

# **Master Document**



# **Exploring God's Word**



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## **Lesson 1**

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## **I. Introduction to the Old Testament (Time Periods)**

- The Old Testament covers many events over a span of thousands of years. We will divide them into four periods
- These are:

### **1. INNOCENCE - CREATION TO GARDEN OF EDEN**

- Innocence extends from creation of man to his sin in the Garden of Eden

### **2. CONSCIENCE - FALL OF MAN TO ABRAHAM**

- Conscience spans the time from the fall of man (the original sin) to Abraham.

### **3. PATRIARCH - ABRAHAM TO MOSES**

### **4. THE LAW AND PROPHETS - MOSES TO CHRIST**

## **II. Books of the Old Testament**

### **1. THE BIBLE IS INSPIRED OF GOD.**

1. 2 Pet 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.
2. 2 Tim 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

➤ "inspired" means, in the Greek God-breathed.

### **2. THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD**

➤ God warned Moses:

3. Deu 4:2 Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

➤ A similar command is found in Proverbs:

4. Prov 30:6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

➤ Just before the end of the Bible, God inspired John with the following words:

5. Rev 22:19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

### **3. GOD'S WORD IS TO BE PRESERVED**

➤ God's word is to be preserved.

6. Psa 12:6-7 The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. 7 Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.
7. Luke 16:17 And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.

### **III. Creation Week**

- The creation account in Genesis reveals that God made all things in six days. On the seventh day, He rested

**8.** Genesis 1:1 (KJV) In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

#### **1. THE FIRST DAY**

**9.** Genesis 1:3-5 (KJV) And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. 4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. 5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

- At this point, the earth was still "without form".

**10.** Genesis 1:2 (KJV) And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

## 2. THE SECOND DAY

11. Gen 1:6-8 And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. 7 And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. 8 And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.

## 3. THE THIRD DAY

12. Gen 1:9-13 And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. 10 And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good. 11 And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. 12 And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good. 13 And the evening and the morning were the third day.

## 4. THE FOURTH DAY

13. Gen 1:14-19 And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: 15 And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. 16 And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. 17 And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, 18 And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good. 19 And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

## 5. THE FIFTH DAY

14. Gen 1:20-23 And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. 21 And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. 22 And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth. 23 And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

## 6. THE SIXTH DAY

15. Gen 1:24-31 And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. 25 And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good. 26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. 29 And God said, 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. 30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so. 31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

## 7. THE SEVENTH DAY

16. Gen 2:1-3 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 2 And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. 3 And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

## **IV. Power of Choice**

### **1. ADAM AND EVE - INNOCENCE**

- The second chapter of Genesis restates the creation of man and women gives more specific details.
- God planted a garden eastward in Eden, where He placed the man, Adam

#### **A. The Forbidden Tree**

- The Lord had other commandments for Adam as well.
- He was not left to his own will; one thing was forbidden him. God said:

**17.** Gen 2:16-17 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

- Another unusual tree was found in the garden, it was the tree of life.

**18.** Gen 2:9 And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

#### **B. Eve Given to Adam**

- The Lord had created Adam before Eve, He noted that it was not good for man to be alone.

**19.** Gen 2:18-23 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. 19 And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. 20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. 21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; 22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. 23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

#### **C. Man Given Free Will**

- Some have wondered why God placed the forbidden tree in the garden.
- The question overlooks God's purpose in creating man.
- God did not create a puppet or robot, He created us with the power of choice, or free will.



20. Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

- Would it be possible for God to have joyful fellowship with a being who had no choice.
- One of the major differences between mankind and the animal kingdom is the power of choice; the opportunity consciously to choose good or evil.

## 2. THE FALL OF MAN

- Chapter 3 Genesis outlines the terrible mistake that Adam and Eve and its tragic consequences.

### A. Eve visits the Forbidden Tree

- Evidently, one of the first mistakes that Eve made was to visit the site of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.
- Since she knew that it was a forbidden tree, she should have avoided it altogether.
- Romans commands:

21. Rom 13:14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.

- A similar admonition is found in Ephesians

22. Eph 4:27 Neither give place to the devil.

### B. Satan Pays a Visit Also

- Satan was waiting for the right opportunity to inject his deceitful influence into the Garden of Eden.
- It is important to notice the first words that Satan said Eve.

23. Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

- Satan's first method of attack is always to question God's Word.
- Without denying God's word, he tempts mankind to question the Word of God.

### C. Satan's Wrong Interpretation

- God said:

24. Gen 2:16-17 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die

- Satan asked Eve:

25. Genesis 3:1 (KJV) Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

- Lets compare these statements again;
- God was speaking from a positive viewpoint.
- Satan was attempting to make Eve feel deprived rather than blessed.
- Satan always quotes scripture - out-of - context

#### **D. Eve's Lack of Knowledge of God's Word**

- Eve added to what God said

26. Genesis 3:2-3 (KJV) And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: 3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, **Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.**

- Eve added the bold, underline above.
- The only way to resist the temptations of Satan effectively is to respond by the Word of God.
- When Satan tempted Jesus, Satan again misquoted and misapplied scripture of the Old Testament.
- If Jesus were tempted of Satan, neither are we.

#### **E. Satan Attacks God's Motives**

- The next step in the temptation of Eve was an attack on God's motives.
- Having discovered that she did not really know what God said, Satan now directly contradicted God's Word.

27. Gen 3:4-5 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

- In short, Satan caused Eve to think God prohibited her and Adam from eating from the tree because God wanted to keep something good from them.

#### **F. Adam's Disobedience**

- Eve took the next unhappy step down the road to spiritual death; she began to follow her physical desires instead of the Word of God.
- She ate of the tree and gave Adam some.

- What makes this tragic is that Eve was deceived, Adam was not.
- He knew what he was doing.

**28.** 1 Tim 2:14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

- By one man [Adam] sin entered into the world
- Death [came] by sin; and so death passed upon all men

**29.** Romans 5:12 (KJV) Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

- Death reigned from Adam to Moses

**30.** Romans 5:14 (KJV) Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

- By one man's [Adam's] offense death reigned.

**31.** Romans 5:17 (KJV) For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

- Therefore as by the offense of one [Adam] judgment came upon all men to condemnation

**32.** Romans 5:18 (KJV) Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

- For as by one [Adam's] disobedience many were made sinners.

**33.** Romans 5:19 (KJV) For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

- After Adam and Eve ate the fruit their eyes were opened, they realized they were naked.
- The day of innocence was over.

### 3. GOD COMES WALKING IN THE GARDEN

#### A. God Looks for Adam and Eve

- Adam and Eve heard God walking in the garden.
- In their shame and remorse they hid from His presence.
- Sin had broken their free relationship with God.

**34.** Gen 3:9-11 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? 10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. 11 And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

## **B. Adam and Eve Blame Someone Else**

- At this juncture, another development occurred that is typical of all humanity.
- Adam blamed his sin on someone else. He answered God:

**35.** Gen 3:12-13 And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. 13 And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

- The fallen nature of humanity does not want to take responsibility for sin.
- This is why repentance is such a major step
- The same tendency is seen of Eve as Adam. God asked her.

## **V. The First Judgment**

- The immediate result of disobedience was four curses.

### **1. THE CURSE ON THE DEVIL**

- The first curse was on the devil.

**36.** Gen 3:14-15 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: 15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

### **2. THE CURSE ON THE WOMEN**

**37.** Gen 3:16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

### **3. THE CURSE ON THE LAND**

**38.** Genesis 3:18 (KJV) Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

### **4. THE CURSE ON MAN**

**39.** Gen 3:19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

- From this point forward, man would find life a struggle

### **5. THE FIRST PROMISE OF THE REDEEMER**

- In the midst of these curses, however there was promise.
- God said to the devil;

**40.** Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

- This was a prediction of the ultimate triumph of the Messiah, Jesus Christ over Satan.
- From the very beginning, the devil's fate has been sealed.
- God also provided a covering of skin for their nakedness, showing that by the shedding of blood, He would make a provision to reverse the consequences of their sin

**41.** Genesis 3:21 (KJV) Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

## 6. MAN DRIVEN FROM THE GARDEN

- As a result of their sin, God put Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden.
- Adam and Eve were spiritually dead - separated from the presence of God.
- They also faced physical death which they could avoid only by the grace of God.
- Since that time, every human being has been born in a sinful state, spiritually dead and facing eternal death.

42. Psalms 51:5 (KJV) Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

- But through Jesus Christ we can have salvation and eternal life.

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## **Lesson 2**

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## **I. From the Fall to the Flood**

### **1. ADAM AND EVE OUTSIDE THE GARDEN**

- Life outside of the Garden was different than before.
- Eve discovered the truth of God's word. He said:

43. Gen 3:16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

- The first child that Eve gave birth to was a son, Abel

44. Gen 4:1 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.

### **2. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TWO BROTHERS**

- The brothers were quite different. Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. According to Genesis 4:3-7, there were also spiritual differences between the two.

45. Gen 4:2 And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

### **3. WORSHIP TAUGHT**

- Adam and Eve had obviously taught their sons about God's existence and about the need to worship Him.
- As time passed by, Cain brought fruit and Abel brought an offering of the firstborn of his flock.

46. Gen 4:3-6 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. 4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: 5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. 6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

### **4. SACRIFICE ACCEPTED AND REJECTED**

- The Lord accepted Abel's but rejected Cain's
- Cain became angry
- Cain's problem was not with Abel, but with himself.

47. Gen 4:7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.



## 5. BLOOD SACRIFICE, A REQUIREMENT

- What was wrong with Cain's offering?
- God has always required a blood sacrifice. In the Garden, God had slain animals for the covering of Adam and Eve.
- In other words, for sins to be covered, blood had to be shed.
- Jesus Christ is the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

**48.** Rev 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world

- The wages of sin is death.

**49.** Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- Without the shedding of blood, sins cannot be remitted.

**50.** Heb 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

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

- Early in Scripture, we see that sincerity alone does not put a person in right standing with God.

## 6. THE PUNISHMENT OF DISOBEDIENCE

- Sadly, Cain did not accept God's offer to try again, but instead murdered his brother, Abel.
- Cain lied to God.

**52.** Gen 4:9 And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?

- Then God pronounced the penalty for Cain's sin.

**53.** Gen 4:10-12 And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground. 11 And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand; 12 When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.

**54.** Gen 4:13-15 And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear. 14 Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me. 15 And the LORD said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the LORD set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him.

- As a result of his sins and refusal to obey God, Cain left the Lord's presence and lived a lonely life.

## 7. MEN WHO WALKED WITH GOD

### A. Seth

- Adam and Eve had more children, but it was not until she gave birth to a son whom they named Seth that Eve said.

**55.** Gen 4:25 And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew.

- It was in the days of Seth that people started to call upon the name of the Lord.

**56.** Gen 4:26 And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos: then began men to call upon the name of the LORD.

### B. Enoch

- One of the most interesting men to live in the Book of Genesis was Enoch. He loved God and was obedient to Him. The Bible says:

**57.** Gen 5:24 And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

**58.** Heb 11:5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

### C. Noah

- Enoch's great-grandson, Noah saw that the wickedness of man was great. They were so wicked and lawless that God was grieved for making them, God said:

**59.** Gen 6:7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

- There was one man, however, who found grace in the eyes of the Lord: Noah. While others were doing evil, Noah believed God and obeyed Him.

- In the Book of Hebrews, it says:

**60.** Heb 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

➤ What did Abel, Seth, Enoch, and Noah have in common? Obedient faith.

➤ As Hebrews states:

**61.** Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

## **II. The Righteous Family Preserved**

### **1. FAITH AND OBEDIENCE REQUIRED**

- While God made a way of escape for Noah, He required obedient faith.
- God gave Noah specific instructions on how the ark was to be built.

**62.** Gen 7:1 And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.

- God even told Noah how many and what type of animals to take.

**63.** Gen 7:2 Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female.

### **2. ONE PLAN OF ESCAPE**

- God has never spared those who were disobedient to His word. Because of Adam and Eve's sin, they had to leave the garden.
- Because of Cain's sin, a mark was upon him and he was banished from the presence of the Lord.

**64.** 1 Pet 3:20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

**65.** 2 Pet 2:5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

- God has said,

**66.** Gen 6:3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man...

### **3. THE PLACE OF SAFETY**

- One week before the flood, God led Noah, the animals and his family into the ark.
- God closed the door.

**67.** Gen 7:15-16 And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life. 16 And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in.

- The rains came for 40 days; the water stayed at a level for 110 days.
- At the end of 150 days the ark rested upon the mountains of Ararat.
- After 40 days, Noah opened the window and sent out a raven and a dove.

#### 4. NOAH RECEIVES A PROMISE

- One of the first things that Noah did upon leaving the ark was to build an altar upon which he offered burnt offerings to the Lord.
- This was not the end of God's communication with Noah.
- God told Noah and his family to multiply and fill the earth.
- He said from that time forward animals would fear humans and be used for food.

**68.** Gen 9:1-4 And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth. 2 And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered. 3 Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things. 4 But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.

- God also instituted human government

**69.** Gen 9:9-13 And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you; 10 And with every living creature that is with you, of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you; from all that go out of the ark, to every beast of the earth. 11 And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth. 12 And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: 13 I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.

### **III. Mankind Judged**

#### **1. THE DAYS BEFORE THE FLOOD**

- The flood was so significant that Jesus used its lessons to teach about His second coming.

##### **A. Eating and Drinking**

- Note that there was no mention of God in their lives, just carnal things.

**70.** Mat 24:37-44 But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, 39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. 43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. 44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

**71.** Phil 3:17-19 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. 18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

##### **B. Marrying and Giving in Marriage**

- It is believed that the godly line of Seth began to marry with the blood line of Cain.

**72.** Gen 6:1-2 And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, 2 That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

- They had forgotten God's judgment of Adam, Eve, and Cain.

**73.** 2 Pet 3:3-7 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, 4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. 5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: 6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: 7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

### **C. Buying, Selling, Planting, and Building**

- Jesus expanded the comparison with the days immediately preceding His coming by including the days of Lot.

**74.** Luke 17:26-30 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. 27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. 28 Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; 29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. 30 Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

## **2. THEY KNEW NOT**

**75.** Mat 24:39 (KJV) And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

### **A. So Shall also the Coming of the Son of Man Be**

- People have been saying that Jesus is coming for years, yet the Bible says:

**76.** Mat 24:27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

## **B. The Same Extreme Wickedness**

- Today's wickedness is like it was in the days of Noah.
- There will be no advance notice of Jesus' coming.

**77.** Mat 24:36-37 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. 37 But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

**78.** 2 Tim 3:1-4 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

- **in-con-ti-nent** (<sup>1</sup>n-k/ᵐ<sup>1</sup>t.-n..nt) *adj.* **1.** Not restrained; uncontrolled: *incontinent rage*. **2.** Lacking normal voluntary control of excretory functions. **3.** Lacking sexual restraint; unchaste. [Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *incontinēns*, incontinent-, unrestrained : *in-*, not; see *IN-* + *continēns*, continent; see *CONTINENT*.] **--in-con'ti-nent-ly** *adv.*

## **3. NOAH PREPARED!**

- There were probably many jokes about Noah as he built the ark, but when the flood came he and his family were safe on the inside.
- Those on the outside were destroyed.

**79.** Heb 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

- As Jesus said:

**80.** Mark 8:34-38 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. 36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? 37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? 38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.



# **Exploring God's Word**

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## **Lesson 3**

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## **I. The Origin of Languages/The Beginning of Nations**

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### **1. AFTER THE FLOOD**

- After the flood, God commanded Noah and his sons to replenish the earth.
- The majority of them started disobeying God again.

**81.** Gen 9:1 And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.

### **2. THE TOWER OF BABEL**

- Instead of spreading out over the earth, they located in one place where they decided to build a city.

**82.** Gen 11:1-4 And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. 2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. 3 And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. 4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

#### **A. The self-centeredness of the People**

- Notice the self-centeredness of the people.

#### **B. Different Languages Introduced**

- Because of their disobedience, God gave them different languages and they could not communicate with each other.

**83.** Gen 11:6-7 And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. 7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

### **3. THE JUDGMENT OF GOD IN DISPERSING THE PEOPLE**

- The judgment of God caused the origin of languages and the beginning of nations. As a result, the earth was repopulated by the descendants of Noah as follows:

#### **A. Shem's Sons**

- Most settled in the Mid-East.

**B. Ham's Sons**

- Hams descendants settled in Africa and Arabia.

**C. Japheth's Sons**

- They settled in Europe

## II. The Time of the Patriarchs (The Chosen Nation)

### 1. ABRAHAM

- As in the days of Noah, God looked upon the earth and found man with whom He could make a covenant.
- The Lord told Abram to leave his country, relatives, and his father's house to journey to a land that God would show him.
- The Lord promised Abram the following:

**84.** Gen 12:2-3 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

- Abram obeyed and left his home at the age of 75 with his wife and nephew Lot.
- When the Lord called Abram, he had no children, but God promised him a great nation.
- The promises were fulfilled in Deut 4:6 and 1 Kings 3:8-9.

