

THE BIBLE

The Book of the God in Heaven
A Journey Through the Bible

by James Pilgrim

"I say unto you"

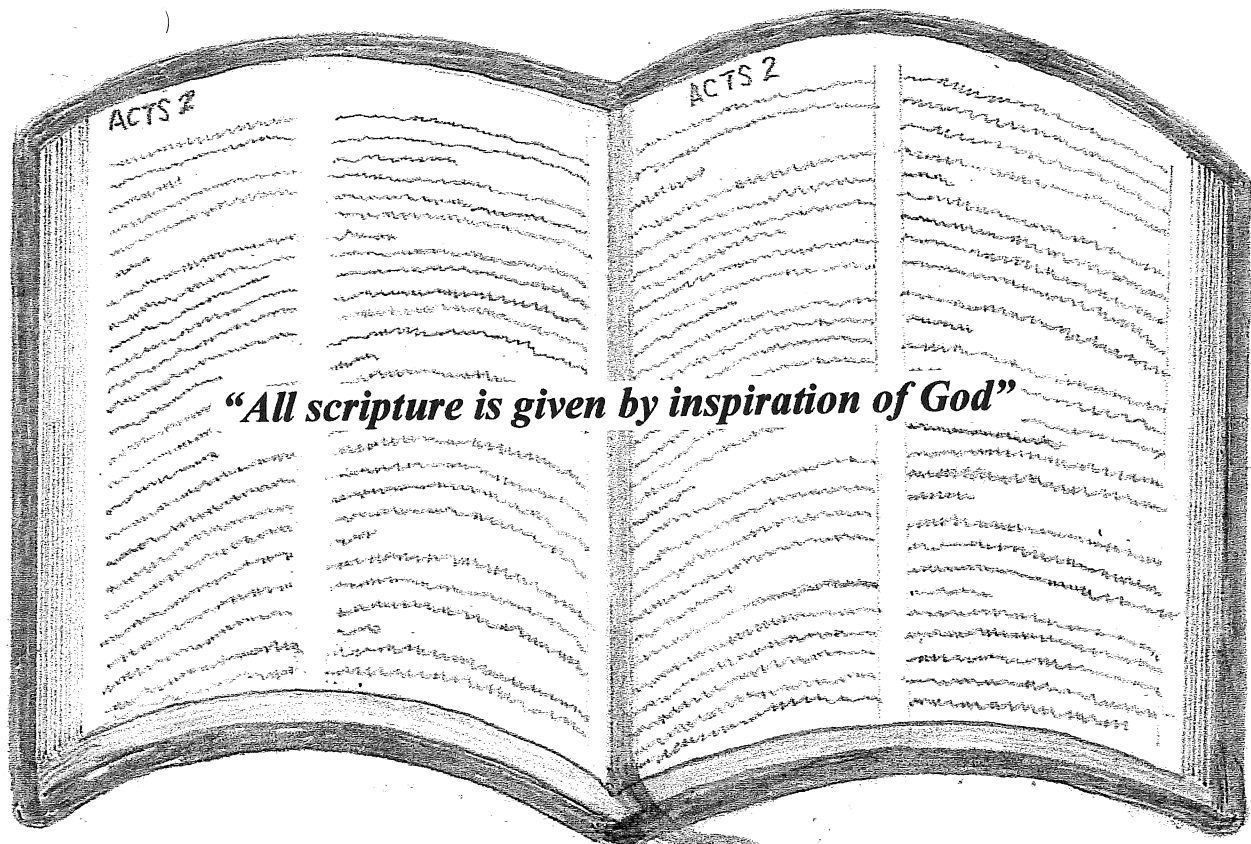
*"This is the word that the
Lord hath spoken"*

THE BIBLE

The BOOK of the God in Heaven

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE

"For the word of the Lord is right"



"All scripture is given by inspiration of God"

By James Pilgrim

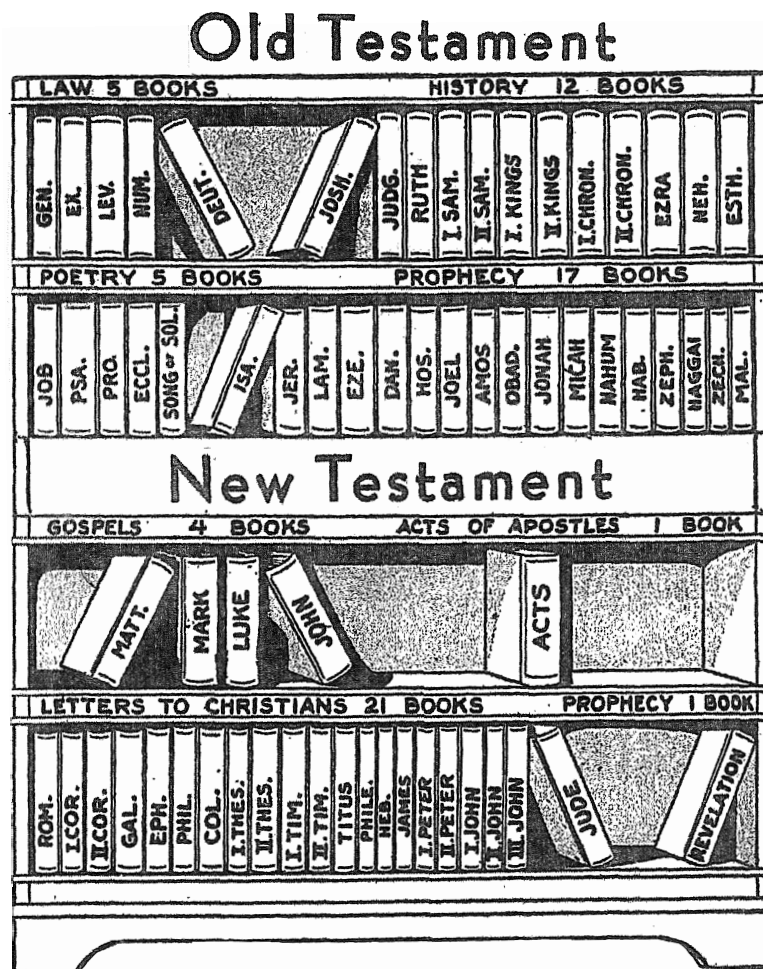
DEDICATION

This brief series of studies is dedicated to the beloved overseers of the Chapman Church of Christ, the deacons, our cherished preacher, and the members. They have welcomed my wife Sammie and I into their fellowship in the twilight years of our lives. Their generous encouragements are ever before us, inspiring us to serve faithfully. We are ever conscious of and grateful to the eldership for watching for the souls of the Chapman church, especially, ours.

"And God said"

*"Thus saith the
Lord"*

"Saith the Lord"



Cover Design and Photography

Cover Design and Photography by Garrett Pilgrim

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Ripley, MS. 38663

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First Printing 2020

Printer: Gary Pilgrim

Setup: McMillin Graphics Printing

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The following words about the Bible were given to the author by his father, James Andrew Pilgrim, Sr., early in life. He had memorized them, and frequently reminded people of their truthfulness. Leslie G. Thomas distributed a 3"x5" bi-fold tract to people as a book-mark with this and other information. It has been used often.

THE BIBLE

This book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here paradise is restored, heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand object, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened in the judgment, and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents. Author Unknown.

PREFACE

The elders of the Chapman Church of Christ, near Ripley, Mississippi, upon hearing the lessons herein in Sunday morning adult Bible classes, asked the author of this 13-Lesson study to write it for Bible class study, particularly, for teens. The author has used the Tisdell Charts to teach people through the years. He has used these three (3) charts as an outline for these studies, along with other materials he has accumulated. The last lesson is from an excellent chart, developed by the late Bob Bryson, one of the most energetic personal workers this author has known. There is no claim for originality, except that the author has added materials here and there, and he has written these lessons in his own style.

The word of the God in heaven is the primary emphasis set forth herein. (2 Timothy 4:2; Acts 20:27). This is the only way one may “be pure from the blood of all men.” (Acts 20:26, 27). It is also the only way to save the lost world from sin. (Romans 1:16). Each reader or student is challenged to imitate the noble Bereans, who “received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” (Acts 17:10, 11). The result of such nobility of study is that, “many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.” (Verse 12).

Hosea 4:6 says, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.” Knowledge was there. Knowledge had always been there. The problem was not with God, but with the people who would not seek the knowledge of God. Do not be like these people. Jeremiah 8:20 is a statement of despair, “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.” In verse 22, two rhetorical questions are asked, “Is there no balm in Gilead; is there no physician there?” The answer is the same to both questions. YES, there is healing there; YES, there is a physician there. The people did not return to God, the great Physician, for the healing they needed. The Northern Kingdom, Israel, was taken captive by the Assyrians, never to return as a nation. The Southern Kingdom, Judah, suffered seventy (70) years in Babylonian captivity for their sinful rebellion. (Jeremiah 25:11, 12).

If you find this material useful, feel free to make unlimited copies at no charge to preach, to teach, and to hand out. Use it to the glory of God. The author’s name does not matter. Thus, you may use it with or without his name.

Thanks to my beloved wife, Sammie, for proofreading this material, and also to Mark Lindley, preacher at Chapman, and his son, Britt, for taking their valuable time to do the same. Thanks also to Karen Yancey, Chapman secretary, for printing this study for the Church. Thanks also to Gary, one of our three children for getting it organized and printed for mass distribution.

James Pilgrim

FOREWARD

A blueprint guides the builder during the construction process, and when the builders follow the blueprint, the house reflects the vision of the architect. The Bible is God's blueprint for humanity, and when we follow His plans, our lives will reflect the vision of the Great Architect. James Pilgrim is my earthly father. He built his life according to God's plan as revealed in the Bible. He later married Sammie Tyler, my mother. She also built her life by following God's blueprint, the Bible. Together they taught their children to follow the Bible. In addition to their own family, they taught and encouraged countless others to build their lives by following God's blueprint, the Bible.

James Pilgrim wrote ***The Bible: A Journey Through The Bible*** to give students an overview of the Bible and to help them understand its importance in their lives. The information comes from years of Bible study. Dad created and used this material to teach fellow Christians in numerous different congregations throughout the years. Over time, it has grown and changed into what we hope will help you as you learn more about God and His will for you.

One of the best things about living as a Christian is being surrounded by some of the greatest people in the world. Beginning in his own home, a godly mother and father created a Christian environment and provided a Bible education for my dad, and they later sent him to Freed Hardeman College where his education continued. In this educational environment, James Pilgrim sat at the feet of some of the greatest Bible scholars of his and our time. Upon leaving college, he started preaching God's Word, and he continues to teach that same message. In the churches where my father served, he felt it was important for the church to be exposed to godly men with great Bible knowledge and a talent to communicate the greatest message ever delivered to humanity. As a result of this philosophy, I have had the advantage of listening and learning from many of the top teachers and preachers in the brotherhood. For this opportunity, I am most thankful.

My father is still my favorite preacher. When preaching or when writing, his message is thorough, organized, and Bible centered. I encourage you to use this material in your personal studies and in teaching others about the greatest book ever written.

