all people will be found in - either the obedient children of God, or the disobedient children of the Devil.

☐ I understand that the Bible reveals that there are only two groups that all churches will be found in - either the faithful bride or the church of Christ's followers, or the harlot Babylon church of Satan's followers.

☐ I also understand that God is calling me to separate away from every church that is breaking any one of God's commandments - including from every Sunday-keeping church, because their disobedience proves them to be part of Babylon.

☐ I desire to become a faithful child of God, to become part of Christ's body and purified church, and to keep myself as a pure, holy and chaste virgin bride for Christ until He comes back to take us home.

Lesson 33: When You Hear His Voice

1. **The Spirit of God is also called what?**

   John 14:17 _____

2. **As such, what does the Spirit do?**

   John 16:13 _____

3. **Regarding that, what is specifically promised?**

   John 14:26 _____

4. **To whom does God give the Holy Ghost?**

   Acts 5:32 _____

5. **What does the Holy Ghost put in our hearts?**

   Romans 5:5 _____

6. **What is the fruit of the Spirit in our lives?**

   Galatians 5:22-23 _____

   _____

7. **What two things must we do in order to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost?**

   Acts 2:38 _____

   _____

8. **Who will be saved?**

   Mark 16:16 _____

   "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." John 3:5.

   As an outward sign of an inward change, baptism is a public testimony that now you belong to Jesus. Its significance as the sign of the new birth is fully discussed in Romans 6. There Paul speaks of the transforming power of grace within the life of the believer. Baptism is also the means of becoming a member of the church (Compare Acts 2:41, 47).

9. **What word, meaning "put in the grave," is used to describe baptism?**

   Romans 6:4 _____

   Baptism symbolizes the death and burial of our sins. When a dead body is buried, it is more than sprinkled with dirt. For the same reason, we want our sins to be completely buried.

   The word baptism itself means to immerse. It was used in the textile industry long before the days of John the baptist. When cloth was "baptized" in the dye, it was not just sprinkled, but completely immersed in it.

10. **What word in verse 5 means buried?**

    Romans 6:5 _____

11. **Why was John baptizing in Aenon?**

    John 3:23 _____

    If John had been sprinkling, he would not have needed much water.

12. As Jesus came up out of the water following His baptism, what did He see?

Mark 1:10 _____

13. What must be done to all nations before they are baptized?

Matthew 28:19 _____

God wants His people to be intelligent in regard to His truth. They are to be taught "to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you," He says. Matthew 28:20.

Baptism signifies conversion. Conversion requires the cooperation of the will. Under the conviction of the Holy Spirit, the person chooses to consecrate his life to God. He renounces his sins and by the power of God is born again to new life in Christ.

The story of the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-39) is an inspiring account of a man searching for truth. As he read the Scriptures, the Lord directed Philip to him to present the gospel of Jesus. Convicted of his need of Christ, the eunuch asked to be baptized. So Philip baptized him in a nearby body of water.

Acts 19:1-5 tells of some people who were baptized more than once. They had been baptized once at the preaching of John, but had not yet learned all the truth. Now, as Paul shared with them additional vital truths, their Christian experience was so enriched by the new light, they felt their need to be baptized again.

14. What is God's invitation to those who have accepted His truth?

Acts 22:16 _____

_____

15. In what did God speak to Elijah?

1 Kings 19:12 _____

Not all voices can be trusted. Beware of voices which contradict the Scriptures. The voice of the Spirit to our conscience will never differ from the teachings of the Bible. He speaks to us through the Bible. Jesus said, "He shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak." "For he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you." John 16:13-14. The Holy Spirit comes to forcibly impress upon our minds the word of God. Never will He direct us any other way.

16. What does the voice of the Lord say to us?

Isaiah 30:21 _____

_____

17. When we hear His voice, what is our duty?

Jeremiah 26:13 _____

_____

18. How long is the light with us?

John 12:35 _____

19. What will come upon us if we don't walk while we have the light?

John 12:35 _____

20. So when we hear His voice, what must we not do?

Hebrews 3:7-8 _____

21. What do some always do to the Holy Ghost?

Acts 7:51 _____

22. As their fathers did, what do they do?

Acts 7:53 _____

23. What eventually happens to a person's conscience who continually resists the voice of God's Spirit?

1 Timothy 4:2 _____

24. What warning did Paul give?

Ephesians 4:30 _____

25. Does God's Spirit ever stop working with men?

Genesis 6:3 _____

26. Who will enter into the kingdom of heaven?

Matthew 7:21 _____

"If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land." Isaiah 1:19.

27. Jesus is the author of eternal salvation unto all them that do what?

Hebrews 5:9 _____

28. What if we know these things?

John 13:17 _____

29. What if a person knows what is right, but doesn't do it?

James 4:17 _____

30. What did Jesus say about those who have heard the truth?

John 15:22 _____

31. What did He say about one to whom much is given?

Luke 12:48 _____

32. So is it better to just avoid hearing the truth?

Proverbs 28:9 _____

_____

33. What did Jesus say to do when the Spirit speaks?

Revelation 3:22 _____

34. Will any hardship or other circumstances ever make us regret our decision to obey the Lord?

Psalm 37:25 _____

_____

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." 2 Timothy 4:7-8.

In the Light of God's Word…

☐ I understand that the Holy Spirit's continued work in my life is dependent upon my obedience to His word.

☐ I choose to commit my life entirely to Jesus, and to take my stand with His commandment-keeping people.

May God bless you as you walk in the light.

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