### 2. THE ARAB NATIONS

- Years passed with no physical sight that God was keeping His promise. Finally, as we often do, Abram and his wife Sarai decided to take matters into their own hands.
- Sarai told Abram, her husband to take her handmaiden.

**85.** Gen 16:2 And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai.

- Because of this act, Ishmael was born and seeds of conflict were born between the Jews and Arabs.

### 3. GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

- When Abram was 90 years old, the Lord appeared to him and said:

**86.** Gen 17:1-2 And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. 2 And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.

- God renewed His promise to Abram and changed his name to Abraham which means "father of a multitude".
- He also changed Sarai's name to Sarah which means "my princess"
- Then God gave a token of His covenant. He said:

**87.** Gen 17:10-11 This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised. 11 And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you.

#### **4. SEPARATION**

- Strife developed between the herdsmen of Abraham and Lot. Both were very rich with cattle and they needed more room to expand.

**88.** Gen 13:8-9 And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren. 9 Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.

##### **A. Lot's choice**

- Abraham gave Lot first choice.
- Lot chose the well-watered area of Jordan.

**89.** Gen 13:10-13 And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar. 11 Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other. 12 Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom. 13 But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.

- This was a mistake for Lot because this was in the direction of Sodom where lots of sin and wickedness prevailed.

##### **B. Judgment Against Sin**

- God observed the wickedness in Sodom and Gomorrah, where Lot lived.
- The Lord appeared to Abraham and informed him that the cities would be destroyed.
- Abraham wanted to save Lot land the city.

**90.** Gen 18:23-33 And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked? 24 Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein? 25 That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? 26 And the LORD said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes. 27 And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which am but dust and ashes: 28 Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for lack of five? And he said, If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy it. 29 And he spake unto him yet again, and said, Peradventure there shall be forty found there. And he said, I will not do it for forty's sake. 30 And he said unto him, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Peradventure there shall thirty be found there. And he said, I will not do it, if I find thirty there. 31 And he said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord: Peradventure there shall be twenty found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for twenty's sake. 32 And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake. 33 And the LORD went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place.

### **C. Angels of Mercy**

- The angels removed Lot, his wife and two unmarried daughters from the City.
- The prayers of Abraham did not save the cities, but they did save Lot.
- Because Lot had chosen Sodom, he lost 2 daughters and his wife.
- God destroyed the city with fire and brimstone.

**91.** Gen 19:1 And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground;

**92.** Gen 19:15 And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.

**93.** Gen 19:24-28 Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; 25 And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground. 26 But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt. 27 And Abraham gat up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the LORD: 28 And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and, lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace.

**94.** 2 Pet 2:6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

## 5. ISAAC, THE PROMISED SON

- At last, in God's time, Sarah conceived and gave birth to a son Isaac.
- Abraham was 100 years old, but God was not yet finished tested Abraham's faith.

**95.** Gen 21:1-5 And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken. 2 For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. 3 And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac. 4 And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac being eight days old, as God had commanded him. 5 And Abraham was an hundred years old, when his son Isaac was born unto him.

### A. Abraham's Faith Tested

- God is again going to test Abraham's faith by requiring him to sacrifice Isaac, his son.

**96.** Gen 22:2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

- In the New Testament the scriptures of Abraham are used in reference to faith.

**97.** Heb 11:17-19 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son. 18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: 19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

### B. Abraham's Obedience

- No matter what the cost, Abraham was going to be obedient to God.
- Upon the third day of travel, Abraham saw the mountain that which God had told him to go.

**98.** Gen 22:3-5 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him. 4 Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. 5 And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.

### C. Abraham's Continuing Faith

- As they traveled toward their destination, Isaac noticed that they had everything, except the sacrifice.
- Abraham responded: God will provide the sacrifice.

**99.** Gen 22:7-12 And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? 8 And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together. 9 And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. 10 And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. 11 And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, **Here am I.** 12 And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

- After Abraham heard the voice of an angel, he turned and saw a ram caught by its horns in the thicket nearby. God had provided the sacrifice.

**100.** Gen 22:13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.



### **III. Jacob and Esau (The Chosen Nation)**

- It was through Isaac that God had promised to raise up descendants. Like Cain and Abel, their two sons were different.
- Like Abel and Cain Esau and Jacob were quite different.
- The Lord said to Rebekah, Isaac's wife:

**101.** Gen 25:23 And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.

- Esau, the elder son, was a hunter, Jacob was a man of the plains who dwelled in tents.

#### **1. ESAU SELLS HIS BIRTHRIGHT**

- Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for some soup.
- Esau was more interested in physical things for the moment.
- Jacob had an appreciation for spiritual things.
- In response to Esau's request, Jacob demanded
- The birthright was the privilege given to the oldest son. It gave him preferred treatment in the family, including the inheritance.
- Jacob insisted that Esau sell his birthright to him which he did for bread and stew.
- Jacob then went his way satisfied with a temporary blessing.

**102.** Gen 25:30-34 And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage; for I am faint: therefore was his name called Edom. 31 And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright. 32 And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me? 33 And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he swore unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob. 34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised his birthright

- We should be looking at the things not seen.

**103.** 2 Cor 4:18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

#### **2. JACOB STEALS THE BLESSING**

- Jacob pretends to be Esau and tricks Isaac who was blind, into blessing Jacob instead of Esau.

**104.** Gen 27:21-22 And Isaac said unto Jacob, Come near, I pray thee, that I may feel thee, my son, whether thou be my very son Esau or not. 22 And Jacob went near unto Isaac his father; and he felt him, and said, The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau.

- Esau wanted to kill Jacob, but Jacob's mother urged Jacob to flee to Haran.

### 3. JACOB'S ENCOUNTER WITH GOD

- Jacob has a dream about angels of God going up and down ladders from heaven.
- God gives Jacob the land where he was lying.

**105.** Gen 28:10-15 And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran. 11 And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. 12 And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. 13 And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; 14 And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou 15 And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.

### 4. JACOB REMEMBERS THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

- Early in the morning, Jacob arose and set up a pillar from the stones he had used for pillows.
- Jacob made a vow to God

**106.** Gen 28:20-22 And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, 21 So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God: 22 And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.

### 5. JACOB WRESTLES WITH THE ANGEL OF THE LORD

- Twenty years later he heard that his brother Esau was on his way back to see his father Isaac.
- Jacob was scared remembering that his brother Esau had pledged to kill him.
- An angel wrestled with Jacob until daybreak. When the angel saw that Jacob was not going to release him, he touched the hollow of Jacob's thigh permanently shrinking the sinew causing him to limp. The angel said, " Let me go, for the day breaketh."

**107.** Gen 32:24-28 And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. 25 And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. 26 And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. 27 And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. 28 And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.

- Because of his persistence, Jacob received a blessing. His new name, Israel means "he who strives with God".

## **IV. Joseph (The Chosen Nation)**

- God reaffirmed His covenant with Jacob (Israel) and Jacob fathered 12 sons
- One of Jacob's sons, Joseph, was chosen by God to be a preserver of the family of Jacob.

### **1. JOSEPH SOLD INTO EGYPT**

- Joseph was sensitive to the Lord and had a high moral character. His brothers became jealous of him.
- He had a dream that his brothers and parents would bow down to him some day.
- One day, when Jacob sent Joseph to check on his brothers, they saw an opportunity to rid themselves of him forever.
- After selling him to Midianites, they took him into Egypt where he was sold.

**108.** Gen 37:23-28 And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stripped Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him; 24 And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it. 25 And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmeelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt. 26 And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood? 27 Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content. 28 Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.

### **2. JACOB DECEIVED**

- After selling Joseph, his brothers killed a goat and dipped Joseph's coat into it making it look like Joseph got killed by an animal.

**109.** Gen 37:29-36 And Reuben returned unto the pit; and, behold, Joseph was not in the pit; and he rent his clothes. 30 And he returned unto his brethren, and said, The child is not; and I, whither shall I go? 31 And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood; 32 And they sent the coat of many colours, and they brought it to their father; and said, This have we found: know now whether it be thy son's coat or no. 33 And he knew it, and said, It is my son's coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces. 34 And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days. 35 And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and he said, For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him. 36 And the Midianites sold him into Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, and captain of the guard.

- While Joseph was in Egypt as a slave, he did his very best at being a slave.

- Everything that Joseph did prospered and his owner saw this and realized that God was with him.
- Finally the slave owner made Joseph the overseer of all that he had.

### 3. JOSEPH'S TEMPTATION

- Joseph's trials were not over, however, the slave owner's wife became attracted to Joseph and tempted him daily to have an affair with her.
- Joseph refused but she contrived to blame Joseph and Joseph was put into prison.

**110.** Gen 39:7-19 And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. 8 But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; 9 There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God? 10 And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her. 11 And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within. 12 And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out. 13 And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth, 14 That she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice: 15 And it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out. 16 And she laid up his garment by her, until his lord came home. 17 And she spake unto him according to these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, which thou hast brought unto us, came in unto me to mock me: 18 And it came to pass, as I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled out. 19 And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled.

### 4. JOSEPH IN PRISON

- Even in prison, Joseph kept the right attitude.
- Joseph was given responsibility for the people in prison.
- Two people in prison had the same dream, which Joseph interpreted.

**111.** Gen 39:20-23 And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison. 21 But the LORD was with Joseph, and showed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison. 22 And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it. 23 The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper.

## 5. JOSEPH'S ELEVATION UNDER PHARAOH

- At the end of two years the Pharaoh had a dream which no one could interpret. Then the butler (one who had his dream interpreted) suggested that Joseph may be able to interpret the dream.
- The dream was that Egypt would experience seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine.
- Because of this, Pharaoh promoted Joseph to the second most powerful man in Egypt to store up food for the famine.

**112.** Gen 41:37-45 And the thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants. 38 And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is? 39 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath showed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art: 40 Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou. 41 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt. 42 And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck; 43 And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt. 44 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I am Pharaoh, and without thee shall no man lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt. 45 And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnathpaaneah; and he gave him to wife Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On. And Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt.

## 6. JOSEPH'S BROTHERS COME TO EGYPT

- The famine also affected other countries, including the country where Joseph's family lived.
- When Jacob heard that Egypt had food, he sent his sons.
- Just as he had dreamed years before, his brothers came to him and bowing to him.
- Joseph recognized them, but they did not recognize him.

**113.** Gen 42:1-3 Now when Jacob saw that there was corn in Egypt, Jacob said unto his sons, Why do ye look one upon another? 2 And he said, Behold, I have heard that there is corn in Egypt: get you down thither, and buy for us from thence; that we may live, and not die. 3 And Joseph's ten brethren went down to buy corn in Egypt.

## 7. JOSEPH FORGIVES HIS BROTHERS

- Joseph had every right to be harsh at his brothers, but he said:

**114.** Gen 50:20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

- Long before the New Testament was written, one of the most valuable lessons to be learned is:

**115.** Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

**116.** Gen 50:20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

## 8. JACOB AND HIS FAMILY SETTLE IN GOSHEN

- Joseph supplied his brothers with wagons and equipment. They returned to Canaan and brought their father, Jacob back to Egypt to settle.

**117.** Gen 47:11-12 And Joseph placed his father and his brethren, and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had commanded. 12 And Joseph nourished his father, and his brethren, and all his father's household, with bread, according to their families.

## 9. ISRAEL IN EGYPTIAN BONDAGE

- After Joseph's death, a new king arose in Egypt who did not know Joseph.
- This Pharaoh began to be fearful of the Israelites, for they were numerous and strong and would overthrow the king.
- In his fear, he set taskmasters over the Israelites and made them slaves.
- The more the Egyptians afflicted the Israelites the more they multiplied.
- God was preparing them for the great exodus from Egypt back to the promised land.

**118.** Exo 1:8-14 Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph. 9 And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we: 10 Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land. 11 Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses. 12 But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel. 13 And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour: 14 And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, was with rigour.

# Exploring God's Word

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## Lesson 4

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## **I. The Exodus (The Plan of Redemption)**

- Nearly four centuries passed after the Israelites came to Egypt in the days of Joseph.
- But there was a new king over Egypt, that did not know about Joseph.
- He set harsh taskmasters over the Israelites and set them to hard labor

1. Exo 1:7-8 And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them. 8 Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph.

- This story is rich in typology; shows God's plan of redemption for fallen humanity.

2. 1 Cor 10:1-11 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; 2 And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; 3 And did all eat the same spiritual meat; 4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. 5 But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. 6 Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. 7 Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. 8 Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. 9 Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. 10 Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. 11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

### **1. FORTY YEARS IN EGYPT**

- The Pharaoh became fearful that the Hebrews would rise up and overthrow the Egyptians, so he commanded the midwives to kill every newborn male Hebrew at the time of birth.

#### **A. The Birth of Moses**

- The midwives feared God more than the Pharaoh and they did not kill the newborn males.
- Then the Pharaoh commanded all his people to destroy the baby boys by throwing them into a river.

3. Exo 1:17 But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive.

4. Exo 1:22 And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive.

- After Moses was born, he was hid three months by his parents. When they could no longer hid the baby, his mother made an ark of bulrushes

- (bul-rush (bʊlˈrʊʃ)) n. 1. Any of various aquatic or wetland herbs of the genus *Scirpus*, having grasslike leaves and usually clusters of small, often brown spikelets. 2. Any of several wetland plants of similar aspect, such as the papyrus and the cattail. [Middle English bulrish : perhaps alteration (influenced by *bule*, *bull*; see BULL1) of *bole*, stem; see BOLE1 + *rish*, *rush*; see RUSH2.]
- One day while on her way to wash herself at the river, Pharaoh's daughter found the ark with the baby and took him to the palace.
  5. Heb 11:23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.
- The Pharaoh's daughter hired a Hebrew women to nurses the baby.
  6. Exo 2:9 And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it.
  7. Exo 2:10 And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water.

## **B. Moses' Choice**

- When Moses was grown, he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew. Moses killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.
- The next day two Hebrews were fighting and when Moses tried to break it up; they said:
  8. Exo 2:14 And he said, Who made thee a prince and a judge over us? intendest thou to kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian? And Moses feared, and said, Surely this thing is known.
- Moses chose not to be called the Pharaoh's daughter, but wanted to be with his people and suffer afflictions.
  9. Heb 11:24-29 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; 25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; 26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward. 27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible. 28 Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them. 29 By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.

## **2. FORTY YEARS IN MIDIAN**

- Moses realized that others knew of him killing the Egyptian, fearing the revenge by Pharaoh, he fled to the land of Midian.

- He was hear for 40 years before God called him to lead his people out of Egypt.

### **A. Moses' Call**

- One day as Moses was tending sheep, he saw a burning bush. He was amazed that the bush was not consumed.
- God spoke to him from the burning bush giving Moses his life's work.
- God told Moses that He had heard the cries of His people in Egypt and that God was going to use Moses to deliver them from their bondage and lead them to the promised land.

**10.** Exo 3:1-10 Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb. 2 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. 3 And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. 4 And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. 5 And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground. 6 Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God. 7 And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; 8 And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites. 9 Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them. 10 Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.

### **B. God Proves Himself to Moses**

- Moses doubted that he could do the job
- God showed Moses that He would be with him
- God showed Moses some miracles to convince him
- God told Moses to put his hand into his coat. When he did his hand became white with leprosy. Moses put his hand back into his coat; His hand became well again.

**11.** Exo 4:1-9 And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee. 2 And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod. 3 And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it. 4 And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand: 5 That they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee. 6 And the LORD said furthermore unto him, Put now thine hand into thy bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous as snow. 7 And he said, Put thine hand into thy bosom again. And he put his hand into his bosom again; and plucked it out of his bosom, and, behold, it was turned again as his other flesh. 8 And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign. 9 And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe also these two signs, neither hearken unto thy voice, that thou shalt take of the water of the river, and pour it upon the dry land: and the water which thou takest out of the river shall become blood upon the dry land.

### 3. MOSES THE DELIVERER

#### A. Moses Before Pharaoh - Ten Plagues ( Read Exodus:7 - 11)

- Moses obeyed the Lord, returned to Egypt, went to the Pharaoh, and told him that God had said, "Let my people go"
- Disaster came to Egypt in the form of 10 plagues from God.
- Ironically, God used the things the Egyptians worshipped - frogs, cattle, the sun, and the Nile river to demonstrate his great power.
- After each of the plagues, Pharaoh agreed to let the Israelites go, but each time he changed his mind.

**12.** Exo 5:1-2 And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness. 2 And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.

- The Lord kept hardening the Pharaoh's heart.