Gary Pilgrim

CHRISTIAN AD33

(EPHESIANS 1:4-6: 3:10, 11)

ETERNITY

[illegible]

<p>DAY OF PENTECOST</p> <p>ACTS 2</p>	<p>KINGDOM of GOD</p> <p>BODY (CHURCH) of CHRIST</p> <p>HOUSE (CHURCH) of GOD</p> <p>CHRISTIANS</p> <p>GRACE AND TRUTH</p> <p>MATTHEW 16:13-19;</p> <p>1 CORINTHIANS 12:27;</p> <p>EPHESIANS 1:22, 23;</p> <p>1 TIMOTHY 3:15;</p> <p>ACTS 2:41, 47;</p> <p>1 PETER 4:16</p>	<p>TESTUS</p> <p>BLOOD OF TESTUS FLOWNS</p>
<p>AD ACTS 2 33</p> <p>PART FUTURE</p> <p>PENTECOST</p>	<p>NEW TESTAMENT</p> <p>SECOND LAW</p> <p>HEBREWS 1:1, 2</p> <p>LAST DAYS</p> <p>HIS SON JESUS</p>	

A EVERLASTING KINGDOM (2 PETER 1:11; 1 CORINTHIANS 15:29) HEAVEN → MATTHEW 25:46 → HELL

BASED ON TISDEL CHARTS WITH CHANGES BY J. PILGRIM

THE BIBLE

LESSON ONE

AN OVERALL PICTURE OF THE BIBLE

The book we call the Bible is the English word used to describe God's word. However, the word Bible is not found in the Hebrew or Greek texts. The words used in the Greek language are BIBLOS, meaning "the inner bark of the papyrus plant, i.e. (by impl.) a sheet or scroll of writing:--book"; BIBLION, meaning "a roll:--bill, book, scroll, writing"; and BIBLIARIDION, meaning, "a booklet:--little book." (Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, pages 135, 136). Thus, the Greek words are translated by the English words, bill, book, little book, scroll, or writing. The context will reveal whether the word of God or something else is meant.

A word used in the Old Testament for the word book is the word DABAR, meaning, "a word...matter...thing...cause", and is translated by some 85 words, with the context determining the meaning of each use. It is also translated by another word, CEPHER or CIPHRAH, meaning, "writing (the art or a document); by impl. A book:--bill, book, evidence x learn (-ed)(-ing), letter, register, scroll." A third word used for the word book is CEPHAR, meaning "a book:--book, roll." (Strong's, Pages 135, 136).

A reading of the word of God reveals that the book generally called the Bible is actually a collection of sixty-six (66) books under one cover. These sixty-six (66) books are divided into two main divisions, (1) the Old Testament, and (2) the New Testament. These two books give us a picture of the entire Bible, from Genesis through Revelation. It shall be the purpose of this first chapter to give you an overview of the entire Bible.

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son,...." (Hebrews 1:1, 2). The Holy Spirit through the Hebrew writer informs us that God has spoken unto man at different times in different ways. There are three (3) periods of Bible history. The first (1st) period is called the PATRIARCHAL AGE, where God spoke to the heads of the households. For example, God talked directly to Adam (Genesis 2, 3), Noah (Genesis 6), Abram, later called Abraham (Genesis 11ff), Moses (Exodus 2ff), and others. This period of Bible history covers some twenty-five hundred (2500) years, and is recorded from Genesis 1 through Exodus 19.

The second (2nd) period of Bible history is called the MOSAICAL AGE, where God gave His law to Israel by Moses. (Exodus 20ff; Deuteronomy 5:1ff; John 1:17). In addition to the law of Moses, God continued to speak to others at times. For example, Moses (Exodus 20:22; 24:1ff; 40:1ff; and many other times), Joshua (Joshua 1:1ff); the children of Israel (Judges 1:1, 2); and many others, including the prophets, Isaiah (Isaiah 1:1ff); Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:1ff); Ezekiel (Ezekiel 1:1ff); and others. This period of Bible history was around one thousand five hundred (1500) years, and is pictured from Exodus 20 through Acts 1.

The third (3rd) period of Bible history is described as the CHRISTIAN AGE, sometimes called the CHURCH AGE. This period began with the establishment of the church or kingdom God purposed in eternity, before He created the heaven and the earth. Read, Ephesians 3:10, 11. This will be discussed more fully in later lessons. God speaks to the world today by His Son (Hebrews 1:1, 2), through His inspired word. (2 Timothy 3:16, 17; 2 Peter 1:20, 21). Though Jesus preached, healed, and prophesied, prior to A.D. 33, this period began in A. D. 33, with the establishment of the church, and will continue until the end of time, when Jesus will deliver the kingdom up to God. (1 Corinthians 15:24). At the time of this writing, 2019, this period has existed nearly two thousand (2000) years.

The next and final event will be the end of the world (2 Peter 3), the judgment of all (2 Timothy 4:1, 2; 2 Corinthians 5:1-11; John 5:28, 29; Matthew 25), and eternity in heaven (2 Corinthians 5:1) or hell. (Revelation 21:8).

The Bible (Book), or word of God is divided into TWO sections or divisions, called the Old Testament (2 Corinthians 3:14), which came by Moses (John 1:17), and the New Testament (2 Corinthians 3:6), grace and truth, which came by Christ. (John 1:17).

The Old Testament has thirty-nine (39) books. They are divided as follows: Five (5) books of Law (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy); Twelve (12) books of History (Joshua, Judges, Ruth, First Samuel, Second Samuel, First Kings, Second Kings, First Chronicles, Second Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther); Five (5) books of Poetry (Job, Psalm, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon); Five (5) major Prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel); and Twelve (12) minor Prophets (Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi). One might remember them by beating 4/4 time, with two quarter notes, two eighth notes and a quarter note. Thus, 5-12-5-5-12=5 books of law; 12 books of history; 5 books of poetry; 5 major prophets; and 12 minor prophets. The Old Testament is also called, the “first” covenant (Hebrews 8:7), “the covenant” (Hebrews 8:9), “First old” (Hebrews 8:13). 2 Corinthians 3 calls the Old Testament the “Letter” (Verse 6), “ministration of death” (Verse 7), “ministration of condemnation” (Verse 9), “glory” (Verses 10, 11), “old testament” (Verse 14), and such like.

The New Testament has twenty-seven books. They are divided as follows: Four (4) books called biography (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John); One (1) book of History (Acts); Twenty-one (21) Epistles (Romans, First Corinthians, Second Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, First Thessalonians, Second Thessalonians, First Timothy, Second Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, First Peter, Second Peter, First John, Second John, Third John, Jude); and One (1) book of Prophecy (Revelation). Using the same 4/4 time, with four quarter notes, one might easily remember these four divisions. Thus, 4-1-21-1=4 biographical books; 1 book of history; 21 epistles; and 1 book of prophecy. Hebrews 8 also calls the New Testament a “better covenant” (Verse 6), the “second” (Verse 7), “new covenant” (Verse 8), “the covenant” (Verse 10), “my laws” (Verse 10), “A new” (Verse 13), and such like. 2 Corinthians 3 refers to the New Testament as “the spirit” (Verse 6), and is described as the “ministration of the spirit” (Verse 9), “ministration of righteousness” (Verse 9), “glory...glorious” (Verses 10, 11). Other inspired writers use the following to describe the new law: “word of truth” (James 1:18),

“the engrafted word” (James 1:21), “the perfect law of liberty” (James 1:25), “the gospel” (Romans 1:16), “the doctrine of Christ” (2 John 9, 10), “the word” (2 Timothy 4:2), and others.

The Book we call the Bible is INSPIRED OF GOD, that is, God-breathed. (2 Timothy 3:16, 17). It did not come from, did not originate from man, but by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:20, 21). The Book is VERBALLY INSPIRED, that is, it came to us word by word from God, not by thoughts given to men, allowing them to write it in their own words. Each book is inspired of God, and the same is true of each chapter, each verse, each word, and each letter in each word. (2 Timothy 3:16, “All.”). The word of God is INERRANT, that is, without error; it does not contradict itself, and it speaks accurately when it speaks of spiritual, moral, ethical, geographical, or any other matters. God’s law is PLENARY, that is, it is full and complete, and not in need of further revelations. (2 Peter 1:3). Multiplied millions have tried for thousands of years to discredit the Bible, BUT you are here reading and studying the word of God; all of the atheists, infidels, agnostics, modernists, liberals, and such like, of years gone by, have either been cremated, entombed, or disposed of in some way. They now suffer the torments of hades, are begging for relief, and desire that someone keep you from following them. (Luke 16:19-31).

Acts 2, the day of Pentecost, is truly the center of the Bible picture. Statements and prophecies prior to Acts 2, the day of Pentecost, the establishment of the church, all point forward to that day. Statements following Acts 2, the day of Pentecost, the day the church was established, all point back to that day. Thus, Eternity←Acts 2, the day of Pentecost, Church Established→End.

PRIOR TO→|PENTECOST|←FOLLOWING

QUESTIONS/CHALLENGES

- 1) Discuss the words Bible and Book.
 - 2) Is the Bible one or many books? Discuss the reason given.
 - 3) Name the three ages described herein, and tell how many years each lasted.
 - 4) Name the two divisions of the Bible.
 - 5) List the five divisions of the Old Testament.
 - 6) List the four divisions of the New Testament.
 - 7) Memorize the Old Testament books.
 - 8) Memorize the New Testament books.
 - 9) Define: Inspired, Verbally, Inerrant, Plenary.
 - 10) Give some other names or descriptions for the Old Testament.
 - 11) Give some other names or descriptions for the New Testament.
 - 12) Memorize: 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.
 - 13) Tell how God has spoken to mankind from the beginning to the present.
 - 14) Explain: Eternity←Acts 2, the day of Pentecost, Church Established→End
- Prior TO→|Pentecost|←FOLLOWING**
- 15) Private contemplation (not to be discussed in class): Am I ready for the judgment?

THE BIBLE

LESSON TWO

PRE-CREATION

The Bible declares that God existed before the creation of the world. Deuteronomy 33:27 says, "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are his everlasting arms:...." This verse makes it crystal clear that God had no beginning, that He always existed, and that He will always exist. There will be no end to the great God and Creator of heaven and earth. A number of New Testament verses show this to be true. For example, Matthew 25:46, "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal." These words demand that God exist throughout eternity. How else could He give something to others that He does not even possess Himself?

John 3:14 says Jesus was lifted up on the cross. Compare John 8:28; 12:32, 34; Acts 5:30. Obedient believers may have eternal life. (John 3:15; Hebrews 5:8, 9). John 3:16 is a verification of the fact of God's eternal or everlasting existence. Thus, we see that God may give eternal life. Romans 1:20 speaks of God's "eternal power and godhead." Romans 6:23 affirms that "the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Again, He could not give what He has not the power to do or be. 1 Timothy 1:16 speaks of some who "believe on him to everlasting life." Verse 17 immediately says "Now unto the king eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen." The word immortal lets us know that the king is incorruptible. Immortality also suggests deathlessness, never ceasing. To receive and enjoy honor one must exist. God will continue to live to enjoy both, and more.

Hebrews 9:14 speaks of "the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God." There has been some question as to the meaning of the word "Spirit." Does "Spirit" refer to the Holy Spirit, or does it refer to the Spirit of Christ. There may never be unity on the exact meaning of the word, but all may surely agree that whichever is meant, it does not change the meaning of a "Spirit" without beginning or ending. The "Spirit" is eternal. Thus, the eternal nature of God reassures all that the eternal inheritance or damnation is real.

Consider Old Testament scriptures. "Abraham planted a grove in Beersheba, and called there on the name of the Lord, the everlasting God." (Genesis 21:33). Moses wrote, "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms:...." (Deuteronomy 33:27). Psalm 41:13 reads, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting. Amen, and Amen." Psalm 90, verse 2, says, "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God." God's "throne is established of old: thou art from everlasting." (Psalm 93:2). Psalm 106:48 records these words, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting: and let all the people say, Amen. Praise ye the Lord." Isaiah called God "the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth,...." (Isaiah 40:28). To this the Holy Spirit moved Paul to agree. (Romans 16:28). Jesus is even described by Isaiah as "The everlasting Father." (Isaiah 9:6).

Question: Since God existed before He created the heaven and the earth, what was He doing in eternity? Was God sleeping? The question has two answers. First, NO! God was not asleep. Psalm 121:3 and 4 say, "He that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep." God neither sleeps nor slumbers. To slumber is to drowse off or nod occasionally. God is wide awake all the time, or as is said today, 24/7. What then was God doing prior to the creation of the heaven and the earth? There is very little information with regard to God's activity pre-creation. However, the facts that God has given are informative, significant, and heartwarming. The answers lie primarily in the book of Ephesians. "The saints which are at Ephesus, and...the faithful in Christ Jesus" were given the bulk of the information one has today. The following is learned in chapter 1, verses 4-6: (1) God chose saints, (2) in Him, (3) before the foundation of the world, (4) that saints should be holy and without blame before Him in love, (5) Having predestinated saints, (6) unto the adoption of children, (7) by Jesus Christ, (8) to Himself, (9) according to the pleasure of His will, (10) To the praise of the glory of His grace, (11) wherein He made saints accepted in the Beloved.

In Jesus there (1) is redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, (2) according to the riches of His grace. Cf. Ephesians 2:8-10, where it is expressly stated that one is saved by grace through faith when one walks in the works God ordained before. That means hearing the engrafted word (James 1:21), which produces faith (Romans 10:17), leading one to repent of sin (Luke 13:3, 5), to confess one's faith (Matthew 10:32, 33; Acts 8:37), and to be baptized into Jesus Christ (Romans 6:1-4) by burial (Colossians 2:12) in water (Acts 8:38, 39) to be saved (1 Peter 3:20, 21), and enter Christ (Galatians 3:26, 27) and the church (1 Corinthians 12:13), wherein are the saved. (Ephesians 5:23; 1:22, 23). Faithfulness is to characterize the saved. (Mark 13:13; Revelation 2:10; Titus 2:11, 12). Do not forget Luke 17:10.

In Ephesians 1:9-12, Paul informs the saints at Ephesus (1) that God had a mystery (2) which He made known unto them (3) according to His good pleasure (4) which He purposed in himself (5) that He would gather together all things in Christ (6) wherein the inheritance would be given (7) according to the predestination and purpose of God (8) after the counsel of His own will.

Ephesians 3, verses 10 and 11, in crystal clear words, this text tells us that all of this would be done through the church which He purposed in Christ Jesus before the world began. NO! The church was not an emergency, not an afterthought on God's part, not a change of plans to counteract the Jewish rebellion against God and His plan to set up the Kingdom. God, in eternity, pre-creation of heaven and earth, was thinking about the church, purposing to build the church through which He would make His mystery known.

"The invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things which are made, even his eternal power and godhead; so that they are without excuse." (Romans 1:20). What angels desired to look into (1 Peter 1:12), has now been seen. The Hebrew writer described some who "died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on earth." (Hebrews 11:13). These promises have been revealed, with many receiving some of them, while awaiting the rest to be received one glorious day. Read Ephesians 3:1-6.

God certainly was not dormant prior to creation. It was in God's eternal purpose to build the church to reveal His mystery, which He did through Jesus and the church. God was busy pre-creation.

QUESTIONS

- 1) Give one verse telling of God's eternal existence.
- 2) Give one verse telling how we know God will never cease to exist.
- 3) Jesus is the author of _____ to _____ them that _____ him.
- 4) YES NO (Circle one) Could God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit give to others something they did not have themselves?
- 5) Abraham called upon the name of the _____, the _____.
- 6) Psalm 41:3 says the Lord is from _____, and to _____.
- 7) Christ chose us in him before what?
- 8) Discuss the mystery of Ephesians 1:9-12 and 3:8-12.
- 9) Who desired to look into things taught from the beginning, and who died in faith without receiving promises made?
- 10) T F (Circle one) The Jews rejected God's plan to establish His kingdom, so God regrouped and built the church as an emergency measure.
- 11) Discuss and/or define: Purpose; Predestinated; Eternal.
- 12) Place God on the line below-----

←ETERNITY---CREATION-----JESUS---CROSS---CHURCH-----ETERNITY→

It was God's plan before the world began that the church would be established and that Jesus would be the Savior of the world and die on the cross for our sins.

-----NOTES-----

THE BIBLE

LESSON THREE

CREATION

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. 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.” (Genesis 1:1, 2). And so begins the word of God. The eternal God who purposed to build the church (Ephesians 3:10, 11), in which all obedient people from that day (Acts 2) forward would be saved (Ephesians 5:23; 1:22, 23), now begins the process. The God who has always existed is now just six (6) days away from His final touch on creation, ending His great work. He will soon speak a mystery which He will not reveal, not make known, until the purposed church is built, completed. (Ephesians 3:10, 11).

Many skeptics have tried unsuccessfully to refute the creation story. However, except for those living today, all of their bodies lay lifelessly in the earth God created. Some may have been cremated and are in fancy urns, vases, boxes, or such like. Be assured, however, that the part of each one who indwelt the human body (James 2:26) is not at rest, but is currently in torment, with nothing to which he/she may look forward, but eternal hell. (Luke 16:19-31). Currently, they are in torment in the Hadean world; awaiting eternal or everlasting punishment in a lake of fire. (Matthew 25:41, 46; Revelation 21:8).

Herbert Spencer found five (5) things to exist. He found time, force, energy, space and matter. He must and should have been so proud. However, many years before, the word of God contained these five (5) components in the very first verse of the Book we call the Bible. Notice, “In the beginning” (Time), “God” (Force), “Created” (Energy), “the heaven” (Space), “and the earth” (Matter). More will be seen in this regard later.

Before a study of the six (6) days of creation begins, please notice that God did not make something out of something already in existence. The scriptures say, “And God said” (Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26), and “there was” (Genesis 1:3), etc. Man, however, must have something to make something. For example, man must have iron ore from the earth to make many of the wonderful things he does. He must have a tree to make a wooden 2x4, 2x6, or any other wooden piece. The heaven and earth were not so. God, dwelling in eternity, created something from nothing, the heaven and the earth, for as all know, “Something is, and therefore something eternally was...For...from nothing, nothing comes.” (The Scheme of Redemption, Robert Milligan, page 18). Hebrews 11:3 says, “Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.” God created the heaven and earth and all therein from nothing. God is plural, from ELOHIYM, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:1, 2; Hebrews 1:1, 2; John 1:1-3; Matthew 28:19).

Following are the six (6) days of creation:

DAY 1--LIGHT

“And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.” (Genesis 1:3).

"God divided the light from the darkness." (Genesis 1:3).

"God called the light day." (Genesis 1:5).

"The darkness he called night." (Genesis 1:5).

DAY 2--**FIRMAMENT**

"Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters." (Genesis 1:6). Atmosphere or Heaven.

"Let it divide the waters from the waters." (Genesis 1:6).

"God...divided the waters...under the firmament from the waters... above the firmament."
(Genesis 1:6).

"And God called the firmament Heaven." (Genesis 1:8).

DAY 3--**LAND, SEAS, PLANTS**

"Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear." (Genesis 1:9). "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit" (Genesis 1:11, 12).

"AFTER HIS KIND" "WHOSE SEED WAS IN ITSELF" Pines do not produce Pears!!!! Neither do Okra plants produce acorns!!!! Apples come from apple seed only; tomatoes/tomatoes; etc.

"And it was so." (Genesis 1:9).

"And God called the dry land Earth;" (Genesis 1:9, 10).

"The waters called he seas:" (Genesis 1:9, 10).

DAY 4--**SUN, MOON, STARS**

"Let there be light in the firmament of heaven to divide the day from the night." (Genesis 1:14).

"And let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years." (Genesis 1:14).

"To give light upon the earth." (Genesis 1:15).

"God made two great lights." (Genesis 1:16).

"The greater light to rule the day." (Genesis 1:16).

"The lesser light to rule the night." (Genesis 1:16).

“He made the stars also.” (Genesis 1:16).

DAY 5--**MARINE, FOWL**

“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.” (Genesis 1:20). “And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth.” (Genesis 1:21).

“After their kind...his kind” Whales do not give birth to Eagles!!!! Eagles do not have sharks!!!!

DAY 6--**ANIMALS, MAN, WOMAN**

“Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth...man and woman.” (Genesis 1:24 -27; 2:19). Cows have calves; Humans/humans.

Genesis 2:1 says, “Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the hosts of them.”

DAY 7--**GOD RESTED**

“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.” (Genesis 2:2).

QUESTIONS

- 1) Tell what Herbert Spencer discovered that was already in Genesis 1:1.
- 2) T F (Circle one) God created an amoeba which evolved into man, animal, and all else.
- 3) T F (Circle one) Atheists, Infidels, Agnostics, Skeptics, and such like, have disproved the Bible.
- 4) T F (Circle one) Physical death ends it all.
- 5) What was created on day 1?
- 6) What was created on day 2?
- 7) What was created on day 3?
- 8) What was created on day 4?
- 9) What was created on day 5?
- 10) What was created on day 6?
- 11) What was done on day 7?
- 12) T F (Circle one) Everything God created evolved from one kind to another kind.
- 13) T F (Circle one) God created two men to be married to each other.
- 14) T F (Circle one) God created two women to be married to each other.
- 15) Underline one statement: (a) In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth, or (b) All that now exists began with an explosion in a deadly sea of gases, “the Big Bang,” and evolved over aeons.
- 16) Discussion: God created every species we have today in the beginning. Note: More will be said of this when the ark is discussed.

THE BIBLE

LESSON FOUR

INTRODUCTION OF SIN

“And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.” (Genesis 1:31). God’s creation was not just good; it was very good. Man was created along with his every need. (Genesis 1:24-31). What more could man have asked? What else did man need? Man was truly placed in a Utopia, a paradise on earth. All was sinless and perfect.

Genesis 3:1 says, “Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made.” The inspired (2 Peter 1:20, 21) John wrote of him, saying, “And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” (Revelation 12:9). The devil’s evil is seen in the verses that follow. Read verses 10-17, and wherever Satan is mentioned.

Shortly after the creation and all of the good things God had given to man, God placed one, **only one**, restriction on the couple. “The Lord God commanded, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 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.” (Genesis 2:16, 17). Notice that this was a **command**, not a suggestion. There is no indication that Adam and Eve had any problem with God’s command until the serpent, the devil, came. Satan asked Eve, “Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?” (Genesis 3:1). God had not said this. Eve’s response was correct, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden. 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.” (Genesis 3:3, 4). It is at this point that Eve should have said, “Get thee hence” (Matthew 4:10), or “Get thee behind me” (Luke 4:8), as did Jesus when He was tempted of the devil. One cannot play with coal without being darkened by it. Neither can one play with Satan without being corrupted. (1 Corinthians 15:33). This is clearly seen by Eve listening to Satan, when he said, “Ye shall not surely die.” (Genesis 3:4). “God...cannot lie.” (Titus 1:2). Satan can, and does (Genesis 3:4), because “there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.” (John 8:44). “The serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty” (2 Corinthians 11:3), that is, trickery or craftiness. Satan appealed to Eve’s “lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.” (1 John 2:15, 16). In so doing, Eve heard a lie, believed a lie, and obeyed a lie. “She took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also to her husband with her; and he did eat.” (Genesis 3:6). All today should beware of what is heard. Cf. Acts 17:10, 11.