**13.** Exo 10:1 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go in unto Pharaoh: for I have hardened his heart, and the heart of his servants, that I might show these my signs before him:

#### B. Passover - Deliverance by the Blood

- After the Pharaoh finally let the Israelites go; the Lord told Moses to speak to his people and take a male lamb, one year old, and without blemish for each household. He instructed them to kill the lamb and apply its blood to the two door posts and lintel ( lin-tel (l'n“tl) n. The

horizontal beam that forms the upper member of a window or door frame and supports the structure above it.

- They were to eat quickly, with their shoes on, belts on their waist, and staff in their hand, because it was time to leave Egypt.
- They were to roast the lamb and eat it that night, along with unleavened bread and bitter herbs
- At midnight the Lord passed through Egypt and killed the firstborn of every household that did not have the blood upon the door post
- Salvation in this age also is dependent upon the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.

**14.** 1 Cor 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

- Christ is compared to a lamb

**15.** 1 Pet 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

**16.** Read Exodus 12: 1-36

### **C. Deliverance through the Red Sea (Read Exodus 14:13-31)**

- Pharaoh finally decided to let the Israelites go.
- The Lord led them out of Egypt with a pillar of fire at night and a pillar of cloud by day

**17.** Exo 13:21 And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:

- After the Pharaoh let the Israelites go, he changed his mind again and sent an army after them

**18.** Exo 14:7-21 And he took six hundred chosen chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over every one of them. 8 And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued after the children of Israel: and the children of Israel went out with an high hand. 9 But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and overtook them encamping by the sea, beside Pihahiroth, before Baalzephon. 10 And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD. 11 And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt? 12 Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness. 13 And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will show to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. 14 The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace. 15 And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward: 16 But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. 17 And I, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them: and I will get me honour upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen. 18 And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten me honour upon Pharaoh, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen. 19 And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them: 20 And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night. 21 And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

- In every situation, the Lord will make a way of escape for His people.
- As soon as the Israelites got across the Red Sea, the Lord had Moses stretch out his hand over the sea. The waters fell on the Egyptians and they were drowned and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the shore

**19.** Exo 14:30 Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore.

- The Red Sea is a type of baptism

**20.** 1 Cor 10:1-2 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; 2 And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

- We see God's salvation:
- repentance ( leaving Egypt)

- baptism (crossing the Red Sea)
- moving into the promise of God (the Holy Spirit)

## **II. Israel at Sinai (The Time of the Law)**

- After three months on their journey from Egypt, they arrived at Mt. Sinai. They remained there for one year.
- At Mt. Sinai, God gave Moses the ten commandments, as well as other moral, ceremonial, and civil laws.
- The law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, That we may be justified by faith.

**21.** Exo 19:20 And the LORD came down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and the LORD called Moses up to the top of the mount; and Moses went up.

**22.** Exo 20:1-17 And God spake all these words, saying, 2 I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me. 4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; 6 And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. 7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. 8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: 10 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: 11 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. 12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. 13 Thou shalt not kill. 14 Thou shalt not commit adultery. 15 Thou shalt not steal. 16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. 17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

**23.** Gal 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.



### **III. The Tabernacle - Man's Approach to God**

- God instructed Moses to build a Tabernacle so that He may dwell with his people.

**24.** Exo 25:8 And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.

- Today we are to be that Tabernacle, a dwelling place for Christ

#### **1. THE COURT OF THE TABERNACLE**

- There was only one entrance into the Tabernacle; Likewise, there is only one way to salvation - through Jesus Christ.

**25.** John 10:9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

**26.** 1 Cor 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

**27.** 2 Cor 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

**28.** Rom 8:9-11 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. 10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

#### **IV. The Altar of Sacrifice**

- The priest approached the Tabernacle first by the brazen altar, there he offered a sacrifice for sin

**29.** Lev 17:11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.

- Everyone must approach God through repentance. Jesus said,

**30.** Luke 13:3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

**31.** Heb 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

- The altar teaches that not one will enter heaven except by the blood of Jesus Christ, who stands as an altar of sacrifice for all who would approach God.

**32.** John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

## **V. The Laver of Water**

- The laver points to the cleansing from sin we have in Jesus - the initial washing at water baptism, which is for the remission of sins and the continual cleansing we have thereafter

**33.** Exo 30:21 So they shall wash their hands and their feet, that they die not: and it shall be a statute for ever to them, even to him and to his seed throughout their generations.

- In the New Testament

**34.** Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

**35.** 1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

- When we are baptized, God washes away our sins

**36.** Acts 22:16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

- Without baptism, we are not saved

**37.** Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

**38.** 1 Pet 3:21 The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

- In the New Testament experience of salvation, repentance comes first, which is a death with Christ, a death to sin.

- Then comes water baptism, which is a washing and burial with Christ.

**39.** Rom 6:3-4 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

## **VI. The Holy Place**

- The Holy Place was the golden candlestick (lampstand), the altar of incense, and the table of showbread show-bread (sh½“brud”) n. The 12 loaves of blessed unleavened bread placed every Sabbath in the sanctuary of the Tabernacle as an offering by the Hebrew priests of ancient Israel.
- These pieces of furniture point to Jesus and to our life in Christ through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

### **1. THE GOLDEN CANDLESTICK**

- The candlestick was of pure gold and provided the only light in the Tabernacle. Just as Jesus is the light to the world

**40.** John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

### **2. THE TABLE OF SHOWBREAD**

- The showbread provided sustenance for the priest and also points to Jesus who is the Bread of Life and to His Word, which is food for the soul.
- Just as the table exhibited the bread, so the Christian life shows forth Jesus to a dying world

**41.** John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

### **3. THE ALTAR OF INCENSE**

- The Altar of incense represents prayers to God each morning and evening.
- We also should pray each morning and evening
- God hears the prayers of a righteous person

**42.** 1 Pet 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

**43.** James 5:16 ...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

- fer-vent (fūr“v...nt) adj. 1. Having or showing great emotion or zeal; ardent: fervent protests; a fervent admirer. 2. Extremely hot; glowing

## **VII. The Holy of Holies (Beyond the Veil)**

- The Holy of Holies represents God himself
- By His mercy He saved us

**44.** Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

## **VIII. From the Tabernacle to the Cross (Read Hebrews Chapter 9)**

- The mission and the object of the law was the Cross of Christ.
- The things shown to Moses point to the One who was to come, Jesus
  - 45. Gal 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.
- Jesus was literally God tabernacled in flesh, God coming into this world to be our Savior
  - 46. Mat 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.
  - 47. Mat 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.
  - 48. Col 1:14-15 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: 15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:
  - 49. 1 Tim 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.
- Extra scriptures
  - 50. Isa 53:1-10 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? 2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. 3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. 4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. 8 He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. 9 And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. 10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

# **Exploring God's Word**

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## **Lesson 5**

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## **I. The Land of Promise**

### **1. POSSESSING THE LAND**

#### **A. The Death of Moses (Read Deut 34:)**

- Because of unbelief, Israel reaped the judgment of God. This judgment caused them to wander in the wilderness for forty years
- Those who did not believe that God would give the land of promise to Israel died in the wilderness.
- Two men, Joshua and Caleb, were the only two saved from the judgment reaped by this unbelieving generation.
- God instructed Moses to speak to the rock, but in Moses' anger he struck the rock.
- This prevented Moses from entering into the promised land.

1. Num 20:7-12 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 8 Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink. 9 And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him. 10 And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock? 11 And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also. 12 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.

#### **B. Crossing Jordan**

- To enter the land of Canaan, the Israelite had to cross the Jordan River. The Priests went into the middle of Jordan and stood there until all of Israel passed over to the other side.
- Twelve men took twelve stones from the river and built a memorial to God a Gilgal.
- This was a sign and a reminder to future generations of what God had done.



2. Josh 4:20-24 And those twelve stones, which they took out of Jordan, did Joshua pitch in Gilgal. 21 And he spake unto the children of Israel, saying, When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean these stones? 22 Then ye shall let your children know, saying, Israel came over this Jordan on dry land. 23 For the LORD your God dried up the waters of Jordan from before you, until ye were passed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red sea, which he dried up from before us, until we were gone over: 24 That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty: that ye might fear the LORD your God for ever.

- They wandered 40 years because of unbelief. Thousands perished.
- Today, thousands are perishing because of unbelief.

### **C. The Battle for the Land (Read Joshua 6)**

- The promised blessing would come to Israel if they would believe and obey the Lord.
- Israel had to fight for the land of Canaan, but God fought for them.
- God worked miraculously to give Israel victory after victor.
- Can you imagine the confusion of Jericho as they watched Israel marching around the walls of Jericho for six days.
- On the seventh day, Israel gave a shout and the walls came down.
- God will use foolish things to the world to confound the wise.

3. Heb 11:30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.

- Israel also fought against Ai, but lost because there was sin in the camp.
- God had told them not to take the spoils, but they did anyway

4. Josh 7:24-26 And Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver, and the garment, and the wedge of gold, and his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his asses, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had: and they brought them unto the valley of Achor. 25 And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? the LORD shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones. 26 And they raised over him a great heap of stones unto this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of his anger. Wherefore the name of that place was called, The valley of Achor, unto this day.

### **D. The Land Subdued (Read Joshua 14)**

- Israel, by the power of God, subdued the land, and the land was divided so the twelve tribes of Israel could each have their own areas to dwell in
- After Joshua died, Israel fell into deep sin.

- Sin led Israel into captivity
- God raised up judges to lead Israel until they could appoint a king.
- The time was about 450 years until Samuel the prophet came on the scene.

**5.** Acts 13:19-20 And when he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Chanaan, he divided their land to them by lot. 20 And after that he gave unto them judges about the space of four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet.

## **II. The United Kingdom**

### **1. ISRAEL DEMANDS A KING**

- The prophet Samuel ruled over Israel, but they were not satisfied with his leadership.
- They wanted to have kings like the heathen nations around them had.
- Israel rejected the invisible God for a man whom they could display before other nations.
- If people want to have their own way, God will let them have it.

**6.** Psa 106:15 And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.

- Jesus always prayed that not His will but the Father's will be done.

**7.** Luke 22:42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

### **2. THE THREE KINGS**

- The united kingdom of Israel had three kings
- Each king reigned for forty year.
- Saul, David, and Solomon

#### **A. Saul**

- Saul was a humble man at first, but his character changed drastically after he received power and authority of his new office.
- Saul forgot his place with God and power corrupted his thinking.
- Saul also disobeyed Samuel who told him to destroy everything.
- Saul brought back king Agag alive along with sheep and cattle.
- Samuel rebuked him saying

**8.** 1 Sam 15:22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

- Because of Saul's rebellious nature, the spirit of God left him.

**9.** 1 Sam 16:23 And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.

- God had chosen another king for Israel, David, a man after God's own heart.
- Saul became so jealous of David that he tried to kill him twice.

- He spent much time in pursuit of David.
- Saul's life ended when he fell upon his own sword

## **B. David**

- The second king of the united kingdom was David. He was anointed by king Samuel when he was just a young man.

**10.** 1 Sam 16:13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

- Possibly the highest thing that can be said of David is:
- Although David sinned, he repented because he had a desire to serve God with all his heart.

**11.** Acts 13:22 ...I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

### **(1) David Slays Goliath (Read 1 Samuel 17:**

- While David was a shepherd caring for sheep, he fought a bear and a lion that threatened his flock.
- The spirit of the Lord came upon him and he quickly destroyed the animals.
- When David went to see how his brothers were doing in the battle against the Philistines, David was enraged by the boasting of Goliath, and by the cowardice of Israel
- Goliath was over nine feet tall. Goliath taunted the Israelites and challenged them to fight him.

**12.** 1 Sam 17:3-11 And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side: and there was a valley between them. 4 And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. 5 And he had an helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass. 6 And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders. 7 And the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron: and one bearing a shield went before him. 8 And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, Why are ye come out to set your battle in array? am not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me. 9 If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us. 10 And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together. 11 When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.

- Although David was a youth, he had faith in God

13. 1 Sam 17:26 And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?

➤ David used the name of the Lord for his victory

14. 1 Sam 17:45-46 Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. 46 This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

➤ He used a single stone, and the name of the Lord to kill Goliath.

### (1) *David's Problems and Victories*

➤ After David sinned, God did not overlook it. He sent a prophet to expose David's sin.

15. 2 Samuel 12:1-7 (KJV) And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor. 2 The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds: 3 But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter. 4 And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him. 5 And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die: 6 And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity. 7 And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul;

16. 2 Samuel 12:13 And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.

➤ Read 1 Samuel 18:

## C. Solomon

➤ God appeared to Solomon in a dream and said:

17. 1 Ki 3:5 In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.

18. 1 Ki 3:13 And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.

**(1) *Solomon's Failures***

- Solomon had extreme wealth and 1000 wives. His wives turned him away from God.

**(2) *Solomon Builds the Temple***

- Solomon's greatest accomplishment was building the Temple
- It was built after a plan that his father David received from God.
- It took 7 years to build.

**19.** Read 1 Kings 5:

### **III. The Divided Kingdom**

- Solomon had built a great kingdom, but after his death it was divided.
- Solomon's son, Rehoboam, threatened heavy taxes.
- The people revolted and the kingdom was divided into North and South Israel and Judah

#### **1. THE NORTHERN KINGDOM**

- The Northern kingdom consisted of ten tribes and was known as the kingdom of Israel
- Israel had a total of 19 kings, and all of them were wicked and spiritually depraved.
- Because of this weak spiritual leadership, idolatry was rampant.
- God sent many prophets to warn Israel of impending judgment.
- The most notable prophets were: Elijah and Elisha.
- The people refused to repent of their evil and the judgment of God came.
- Israel fell, and the people were taken into captivity by Assyria in 721 BC.

**20.** Read 1 Kings 12-16:

#### **2. THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM**

- The southern kingdom consisted of two tribes, Judah and Benjamin and it was known as Judah.
- Judah also had 19 kings and one queen.
- Unlike Israel, Judah did have some good kings.
- Judah also had prophets of God such as Isaiah and Jeremiah
- Judah also refused to repent, and in 606 BC this nation was sent into captivity by Nebuchadnezzar.
- This captivity lasted for 70 years

**21.** Jer 25:11-12 And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. 12 And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations.

#### **3. LAST-DAY PROPHECY**

- Many of the Old Testament prophecies relate to the last days.
- The days of Israel and Judah was a period of spiritual apostasy when they worship their own gods.

- Similarly, material things are popular idols of our times.



## **IV. The Return to Jerusalem**

- The first expedition to return back to Jerusalem took place after the prophetic time of 70 years of captivity had expired.
- This expedition took place about 536 BC and was led by Zerubbabel.
- He brought about 50,000 Jews.
- The second year after their return, they began to rebuild the Temple

### **1. OPPOSITION**

- The Jews met with opposition from their enemies when trying to rebuild it.

### **2. THE PROPHETS AND THE MESSAGE OF RESTORATION**

- The restoration period also had its prophets.
- God sent men as Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi to encourage and chasten the Jews

### **3. THE OLD TESTAMENT ENDS**

- The Old Testament life of the Israelites seems to be one of continual backsliding
- Again the people forgot God and His word.
- Although they no longer practiced idolatry, most of them forgot the manifestation of His great power and they fell into apostasy.
- The Old Testament ends with the Jews outside of the love of God.
- They did not hear a prophetic message from God for about 400 years

# **Exploring God's Word**



## **Lesson 6**



## **I. Introduction to the New Testament**

- The books from Matthew through Revelation are called the New Testament because they represent the new covenant that Jesus made.
- There are twenty-seven books in the New Testament
- These books were written by eight authors over a period of about 50 years and cover about 100 years of history.
- The New Testament is divided into five sections: The four Gospels, one book of history, the thirteen Pauline Epistles, the eight General Epistles, and one book of prophecy.
- It is vitally important to recognize the purpose of each book and to whom it was originally addressed. This helps to interpret scripture.
- The first four books: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John describe the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

### **1. MATTHEW**

- The book of Matthew addresses the Jewish readers foremost.
- It strongly emphasizes Jesus Christ as the Messiah and king predicted in the Old Testament prophets.

### **2. MARK**

- Mark was written for the gentile readers in mind.
- It presents Jesus as a servant who ministered to the needs of the people.
- It stresses the supernatural power of Jesus, demonstrating His deity by the miracles he performed.
- It emphasizes the things Jesus said by the things He did.

### **3. LUKE**

- Luke presents Jesus as the Son of God.
- It focuses especially on the humanity of Jesus, featuring His compassion for the weak, the suffering, and outcast.

### **4. THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS**

- syn-op-tic (s<sup>1</sup>-n<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>p<sup>1</sup>“t<sup>1</sup>k) also syn-op-ti-cal (-t<sup>1</sup>-k...l) --adj. 1. Of or constituting a synopsis; presenting a summary of the principal parts or a general view of the whole.
- The first three gospels are sometimes called the Synoptic Gospels, meaning that they take a common view of the order of events surrounding the life of Christ.