The actions of Eve and Adam were outright disobedience to God’s command. They sinned, bringing death upon mankind. (1 Corinthians 15:21, 22). John described sin as follows, “All unrighteousness is sin.” (1 John 5:12). He also said, “Sin is the transgression of the law.” (1 John 3:4). Satan twisted God’s words, lied to and deceived Eve, tempted her, and caused her to sin. She then tempted her husband and caused Adam to sin. They did not die physically that day, though they would die. Adam lived to be 930 years old, but he died. (Genesis 5:5). We are not told how long Eve lived, but she died. (Hebrews 9:27). Both Adam and Eve were cast out of the garden. (Genesis 3:22-24). Though it is said that God sent “him”

forth (Genesis 3:23, 24), both went, for Adam and Eve had other children (Genesis 3:20; 5:2-4), which would have been impossible by either one alone.

Sin may have started in Eden, but it did not end there. Adam and Eve had two sons, Cain and Abel. (Genesis 4:1, 2). Sometime later Cain slew Abel due to his own sin. (Genesis 4:7, 8). Abel's offering of "the firstling of his flock and of the fat thereof" (Genesis 4:4) was described by the Hebrew writer, "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by the which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts, and by it he being dead yet speaketh." (Hebrews 11:4). Romans 10:17 says, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." The conclusion one reaches is that Abel offered what God commanded, which, being righteous would lead one to do. Since God said Cain sinned, and since God accepted Abel's offering which was by faith, it is apparent that Cain did not offer what God commanded. Cain paid the penalty for his sin. (Genesis 4:8-24).

Genesis 5 traces the first ten (10) generations. They are, Adam, Seth, Enos, Cainan, Mahalaleel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, and Noah.

Sin continues in Genesis 6. "The sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose...and they bare children to them...." (Genesis 6:2, 4). "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." (Genesis 6:5). God decided to erase sin. (Genesis 6:6, 7). "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord" (Genesis 6:8), "being a just man and perfect in his generations, and...walked with God." (Verse 9). In Genesis 7:1 "the Lord said unto Noah...thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation." "Eight souls were saved by water" in the ark. (1 Peter 3:20).

Noah was commissioned to build an ark, and he was given specific instruction regarding the building of it. He was told to build it "of gopher wood," to "pitch it within and without with pitch," build it 300 cubits long x 50 cubits wide x 30 cubits high, with "A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof, with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it." (Genesis 6:14-16). Where God had spoken Noah had **specific** authority to build the ark without changes, whether additions or subtractions. He had **generic** authority to use his own judgment where God had not spoken. Noah was told who and what he was to bring into the ark. (Genesis 6:18-21; 7:1-16). Everything outside the ark was destroyed; all inside the ark lived. (Genesis 7 and 8). Peter wrote of this great event, saying, "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. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us...." (1 Peter 3:20, 21). The Hebrew writer also said, "By faith, Noah being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, and 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." (Hebrews 11:7). "Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he." (Genesis 6:22; 7:5). Thus, we have righteousness in spite of sin. It is possible to live righteously in the face of sin.

Sin has ruined so many lives during each of the three periods of Bible history. Think about what has been seen during this brief look at the world from Adam to Noah. Look around you at the world today.

Gus Nichols, beloved gospel preacher of the past used to say that one could almost hear the hiss of the serpent when saying sssssssinn. One can certainly see the negative impact sin has. Consider the deaths caused by sin. See the misery in the lives of those disposed to sin, in such things as, drugs, whether alcohol, tobacco, legal drugs misused and illegal drugs, immorality, and so many others. Consider the misery in many marriages caused by sin. Wars, radical people, and others cause heartaches. The old lying devil has made many joyous promises, but he always delivers pain, agony, misery, and the like, in the end. It is no wonder the Holy Spirit had Paul to write, "But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth." (1 Timothy 5:6). Talk about the living dead!!! Moses saw through all of this; he "refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." (Hebrews 11:24-29).

Beloved, know that sin is never good. "For the wages of sin is death;...." (Romans 6:23). Sin often leads to immediate physical death (Luke 23:39-41), but the end is everlasting punishment. (Matthew 25:41-46). Why serve sin, which leads to eternal death, when you could serve righteousness, be happy, and be eternally saved? (Romans 6). "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof." (Romans 6:12). "Yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." (Romans 6:13). Sin has been introduced into the world, but "Thanks be unto God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 15:57). Claim your victory by becoming an obedient believer. (Romans 10:17; Acts 17:30, 31; Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 2:38; Revelation 2:10). Christian, do you need to repent? Regain your hope by being restored immediately. (Acts 8:22-24; James 5:16). Shake your fist in the face of the old serpent and death, and shout "**VICTORY, VICTORY, VICTORY, IN CHRIST.**" As John would say, "To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God." (Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21; 21:7).

QUESTIONS

- 1) What are some things the devil is called?
- 2) Who deceives the whole world?
- 3) Of what was man forbidden to eat in the garden of Eden?
- 4) What did Satan say to get Eve to disobey God?
- 5) Is Satan a liar, and, if so, why should one believe he is?
- 6) Give two (2) ways John defined sin.
- 7) Discuss: Cain and Abel with regard to their offerings.
- 8) Name the first 10 men in the lineage of Genesis 5.
- 9) What was Noah told to build, and how?
- 10) Why was Noah selected to build the ark?
- 11) T F (Circle one) No one has been or will be saved by water.
- 12) T F (Circle one) Sin is pleasurable, profitable, and healthy.
- 13) What are the wages of sin?
- 14) To what should one yield, and why?
- 15) T F (Circle one) All are hopelessly lost and cannot be victorious.

THE BIBLE

LESSON FIVE

THE PROMISE TO ABRAHAM

Lesson four ended with the righteous Noah with and by whom God destroyed the sinful world with a universal flood. (Genesis 6-9; 7:19, 20). Chapter 10 enables one to see the descendants of Noah. "The whole world was of one language, and one speech." (Genesis 11:1). The people "found a plain in the land of Shinar", where they planned to build "a tower, whose top may reach unto heavens." (Genesis 11:2-4). God confounded their language, scattered them abroad, and called the place Babel (Genesis 11:2-4), a word meaning "confusion." (Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, page 94).

Chapter 11:10-26 continues the seed line through whom Jesus would come. Shem, Arphaxad, Salah, Eber, Peleg, Reu, Serug, Nahor, Terah, and Abram.

Genesis 11 ends with Terah leaving Ur of the Chaldees with his family, and heading to Canaan. (Verses 28-32). Genesis 12:1-3 is a record of God telling "Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee. 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: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all of the families of the earth be blessed." This promise is two-fold. First, God would physically bless Abram with numerous physical seed, and give him a land. Second, God would bless Abraham with a spiritual nation through Christ. Both promises came true, although Abram and some of his offspring did not live to see them.

Before these promises are seen, it is important to go back to the Garden of Eden. There one finds the first promise of God concerning Jesus. The serpent's action in causing Eve and Adam to eat the forbidden fruit (Genesis 3:1-6) resulted in God saying to the serpent, "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." (Genesis 3:15). Satan would bruise the heel of Jesus by having Him nailed to the cross and buried. (Matthew 27:26-60). However, Jesus would bruise the head of Satan upon the first day of the week when He arose from the dead, declaring His Deity, that He is the Son of God. (Hebrews 2:14; Matthew 28:1ff; Romans 1:4). The coming of Jesus was promised in the shadow of creation.

Now, when one comes to God's promise to Abram, whose name was changed to Abraham at the age of 99 (Genesis 17:1, 5), the tone is set. One already has a taste of this special event. The appetite is whet or excited. God's promise to Abram is repeated in Genesis 13:14-17, when Abram settled the dispute between his and Lot's herdmen. The promise is again given in Genesis 15:1-21; 17:1-22; and 22:15-19. The first renewal of God's promise is extended through Abraham's son Isaac (Genesis 26:1-4), then Jacob (Genesis 28:10-15), Joseph (Genesis 50:24), remembered by God (Exodus 2:24), and Moses. (Exodus 3:6, 8, 15, 17; etc.). Although before the Exodus, Abram went up out of Egypt in his day, and he dwelled in a land God gave him, Canaan (Genesis 13, especially, verses 1, 12, 15-18), Abram's seed would later enter and live in a land that flowed with milk and honey, and was productive in every way. Many things would happen before the promises God made to Abram were fulfilled.

Along the way to the promises of Genesis 12:1-3 being fulfilled, Abraham would face many temptations, failing some, but coming out triumphant. He failed the trials of Genesis 12:9-20 and 20:1-18 (Half-truths with Pharaoh and Abimelech). He passed the test of Genesis 13:1-11 (Lot; Strife over land). God had confidence that Abraham would faithfully lead his children and household to obey Him. (Genesis 18:19). He excelled in offering Isaac. (Genesis 22). God renewed the promise He made to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3, following Abraham's obedience. (Genesis 22:1-18). God proved Abraham, telling him to offer his only son Isaac as a burnt offering. (Genesis 22:1, 2). God spoke to Abraham. (Genesis 22:1). Abraham heard God. (Verse 1). God gave him instructions. (Verse 2). Abraham obeyed without reluctance or delay. (Verses 3, 12, 18). One can understand why this great patriarch was "called the friend of God" (James 2:23) and "faithful Abraham." (Galatians 3:9).

Many years would pass, and Abraham and Sarah, Isaac, Jacob (Israel, Genesis 32:38), Joseph, and others would die in faith without seeing the promise fulfilled. (Hebrews 11:8-22; Genesis 25:8; 35:29; 49:33; 50:26; Exodus 1:6). Many events would take place, including marriages (Isaac to Rebekah, Genesis 24:67; and Jacob to Leah and Rachel, 29:18-28), and children born. Jacob would have thirteen (13) children by two wives and two concubines. (Genesis 29:31-30:24; 35:16). Joseph was Jacob's favorite. (Genesis 37:3, 4). Joseph dreamed that his brethren and father would bow down to him. (Genesis 37:5-11). Both of these things would come true and lead his brothers to plan to kill him. However, Reuben convinced them to sell him to the Midianites (Ishmeelites) instead, and they sold him to Potiphar in Egypt. (Genesis 37:12-28). "And the Lord was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man;..." (Genesis 39:2). Potiphar placed all he had in Joseph's hand. (Verse 6). Joseph refused Potiphar's wife's temptation to commit adultery, was falsely accused, and imprisoned. (Verses 7-20). "But the Lord was with Joseph,..." (Verse 21). Joseph was released after telling what the dreams of the butler, baker, and Pharaoh meant. (Genesis 40, 41). He led Egypt successfully through a famine, and even brought his family to Egypt to take care of them, as he had dreamed. (Genesis 41-50).

"Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph." (Exodus 1:8). Fearing the Israelites, the king increased the Hebrew's work load, and tried to get the midwives to kill all Hebrew male babies born. (Exodus 1:9-21). When this failed, he demanded that all male babies born be "cast into the river." (Verse 22). Moses was born, saved from the river, taken by Pharaoh's daughter, and raised to adulthood. (Exodus 2:1-11). His life consisted of three (3) divisions of forty (40) years each. (Acts 7:23-42). The first forty (40) were in Egypt. However, due to killing an Egyptian for beating a Hebrew, learning that this was known, and because Pharaoh heard of it and sought to slay him, Moses fled to the land of Midian, for the next forty (40) years. (Exodus 2:11-15). At Midian, Moses met and married Zipporah, and became a father of two. (Exodus 2:21, 22; Acts 7:29). In his next forty (40) years he led Israel out of Egypt to the promised land, but he was not allowed to go in. (Deuteronomy 34:1-4).

Israel "sighed...And God heard their growning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob." (Exodus 2:23-25). God called Moses to deliver the Israelites from Egyptian bondage. (Exodus 2). God reminded Moses of the Abrahamic promise, which he was to tell the people, that He had not forgotten what He had promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. (Exodus 3:14-17; Genesis 12:1-3). "And the people believed:...then they bowed their heads and worshipped." (Exodus 4:31). "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.” (Exodus 5:1). Pharaoh rejected the word of the Lord, told them to go to their burdens, even increasing them. (Verses 2-19). The people complained to Moses and Aaron, who took it to God. (Verses 20-23). God, now calling Himself JEHOVAH, reminded them of the covenant He made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. (Exodus 6:1-4, 8). Further attempts were made to get Pharaoh to let Israel go, but with no success. (Exodus 7:1-18). God then began the ten (10) plagues. Plague one saw the rivers turned into blood (Exodus 7:19-25); Plague two brought frogs (Exodus 8:1-15); Plague three was dust of the earth becoming like lice on man and beast (Exodus 8:16-19); Plague four brought swarms of flies (Exodus 8:20-24); Plague five brought a very grievous murrain on Egypt’s livestock (Exodus 9:1-7); Plague six was the breaking forth of boil and blain upon man and beast (Exodus 9:9-12); Plague seven brought hail, and fire mingled with hail, very grievous, smiting everything, except Goshen (Exodus 9:22-26); Plague eight saw locusts, very grievous, causing darkness, and eating everything in sight (Exodus 10:12-15); Plague nine was thick darkness in Egypt for three (3) days (Exodus 10:21-23); Read chapter 12:1-28, institution of the Passover, and notice what Israel was to do prior to the last plague. The tenth and last plague saw the Lord smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, including Pharaoh’s son. (Exodus 12:29, 30).

The Hebrews were not affected by any of these things. All of the hurt and death was upon the Egyptians. The Hebrews did not compromise with any of Pharaoh’s offers. Pharaoh realized that he could not fight God, so he said, “Rise up, and get you forth from among my people, both ye and the children of Israel; and go and serve the Lord, as ye have said.” (Exodus 12:31).

“The children of Israel journeyed from” (1) **Rameses** to (2) **Succoth** (Exodus 12:37), to (3) **Etham** (Exodus 13:20), and to (4) **Pihahiroth** (Exodus 14:9), where Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, the waters were divided, and Israel marched through on dry land. (Exodus 14:15-22). The Egyptians followed, and they were all drowned. (Exodus 14:23-31).

QUESTIONS

- 1) Who divided people’s languages, and why?
- 2) Name the ten (10) men of Genesis 11 in the lineage of Christ.
- 3) Read the three (3) verses wherein God made promises to Abram.
- 4) T F (Circle one) God’s promise to Abram was physical only.
- 5) Abram’s name was changed to _____.
- 6) What do we learn from Genesis 3:15?
- 7) Through whom was the promise of God to Abraham extended?
- 8) Show why Abraham was not sinless.
- 9) Was the promise God made to Abraham fulfilled during his life or the lives of others?
- 10) Tell how you know Joseph was not just a dreamer.
- 11) Name the three (3) divisions of Moses’ life.
- 12) What was Israel to do on the tenth day of the month, and why?
- 13) Name the ten (10) plagues sent on Egypt.
- 14) Name the first four (4) places Israel went after being let go by Pharaoh.
- 15) What did the Israelites say when they saw the Egyptian army pursuing them to the sea?
- 16) What happened to the Egyptians when they followed Israel into the sea?

THE BIBLE

LESSON SIX

JOURNEYS OF ISRAEL TO RECEIVE GOD'S LAND PROMISE TO ABRAHAM

The Israelites have just been delivered from Egyptian bondage by the Lord, crossing the Red Sea on dry land, with "the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore" (Exodus 14:13-31), "drowned in the Red sea." (Exodus 15:4). Paul would later say, "All our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;...." (1 Corinthians 10:1, 2). "Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the Lord,...." (Exodus 15:1-19). Miriam then led all the women in playing, dancing, and singing of the glorious triumph. (Verses 20, 21). Moses brought Israel from **(5) the Red Sea**, and they went out into the wilderness of **(6) Shur**, where they found no water. (Exodus 15:22). They thence went to **(7) Marah**, but they could not drink of the bitter water. (Verse 23). The people murmured against Moses (Verse 24), actually against God. (1 Samuel 8:6-9; Acts 9:4; 16:8). God made the bitter waters sweet when Moses cast the tree God showed him into the waters. (Verse 25). They were challenged to hear and do, or keep, God's commandments.

Israel then went to **(8) Elim** (Exodus 15:27), where they found twelve (12) wells of water, and seventy (70) palm trees, and they encamped there by the **(9) Waters of the Red sea**. (Exodus 15:27; Numbers 33:10). From thence, they went **(10) unto the wilderness of sin**. (Exodus 16:1). "The whole congregation...murmured against Moses and Aaron, against the Lord (Verse 7, 8), claiming intent to starve them. God fed them with quail and delicious manna, telling them how and what to do. (Verses 8-26, 31). They ate manna forty (40) years. (Exodus 16:35). Israel's next stop was at **(11) Dophkah** and **(12) Alush** (Numbers 33:12-14), then to **(13) Rephidim**. (Exodus 17:1). Again, when there was no water, the people began to "chide with Moses", that is, complain. What short memories! Moses asked, "Why chide ye with me? Wherefore do ye tempt the Lord?" (Verse 2). They accused Him of killing them by thirst. Moses was told to smite a rock with his rod in Horeb to get water, and he called the name of the place Massah, or temptation or testing, and Meriba, or quarrel, provocation, strife. (Exodus 17:5-7). Israel defeated Amalek at Rephadim with the help of Moses, Aaron and Hur. (Exodus 17:8-16).

Moses met with his father-in-law, Jethro, his wife, Zipporah, and their two (2) sons, Gershom and Eliezer. (Exodus 18).

Three months after leaving Egypt, the Israelites came to **(14) the Wilderness of Sinai**, and camped before the **mount**. (Exodus 19:1, 2). They were challenged to "obey my voice...and keep my covenant" to be "a peculiar treasure...And...a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation." (Verses 5, 6). Notice that obedience was required to be God's treasure and nation. They agreed to do all God had said (Exodus 19:7, 8), without thinking that God would owe them anything if they did something. Keep this in mind when studying the New Testament. "And the Lord called Moses up to the top of the mount; and Moses went up." (Verse 20). "And God spake all these words, saying,..." (Exodus 20:1-17): (1) "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." (2) "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. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them:...." (3) "Thou shalt not take the name of the

Lord thy God in vain.” (4) “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.” (5) “Honour thy father and thy mother.” (6) “Thou shalt not kill.” (7) “Thou shalt not commit adultery.” (8) “Thou shalt not steal.” (9) “Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.” And, (10) “Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s house...wife...manservant...maidservant...ox...ass...nor anything that is thy neighbors.” Other laws, commandments, statutes are found in the rest of Exodus, and in the books of Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Compare Deuteronomy 5 to Exodus 20. “And Moses called all **ISRAEL**, and said unto **THEM**, Hear, O **ISRAEL**, the statutes and judgments which I speak in **YOUR** ears this day, that **YE** may learn them, and keep them, and do them. The Lord our God made a covenant with **US** in Horeb. The Lord made **NOT** this covenant with our **FATHERS**, but with **US**, even **US**, who are all of **US** here alive **THIS DAY**.” (Emphasis in bold, mine—JP). Compare, Exodus 20:22.

In Exodus 25:40 God commanded, “And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was showed thee in the mount.” This was true of the tabernacle and all else God set forth. Those who kept God’s law lived and prospered; those who did not died. (1 Corinthians 10:1-12).

Numbers 10:33 says, “they departed from the mount of the Lord” and came to **(15) Taberah**, where the people complained of hunger again, forgetting, it appears, that God brought them out of Egypt, and provided food and water along the way. (Numbers 11:4-9). Moses bent under pressure, and God provided help for him. (Verses 10-30). God smote those with whom He was displeased. (Numbers 11:31-33). Israel’s next stop was **(16) Kibroth-Hattaavah**, so named because “there they buried the people that lusted.” (Numbers 11:34). **(17) Hazeroth** was the next encampment. (Verse 35). “Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married:....” (Numbers 12:1). Evidently, this was not sinful, for God neither discouraged such, nor punished Moses. Verse 2 indicates that there might have been some jealousy or envy. God defended Moses, complimented him highly, and asked why Miriam and Aaron had said what they did. (Verses 3-9). Miriam and Aaron confessed sin and of acting foolishly, were punished, restored, and went on. (Verses 10-15). Interestingly, Moses the accused prayed for his leprous accuser, and she was restored in seven (7) days.

Israel went by the **(18) Mountain of the Amorites** (Deuteronomy 1:19), to the **(19) Wilderness of Paran** (Numbers 12:16), to **(20) Kadesh** (Numbers 13:26), also called Kadesh-Barnea. (Deuteronomy 1:19). The Lord told Moses to send out twelve (12) spies to “search the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel:....” (Numbers 13:1, 2, 17ff). Ten (10) returned, saying the land was as appealing as described, but convinced the people not to go into the land due to the size of the people. (Numbers 13:26-33; 14:1-4, 9-12, 19, 22, 23, 27, 29, 31-33, etc.). Joshua and Caleb said, “Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.” (Numbers 13:30; 14:6-10). The evil, murmuring congregation of Israel (Numbers 14:27), in refusing to go into the land, led God to limit those who would enjoy the physical promise God made to Abraham. None twenty (20) years old and older when they left Egypt (Numbers 15:24, 29, 30; 32:11, 12) would be allowed to enter the land of promise, except for Joshua and Caleb, and their offspring. (Numbers 15:24, 30, 24). Israel’s refusal to obey God led God to cause them to wander in the wilderness forty (40) years, until those whom He specified all died. (Verses 32-45).

The earth opened up and swallowed the rebellious Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and their followers, fire consumed two hundred fifty (250) men that offered incense, and fourteen thousand seven hundred (14,700) others died in a plague. (Numbers 16). Israel again murmured for lack of water. The Lord told Moses and Aaron to take Moses' rod and the congregation, and **speak** to the rock before their eyes. Moses **took the credit** and **smote** the rock. (Numbers 20:1-13). This act of disobedience would later keep Moses from entering the land God promised to Abram and his seed. (Deuteronomy 34:1-5; 32:51, 52; Numbers 27:14). These verses teach us of the importance of doing **what** God says **as** He directs. Aaron also died without entering Canaan for the same reason given to Moses. (Numbers 20:22-29). Israel spoke against God and Moses again, complaining about not having food and water, and hating the bread God had given them. "The Lord sent fiery serpents among the people; and much people died." (Numbers 21:6). They confessed sin, and asked for Moses to pray for them, which he did. (Verse 7). The Lord told Moses to make a fiery serpent, and put it on a pole. When one bitten looked upon the serpent of brass, he/she lived. (Verses 8, 9). Notice, this was not grace only or faith only salvation, but obedient faith receiving the benefit of grace. Moses had to build the serpent and pole, not Eleazar. A dog in a cage would not replace the fiery serpent on a pole. They had to look on it to live, not sit in their tents depending on grace and faith only. Remember this when studying the New Testament. A study of Balaam and Balak shows that one can only please God when delivering God's message to others. (Numbers 22-24).