- Matthew had the Jews in mind
- Mark the Romans
- Luke the Greek

### **A. Matthew and Scripture**

- The Jews were diligently indoctrinated in the Scriptures.
- They were taught to view everything from the scripture perspective.
- Matthew quotes from the Old testament again and again in support of the claim that Jesus is the Messiah.

### **B. Mark and Authority**

- The Roman mind focused on government authority and power.
- Mark stresses the miracles of Christ, emphasizing His supernatural authority over all things.

### **C. Luke and the Glorious Perfection of Jesus**

- The Greek mind was attracted to culture, philosophy, wisdom, reason, beauty, and education.
- Luke presents a complete, orderly, and classical story in what has been called, "the most beautiful book ever written."
- The Gospel of Luke reveals the glorious beauty and perfection of the ideal man, the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **5. JOHN AND THE DEITY OF JESUS**

- John balances the other three Gospels by its special emphasis on the deity of Jesus.
- The book begins in much the same way as the Book of Genesis. It reveals that Jesus Christ is the Word made flesh and that He was from the very beginning God, the Creator of all things

1. 1 Timothy 3:16 (KJV) And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

2. Colossians 1:12-20 (KJV) Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: 13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: 15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. 19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; 20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.
3. Matthew 22:32 (KJV) I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.
4. John 14:9 (KJV) Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?
5. James 2:19 (KJV) Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.
6. Mark 12:29 (KJV) And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:

## 6. ACTS - HISTORY OF THE EARLY CHURCH

- The book of Acts provides a historical account of the early church.
- The first chapter continues with the last moments of Christ while He remained on earth and then records the establishment of the New Testament church in Jerusalem.
- There the promise of the Holy Ghost was poured out upon the waiting.
- To understand how the church was founded and how the people entered into the early church it is necessary to study the Book of Acts.

## 7. THE EPISTLES

- The next twenty-one books (Romans - Jude) are epistles (formal letters) telling the new Christians how to live the victorious life.
- The epistles are not written to tell one how to be saved; they are written to people who are already saved. They teach how to stay saved and how to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### A. The Pauline Epistles

- Paul wrote thirteen of the twenty-one epistles. They are called the Pauline Epistles.

- He wrote a letter to the church at Rome, two letters to the church of Corinth, one letter to the churches of Galatia, one to the church of Ephesus, and so forth.
- Within the Pauline Epistles are three books commonly called the Pastoral Epistles - 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus - so called because they offer instructions concerning leadership in the churches.

## **B. The General Epistles**

- The next eight books - Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and Jude - are called the General Epistles because they were written the church at large.

## **8. PROPHECY - BOOK OF REVELATION**

- The Book of Revelation stands in a class by itself. It is largely prophetic in nature, although it begins with letters to seven churches in Asia Minor: **Asia Minor** A peninsula of western Asia between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea. It is generally coterminous with Asian Turkey and is usually considered synonymous with Anatolia.

## **II. John the Baptist**

- Old Testament prophets had predicted the coming of one who would prepare the way for the Messiah.

**7.** Isaiah 40:3-5 (KJV) The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: 5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

- A messenger is to be sent into the world

**8.** Malachi 3:1 (KJV) 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, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

- These predictions were fulfilled in the ministry of John the Baptist.

**9.** Luke 3:2-6 (KJV) Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. 3 And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins; 4 As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; 6 And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

**10.** Matthew 11:10 (KJV) For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

### **1. JOHN PREACHED REPENTANCE AND BAPTISM**

- John preached repentance and water baptism for the remission of sins

**11.** Mark 1:2-4 (KJV) As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. 3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 4 John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

### **2. JOHN WAS THE FORERUNNER OF JESUS CHRIST**

- John preached that he was not the Christ, but that another would come and He would be the One they should follow:

12. Matthew 3:11 (KJV) I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

13. Mark 1:7-8 (KJV) And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose. 8 I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.

- The One whom John predicted was none other than Jesus Christ
- John introduced Him.

### 3. JOHN REVEALED JESUS AS THE "LAMB OF GOD"

- The next day, John saw Jesus coming and said:

14. John 1:29-34 (KJV) The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. 30 This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. 31 And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. 32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. 33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. 34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

- John's statement not only identified Jesus as the Messiah, but also described the foundation of His ministry:
- It was revealed earlier to Joseph, Mary's husband, what the calling of their son would be.

15. Matthew 1:20-21 (KJV) But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. 21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.



### **III. The Birth of Jesus Christ**

#### **1. EVENTS OF THE BIRTH**

- The birth of Jesus occurred during the reign of Caesar Augustus, who declared a taxation on the people in the Roman Empire.
- Because each person was required to go back to their native city, Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem.

**16.** Micah 5:2 (KJV) But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

#### **2. JESUS' EARLY LIFE**

- Jesus lived at home with Mary, Joseph, His brothers, and His sisters until He was about thirty years old.
- The only other time there is mention of Jesus is when He was teaching in a synagogue

## IV. Prophecies concerning Jesus Christ

Old Testament Prophecies	Prophecy	Fulfilled - New Testament
Gen 3:15 (NIV) And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."	Seed of Woman	Mat 1:20 (NIV) But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.
Isa 7:14 (NIV) Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.	Virgin Born	Mat 1:18 (NIV) This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be wit
Isa 40:3 (NIV) A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.	Preceded by a Messenger	Mat 3:1-2 (NIV) In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea 2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."
Zec 9:9 (NIV) Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.	Enter Jerusalem on a Donkey	Luke 19:35-37 (NIV) They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. 36 As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. 37 When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:
Psa 41:9 (NIV) Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.	Betrayed by a Friend	John 13:21 (NIV) After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me."
Zec 11:12 (NIV) I told them, "If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it." So they paid me thirty pieces of silver.	Sold for 30 pieces of silver	Mat 26:15 (NIV) and asked, "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?" So they counted out for him thirty silver coins.

Zec 13:7 (NIV) "Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who is close to me!" declares the LORD Almighty. "Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered, and I will turn my hand against the little ones.	Forsaken by His Disciples	Mat 26:56 (NIV) But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.
Isa 53:5 (NIV) But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.	Wounded and Bruised	Mat 27:26 (NIV) Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.
Psa 22:16 (NIV) Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet.	Hand and feet pierced	John 20:25 (NIV) So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."
Psa 34:20 (NIV) he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken.	Bones not broken	John 19:23-24 (NIV) When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. 24 "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it." This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled which said, "They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing." So this is what the soldiers did.
Zec 12:10 (NIV) "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.	Side Pierced	John 19:34 (NIV) Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water.
<b>Old Testament Prophecies</b>	<b>Prophecy</b>	<b>Fulfilled - New Testament</b>



## **V. The Miracles of Jesus Christ**

### **1. JESUS' BAPTISM**

- The first recorded event in the adult life of Christ is His baptism by John

**17. Matthew 3:13-17 (KJV)** Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. 14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? 15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. 16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: 17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

- John was reluctant to baptize Christ, but submitted when Jesus told him that it was necessary to fulfill all righteousness.
- As Jesus came up out of the water, John saw the heavens open up and the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting upon Jesus.
- He also heard a voice that said:

**18. John 1:32-34 (KJV)** And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. {33} And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. {34} And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

### **2. JESUS' TEMPTATION**

- Following His baptism, the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
- It is important to note that Satan's directed attack against the deity of Jesus.
- The devil first appealed to the natural hunger that Jesus suffered.
- Then he attempted to use the Word of God to justify his temptation. He did not quote

**19. Matthew 4:6 (KJV)** And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

**20. Psalms 91:11-12 (KJV)** For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. 12 They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

- Finally, the devil took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them. He claimed that he would give them all to him if Jesus would fall down and worship him.

- Jesus quoted the Word of God and the devil left Him.

21. Luke 4:13 (KJV) And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season.

- Jesus responded to the enemy with the sword of the Spirit.

22. Matthew 4:1-11 (KJV) Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. 2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered. 3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. 4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. 5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, 6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. 7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. 8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showeth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. 10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. 11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

23. Ephesians 6:17 (KJV) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

- Jesus entered into His ministry - Old Testament prophecy is fulfilled

24. Isaiah 61:1-2 (KJV) The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

- Observe that the Lord Jesus suspended the reading of this passage in the synagogue at Nazareth (Luke 4:16 - 21) with the words "year of the LORD." The first advent, therefore, opened the day of grace, "the acceptable year of the LORD," but does not fulfill the day of vengeance that will be accomplished when Messiah returns (2 Th 1:7 - 10). Cp. Isa 34:8; 35:4.

**25.** Luke 4:16-21 (KJV) And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. 17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, 18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, 19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. 20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. 21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

### 3. THE MIRACULOUS MINISTRY OF JESUS

#### ➤ He gave sight to the blind

**26.** Isaiah 35:5-6 (KJV) Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6 Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

**27.** Matthew 9:27-31 (KJV) And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou son of David, have mercy on us. 28 And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. 29 Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you. 30 And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straitly charged them, saying, See that no man know it. 31 But they, when they were departed, spread abroad his fame in all that country.

#### ➤ He raised the dead

**28.** John 11:41-44 (KJV) Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. 42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me. 43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. 44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

#### ➤ Lepers were cleansed

**29.** Matthew 8:2-4 (KJV) And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. 3 And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. 4 And Jesus saith unto him, See thou tell no man; but go thy way, show thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

#### ➤ The Lame walked

**30.** John 5:1-9 (KJV) After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 2 Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches. 3 In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. 4 For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. 5 And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole? 7 The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. 8 Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. 9 And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath.

➤ The deaf heard and the mute spoke

**31.** Mark 7:35-37 (KJV) And straightway his ears were opened, and the string of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain. 36 And he charged them that they should tell no man: but the more he charged them, so much the more a great deal they published it; 37 And were beyond measure astonished, saying, He hath done all things well: he maketh both the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak.

➤ In the meantime, John the Baptist had been placed in prison for his condemnation of Herod's sin. John told Herod that it was unlawful for him to have his brother's wife.

**32.** Matthew 14:3-4 (KJV) For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife. 4 For John said unto him, It is not lawful for thee to have her.

➤ While John was still in prison, he sent his disciples to ask if He is the one or do we look for another.

➤ Jesus answered

**33.** Matthew 11:3-6 (KJV) And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? 4 Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and show John again those things which ye do hear and see: 5 The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. 6 And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.



#### 4. THE HEART OF JESUS' MINISTRY

- Some of the Jewish people were confused because they expected their Messiah to be born in a palace of noble family and to free them from Roman oppression.

- Jesus came to establish a kingdom not of this world.

**34.** John 18:36 (KJV) Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

- His message was not revolution but repentance

**35.** Mark 1:15 (KJV) And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

- Jesus did not come to align Himself with the so-called dignitaries of this world but to teach and reach people at their point of greatest need.

- Jesus was tempted and felt what we feel, but yet was without sin.

**36.** Hebrews 4:15-16 (KJV) For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

- Jesus never refused anyone; His invitation was:

**37.** John 7:37-39 (KJV) In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. 39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

# **Exploring God's Word**

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## **Lesson 7**

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## **I. Jesus Teaches the New Birth**

- Jesus received mixed reactions to His Ministry
  - The common people heard Him gladly
  - He came preaching to the poor
  - The the "learned" people did not always receive Him
  - Many among the chief rulers also believed on Jesus but would not confess Him for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue.
1. Mark 12:37 (KJV) David therefore himself calleth him Lord; and whence is he then his son? And the common people heard him gladly.
  2. Luke 4:18 (KJV) The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,
  3. 1 Corinthians 1:26 (KJV) For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:
  4. John 12:42-43 (KJV) Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: 43 For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

### **1. JESUS AND NICODEMUS**

- Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, came to Jesus by night and said to him:
5. John 3:1-3 (KJV) There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: 2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. 3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.
- Nicodemus did not come questioning: he came to Jesus with a compliment; but Jesus brought the conversation to a more important matter: how can a person see God's kingdom and enter into it?

#### **A. Ye Must be Born Again**

- Jesus said that the only way a person can see and enter the kingdom is to be born again.
  - Nicodemus could only associate it with a natural birth.
6. John 3:5 (KJV) Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

#### **B. Water and Spirit**

- Being "Born Again" consists of two elements; water and Spirit.

- Water refers to baptism in water and the Spirit to the Baptism of the Holy Ghost.

## 2. THE PROMISE TO ALL BELIEVERS

- Jesus went to Jerusalem to observe the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles.
- There He made a dramatic and most significant statement.
- 7. John 7:37-39 (KJV) In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. 39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)
- Some observations:
- The promise is to any person
- The qualifying factor is that a person must thirst
- Must come to Jesus
- To receive this promise must believe in Jesus
- The rivers of living water that will flow out of the believer are the Spirit, The Holy Ghost
- At that time, the Holy Ghost was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.
- Jesus has now been glorified, and the Holy Ghost is given.
- From the Day of Pentecost, even to this day, the promise has been for all who believe.

## II. Jesus Teaches in Parables

- Jesus often taught in parables
- A parable is an earthy story with a spiritual application
- Through parables Jesus used a "known" to reveal an "unknown"
- Jesus spoke many parables; three are discussed below;

### 1. THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

- What kind of soil are you?
- The lessons of this parable are:
- The seed is the Word of God
- The wayside soil represents those who hear the Word but do not understand it
- The stony soil represents those who hear the Word and receive it for a moment, but when temptation comes, they fall away because they are not grounded in the Word
- The thorny ground represents those who hear the Word and begin to bear fruit but they allow the cares and pleasures of life grow in their life
- The good ground represents those who hear the Word, understand it, and obey it.

**8.** Matthew 13:1-9 (KJV) The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side. 2 And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. 3 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; 4 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: 5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: 6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. 7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: 8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. 9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

➤ The interpretation are as follows:

**9.** Matthew 13:18-23 (KGV) Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. 19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. 20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; 21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. 22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. 23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

## 2. THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

➤ What price will you pay?  
➤ Although Jesus did not interpret this parable, many scholars believe that it represents the search of humanity for the gospel

**10.** Matthew 13:45-46 (KGV) Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: 46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

➤ All of life is a search for the very best  
➤ The most valuable thing in the world is the gospel message - God's plan for salvation  
➤ When truth is found, it is worth giving up anything and everything in order to obtain it.

**11.** Matthew 16:24-25 (KJV) Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

## 3. THE TALENTS

➤ What will you do with your life?  
➤ The talents represents how we use what God gives us.  
➤ The man who traveled to a far country represents the Lord.  
➤ Before He left He distributed His money - five talents, two talents, and one talent  
➤ Each servant used the talents differently  
➤ The one who had the most used his talents the most; he invested, and his investment paid good dividends.  
➤ Likewise so did the man with the two talents  
➤ The one that had one talent was too fearful to take any risk and so did nothing

**12.** Matthew 25:14-25 (KJV) For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. 15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. 16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. 17 And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. 18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. 19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. 20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. 21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. 22 He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. 23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. 24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strowed: 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

➤ The man who did nothing was called wicked and slothful

**13.** Matthew 25:26 (KJV) His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strowed:

| It is difficult to work in fear, but when we are working for the Lord, we need never fear. Our sole concern should be to please Him.

**14.** 1 John 4:18 (KJV) There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

### **III. The Road to Calvary**

- The last week of Christ's life many prophecies were fulfilled and demonstrated the compassion of Jesus for His friends and enemies.

#### **1. THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY**

- As Jesus and His disciples came near Jerusalem, He sent two of them to a nearby village with instructions to return with a colt that they would find.
- Jesus instructed them what to say
- A great crowd of people greeted Him, spreading garments in the path of the donkey
- Fulfilling Zech 9:9, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey

**15.** Zechariah 9:9 (KJV) Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

**16.** Matthew 21:1-5 (KJV) And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and were come to Bethphage, unto the mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples, 2 Saying unto them, Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto me. 3 And if any man say ought unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them. 4 All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, 5 Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.

- Multitudes cried,

**17.** Matthew 21:9 (KJV) And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.

- In a few days before these same people would be screaming "Crucify Him

#### **2. THE LAST SUPPER**

- The next event that occurred during the week before the crucifixion is known as the Last Supper: Matt 26:17-29
- Every year, the Jews kept the Feast of the Passover in remembrance of their delivery from Egyptian slavery.
- During the week before Jesus was crucified, at the Passover meal, Jesus instituted something new to the disciples and said

**18.** Matthew 26:26-28 (KJV) And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. 27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; 28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

- Jesus revealed to His disciples that this meal would have special meaning. It is called the Lords Supper and it signifies that Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.



**19.** 1 Corinthians 5:7 (KJV) Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

**20.** 1 Corinthians 11:23-25 (KJV) For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: 24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. 25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

- Paul explained the meaning of the scripture as follows:
- The bread represents Christ's body
- The fruit of the vine symbolizes His blood
- This ordinance is to be observed
- This ordinance should be continued until the Lord's return

**21.** 1 Corinthians 11:26 (KJV) For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come.

- Before Jesus instituted this supper, He said

**22.** Matthew 26:20-25 (KJV) Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve. 21 And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. 22 And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I? 23 And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me. 24 The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born. 25 Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said.