Israel abode in **(21) Shittim**, where "the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab," and worshipped their gods (Numbers 25:1ff), thus, bringing twenty four thousand (24,000) deaths. (Verse 9). God called upon Israel to be numbered from twenty (20) years old and older from the time they left Egypt. (Numbers 26). God selected Joshua as Moses' replacement to lead Israel into the land promised to Abraham and his seed. (Numbers 27:12-23). Moses did so without pleading to remain in charge due to his years of faithful leadership. He made a smooth transition, and continued to worship God. God made it clear that He was **giving** Israel the land, **grace**, but there was something they had to **do**. Thus, faith **and** obedience=**Grace/Gift**. Cf. Numbers 32, especially verses 5, 7, 9, 20, 21, 25. Notice that **when** they did what God said, "**then**" would the land be given to them. (Verse 29). Their response was, "so will we do." (Verse 31). Chapter 33 traces their route from (22) **Hazereth** to (23) **Moab**. (24) **Beer** and (25) **Mosera** should be inserted after Kadesh in verse 36. (Deuteronomy 10:6). (26) **Zered** and (27) **Arnon** should be inserted after **Ijeabearim** in verse 44, (Numbers 21:12, 13). Leaving (28) **Almon-diblatheim**, they went to (29) **Beer**, (30) **Mattanah**, (31) **Nahaliel**, then to (32) **Bamoth** (Numbers 21:16-19), and again, verses 52 and 53 show that there is something for the people to **do** to receive the **gift** of God. Levites were provided cities There were Six (6) cities of refuge given, three (3) on each side of the Jordan river. (Numbers 35).

"The land of Canaan" was to be their inheritance. (Numbers 34:2). This was the land God promised to Abram's seed. Moses wrote a song at God's bidding, which was to be taught to the children of Israel. He then gave a charge to Joshua, saying, "Be strong and of a good courage: for thou shalt bring the children of Israel into the land which I swore unto them: and I will be with thee." (Deuteronomy 31:22, 23). Joshua became the leader of Israel, and he was told to go over Jordan, taking the people unto the land God had given them. (Joshua 1:2, 3, 6, 11, 13, 15, 16). It was a gift, but they had to "go" and "do".

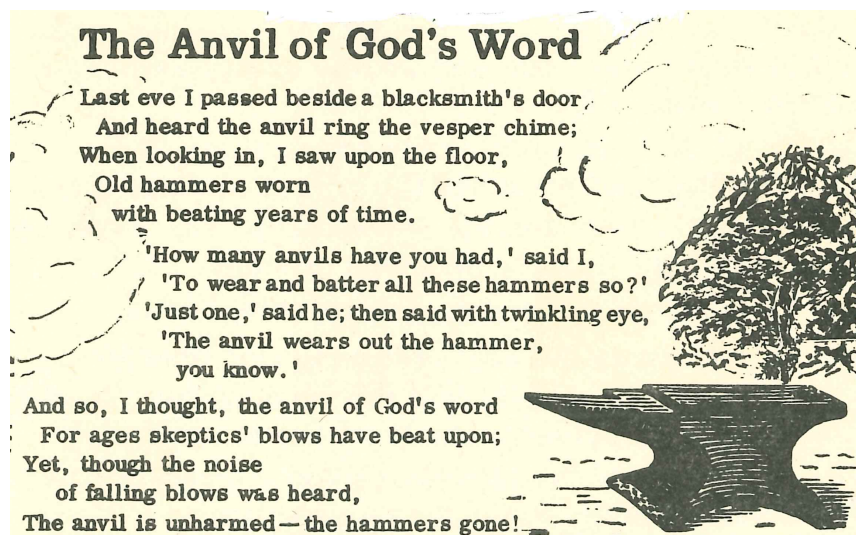
(Joshua 1:2, 7, 8, 14, 16). The land of Canaan was given to them, but they had to “do” what God said to receive it. The passing over Jordan into the land was the fulfillment of the first part of God’s promise to Abram. The second part was yet to come, and has, as shall be seen. Do not forget this when you study the New Testament. Like Ephesians 2:8-10, it was a gift of grace when the recipient did what God had ordained. It is no wonder that God said the Old Testament was written for our learning. (Romans 15:4).

QUESTIONS

- 1) Who was baptized in the Old Testament, where, and when?
- 2) How did Moses make bitter waters sweet, and where?
- 3) How did God feed Israel in the wilderness of Sin?
- 4) What was called Massah and Meriba, and why?
- 5) Name the wife of Moses, and their two sons?
- 6) Name the ten (10) commandments, and tell if these ten (10) were all of God’s commandments.
- 7) Are Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5 the same law?
- 8) Show how one knows the law of Moses was given only to Israel.
- 9) T F (Circle one) God’s patterns are unimportant.
- 10) Who would not be allowed to go into Canaan, except for whom?
- 11) Does God punish anyone, and why or why not?
- 12) Why did Israel have to wander in the wilderness forty (40) years?
- 13) Why was Moses unable to go into the land of promise?
- 14) Who replaced Moses?
- 15) Tell when and how Israel entered Canaan?

EXTRA

Draw and trace the journeys of Israel to the land of promise on a map.



THE BIBLE

LESSON SEVEN

ISRAEL UNDER THE JUDGES AND UNITED KINGDOM

Joshua triumphantly, obediently led Israel over the Jordan River into the land of Canaan, as God had promised Abraham. (Joshua 3:17). This was the fulfillment of the land promise God had given to Abraham. (Genesis 12:1). Each man of the twelve tribes was to collect a rock from the place where the priest's feet had stood firm in the Jordan River, and place it where Israel lodged—Gilgal. (Joshua 4). This would be a memorial. It was not an opinion or option, but a command from the Lord. (Verses 8, 1).

Joshua 5 is a record of Joshua circumcising the children of Israel, their keeping the Passover, manna ceasing, and the man, the captain of the host of the Lord, appearing to Joshua, telling him to take his shoe off, because he was standing on a holy place. Joshua did so.

The Lord **gave** Israel the city of Jericho. (Joshua 6:1, 2, 16). However, all the men of valour, men of war, had to **march** around the city once each day for six (6) days, with seven (7) priests bearing before the ark seven (7) trumpets of rams' horns. (Verses 3, 4). They were to compass the city seven (7) times on the seventh (7th) day, and the priests were to blow with the trumpets, and all the people were to shout with a great shout. (Verses 4, 5). None of this was to be done until Joshua called for it. (Verse 10). **When** Joshua's words were **obeyed**, "the wall fell down flat." Because Rahab the harlot **hid** the messengers of God, she and all she had, along with the father's household, were spared. (Joshua 6:17, 25). These two stories tell us that God graciously saves, **when** one does **His** will. However, the saved cannot claim that their marching saved them, that their shout saved them, or any other. Salvation is by **grace when** one **obeys** God's will. (Ephesians 2:8-10). Yet, He is not indebted to anyone. Cf. Luke 17:10.

The little city of Ai defeated the mightier Israel due to the sin of Achan, who "wrought folly in Israel." (Joshua 7). When Israel repented, the Lord forgave them, and Israel then defeated Ai. (Joshua 8).

The land was divided, with nine and one-half (9 1/2) of the tribes being on the east side of Jordan, and two and one-half (2 1/2) of the tribes being on the west side of Jordan. (Joshua 15:20-19:31; especially, 14:1-3; 13:7, 8). The cities of refuge are described in chapter 20. The Levitical cities are given in chapter 21.

"And the Lord gave unto Israel all the land which he had sworn to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein." (Joshua 21:43-45). Again, we see that the land promise God made to Abraham was fulfilled at the time of the writing of Joshua. It was not a promise yet to be fulfilled. The last three (3) chapters of Joshua challenged Israel, reminded them of all God had done for them, and called upon them to "fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the Lord." (Joshua 24:14, 15). The book of Joshua ends with this great statement, "And Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that overlived Joshua, and which had known all the works of the Lord, that he had done for Israel." (Joshua 24:31). All today should be so faithful. Cf. John 2:5.

The next period of Bible history is the period of the Judges. Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served Baalim and other gods, Baal and Ashtaroth, bringing the anger of the Lord, and punishment. (Judges 2:11-15). Fifteen (15) Judges are named: Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, Abimelech, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, Samson, Eli, and Samuel. (Judges 3 thru 21; 1 Samuel 3:20). The people of Israel would (1) sin, (2) be punished, (3) repent, and (4) God would raise up a judge or deliverer, to set them free. (Eg. Judges 3:5-11). They would have rest for a time, then they would (1) sin again, (2) bringing punishment, (3) repent, and (4) be delivered. This was repeated again and again. (Book of Judges). One of the saddest verses in the Bible is found in the last verse in the book of Judges, chapter 21, verse 25, "In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes." That sounds very much like the world today, and, sadly, in the religious world. All should learn from the book of Judges. (Romans 15:4). We are to "speak as the oracles of God." (1 Peter 4:11). "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." (Colossians 3:17). We should be like the Bereans, who, "Received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched scriptures daily, whether the things are so." (Acts 17:10-12). One should not be like those described by Isaiah, quoted by Matthew, "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Matthew 15:7-9; Isaiah 29:13).

Samuel was the answer to Hannah's prayer. (1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19, 20, 27). He was dedicated to the Lord. (1 Samuel 1:28; 2:1ff). This great servant was "established to be a prophet of the Lord" (1 Samuel 3:20), "beforetime called a Seer." (1 Samuel 9:9). "Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life." (7:15). He made his two sons, Joel and Abiah, "judges over Israel", but they "walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment." (Judges 8:1-3). "All the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah. And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations." (Verses 4, 5). Samuel was displeased, and he prayed unto the Lord. (Verse 6). God told Samuel to give them a king, that they had not rejected him (Samuel), but God. (Verses 7-9). Does the New Testament church of today want to be like man-made churches? The world? "Elders...rule well." (1 Timothy 5:17).

Saul was anointed by Samuel to be the first king over united Israel. (1 Samuel 9:27; 10:1). At the first Saul was "a choice young man, and goodly" the best among the Israelites. (1 Samuel 9:2). Saul accomplished many good things; however, Saul's sins caused God to reject him as king over Israel. (1 Samuel 10-15, especially, 15:23, 35; 16:1; Acts 13:22). Saul reigned forty (40) years. (Acts 13:21). He took his own life after being "sore wounded" by Philistine archers. (1 Samuel 31:1-4).

David was selected to be the next king over Israel. (1 Samuel 16:1, 12, 13). However, he would have to go through much, including the killing of a lion and a bear, killing the Philistine giant, escaping jealous Saul, facing doubtful Israelites, committing adultery with Bathsheba, having Uriah her husband killed, and more. (1 Samuel 16 thru 31). David's reign was interesting. He reigned simultaneously with Ishbosheth for two (2) years. (1 Samuel 2:8-10). His total years of reigning as king were forty, with seven (7) years being in Hebron, and thirty-three (33) years in Jerusalem. (2 Samuel 5:4; 1 Kings 2:10, 11). In spite of all of David's sins, it is said that he had "great mercy...walked before thee in truth...righteousness...and uprightness of heart...." (1 Kings 3:6). It is no wonder that God said David was,

“a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.” (Acts 13:22). David was not sinless, but he saw his sins and repented of them. Personal question: What about me?

Near his death “David...made Solomon King” (1 Kings 1:43), charging him, “saying, I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man; And keep the charge of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself:....” (1 Kings 2:1-3). “Then Solomon sat upon the throne of David his father; and his kingdom was established greatly.” (1 Kings 2:12). Solomon was humble in the beginning, praying to God for wisdom (1 Kings 3:5, 9), which God granted, and more. (1 Kings 3:5, 9-14; 4:26-34). He built the great temple, beginning four hundred eighty (480) years after leaving Egypt (1 Kings 6), and finishing it in seven (7) years. Some have estimated that Solomon used one-hundred fifty-three thousand (153,000) laborers to build it. He did many good things. However, Solomon disobeyed the Lord, and displeased Him in marrying contrary to God’s will, and going after strange gods, causing God to rend the kingdom from him, and giving it to his servant. (1 Kings 11:1-13). Solomon died after ruling for forty (40) years (1 Kings 11:42), thus ending the united kingdom under Saul, David, and Solomon, forty (40) years each, or one hundred twenty (120) years.

QUESTIONS

- 1) Who and what were some to do for a memorial, and was it a matter of opinion?
- 2) Who was circumcised, observed the Passover, and ate manna?
- 3) Tell how Israel received the land gift, and relate that to today.
- 4) Why did the small city of Ai defeat the larger Israelite army?
- 5) How was Canaan divided number wise?
- 6) How does one know the land promise was fulfilled, and not to be fulfilled today?
- 7) What did Israel do all the days of Joshua, and during the time of those who outlived him?
- 8) Name the first fifteen (15) judges, and at least two (2) after them.
- 9) Read Judges 3:5-11, and discuss the four (4) things described.
- 10) Can one learn from the Old Testament, and, if so what does one learn from the book of Judges?
- 11) What were prophets initially called?
- 12) What did Israel ask Samuel to make or give them, and what did he do?
- 13) Name the first three kings of united Israel, and tell how long each served.
- 14) What did David charge his son Solomon?
- 15) T F (Circle one) Solomon was sinless and pleased God.

THE BIBLE

LESSON EIGHT

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM AND CAPTIVITY

After the death of Solomon, "Rehoboam his son reigned in his stead." (1 Kings 11:43). He began his reign over a united kingdom, "for all Israel were come to Shechem to make him king." (1 Kings 12:1). However, "he forsook the counsel of the old men...and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him." (1 Kings 12:8). Rehoboam took the advice of the younger men to add to the yoke Solomon had placed on them, rejecting the old men's advice to "be a servant...and speak good words to them." (Verses 6, 7). This resulted in the kingdom dividing, with only two (2) of the tribes of Israel remaining loyal to Rehoboam, Judah and Benjamin, while ten (10) of the tribes made Jeroboam their king. (1 Kings 12:20, 21, 23). Rehoboam became "king of Judah." Jeroboam became the king of the rest, being known as Israel. (Verse 21). Rehoboam "did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the Lord." (2 Chronicles 12:14). Have you prepared your heart to seek God? If not, do so without delay.

Jeroboam the king of Israel was afraid the people would return from following him and kill him if they returned to Jerusalem to worship. Therefore, he made two (2) calves of gold, and built altars, one (1) at Dan and one (1) at Bethel (Verses 25-29), which "thing became a sin:...." (Verse 30). Jeroboam changed the place of worship, the house, the priests, and the date of worship. (Verses 29-33; 8:2, 5; Numbers 29:12). Jeroboam's date of offering was "the fifteenth day of the eighth month...the month which he had devised of his own heart,...." (Verse 33). "And behold there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the Lord unto Bethel...and he cried against the altar, saying...the altar shall be rent." (1 Kings 13:1-3). Jeroboam put forth his hand to stop the destruction of the altar, "and his hand...dried up, so that he could not pull it in again to him." (Verse 4). "The altar also was rent, and the ashes poured out...." (Verse 5). Jeroboam asked the man of God to pray to the Lord for him, for the restoration of his hand, and it was done. (Verse 6). His hand was restored, "as it was before." (Verse 6). God does not do anything half-way. These verses clearly show that no one has a right to change the will of God.

The man of God who destroyed Jeroboam's altar at Bethel was a prophet. (1 Kings 13:18). Jeroboam the king invited the prophet to come to his house. (Verse 7). The man of God refused, telling him that God had forbidden him to eat, drink, or to return the same way he came, which was true (Verses 8-10), and to which he was obedient at this point. However, an old prophet in Bethel lied to the man of God, telling him that God told him to bring him to his house, and to feed him and give him drink. The man of God (1) listened to a lie, (2) believed the lie, (3) obeyed a lie, and (4) died for his disobedience to God. (Verses 11-24). "After this thing, Jeroboam returned not from his evil way, but made again of the lowest people priests of the high places:...and the thing became sin, and...made Israel to sin." (1 Kings 14:6). Be careful what you hear, and from whom you hear it. Jeroboam reigned over the northern kingdom of Israel twenty-two (22) years. Rehoboam reigned in Jerusalem in Judah seventeen (17) years. The rest of the kings reigning over Judah, the southern kingdom, and Israel, the northern kingdom are seen from 1 Kings 15:1 and 25 thru the book of 2 Chronicles. A list of the kings of Judah and Israel follow:

JUDAH, Southern Kingdom

King/Reign Began/Duration

- 1-Rehoboam (1 Kings 11:43) 14:21 (17 years)
- 2-Abijam* (1 Kings 15:1, 23) (3 years)
- 3-Asa (1 Kings 15:9) (41 years)
- 4-Jehoshaphat (1 Kings 15:24) 22:41,42 (25 years)
- 5-Jehoram (1 Kings 22:50) 2 Kings 8:17, 18 (8 years)
- 6-Ahaziah (2 Kings 8:25, 26) (1 year)
- 7-Athaliah-Queen (2 Kings 11:1, 3) (6 years)
- 8-Jehoash (2 Kings 11:21; 12:1) (40 years)
- 9-Amaziah (2 Kings 14:1, 2) (29 years)
- 10-Azariah (2 Kings 15:1, 2) (52 years)
- 11-Jotham (2 Kings 15:32, 33) (16 years)
- 12-Ahaz (2 Kings 16:1, 2) (16 years)
- 13-Hezekiah (2 Kings 18:1, 2) (29 years)
- 14-Manasseh (2 Kings 21:1) (55 years)
- 15-Amon (2 Kings 21:19) (2 years)
- 16-Josiah (2 Kings 22:1) (31 years)
- 17-Jehoahaz (2 Kings 23:31) (3 months)
- 18-Jehoiakim (2 Kings 23:36) (11 years)
- 19-Jehoichin (2 Kings 24:8) (3 months)
- 20-Mattaniah** (2 Kings 24:17, 18) (11 years)

*Also called Abijah. (2 Chronicles 12:16). ** Also called Zedekiah. (2 Chronicles 36:11).

Judah was carried away into Babylonian captivity for seventy (70) years (2 Chronicles 36:17-21), around 606 B. C. (115 years after Israel was taken into Assyria), then returned and rebuilt.

ISRAEL, Northern Kingdom

King/Reign Began/Duration

- 1-Jeroboam (1 Kings 12:20) 14:20 (22 years)
- 2-Nadab (1 Kings 15:25) (2 years)
- 3-Baasha (1 Kings 15:27, 28) 15:33 (24 years)
- 4-Elah (1 Kings 16:8) (2 years)
- 5-Zimri (1 Kings 16:10, 11, 15) (7 days)
- 6-Omri (1 Kings 16:23) (12 years; 6 in Tirzah)
- 7-Ahab (1 Kings 16:29) (22 years).
- 8-Ahaziah (1 Kings 22:51) (2 years)
- 9-Jehoram (2 Kings 3:1) (12 years)
- 10-Jehu (2 Kings 9:5) 10:36 (28 years)
- 11-Jehoahaz (2 Kings 13:1) (17 years)
- 12-Jehoash (2 Kings 13:10) (16 years)
- 13-Jeroboam II (2 Kings 14:23) (41 years)
- 14-Zachariah (2 Kings 15:8) (6 months)
- 15-Shallum (2 Kings 15:13) (1 full month)
- 16-Menahem (2 Kings 15:17) (10 years)
- 17-Pekahiah (2 Kings 15:23) (2 years)
- 18-Pekah (2 Kings 15:27) (20 years)
- 19-Hoshea (2 Kings 17:1) (9 years)

Israel was carried away into Assyrian captivity, around 721 B. C, and never returned as a nation. Cf. 2 Kings 17:23.

Far too many things happened during the period of the divided kingdom to be studied under this short series. However, a few lessons are set forth for helpful study in the New Testament. First, "Jeroboam...did sin, and...made Israel to sin." (1 Kings 14:16; 16:26; 21:22; 22:52; 2 Kings 3:3; 10:29; 13:2; 14:24; 15:9, 18, 24, 28; 17:21; 23:15). What an epitaph to have inscribed on one's head stone! Live carefully! Do not cause others to sin! Do not be led into sin! Cf. 1 Timothy 4:12; 1 Corinthians 15:33.

Second, be careful whom you marry!!! Ahab, walking "in the sins of Jeroboam...took to wife Jezebel" (1 Kings 16:30, 31), described by one preacher as "the painted viper of Israel." He sold himself "to work wickedness in the sight of the Lord, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up." (1 Kings 21:25; 1 Corinthians 15:33). Many believers have been pulled away from God by unbelieving spouses into religious error, and even away from faith itself. Consider 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 in all situations.

Third, have the faith of Elijah and the widow of Zarephath. (1 Kings 17). Remember, "And this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." (1 John 5:4; Psalm 119:11; 1 Peter 3:15; 2 Timothy 2:15). Faith comes by hearing God's word. (Romans 10:17). Study. Study. Study.

Fourth, be like Elijah, and help others to become believers in God. (1 Kings 18, especially, verse 39). Do not be ashamed of the gospel of Christ. (Elijah; Romans 1:16). Live it. Tell it.

Fifth, Be like Micaiah, who said, "As the Lord liveth, what the Lord saith unto me, that will I speak." (1 Peter 4:11; Colossians 3:17). Tell others what "Jesus saith." (Hebrews 12:19; 1 Timothy 5:18).

Sixth, as Elisha sought to be with and be like Elijah, seek to be with and become followers of the faithful as they are of Christ. (2 Kings 1-3; 1 Corinthians 11:1; Hebrews 13:7, 17). Seek out and be with Christian friends and people to be your closest companions, not the evil. (1 Corinthians 15:33).

Seventh, like Naaman, do the bidding of God without change, and be made clean (2 Kings 5:1-14) of sin. (Romans 10:17; Acts 17:30, 31; Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 22:16; Acts 2:38). Realize that salvation is the result of obedience. (Mark 16:16; Ephesians 2:8-10; Hebrews 5:8, 9).

Eighth, we should talk to people about what the Lord has said (2 Kings 9:3, 6, 12, 26, 36; 10:10), not what "we," "the church of Christ," "parents," "friends," or any other says or believes.

Ninth, we should learn from the many disobedient kings, a queen, and people, who disobeyed God, not to do so, lest we reap the wages of sin, eternal death. (1 Samuel thru 2 Chronicles; Romans 6:23; Matthew 25:46). Cf. Romans 15:4; Hebrews 5:8, 9.

Tenth, we need to realize that we, like all of the kings, will die. (1 Samuel thru 2 Chronicles; Hebrews 9:27; 2 Corinthians 5:1ff). Remember, it is how well, not how long, one lives that is important.

QUESTIONS

- 1) Why did the nation of Israel divide?
- 2) How many tribes followed Rehoboam? Jeroboam?
- 3) Name the two (2) kingdoms under the divided kingdom.
- 4) How did Jeroboam sin?
- 5) Tell what the man of God from Judah did to the altar at Bethel, and to Jeroboam.
- 6) What four (4) things did the old prophet get the man of God to do?
- 7) How many kings reigned over the Southern kingdom during its existence? Name them.
- 8) How many kings reigned over the Northern kingdom during its existence? Name them.
- 9) How long was Judah in captivity, where, and when did they go?
- 10) How long was Israel in captivity, where, and when did they go?
- 11) What did Jeroboam the son of Nebat cause?
- 12) According to 1 John 5:4, why is faith so important?
- 13) Tell how Elijah made people say, "The Lord, he is God."
- 14) Whom should we imitate?
- 15) T F (Circle one) One can change God's will and be saved.