### 3. GETHSEMANE

- Following the supper, Jesus and His disciples came to the Garden of Gethsemane. He told eight of them to remain behind while He went to pray.
- He took Peter, James, and John
- He became very sorrowful and heavy at the prospect of His betrayal and crucifixion.
- He began to pray

**23.** Matthew 26:40-41 (KJV) And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? 41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

### 4. BETRAYED

- Sometime later, He woke the disciples and said:

**24.** Matthew 26:46 (KJV) Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.

- While Jesus was still speaking, Judas came with a multitude armed with swords and clubs.
- Judas came to Jesus and said

25. Matthew 26:49 (KJV) And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him.

- This was the prearranged signal to identify Christ to the mob

## 5. THE TRAIL

- Jesus' trail was a mockery
- Arrangements for false witnesses had been made to testify against Him so that Jesus would be put to death.
- They spit in Jesus' face
- They struck Him with their hands

26. Matthew 26:57-69 (KJV) And they that had laid hold on Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. 58 But Peter followed him afar off unto the high priest's palace, and went in, and sat with the servants, to see the end. 59 Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death; 60 But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses, 61 And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days. 62 And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee? 63 But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God. 64 Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. 65 Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy. 66 What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death. 67 Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands, 68 Saying, Prophecy unto us, thou Christ, Who is he that smote thee? 69 Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee.

- Following these tragic events, Jesus was led from Caiaphas to Pilate; Pilate was the governor over Judea and was responsible for carrying out the death penalty on criminals.
- After questioning Jesus, Pilate said to the Jews:

27. Luke 23:14 (KJV) Said unto them, Ye have brought this man unto me, as one that perverteth the people: and, behold, I, having examined him before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him:

28. John 18:39-40 (KJV) But ye have a custom, that I should release unto you one at the passover: will ye therefore that I release unto you the King of the Jews? 40 Then cried they all again, saying, Not this man, but Barabbas. Now Barabbas was a robber.

- In their frenzy they rejected the Son of God and chose a criminal.

## 6. JESUS BEATEN

➤ Little did they know that prophecy was being fulfilled by men of God years before.

➤ Isaiah said

**29.** Isaiah 53:5 (KGV) But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

➤ The stripes that Jesus took on His body was the price paid for our healing

➤ Many years later Peter said':

**30.** 1 Peter 2:24 (KGV) Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

➤ Healing of the sick is one of the signs that follow believers, Jesus said:

**31.** Mark 16:17-18 (KJV) And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

## **IV. Christ Died for Us**

- The crucifixion of Jesus is the central event in the entire history of the human race.
- On the cross Jesus took upon Himself all the sins of the world.

**32.** Romans 5:8-10 (KGV) But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

**33.** 2 Corinthians 5:21 (KGV) 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.

**34.** 1 Peter 2:22 (KGV) Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

### **1. JESUS MOCKED BY THE SOLDIERS**

- After Jesus was scourged, the soldiers took Him into the hall where the soldiers stripped Jesus and placed a scarlet robe on His wounded bleeding back.
- They then put a crown of thorns and placed it upon His head, placed a reed in His right hand, bowed before our Lord and mocked Him.
- They cried,"

**35.** Matthew 27:27-29 (KGV) Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. 28 And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. 29 And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!

### **2. SIMON AND THE CROSS**

- On the way to calvary, they found a man named Simon, a man of Cyrene, and forced him to carry the cross.
- The soldiers then crucified Jesus, placing His cross between two thieves.

### 3. MOCKED ON THE CROSS

- As Jesus hung in agony on the cross, people passing by mocked him, saying,

**36.** Matthew 27:34-43 (KJV) They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink. 35 And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots. 36 And sitting down they watched him there; 37 And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS. 38 Then were there two thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another on the left. 39 And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads, 40 And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross. 41 Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, 42 He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. 43 He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.

### 4. THE THIEF ON THE CROSS

- One of the thieves on the cross mocked Jesus while the other thief rebuked the other thief.

**37.** Luke 23:39-43 (KJV) And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. 40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. 42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. 43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

### 5. FORGIVENESS ON THE CROSS

- Jesus showed compassion, even on the cross

**38.** Luke 23:34 (KJV) Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

### 6. THE HAPPENINGS AFTER HIS DEATH

- After Jesus died, the veil in the Temple was torn into from top to bottom
- There was a great earthquake, in the graveyard many graves opened and people came out of them

**39.** Matthew 27:50-55 (KGV) Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. 51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; 52 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, 53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. 54 Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God. 55 And many women were there beholding afar off, which followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering unto him:

## **7. JESUS IS BURIED**

- A rich man, Joseph of Arimathaea asked Pilate for permission to take away the body of Jesus. Nicodemus, the same man who was told of his need to be "born again".
- They wrapped Jesus in a clean linen cloth and placed Him in Joseph's personal tomb.
- What looked like a defeat was actually a great victory for the Kingdom of God.
- Jesus had accomplished His purpose in coming into the world.
- He had taken the place of sinful humanity and made it possible for us to escape the wages of sin. which is death

**40.** Romans 6:23 (KJV) For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **V. Christ Lives**

- God's plan was for the Messiah to come forth out of the grave, death could not hold Him.
- Jesus predicted how long He would be in the grave.
- 41. Matthew 12:39-41 (KGV) But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: 40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. 41 The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.

### **1. A WATCH PUT OVER HIS GRAVE**

- The chief priests were afraid that the disciples would steal the body of Jesus, then claim that Jesus had risen.
- Pilate put guards around the grave and secured it the best way possible.
- 42. Matthew 27:63-65 (KGV) Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. 64 Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first. 65 Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can.

### **2. JESUS CAME FORTH**

- Their efforts to keep Jesus in the tomb were to no avail. The angel of the Lord descended from heaven, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow.
- The keepers of the tomb (guards) shook and became like dead men.
- Mary Magdalene, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and the mother of James, and Salome, along with others made their way to the tomb.
- They wanted to anoint the body of Jesus with spices.
- As they came close they wondered who rolled the stone away. Christ was risen! The tomb was empty.

**43.** Matthew 28:1-8 (KGV) In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. 2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. 3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: 4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. 5 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. 6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. 7 And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you. 8 And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

### **3. MANY SAW HIM**

➤ After His resurrection, about 500 people saw Him.

**44.** 1 Corinthians 15:4-8 (KGV) And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: 5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: 6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. 7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. 8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

**45.** Acts 1:3 (KJV) To whom also he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:



## **VI. The Great Commission**

- The Great Commission is recorded in each of the three Synoptic Gospels
- Jesus commanded the disciples to preach repentance and remission of sins in His name to all nations.

**46.** Matthew 28:19-20 (KGV) Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

**47.** Mark 16:15-18 (KGV) And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. 17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

**48.** Luke 24:45-49 (KGV) Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, 46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: 47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 And ye are witnesses of these things. 49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high

## 1. THE ELEMENTS OF THE GREAT COMMISSION

### A. Belief

### B. Repentance

### C. Water Baptism

### D. The Holy Ghost

### E. Teaching

### F. Healing

## 2. JESUS' ASCENSION

- Jesus led the disciples to a place on the Mount of Olives near Bethany.
- He told them to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father and they would be baptized with the Holy Ghost in not many days.
- As the disciples looked skyward, two men stood by them in white apparel.
- The two men told the disciples that the same Jesus who was taken from them up into heaven would return in like manner.

49. (Acts 1:1-11 KJV) The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, {2} Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: {3} To whom also he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: {4} And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. {5} For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. {6} When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? {7} And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. {8} But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. {9} And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. {10} And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; {11} Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

## **VII. The Mighty God in Christ**

- Who is this Jesus?
- As Jesus asked the disciples if they really knew who He was.
- 50. Matthew 16:15 (KJV) He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?
- A diligent comparison of the Old Testament Scriptures with the New Testament reveals that He is God manifest in the flesh.
- 51. 1 Timothy 3:16 (KGV) And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.
- 52. Deuteronomy 6:4 (KGV) Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:
- 53. Mark 12:29 (KGV) And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:
- According to John 4:23-24, the one God is a Spirit.
- 54. John 4:23-24 (KGV) But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.
- Who is Jesus?
- He is God, He is God with us
- 55. Isaiah 7:14 (KGV) Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.
- He is the mighty God, the everlasting Father
- 56. Isaiah 9:6 (KGV) For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.
- He is the one who created us
- 57. Colossians 1:15-16 (KGV) Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:
- As a man He hungered, slept, was weary, wept, and prayed.
- As God He fed the five thousand, healed the sick, raised the dead, and answered prayers.
- The Pharisees asked Him

**58.** John 8:19-24 (KGV) Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also. 20 These words spake Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple: and no man laid hands on him; for his hour was not yet come. 21 Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come. 22 Then said the Jews, Will he kill himself? because he saith, Whither I go, ye cannot come. 23 And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world. 24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.

**59.** John 14:10-11 (KGV) Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.

➤ God was Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself

**60.** 2 Corinthians 5:19 (KGV) To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

**61.** Ephesians 4:5-6 (KGV) One Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

**62.** James 2:19 (KGV) Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

# **Exploring God's Word**

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## **Lesson 8**

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## I. The Birth of the Church

### 1. THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY GHOST

- Prior to Jesus' ascension, He told his disciples not to begin their ministry yet but to wait in the city of Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high.

1. Luke 24:49 (KJV) And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

2. Isaiah 28:11-12 (KJV) For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. 12 To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.

- The preaching of the gospel was to be done under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost.

3. Acts 1:8 (KJV) But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

- It was to start in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost.

### 2. THE UPPER ROOM

- 120 persons were in the upper room
- Among them were Mary, the mother of Jesus, Jesus' brothers, and the twelve disciples.
- For approximately 7-10 days they remained there in constant prayer and supplication. Then the Jewish feast day of Pentecost arrived.

➤ **sup·pli·cate** (s<sup>3</sup>p<sup>1</sup>-k<sup>3</sup>t<sup>1</sup>) v. **sup·pli·cat·ed**, **sup·pli·cat·ing**, **sup·pli·cates**. --tr. **1.** To ask for humbly or earnestly, as by praying. **2.** To make a humble entreaty to; beseech. --intr. To make a humble, earnest petition; beg. [Middle English *supplicaten*, from Latin *supplic<sup>3</sup>re*, *supplic<sup>3</sup>t-*, from *supplex*, *supplic-*, *suppliant*. See SUPPLE.]

--sup<sup>1</sup>pli·ca<sup>1</sup>tion n. --sup<sup>1</sup>pli·ca<sup>1</sup>to<sup>1</sup>ry

4. Acts 1:14 (KJV) These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

- Acts 2 records the outpouring of the Holy Ghost

5. Acts 2:1-3 (KJV) And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

- One of the miracles that took place in the upper room was when they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave the utterance.

6. Acts 2:4 (KJV) And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

- This was the initial sign of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. The disciples began to speak with other tongues, glorifying God in languages they had never learned.

**7.** Mark 16:17 (KJV) And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

## **II. Peter Preaches Christ/God's Plan for Us**

### **1. THE DAY OF PENTECOST**

- The Feast of Pentecost was a holy day in Israel fifty days after the Passover. Jews from all over the Roman Empire were gathered at Jerusalem.
- The news spread fast of what took place in the upper room.
- Jesus had promised the disciples that the day would come when their hearts would be filled with joy that no one could take away. The baptism of the Holy Ghost was that promise.

**8.** John 16:22-24 (KJV) And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you. 23 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. 24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

- Peter later described it as Joy unspeakable
- 9.** 1 Peter 1:8 (KJV) Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:
- As the disciples continued to rejoice, suddenly amazement rippled through the crowd like a wave.
  - The multitudes of foreign Jews began to hear the disciples praising God in their own native languages. They know the disciples had no way of knowing these languages.
  - Some asked "What meaneth this?"
  - Others dismissed the whole event by accusing the disciples of being drunk.

### **2. PETER PREACHES**

- Peter heard their false accusations of drunkenness and immediately stood up in the disciples' defense.
- Peter was not the same fearful man who had cowardly denied his Lord as Jesus was being led to be crucified.
- It was a man who was given power from on high through the baptism of the Holy Ghost.
- It was Jesus who foresaw events when He gave Peter the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven.
- Peter was ready to use those keys
- This time his words were not words of defeat but of victory.

### **3. PETER PREACHES WITH POWER**

- Peter preached with power that only the anointing of the Holy Spirit can give.



- His message began with

**10.** Acts 2:14-15 (KJV) But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: 15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.

### A. Fulfillment of Joel's Prophecy

- **proph-e-cy** (pr<sup>h</sup>f<sup>h</sup>-s<sup>h</sup>) *n., pl. proph-e-cies* (-s<sup>h</sup>z). **1.a.** An inspired utterance of a prophet, viewed as a revelation of divine will. **b.** A prediction of the future, made under divine inspiration. **c.** Such an inspired message or prediction transmitted orally or in writing.

- Peter declared that the outpouring of the Holy Ghost was the fulfillment of Joel's wonderful prophecy that in the last days God would pour out His Spirit upon all flesh.

**11.** Joel 2:28 (KJV) And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

### B. The Exalted Christ

- Peter climaxed his sermon by declaring that God had made that same Jesus, whom they had crucified, both Lord and Christ.
- Conviction gripped the hearts of the people as Peter preached
- In desperation and heart felt sincerity, they cried out to Peter and to the rest of the apostles

**12.** Acts 2:37 (KJV) Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

## **4. GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION**

- "What shall we do?" was all important to them. They wanted to know how to be saved.
- The responsibility rested on Peter's shoulders to deliver the New Testament plan for salvation.
- Peter was given the keys to the Kingdom, now he was ready to use the keys.
- Without hesitation, Peter's voice boomed out the following.

**13.** Acts 2:38 (KJV) Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

- By obeying God's command to repent of their sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, they were promised the same baptism of the Holy Ghost that the 120 had received that same day.

- In the next verse, Peter extended the promise of the Holy Ghost to all believers throughout the church age until Jesus comes again.

**14.** Acts 2:39 (KJV) For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

- Peter spoke many other words, exhorting the crowd to save themselves without delay.
- By the time Peter had finished, 3000 souls presented themselves for baptism in Jesus' name.

**15.** Acts 2:40-41 (KJV) And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. 41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

### **III. Repentance**

- To experience sorrow and conviction over past sins, and a turning away from future sin.
- John the Baptist Preached Repentance
- Jesus preached repentance

#### **1. SODOM AND GOMORRAH**

- Because these cities failed to repent, they were destroyed by fire

#### **2. JONAH**

- The people of Nineveh repented at the preaching of Jonah, Jesus said this fact would condemn those who refused to repent in our generation

**16.** Matthew 12:41 (KJV) The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.

#### **3. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

- He commanded everyone in Judea to repent and prepare their hearts for the Kingdom of Heaven.

**17.** Matthew 3:2 (KJV) And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

**18.** Mark 1:4 (KJV) John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

#### **4. JESUS CHRIST**

- Jesus proclaimed:

**19.** Luke 13:3 (KJV) I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

#### **5. THE GREAT COMMISSION**

- The last words of Jesus before His ascension commanded repentance

**20.** Luke 24:47 (KJV) And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

#### **6. THE DAY OF PENTECOST**

- Repentance is the initial step in the plan of salvation preached by Peter and the other apostles.

- 21.** Acts 2:38 (KJV) Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

## **IV. Buried with Him in Baptism**

- The next thing Peter commanded the crowd on the Day of Pentecost to do was to be baptized.

### **1. IMMERSION**

- The Word of God prescribes only one mode of water baptism: immersion.
- The word baptism is derived from the Greek word baptizo which means to dip, to plunge, to immerse.
- baptizo, bap-tid'-zo; from a der. of G911; to make whelmed (i.e. fully wet); used only (in the N.T.) of ceremonial ablution, espec. (techn.) of the ordinance of Chr. baptism:--baptist, baptize, wash.
- Immersion is important because only this mode preserves the significance of baptism as a burial.
- Repentance in the Bible is symbolic of death to sin and to the ungodly life before the encounter with Jesus Christ.
- Spiritually speaking, when a person repents, he is actually coming to the cross of Calvary.
- The old carnal nature is crucified to Christ.
- After death to sin, a person must be buried with Jesus by baptism.
- But how is a person buried? Is he sprinkled

**22.** Romans 6:4 (KJV) Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

### Buried with Him in Baptism

Matthew 28:19 (KJV) Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Mark 16:16 (KJV) He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

John 3:5 (KJV) Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Acts 2:38 (KJV) Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 8:16 (KJV) (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

Acts 8:38-39 (KJV) And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. 39 And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

Acts 10:48 (KJV) And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

Acts 19:5 (KJV) When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Acts 22:16 (KJV) And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

Romans 6:4 (KJV) Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Galatians 3:27 (KJV) For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

## 2. IN THE NAME OF JESUS

- Jesus commanded the apostles in Matt 28:19 to baptize "in the name [singular] of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."
- Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are titles of the one God that reveal aspects of His relationship to humanity.
- God has revealed Himself as Father incarnation

- God revealed Himself in the Son for our redemption
- He is the Holy Spirit who regenerates and dwells within the believer.
- There is one supreme name of salvation that encompasses these three titles and works they represent. That name is Jesus.
  - 24. Acts 4:12 (KJV) Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.
- The Father was revealed in the name of Jesus
  - 25. John 5:43 (KJV) I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.
- The name given to the Son was Jesus
  - 26. Matthew 1:21 (KJV) And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.
- The Holy Ghost comes in the name of Jesus
  - 27. John 14:26 (KJV) But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.
- Jesus opened the disciples' understanding to this truth of the name of Jesus
  - 28. Zechariah 14:9 (KJV) And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.

## **V. Have you Received the Holy Ghost**

- The third step in the plan of salvation given to us is to "receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

### **1. JESUS SPOKE OF THIS EXPERIENCE**

- Jesus spoke of this experience when He said

**29.** John 3:5 (KJV) Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

### **2. PAUL PREACHED IT**

- Paul emphasized it with the words

**30.** Romans 8:9 (KJV) But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

- Christ actually comes and takes up His abode in a human body (temple).

**31.** 1 Corinthians 6:19 (KJV) What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

- The baptism of the Holy Ghost is promised to all who obey God's command to repent and who exercise faith in Jesus Christ.

### **3. PETER TOLD OF IT**

- Peter spoke in Acts about the experience of the Holy Ghost. Later he described the feeling when the Creator dwells within his creation through the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

- Paul described it as: Joy unspeakable

**32.** 1 Peter 1:8 (KJV) Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

**33.** Romans 14:17 (KJV) For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.



## **VI. The Evidence of the Holy Ghost**

- Acts 2:1-3 records the initial outpouring of the Holy Ghost, when the believers in the upper room spoke with other tongues.

**34.** Acts 2:1-3 (KJV) And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. Do all who speak with tongues when they receive the Holy Ghost.

- This is a legitimate question
- Who spoke in tongues in the Scriptures?

### **1. EVERYONE IN THE UPPER ROOM**

- On the Day of Pentecost all 120 were filled;

**35.** Acts 2:4 (KJV) And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

- Among them were Mary, mother of Jesus, Jesus' four half brothers, and all the disciples.

### **2. SAMARITANS RECEIVED THE HOLY GHOST**

- The Samaritans received the same experience and an outward sign to tell everyone when people received the Holy Ghost.
- Even Simon the sorcerer knew they had received a heavenly gift and sought to buy the power

**36.** Acts 8:9-13 (KJV) But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: 10 To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. 11 And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries. 12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. 13 Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

### **3. GENTILES RECEIVED THE HOLY GHOST**

- The Holy Ghost fell on Cornelius and other Gentiles, and they spoke with other tongues.
- This sign convinced the skeptical Jewish Christians that the Gentiles had received the Holy Ghost, and this sign alone was sufficient for Peter to proclaim that the Gentiles had received the same Holy Ghost experience

**37.** Acts 10:44-48 (KJV) While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. 45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, 47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

**38.** Acts 11:15-17 (KJV) And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. 16 Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost. 17 Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?

#### **4. DISCIPLES OF JOHN THE BAPTIST RECEIVED THE HOLY GHOST**

- In Acts 19, a group of John the Baptist's disciples were rebaptized in Jesus' name by the apostle Paul, and they were filled with the Holy Ghost.

**39.** Acts 19:1-6 (KJV) And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, 2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. 3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. 4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

## **VII. The Power of the Holy Ghost**

### **1. THE SPIRIT GIVES IMMORTALITY AT CHRIST'S RETURN**

- The baptism of the Holy Ghost bestows the same power that resurrected Jesus Christ from the dead.
- According to Romans 8:11 we must have the spirit of Christ to be resurrected in the last days.

**40.** Romans 8:11 (KJV) But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

- Additional Scriptures that refer to the Spirit.

**41.** Romans 8:9 (KJV) But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

**42.** 1 Corinthians 15:51-53 (KJV) Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 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. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

### **2. THE SPIRIT GIVES POWER**

- The baptism of the Holy Ghost gives the believer tremendous power to witness for the Lord. Without the Holy Ghost, the disciples would have been powerless in the hostile world they lived in.
- Jesus said:

**43.** Acts 1:8 (KJV) But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

### **3. THE SPIRIT TEACHES**

- The Bible is not merely a product of human thinking and ability but:

**44.** 2 Peter 1:21 (KJV) For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

- Since it required inspiration of the Spirit for the writing of Scriptures, it also requires the inspiration of the Holy Ghost to understand God's Word fully.
- Jesus promised that the Spirit would

45. John 14:26 (KJV) But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

#### 4. THE SPIRIT SHOWS THINGS TO COME

46. John 16:13 (KJV) Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.

#### 5. THE SPIRIT GIVES RIGHTEOUSNESS, PEACE, AND JOY

47. Rom 14:17 (KJV) For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

48. 1 Pet 1:8 (KJV) Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

#### 6. THE SPIRIT IMPARTS THE LOVE OF GOD

- The gift of the Holy Ghost is a baptism of the love of God, a boundless love that proceeds from God Himself, fills our souls, and then overflows from our lives like a mighty rushing river.

49. Revelation 22:17 (KJV) And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

- The Bible uses the metaphor of "fire" when it says,

50. 1 Th 5:19 (KJV) Quench not the Spirit.

# Exploring God's Word

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## Lesson 9

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## **I. The Gifts of the Spirit**

- The outpouring of God's spirit molded together a spiritual body (group of believers scripturally defined as the New Testament church.

**51.** Ephesians 1:22-23 (KJV) And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

- Supernatural manifestations of the Spirit occurred, commonly referred to as gifts of the Spirit.
- By supernatural, we mean something that cannot be explained or understood by human reasoning.
- Do not limit God to our understanding

**52.** Isaiah 55:8-9 (KJV) For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

- Similarly, the same book that teaches about the use of spiritual gifts states:

**53.** 1 Corinthians 2:11 (KJV) For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

### **1. THE GIFTS ARE TO PROFIT THE CHURCH**

- The spiritual gifts are given by God to His church to profit the church and its members.

**54.** 1 Corinthians 12:7 (KJV) But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

- There are those today who contend that the church can no longer experience these gifts. There is nothing in scriptures that says so.

- To the contrary, the gifts will remain in the church until Christ's second coming.

**55.** 1 Corinthians 1:2 (KJV) Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

**56.** 1 Corinthians 1:7 (KJV) So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

- The human body has many members such as hands, fingers, etc.
- So also is the body of Christ, there are many members of one body, and all are important.

## **A. The difference between the Gifts and the Fruit of the Spirit**

- The gifts of the Spirit are not to be confused with the fruit of the Spirit.
- The fruit of the Spirit is spiritual grace in the character of the believer.
- The gifts of the Spirit are divine enablements to strengthen and encourage the church.

## **B. Great Care in Their Operation**

- Care must be taken in the operation of the gifts.
- The Corinthian church became unbalanced in the operation of the more spectacular gifts.

## **2. THE NINE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT**

**57.** 1 Corinthians 12:1 (KJV) Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

**58.** 1 Corinthians 12:2-12 (KJV) Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led. 3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. 4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. 8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; 9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; 10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: 11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. 12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

## **A. Power to Know Supernaturally**

### **(1) *The Word of Wisdom***

- The word of Wisdom and Knowledge are supernatural manifestations of the Spirit.
- They exist far above their natural and human counterpart
- Sometimes God gives a specific word of wisdom for a particular situation.
- The word wisdom implies a thought or utterance through the direct operation of the Holy Spirit.
- An example of this gift is in Acts where Paul perceived a shipwreck.

**59.** Acts 27:10 (KJV) And said unto them, Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives.

**60.** Acts 27:31 (KJV) Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved.

**61.** Acts 27:34 (KJV) Wherefore I pray you to take some meat: for this is for your health: for there shall not an hair fall from the head of any of you.

#### **(1) *The Word of Knowledge***

- Every christian must endeavor to "grow in grace" and in the knowledge of our Lord.

**62.** 2 Peter 3:18 (KJV) But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

- The word of Knowledge includes facts from God about people, places, things, and events that a person could not possibly know unless God reveals it to them.
- An example of the word of Knowledge is Peter's supernatural knowledge of the secret sin of Ananias and Sapphira.

**63.** Acts 5:1-10 (KJV) But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, 2 And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it, at the apostles' feet. 3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? 4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. 5 And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. 6 And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him. 7 And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. 8 And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. 9 Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. 10 Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband.

#### **(1) *Discerning of Spirits***

- Is the ability on a particular occasion, to ascertain whether a spirit or action is of God.
- The purpose of this gift is to detect true or false.
- An example was when Paul rebuke of a spirit possessing a girl.



**64.** Acts 16:16-18 (KJV) And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: 17 The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which show unto us the way of salvation. 18 And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

## **B. Power to Act Supernaturally**

### **(1) Faith**

- The spiritual gift of faith is to be distinguished from saving faith or daily faith.
- The gift of faith is a measure of faith above the faith that all of us have.
- Examples are the faith of Peter and Paul for the lame man

**65.** Acts 3:4 (KJV) And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.

**66.** Acts 3:6 (KJV) Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

**67.** Acts 3:16 (KJV) And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

- Paul's supernatural faith

**68.** Acts 27:25 (KJV) Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.

### **(1) Working of Miiracles**

- A supernatural release of God's power through a person's life to effect an immediate supernatural event.
- It is an event that cannot be explained by "natural law".
- Examples are the raising of Dorcas and Eutychus back to Life and special miracles in Paul's ministry at Ephesus

**69.** Acts 9:37 (KJV) And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber.

**70.** Acts 9:40 (KJV) But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

71. Acts 20:9-10 (KJV) And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead. 10 And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him.

72. Acts 19:11-12 (KJV) And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: 12 So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.

### (1) *The Gifts of Healing*

- The gifts of Healing are plural. They refer to special healings of various types performed by God.
- When the gifts of Healing are in operation, God removes the cause of disease or affliction and healing follows.
- Examples

73.

74. Acts 5:16 (KJV) There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.

75. Acts 8:7 (KJV) For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.

## C. Power to Speak Supernaturally

### (1) *Prophecy*

- The gift of prophecy is a specific message from God to the hearers in their own language.
- True prophecy will always be in harmony with God's Word.
- The gift of prophecy brings edification, exhortation, and comfort to the church

76. 1 Corinthians 14:3 (KJV) But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.

77. 1 Corinthians 14:5 (KJV) I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.

78. 1 Corinthians 14:22 (KJV) Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.

### (1) *Tongues*

- Speaking with Tongues means speaking miraculously in a language unknown to the speaker.
- There are three different kinds of tongues
- (1) It is the initial evidence when someone is baptized with the Holy Ghost

**79.** Acts 2:4 (KJV) And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

**80.** Acts 10:44-46 (KJV) While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. 45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

**81.** Acts 19:6 (KJV) And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

- Speaking to God in personal prayer

**82.** 1 Corinthians 14:2 (KJV) For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

**83.** 1 Corinthians 14:14-15 (KJV) For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. 15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

**84.** 1 Corinthians 14:4 (KJV) He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

- Addressing the church, coupled with interpretation

**85.** 1 Corinthians 14:13-27 (KJV) Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret. 14 For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. 15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. 16 Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest? 17 For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified. 18 I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all: 19 Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue. 20 Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men. 21 In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord. 22 Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe. 23 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? 24 But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all: 25 And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth. 26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying. 27 If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.

➤ **Propheesied in the Old Testament**

**86.** Isaiah 28:11-12 (KJV) For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. 12 To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.

**(1) Interpretation of Tongues**

- By this gift, a person interprets (not merely translates) a message in tongues for the church.
- When a person brings a message to the church through the gift of tongues, the gift of interpretation of tongues is used to edify the church.

**87.** 1 Corinthians 14:13 (KJV) Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret.

- If there is no interpreter, the one speaking in the unknown tongue should keep silence in the church, although he can continue to pray in tongues personally.

**88.** 1 Corinthians 14:28 (KJV) But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

- The pastor should always have the oversight in the operation of the gifts.

**89.** 1 Corinthians 14:29 (KJV) Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.

**90.** 1 Corinthians 14:33 (KJV) For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

## **II. From the Old Man to the New Man**

- It is exciting to witness the miraculouse manifestations of God, but the greatest miracle is to experience the life-changing transformation by the new birth experience.
- Jesus warned His followers not to rejoice because they had power over spirits but rather
  - 91. Luke 10:20 (KJV) Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.
- The Lord is obviously more concerned with the miracle of salvation than other miracles.

### **1. THE GREATEST WORK**

- Jesus gave us a great promise.
- These works were to be done in the future, after His journey to Calvary.
- He has poured out this miracle to all who come to Him.
  - 92. John 14:12 (KJV) Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.
  - 93. John 10:10 (KJV) The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

#### **A. Jesus Brings Change**

- Everything that Jesus taught and all the love and compassion He demonstrated were designed to draw people's attention to the power of God.
- His mission was to bring joys of heaven and the life of God into the hearts and souls of humanity.

#### **B. Jesus Brings Victory**

- Jesus offers victory over satanic forces, human weaknesses, and struggles of life.
- He paid the penalty of sin and removed the curse of sin by giving His own life.
  - 94. John 16:33 (KJV) These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.
  - 95. 1 John 5:4-5 (KJV) For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. 5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?
  - 96. 1 Corinthians 15:57 (KJV) But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

97. 2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV) Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

### **C. The Three Enemies of Humanity**

(1) *Devil*

(2) *World with its ungodly lusts*

(3) *Flesh*

98. Hebrews 2:14 (KJV) Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

99. 1 John 2:16 (KJV) For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

100. Hebrews 4:15 (KJV) For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

- Two of the enemies are outside of the body: the devil and the world.
- But the greatest enemy is within.

101. Mark 7:21-23 (KJV) For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: 23 All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

- The Holy Ghost helps us to conquer the fleshly nature.

102. James 4:4 (KJV) Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

103. Romans 8:7 (KJV) Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

104. Ephesians 2:16 (KJV) And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

## **2. THE WORKS OF THE FLESH - THE OLD MAN**

- The sins come from the carnal, sinful nature.
- There are also sins that come from the sinful human nature.

**105.** Galatians 5:19-21 (KJV) Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 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.

- When left to itself, the heart is capable of unbelievable evils.
- Through the mind, it is impossible to please God.



**106.** Romans 8:7 (KJV) Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

➤ For this reason, God gives a new nature to us.

**107.** 1 Corinthians 6:17 (KJV) But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

➤ A new mind

**108.** 1 Corinthians 2:16 (KJV) For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

➤ A new heart

**109.** Ezekiel 36:26-27 (KJV) A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

**110.** Romans 5:5 (KJV) And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

➤ A new man

**111.** Ephesians 4:24 (KJV) And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

➤ A new life

**112.** Romans 6:4 (KJV) Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

**113.** 2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV) Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

➤ Putting off the old man

**114.** Ephesians 4:22-24 (KJV) That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; 24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

➤ The natural man cannot understand God

**115.** 1 Corinthians 2:14 (KJV) But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

➤ Nor can he live holy before the Lord.

**116.** Romans 8:5-8 (KJV) For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

- Can sweet water come from a bitter spring?

**117.** James 3:11 (KJV) Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?

### **3. THE WORKS OF THE SPIRIT - THE NEW MAN**

- This new man, God has given many promises.
- The old man was associated with the curse of sin.
- Since actions flow directly from the heart, it was necessary that God create in man a new heart with new characteristics.

**118.** Luke 6:45 (KJV) A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

- The heart cannot be trusted.

**119.** Jeremiah 17:9-10 (KJV) The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? 10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

- David never dreamed that he had murder in his heart. He found out to late.
- He asked God to search his heart.

**120.** Psalms 139:23-24 (KJV) Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: 24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

- The reasoning of the heart, human logic, and philosophy of this world cannot discover the things of God with the illumination of His spirit.

**121.** 1 Corinthians 2:11 (KJV) For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

## 4. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

- When the Spirit of God is resident in a person's heart the Spirit will produce a harvest of:

**122.** Galatians 5:22-23 (KJV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

- It's great to see the "old man" transformed into a "new man" .

**123.** Ephesians 4:24 (KJV) And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

### A. Abundant Life

- Jesus said:
- Out of a man's heart speaks what is in his heart.

**124.** Luke 6:43-45 (KJV) For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. 44 For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes. 45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

**125.** Proverbs 4:23 (KJV) Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

### B. God's Aim for His people

- It is God's aim to bring forth fruit of His Spirit in the hearts of His people

**126.** John 15:8 (KJV) Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

- We must overcome the sinful nature.

**127.** 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (KJV) For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

- The sinful nature will oppose God's work. The Christian has a dual nature, the nature of God and the sinful nature of the flesh.

**128.** Galatians 4:29 (KJV) But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.

- He promises forgiveness and strength if we confess and repent

**129.** 1 John 1:9 (KJV) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**130.** Hebrews 4:15-16 (KJV) For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

### **C. Paul's Advice**

**131.** Romans 6:12-13 (KJV) Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. 13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

### **III. Beauty of Holiness**

- If a person could visualize his journey through life he would see two roads.
- These two roads represent the way of life and death
- One road is a blessing the other is a curse.

**132.** Proverbs 14:12 (KJV) There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

**133.** Deuteronomy 30:19 (KJV) I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

#### **1. THE JOURNEY OF LIFE**

- God desires that we enjoy an abundant and exciting life as we travel towards eternity.

##### **A. Which Way Will WE Go**

- Moses chose the highway of holiness rather than an adventure in pleasures of a season.

**134.** Hebrews 11:25 (KJV) Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

##### **B. Becoming More Like Him**

- God enables each of us to be changed more into the image of Jesus as we conquer the sinful nature

**135.** 2 Corinthians 4:4 (KJV) In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

- The true image of God can only be reflected by the Spirit of God working in His people

**136.** 1 Peter 1:15 (KJV) But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

**137.** Ephesians 4:24 (KJV) And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

**138.** Hebrews 12:14 (KJV) Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

### **C. A Beautiful Way of Life**

- Holiness is a beautiful way of life that guarantees God's protection and blessings from the major enemies of the soul.
- To sin is to miss the mark, or the purpose which God created us.

**139.** Psalms 29:2 (KJV) Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

## **2. PERFECTING HOLINESS**

- When God fills a person with His Holy Spirit, he receives a holy nature. Holiness does not come from human works but from God's Holy Spirit

**140.** Romans 8:16 (KJV) The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

**141.** John 1:13 (KJV) Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

- A person must yield to the Holy Spirit

**142.** Psalms 101:3 (KJV) I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.

**143.** 1 Thessalonians 5:22 (KJV) Abstain from all appearance of evil.

- If we do, God has promised us

**144.** 2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV) Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

### **A. Growing in the Lord**

- As the new person grows in the knowledge of the will of God, he will also grow in his ability to recognize activities and attitudes that may endanger his new life with Christ.
- The Christian life is not governed totally by the question of whether or not something is sin, but if it will damage the image of Christ
- The question is not: What do I have to do?
- It is "What does Jesus want me to do? How can I please Him, How can I draw closer to Him? How can I become more like Him?"

### **B. The Concerned Christ**

- Christ does not force His love on any one. He wants a chance to show what a great God He is. He will create a new heart to all who respond to Him.

- Jesus does not want any of us to perish.
- Even angels do not understand salvation

**145.** 1 Peter 1:12 (KJV) Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

**146.** John 3:15-16 (KJV) That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

# Exploring God's Word

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## Lesson 10

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## **I. The New Testament Church**

- Luke, in A.D. 63, wrote the book of Acts of the Apostles. This book records the birth, and inauguration of the New Testament church.
- The church became a dynamic organism.
- They proclaimed, with the anointing of the Holy Ghost, the purpose of God manifested through the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ.

1. 2 Peter 1:16 (KJV) For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

### **1. FELLOWSHIP**

#### **A. Apostles' Teaching (Matthew 28:20; Acts 2:42)**

- We need the Word of God to live by
2. Matthew 28:20 (KJV) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.
  3. Romans 10:17 (KJV) So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

#### **B. Fellowship of the Church**

- A phrase that describes the life of the early church is.
4. Acts 2:42-44 (KJV) And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. 44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common;
- We are to first fellowship with Jesus Christ
5. 1 John 1:3 (KJV) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

#### **C. Breaking Bread from House to House**

- Witnesses told everyone about what God was doing in their day.
  - They went from house-to-house sharing the gospel.
6. Acts 20:20 (KJV) And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have showed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house,

## **D. Prayer**

- After the outpouring of the Holy Ghost, the church kept praying.
- Because of prayer, God gave the church favor with all the people and added to it daily.

**7.** Acts 2:47 (KJV) Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

## **2. THE FIRST MIRACLE OF THE CHURCH**

- The first miracle performed after the ascension of Jesus was the healing of the lame man.
- The miracle produced evidence that the power of Jesus Christ was upon His followers.
- As a result of the healing, people gathered, Peter preached his second sermon, and many believed, more souls were added

**8.** Acts 3:6-8 (KJV) Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. 7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. 8 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

- After the initial outpouring of the Holy Ghost, 3,000 more souls were added.
- After this miracle many more were added, 5,000

**9.** Acts 4:4 (KJV) Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

- This made a total of 10,000 souls who were converted from the Day of Pentecost.

## **3. THE GIVING SPIRIT OF THE CHURCH**

- There was a singleness of devotion and dedication of the early church.
- They were God-centered and had a concern for one another's needs.

**10.** Acts 4:32 (KJV) And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

## **A. The Lord's Stewards**

- As stewards of the Lord's blessings, those who prospered materially shared with others that had needs.

**11.** Acts 4:34-35 (KJV) Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, 35 And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.

## **B. Barnabas Shows the Way**

- Barnabas was a Levite. He remembered a promise that God had promised him an inheritance.

**12.** Deuteronomy 10:9 (KJV) Wherefore Levi hath no part nor inheritance with his brethren; the LORD is his inheritance, according as the LORD thy God promised him.

- He untangled himself from the things of the world

**13.** 2 Timothy 2:4 (KJV) No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

- He exhibited greathearted giving.

- He uplifted and inspired many of the churches in his later ministry and encouraged the apostolic circle to receive Paul as a fellow preacher.

**14.** Acts 11:22-24 (KJV) Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch. 23 Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord. 24 For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.

## **II. Persecution of the Church**

### **1. STEPHEN CHOSEN**

- The church was growing so fast, they had to start sharing responsibilities.
- They were not spending enough time in prayer, preaching, and teaching the Word of God.
- Seven men were chosen, one was Stephen

#### **A. Stephen's Qualifications**

- Stephen was full of "faith and power".
  - 15.** Acts 6:8 (KJV) And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.
- He not only did what God wanted him to do, but he looked for other opportunities to serve.
- He was so successful that he was picked as a target by the enemies of the church.

#### **B. Stephen on Trial**

- Stephen's opponents were no match for his wisdom and spirit.
- They hired false witnesses to testify against him.
  - 16.** Acts 6:10 (KJV) And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.

#### **C. Stephen Preaches and Dies**

- Men testified falsely against Stephen, but they could not change his character.
- The Jewish leaders became alarmed when they saw his shining face as an angel.
- He preached about the way God dealt with Israel in the Old Testament.
- He preached truths they could not contradict
- He finished up by proclaiming that his listeners had betrayed and slain the Son of God.
- In anger, they cast him out of the city and stoned him to death.
  - 17.** Acts 6:12-15 (KJV) And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon him, and caught him, and brought him to the council, 13 And set up false witnesses, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law: 14 For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us. 15 And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel.

- One of the leaders of the persecution was Saul of Tarsus, who was a witness of and gave consent to have Stephen killed.
- As a result of the persecution, the truth spread into all of Judea and Samaria and into all the world.

## 2. SAUL'S CONVERSION

- Chapter 9 of The Book of Acts describes the conversion of Saul who became known as Paul.
- Paul is a key figure in the New Testament.

### A. Saul the Persecutor

- When the Jewish leaders had stoned Stephen to death, Saul was in agreement with their actions.
- Saul launched an all-out persecution of the church.

**18.** Acts 8:3 (KJV) As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.

➤ **hale**<sup>2</sup> (h<sup>31</sup>) *tr.v.* **haled, hal-ing, hales.** **1.** To compel to go: “*In short order the human rights campaign was haled before a high court of indignation*” (Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr.). **2.** *Archaic.* To pull, draw, drag, or hoist.

### B. Saul on the Damascus Road

- On the way to Damascus, a bright light from heaven shone around Paul; then he heard a voice.
- Paul had an encounter with Jesus and was fully persuaded to surrender to Him.

**19.** Acts 9:2-9 (KJV) And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. 3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: 4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? 5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. 6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. 7 And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man. 8 And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus. 9 And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.

- Paul's life was never the same from that point on.
- It is the same with our conversion to Jesus:
- What do you want me to do for you?

### C. Saul Receives His Sight

- , Saul was blinded by what he saw.
- , He was led to Damascus where the Lord sent him for further instructions, telling him he would find help there.
- , After Paul prayed and fasted for three days, the Lord sent a message for him.
- , A disciple named Ananias visited Saul, laid hands on him, and prayed,
- , Immediately, Saul received his sight and was filled with the Holy Ghost and Ananias baptized Paul.

**20.** Acts 9:17-18 (KJV) And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. 18 And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

- Paul received both physical and spiritual sight that day.

➤ **straight-way** (str<sup>3</sup>t<sup>w</sup>3<sup>a</sup>, -w<sup>3</sup>) *adv.* **1.** In a direct course: *plunged straightway to the rocks below.* **2.** Without delay; at once

**21.** Acts 9:11-20 (KJV) And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, 12 And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight. 13 Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: 14 And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. 15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: 16 For I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. 17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. 18 And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. 19 And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus. 20 And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

### **III. The Gospel to the Gentiles/Peter**

#### **1. CORNELIUS AND THE ANGEL**

- , The Gospel spread from Jerusalem, Judaea, and Samaria to the uttermost parts of the earth.
- , Acts 10 records a new turn in the history of the church.
- , Before chapter 10, the apostles preached only to the Jews.
- , But now the door is open to the Gentiles as well.

➤ **gen-tile** (jɪnˈtɪl) *n.* **1.** Often **Gentile**. One who is not of the Jewish faith or is of a non-Jewish nation. **2.** Often **Gentile**. A Christian. **3.** A pagan or heathen. **4.** Often **Gentile**.

- Cornelius, a centurion in the Roman army, was a moral man, generous to the poor, feared God, and was faithful in prayer.
- He saw a vision, and an angel of God told him to send to Joppa a one called Peter who would tell him what to do to be saved.

**22.** Acts 10:6 (KJV) He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.

**23.** Acts 11:13-14 (KJV) And he showed us how he had seen an angel in his house, which stood and said unto him, Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter; 14 Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved.

#### **2. PETER ON THE ROOFTOP**

- God was preparing Peter for a ministry to the Gentiles, whom the Jews thought were unclean.
- At this time the messengers sent from Cornelius arrived.
- Here Peter learned that God is no respecter of persons.

**24.** Acts 10:34-35 (KJV) Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: 35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

#### **3. GENTILES RECEIVE THE HOLY GHOST**

- As Peter preached to Cornelius and his household, the Holy Ghost fell upon them, then Peter commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus

25. Acts 10:43-48 (KJV) To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. 44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. 45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, 47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.



## **IV. The Gospel to the Gentiles/Paul**

, Paul was a chosen vessel (Acts 9:15). His ministry was to bear the name of the Lord before the Gentiles, kings, and the Israelites.

, We read earlier this verse.

**26.** Acts 9:15 (KJV) But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

### **1. PAUL ON MARS' HILL**

- 697. Areios Pagos, ar'-i-os pag'-os; from Ares (the name of the Greek deity of war) and a der. of G4078; rock of Ares, a place in Athens:--Areopagus, Mars' Hill.
- Paul took three missionary journeys, (1) Thessalonica, (2) Berea, (3) Athens
- In Acts 17, Paul preached in Thessalonica and Berea, and then Athens.
- He was appalled at the idolatry he found in the latter city. Athens was full of temples, idols, statues, and pagan altars.

**27.** Exodus 20:4-5 (KJV) Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

- His discussions were with philosophers of Athens.
- Paul preached to the Athenians about their altar with the dedication to the unknown god.

**28.** Acts 17:22 (KJV) Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.

- Paul preached the message of one God who is self-existing, the giver and supporter of life.

**29.** Acts 17:23-26 (KJV) For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. 24 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; 25 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; 26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

- He stated that everyone could find the Lord.

**30.** Isaiah 46:9-10 (KJV) Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

**31.** Mark 12:32 (KJV) And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he:

**32.** Jeremiah 29:13 (KJV) And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

**33.** Acts 17:27 (KJV) That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:

- Paul declared that God tolerated the foolishness of people for a while, but judgment would come by Jesus Christ, who rose from the dead.
- At this saying some mocked, but other believed.

## **2. PAUL IN PRISON WRITING EPISTLES**

- An important part of Paul's ministry was writing letters (epistles) of instructions to the various churches
- Paul wrote some of them while he was in prison awaiting trial.
- While imprisoned, Paul witnessed to many of the guards and visitors.
- Paul was finally put to death.

**34.** 2 Timothy 4:6-8 (KJV) For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 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.

# Exploring God's Word

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## Lesson 11

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## **I. The Destruction of Jerusalem**

- The Old Testament prophets continually foretold the gathering again of the Jews to their land. But the Romans dispersed the Jews from their land and destroyed the city of Jerusalem.
- Jesus foretold this happening to His disciples
- In Luke, Jesus told of the coming destruction of the city of Jerusalem

**1.** Luke 19:41-44 (KJV) And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, 42 Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes. 43 For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, 44 And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.

### **1. JERUSALEM: JEWISH PIVOTAL POINT**

- Jerusalem was the center of activity for the Jews, the center of their religion because the Temple was there.
- Jerusalem was also the center of commerce.

### **2. JESUS WEPT OVER JERUSALEM**

- When Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem just before He was arrested. He stopped and wept over Jerusalem and said.

**2.** Matthew 23:37-38 (KJV) O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! 38 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

### **3. JERUSALEM DESTROYED BY THE ARMIES OF TITUS**

- After the death of Jesus, the Jews revolted against Roman rule.
- In the year A.D. 70, General Titus and the Roman army laid siege to the city of Jerusalem.
- The people of Jerusalem would now feel the strong might of the Roman Empire.
- The city was destroyed because.
  - 1) This was God's judgment for their sin.
  - 2) The Romans wanted to stamp out the Jewish religion.
  - 3) The Romans wanted to destroy the Jewish nation.

- The destruction was quite a feat itself.
- The historian Josephus said that some of the stones were 94 feet long, 10.5 feet tall and 13 feet thick.
- Jesus said.

**3.** Matthew 24:2 (KJV) And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

## **II. The Jewish Return to Palestine**

- The Bible states over and over that the Jews would return to the desolate land and rebuild what was destroyed.

4. Isaiah 11:12 (KJV) And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

5. Isaiah 43:5-6 (KJV) Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; 6 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;

6. Jeremiah 29:14 (KJV) And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive.

7. Jeremiah 31:10 (KJV) Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock.

8. Amos 9:14 (KJV) And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them.

- In 1882 there were 24,000 Jews in Palestine.
- In 1914 there were 85,000
- In 1948, at Israel's declaration as a nation, there were 65,000.
- Today there are over 3,000,000 Jews in Israel.
- The Jew has truly returned home.

### III. The Times of the Gentiles

- Nations continue to rise and fall.
- No story tells it better than the prophetic dream of Nebuchadnezzar.

#### **1. NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM (DANIEL 2:31-45)**

- Nebuchadnezzar was king of Babylon.
- He reigned during the fall and captivity of the nation Israel.
- One night he had a dream that would foretell events over the centuries.
- Mighty kingdoms would be represented in this dream.
- Israel was a Babylonian captivity as a result of her backsliding.
- God revealed who would rule over Israel.
- Daniel, who was a prophet of God was called to interpret the dream.
- In the dream there was a great metal man.
- The head was gold, the breast and arms were silver; his belly and thighs were made of brass; the legs of iron; and his feet were part iron and clay.
- A stone struck the feet and broke them into pieces.
- The image was destroyed and became like chaff
- The stone then became a great mountain and filled the earth

9. Daniel 2:31-36 (KJV) Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. 32 This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, 33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. 34 **Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.** 35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth. 36 This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.

#### **A. The Head of Gold (Babylon)**

- Ruled the Jews and the Middle East at the time of the dream.
- This kingdom lasted from 606 B.C. to 538 B.C.

## **B. The Breast and Arms of Silver (Medo-Persia)**

- In 538 B.C. Babylon fell to the Medes and Persians. Darius was the king of the Medes.
- The Persians eventually became dominant. This kingdom was portrayed by the two arms lasted until 330 B.C.

## **C. The Belly and Thighs of Brass ( Greece)**

- Alexander the Great came out of the West with conquest on his mind. He conquered the Persian Empire in 330 B.C. and established an empire based on Greek language and culture. After Alexander's death in 323 B. C. the empire was divided into four parts.
- The Grecian empire lasted until 160 B.C. when the Romans conquered it.

**10.** Daniel 2:39 (KJV) And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.

## **D. The Legs of Iron (Roman Empire)**

- The legs represented the Roman Empire, which lasted for many centuries

**11.** Daniel 2:40 (KJV) And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.

## **E. The Feet of Iron and Clay (Revived Roman Empire)**

- The feet portray a revived Roman Empire, a ten-nation confederacy represented by the ten toes.
- This world power will arise on the territory of the original Roman Empire in the last days, and during this time the Antichrist will begin his rule of the world.
- All this will lead to the Great Tribulation and the Battle of Armageddon.

**12.** Daniel 2:42-43 (KJV) And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. 43 And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.

**13.** Daniel 2:45 (KJV) Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.



**14.** Daniel 7:7-8 (KJV) After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. 8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

**15.** Revelation 17:12 (KJV) And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

## **F. The Stone (Jesus Christ)**

- The coming of Jesus Christ at the Battle of Armageddon will destroy all the kingdoms of the this world system.
- God will set up a new kingdom over all the earth for a thousand years.
- This is called the Millennium (which means a thousand years in Latin).

**16.** Revelation 20:1-6 (KJV) And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. 4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

#### **IV. Signs of the End Time (Matt 24)**

- Matthew 24 is of great significance when studying the end time. After Jesus predicated the fall of Jerusalem, His disciples asked Him privately while sitting on the Mount of Olives.

**17.** Matthew 24:3 (KJV) And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

- Jesus gave warning to believers.

**18.** Matthew 24:4 (KJV) And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

- Many shall come in my name.
- There are hundreds of different types of religions today, from Eastern religions to watered-down denominationalism; from radio and television voices.
- A person can easily be deceived and led astray if he does not have a basic knowledge of the Word of God.

**19.** Matthew 24:5 (KJV) For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

- Wars and rumors of war.

**20.** Matthew 24:6 (KJV) And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

- Famines and pestilence

**21.** Matthew 24:7 (KJV) For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

**22.** Matthew 24:38 (KJV) For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

- Paul wrote to Timothy about the perilous conditions of the last days, giving several signs.

**23.** 2 Timothy 3:2-5 (KJV) For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

## **V. Jesus Comes for His Church**

- Paul wrote to the church at Thessalonica of the great hope that was ahead for the bride of Christ, the church.
- This event is commonly called the rapture of the church.
- Several things are clear concerning this event

- 1) Concerning the dead, we are not to sorrow as one without hope.
- 2) Because Jesus rose again, He will raise the dead in Christ.
- 3) The Lord Himself will descend from Heaven with a shout.
- 4) Those who died after living their lives for Jesus will be raised first.
- 5) The living saints will be caught up together with the dead saints in the clouds.
- 6) All will meet Jesus in the air, never to be parted again.
- 7) We are to comfort one another with this truth.

**24.** 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (KJV) But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 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: 17 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. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

- Jesus warned of not being ready for His coming.
- There will be a separation between those who are ready and those who are unprepared.
  - 8) two in the field, one taken, one left
  - 9) two women, one taken, one left
  - 10) Watch therefore, for ye know not what hour your Lord will come.

**25.** Matthew 24:40-42 (KJV) Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

- In sum, there will be a resurrection of the righteous dead. Jesus Christ will return for His church.

- There will be a glorious catching away of the saints of God.
- There will be a wonderful reunion with the saints of Jesus who have gone on before.

**26.** Titus 2:11-13 (KJV) For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,  
12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly,  
righteously, and godly, in this present world; 13 Looking for that blessed hope, and  
the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

# Exploring God's Word

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## Lesson 12

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## **I. The Tribulation**

- The end time is portrayed in an awesome way in the Scripture.
  1. Hebrews 10:31 (KJV) It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.
- The judgment of God is revealed in the closing lesson of our Bible lesson.
- Daniel, the great prophet during the Babylonian captivity of the Jews recorded a period of seven years at the end time.
- This period of time will bring terrible calamity on the earth.
- He described seventy "weeks" or periods of seven, that would relate to Jewish history.
- Each "week" represents seven years, for a total of 490 years.
- Daniel did not prophesy about the church age; his prophecy concerns the state of the Jews in God's plan.

### **1. DANIEL'S SEVENTH WEEK**

- To understand the seventieth week of Daniel's prophecy, it is necessary to have an understanding of how the Scripture describes the seventy weeks.
  2. Daniel 9:24 (KJV) Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.
- Sixty nine of these weeks were to take place between the decree to restore Jerusalem and the crucifixion of "Messiah the Prince" (Jesus Christ).
  3. Daniel 9:25-26 (KJV) Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. 26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.
- Seven years (or 49 years) were used to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
- There were sixty-two weeks (or 434 years) from the building of the walls until the crucifixion of the Messiah.
- Using the scriptural year of 360 days each, there were 69 weeks or 483 years between 445 B.C. and A.D. 32.
- This leaves one week remaining of the seventy

- In Daniel 9:27 says the prince shall come and break a convenient with Israel and bring havoc on the earth.

4. Daniel 9:27 (KJV) And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

- Daniel says that in this week of years the Antichrist system "the prince that shall come" will break a convenient with the Jewish nation and bring much havoc on the earth.
- There is an interval of time between the sixty-ninth week and the seventieth week, during which time the church age exists.

## 2. THE TRIBULATION JUDGMENTS

- During the seven years of tribulation, evil people will bring various calamities upon the earth, and God will pour out severe judgment on the earth.
- These devastating events are introduced by the seals, the trumpets, and the vials.

5. Read Revelation, chapters 6, 8, 9, 15, and 16

- During this time the people of the earth will go through a time of suffering and death such as the world has never known.

### A. The Seals (Revelation 6)

- The seals describe the following events.

- 1) An evil leader called the antichrist will win the world to himself.
- 2) Terrible war will come, followed by famine and death.
- 3) One-fourth of the world's population will die.
- 4) There will be much persecution of people who turn to God during this time.
- 5) Catastrophic earthquakes will disturb the earth.
- 6) The moon will become as blood and people will hide in the mountains for fear.

6. Revelation 8:7 (KJV) The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.

### A. The Trumpets (Revelation 8-9)

- 1) During these judgments, hail will fall, and fire will burn over a third of the earth.

- 2) A falling meteor will destroy one-third of the shipping.
- 3) The fish of the sea will die.
- 4) One-third of the sea will become like blood
- 5) Poisons will contaminate one-third of the water supply.
- 6) Great darkness will come on the earth
- 7) For five months scorpions will sting people on earth
- 8) A 200,000 man army will kill one-third of the population

### **A. The Vials (Revelation 16)**

- The vials represent God's final judgment for the Tribulation.
  - 1) Awful sores will afflict those with the mark of the beast (those who follow the Antichrist).
  - 2) Everything in the ocean will die.
  - 3) The water will become blood
  - 4) The sun will burn hotter than usual and will scorch people
  - 5) The earth will be thrown into darkness and great pain will come upon the people.
  - 6) The river Euphrates will dry up so the armies of the east can come to Armageddon.
  - 7) Hail will fall, destroying whole cities.



## **A. The Terrible Death**

- In the fourth seal, one-fourth of the earth's population will die. With over 5 billion people living today, that would be well over one billion people dying in a short time.
- In the sixth-trumpet, one-third of the remaining population, again over one billion, will die in a short period.
- The population of the USA is less than one-fourth of a billion people, which means that ten times the present population of the USA will die.

## **II. The Reign of the Antichrist**

- A forceful political leader, usually called the antichrist, will come forth to dominate the world leadership during the tribulation. He will have help of a false prophet, who will be the world's religious leader.
- The world system will be under one head will envelop the political, religious, and economic areas of life.

### **1. THE ANTICHRIST**

- 2 Thessalonians describes this evil leader, calling him the "man of sin". It further teaches:

- 1) He will oppose God
- 2) He will exalt himself above God
- 3) He will sit in the Temple, showing himself as God
- 4) He will be destroyed by the Lord Jesus at Armageddon
- 5) Satan will empower the antichrist with signs and lying wonders
- 6) He will deceive those who do not love the truth

7. 2 Thessalonians 2:3-10 (KJV) Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. 5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? 6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. 7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. 8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: 9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

- The devil still has the same desires now as when he was in heaven.

8. Isaiah 14:10-16 (KJV) All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? art thou become like unto us? 11 Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, and the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee. 12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! 13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. 15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. 16 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;

➤ God will allow those who do not love truth and are deceived by the antichrist to believe a lie and be damned.

9. 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12 (KJV) And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: 12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

➤ Revelation 13 describes him as a "beast" rising up out of the sea.

| The dragon (satan) will give him power and authority

10. Revelation 13:2 (KJV) And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

| The one-world system will be, in some cases, a revival of the old Roman Empire

11. Revelation 13:3 (KJV) And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

| The people will worship the beast

12. Revelation 13:4 (KJV) And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

| He will have total power the last three and a half years of the Tribulation

13. Revelation 13:5 (KJV) And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

| He will blaspheme God, His name, and the heavenly dwellers

14. Revelation 13:6 (KJV) And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

| He will make war against those who turn to God during this time.

**15.** Revelation 13:7 (KJV) And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

| He will cause all to receive the mark in the right hand or forehead in order to buy or sell.

**16.** Revelation 13:16-17 (KJV) 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: 17 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.

| His number is 666.

**17.** Revelation 13:18 (KJV) Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.

## **2. THE FALSE PROPHET (RELIGIOUS GOVERNMENT)**

➤ Revelation 13 also describes a religious leader in the tribulation who works closely with the antichrist.

➤ He will assist the antichrist in attaining world supremacy.

| He will exercise great power

| He will cause the people to worship the antichrist and submit to the world system.

**18.** Revelation 13:12 (KJV) 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.

| He will perform miracles by the power of satan

| He will be a deceiver

| He will have an image of the antichrist made

**19.** Revelation 13:14 (KJV) 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.

| He will give life to the image and cause the image to speak

| He will put to death all that will not worship the image of the beast.

**20.** Revelation 13:15 (KJV) 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.

### **3. THE ANTICHRIST SYSTEM OF POLITICAL GOVERNMENT**

- The ten toes of the image of Nebuchadnezzar and the ten horns of the beast of Revelation 13:1,17:12; Daniel 7:7,24 are a confederation of ten nations that will constitute a world power in the last days.
- These nations will help the antichrist come to power.
- Their power will be lessened by the antichrist after he has used them to gain world power.
- This confederation will probably develop into a very powerful economic bloc, which will give them great influence in the making of a world leader.

**21.** Daniel 7:7 (KJV) After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

**22.** Daniel 7:24 (KJV) And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.

**23.** Revelation 13:1 (KJV) And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

**24.** Revelation 17:12 (KJV) And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

- This great bloc will be greatly dominated by a world religion, which Rev 17 describes as a great harlot drunk with the blood of saints
- This harlot will ride the beast until the beast kills her.
- The political-economic system will destroy the false world church, taking its power and wealth.

### **III. The Battle of Armageddon**

- The valley of Jezreel or Esdraelon is located west of the Jordan river and east of the Mediterranean Sea.
- The Battle of Armageddon will be fought in this area.
- The name "Armageddon" is taken from the strategic military city of Megiddo, which was the fortified chariot city of Solomon.
- Armageddon, it is said, it will be the battleground for the greatest blood bath the world has ever seen.

#### **1. 144,000 SEALED**

- God will preserve 144,000 believing Jews during this time. God will deliver this remnant, who will be hidden from the destructive power of the antichrist.

#### **2. PREPARATION FOR ARMAGEDDON**

- The Jews will be a thorn in the flesh of this world leader. He will be able to break the will of other nations but not them. He will determine to destroy the Jews.
- At this time the Lord will intervene with a heavenly army.

**25.** Revelation 19:19 (KJV) And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

**26.** Revelation 16:13-14 (KJV) And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

**27.** Revelation 16:16 (KJV) And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

#### **3. ARMAGEDDON CLOSES OUT THE TRIBULATION**

- This battle will be the end of the tribulation. It will be the final attack on the antichrist against God and His people.
- God will personally come to end the wild and savage earthly reign of the beast and his system.
- After this battle Jesus will set up the millennial reign on earth (one thousand years of peace).

#### **4. THE KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS**

28. Revelation 19:11 (KJV) And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.
29. Revelation 19:14 (KJV) And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.
30. Revelation 19:16 (KJV) And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

## **5. THE JUDGMENT OF THE BEAST AND FALSE PROPHET**

31. Revelation 19:20 (KJV) And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

## **IV. The Return of Christ and the Millennium**

### **1. To the Mount of Olives**

- When Jesus Christ comes with His armies to Armageddon and destroys the antichrist system, He will then stand on the Mount of Olives.

**32.** Zechariah 14:4 (KJV) And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

- The landscape around Jerusalem will never be the same.
- The mountain will be divided as a monument to the deliverance of the Lord.

### **2. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE KINGDOM AGE**

#### **A. Jesus Christ Will be King of the Earth**

**33.** Zechariah 14:9 (KJV) And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.

#### **B. Jesus will rule on the Earth for a Thousand Years**

**34.** Revelation 20:6 (KJV) Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.



### **C. Judgment of the Nations**

**35.** Matthew 25:31-46 (KJV) When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: 32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: 33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: 36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. 37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? 38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? 39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? 40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. 41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: 42 For I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: 43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. 44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? 45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. 46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

### **D. God's people Will Rule with Christ**

**36.** Zechariah 9:11-17 (KJV) As for thee also, by the blood of thy covenant I have sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit wherein is no water. 12 Turn you to the strong hold, ye prisoners of hope: even to day do I declare that I will render double unto thee; 13 When I have bent Judah for me, filled the bow with Ephraim, and raised up thy sons, O Zion, against thy sons, O Greece, and made thee as the sword of a mighty man. 14 And the LORD shall be seen over them, and his arrow shall go forth as the lightning: and the Lord GOD shall blow the trumpet, and shall go with whirlwinds of the south. 15 The LORD of hosts shall defend them; and they shall devour, and subdue with sling stones; and they shall drink, and make a noise as through wine; and they shall be filled like bowls, and as the corners of the altar. 16 And the LORD their God shall save them in that day as the flock of his people: for they shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon his land. 17 For how great is his goodness, and how great is his beauty! corn shall make the young men cheerful, and new wine the maids.

**37.** Zechariah 12:10 (KJV) And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

**38.** Revelation 20:1-6 (KJV) And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. 4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

### **E. The Capital will be Jerusalem**

➤ ...and the nations will come there annually to worship the Lord

**39.** Zechariah 14:16-17 (KJV) And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. 17 And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.

### **F. Satan will be bound**

**40.** Revelation 20:2-3 (KJV) And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

## **V. The Great White Throne Judgment**

- After one-thousand years of reign of Jesus Christ upon the earth, the great white throne judgment will take place.
- It will judge the dead from the beginning of human existence on the earth.
- The only people who will not be judged will be the redeemed people, both living and dead, who arose to meet the Lord at the Rapture.

**41.** Revelation 20:11-12 (KJV) And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

### **1. THE THRONE**

- John saw an impressive, large white throne

### **2. THE JUDGE (JESUS)**

- Jesus Christ will sit upon the throne.

### **3. THE JUDGED**

- The dead from all walks of life will be judged.

**42.** Revelation 20:13 (KJV) And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

### **4. THE EVIDENCE**

#### **A. The Bible**

- The books were opened, and another book was opened, which is the book of life.

**43.** Revelation 20:12 (KJV) And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

## B. The Recorded History

## C. The Book of Life

### 5. THE WITNESSES

- The saints of the church will be present with Jesus

### 6. THE JUDGMENT

- Those whose names are not in the book of life will be cast into the lake of fire.

44. Revelation 20:15 (KJV) And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

## **VI. Time Ends - Then Eternity**

- The time after the great white throne judgment is not described in detail, but the Bible does give us some insights.

### **1. EARTH AFLAME**

- The whole earth and space around it will be aflame.
- Everything humanity has made on earth will be burned and destroyed.

**45.** 2 Peter 3:10 (KJV) But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

### **2. NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH**

- We, according to his promise, look for a new heavens and a new earth.

**46.** Revelation 21:1 (KJV) And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

**47.** 2 Peter 3:13 (KJV) Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

- 2 Peter compares this transformation with the flood of Noah's day.

**48.** 2 Peter 3:6 (KJV) Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

### **3. THE NEW JERUSALEM**

- John saw a beautiful city coming down from God.
- Prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

**49.** Revelation 21:2 (KJV) And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

- Many mansions

**50.** John 14:2-3 (KJV) In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 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.

- Revelation 21 uses wonderful imagery to describe the splendor of the eternal dwelling place of God's people.
- It describes the city 1,500 miles in length, breadth, and height

**51.** Revelation 21:16 (KJV) And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.

➤ It is made of pure gold like clear glass

**52.** Revelation 21:18 (KJV) And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.

**53.** Revelation 21:21 (KJV) And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

**54.** Revelation 21:23 (KJV) And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.