THE BIBLE

LESSON NINE

JESUS AND THE CHURCH IN PROPHECY

“The law entered, that the offence might abound.” (Romans 5:20). The period of the divided kingdom emphasizes that need. Galatians 3:24 says, “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.” Galatians 3:19 says, “It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come....” Salvation by the works of the Law of Moses could not save one. (Hebrews 9, especially, verse 12; 10:4). The law brought all unto faith, abolishing the schoolmaster, the Law of Moses. (Galatians 3:19, 25; 2 Corinthians 3, especially, verse 13; Colossians 2:14-16). One puts on Christ in baptism (Galatians 3:26, 27), in whom there is salvation. (Acts 4:12). John 1:17 says, “For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.” We are saved by grace through faith when we obey the truth, the gospel of Christ. (Ephesians 2:8-10; John 1:17; Romans 1:16).

Having seen these things, attention is now turned to how God unfolded His purpose from before the foundation of the world. (Ephesians 1:4-12; 3:10, 11). The things concerning Christ were shown by the mouths of all of God’s prophets. (Acts 3:18). First, the verses just seen in Ephesians clearly show that God had a “purpose” in mind prior to creation. Secondly, He prophesied and partially revealed His plan when He told Satan that he would bruise Christ’s heel, but Christ would bruise his head. (Genesis 3:15). Both of these events happened within three (3) days of one another. The heel of Jesus was bruised when He was crucified. (Matthew 27:28-35). Jesus bruised the head of Satan when He came out of the tomb three (3) days later (Matthew 28:1-6; Luke 24:1-7), and was “declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.” (Romans 1:4; Acts 1:3).

God prophesied the coming gospel, Christ, and kingdom, or church, when He promised Abram (Abraham) a physical land, which he and his seed received (Genesis 13:14ff; Joshua 3:17), and a spiritual seed, which is clearly revealed in the book of Galatians, especially chapter 3. The book of Deuteronomy, chapter 18, verse 15 is another prophetic statement concerning Jesus, “The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall harken.” (Acts 3:23; Matthew 17:5; John 2:5). It has been seen that Israel had many ups and downs, during the wilderness wanderings, under the judges, and in the united and divided kingdoms.

Attention now is given to other prophets who were active during many of the events which transpired. The prophets were preachers in many instances. They often told the people how God desired them to live. For example, Jeremiah 6:16. They also prophesied the doom of the people of God if they did not repent. For example, Jeremiah 7:3. One of the saddest statements in the Bible is found in 2 Chronicles 36:16, “But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against his people, TILL THERE WAS NO REMEDY.” (Emphasis mine, JP). Some of the prophet’s words from the Lord pointed to the coming Christ and His kingdom, or church. Please carefully look at a few presented herein.

Daniel pointed to “a kingdom” which the God of heaven would set up. (Daniel 2:44). Using king Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, an image with a head of gold, breast and arms of silver, belly and thighs of brass, legs of iron, and feet of miry clay and iron (Verse 32), Daniel took him through the kingdoms this image pictured (Verses 36-43), and told the king, “In the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.” (Verse 44). Three (3) of the kingdoms of which Daniel prophesied are seen fulfilled in the book of Daniel. First, Daniel 2, Babylon; Second, Daniel 5:31, Median, 6:8, Medes and Persians, 28, Darius, and Cyrus the Persian, 8:20; and Daniel 8:21, Grecia. The fourth is the Roman kingdom. (Secular history and New Testament). The Roman kingdom divided. (Luke 3:1, 2). Following the birth of Jesus, “In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Matthew 1:16-25; 3:1, 2). This followed the Roman kingdom’s division. Matthew 4:17 records the words of Jesus, “Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Jesus then sent His apostles out to say, “The kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Matthew 10:1-7). Later, the “seventy” were sent out with the same message, “The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.” (Luke 10:1, 9, 11). Jesus declared that some standing in His presence would not die until they saw the kingdom come of God come with power. (Mark 9:1). Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper at the Passover feast, the days of unleavened bread, telling His apostles that He would not again observe the communion with them until the kingdom came. (Matthew 26:17-29). Acts 20:7 and 1 Corinthians 11:17-34, are two examples of the Lord’s Supper being observed in the church, the kingdom. Colossians 1:13 says the saints at Colosse (Colossians 1:1, 2) had been “translated into the kingdom of his dear Son.” John declared, “I...am your brother...in the kingdom....” (Revelation 1:9). Thus, the prophecy of Daniel has been fulfilled. The kingdom is here, and people are IN it. The Jews did not thwart (stop) God’s plan to set up His kingdom, to build His church!

Isaiah 2:2-4 prophesied that “in the last days, the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it...for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.” Luke 24:46-49 readied the preachers and hearers for this event, harmonizing with Isaiah’s prophecy. Jesus then did and taught until His ascension. (Verse 1). He shewed Himself alive to His apostles, and commanded them forty (40) days, “speaking to them of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.” (Verses 2, 3). This does not sound like Jesus was working on an emergency plan to set the church up, because the Jews thwarted His plans to set up the kingdom. What did Jesus do? He did what God said He would do. (Daniel 2:44). Jesus did what He said He would do, “build my church”, which was the kingdom. (Acts 1:3). Acts 2:1ff shows that there was great power, with tongues, which is what Jesus said would be present when the kingdom came. Peter proclaims that the events of Acts 2, the establishment of the church, the kingdom, were the “last days.” (Acts 2:17; Joel 2:28-32, “afterward”). “The law...the word of the Lord” is taught. (Acts 2). They are in the right place, Jerusalem. (Acts 1:4, 8). “And there were dwelling at Jerusalem, Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.” (Acts 2:5, 14). Isaiah’s prophecy is fulfilled in minute detail.

Isaiah 7:14 says, “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” Matthew 1:16-25 shows that this was fulfilled. The virgin Mary, before she and Joseph came together, “was found with child of the Holy Ghost.” Mary had a Son

THE BIBLE

LESSON TEN

THE CHURCH OF THE FIRST CENTURY

The first century church was slightly different to today's church. This is seen in a number of ways. This study will show what the church was like when it was first established, and why it was that way.

It has been seen from the first covenant (Hebrews 8:6-13, especially verses 7, 13; Jeremiah 31:31-34), that God would establish a second or new covenant. (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 8:6-13, especially verses 6-8, 13). The first covenant of Hebrews 8, was the law given to Israel by Moses at Mount Sinai. (Hebrews 8:8-11; Exodus 20; Deuteronomy 5). God's people were living under the Law of Moses from Exodus 20 until the new law was given. The Old Testament pointed toward the coming of the kingdom, the church. Paul wrote, "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;" (Colossians 2:14). 2 Corinthians 3 draws a clear distinction between the Old and New Testaments, saying, that "the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious" (Verse 7), and "is abolished." (Verse 13). Notice, these words carefully. The law written and engraven in stones, the ten commandments, **"WAS", NOT IS**, glorious, and the same thing **"IS ABOLISHED."** Read again, Hebrews 8:6-13; 2 Corinthians 3; Colossians 2:14, etc. As a result of the first covenant being nailed to the cross, telling us when all of this happened, "we are no longer under the schoolmaster" (Galatians 3:24, 25), and we are not to be judged by it. (Colossians 2:14-16).

Jesus promised to build His church, His kingdom, upon the confession Peter made that Jesus is Deity (God), saying, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:13-19). He told some who stood in His presence that they would "not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power." (Mark 9:1). These possibilities exist: (1) The kingdom of God, the church of Matthew 16:13-19, came; or (2) Jesus was a false prophet, a liar. Titus 1:2, "God...cannot lie", and Acts 2 settle this matter. The church Jesus promised came with power! The great power was seen in Acts 2:2ff: the "sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind" (Verse 2); "cloven tongues like as of fire" (Verse 3); Jesus declared to be "Lord and Christ" (Verse 36); "in the name of Jesus Christ...remission of sins" (Verse 38); "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." (Verse 47). Cf. also, "The Father... hath translated into the kingdom us into the kingdom of his dear Son." (Colossians 1:13, 14).

What was the church of Acts 2 like? "The household of God" (Ephesians 2:19), "which is the church of the living God" (1 Timothy 3:15), was "built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone." (Ephesians 2:20). There were prophets under the first covenant (Isaiah thru Malachi, and others). There were prophets under the second covenant, the law of Christ, in the church. (1 Corinthians 12:1-11, especially, verse 10, 28, 29; 13:2; 14:1, 3-6, 22, 24, 29, 31, 32, 37, 39).

There were also apostles in the church of the first century. Acts 2:1, "Now when the day of Pentecost was fully come, "they" (Acts 2:1), that is, "apostles" (Acts 1:26), "were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and

began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Verse 4), to "Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven." (Verse 5). The audience was "confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language...tongue, wherein we were born." (Verses 6-8). In other words, the apostles were speaking in tongues (languages) other than their native languages, in tongues (languages) which they had not studied, but were able to do so because the Spirit was speaking through them. This is proven by the fact that those in the audience "heard" and understood what they said, "the wonderful works of God." (Verses 6, 11, 37). How different to the so-called tongues of modern day pretenders, who look impressive to some, but "inwardly they are ravening wolves", coming to people in sheep's clothing. (Matthew 7:15). Jesus warned, "Beware of false prophets." (Ibid).

The newly perfected church had nine (9) "spiritual gifts." (1 Corinthians 12:1-11). Paul said of them, (1) "There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit."; (2) "There are differences of administrations, but the same Lord."; and (3) "There are diversities of operation, but it is the same God which worketh all in all." (Verses 4-6). Paul then said, "The manifestation of the Spirit is given given to every man to profit withal." (Verse 7). These spiritual gifts (Verses 8-10) were given as follows: (1) "the word of wisdom"; (2) "the word of knowledge"; (3) "faith"; (4) "the gifts of healing"; (5) "the working of miracles"; (6) "prophecy"; (7) "discerning of spirits"; (8) "kinds of tongues"; and (9) "the interpretation of tongues." Verses 28-30 show that no one Christian possessed all of these gifts. Verse 31 concludes, "But covet earnestly the best gifts: **and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.**" (Emphasis mine, JP).

The purpose of these spiritual gifts was to **produce faith** in Jesus Christ, that He is the Son of God. (John 20:30, 31). The miraculous **confirmed** the message preached. (Hebrews 2:1-4). The last words of Jesus were evangelistic. (Mark 16:15, 16). Those who believed and were baptized (Mark 16:16), received signs (Verses 17, 18; Acts 2:38b), and "they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen." (Mark 16:20; Acts 3 and 4:1-4). Notice the words, **signs** and **confirming**, On the day of Pentecost (Acts 2), Peter (Acts 2:14), speaking to those assembled, said, "Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:" (Verse 22). Peter then reminded them of how they with wicked hands had crucified and slain Jesus, and that He had been buried, and resurrected. (Verses 23-32; Romans 1:4).

Years ago, the author heard Alan Highers describe 1 Corinthians 12, as the "definition of gifts", chapter 13, as the "duration of gifts", and chapter 14, as the "discharge of gifts." Years of research and study have proven this to be true. One cannot properly understand the discussion of spiritual gifts without studying these three (3) chapters together. Paul defines the gifts in chapter 12, showing how they were properly used as one, unity. Chapter 14 reveals how these gifts were orderly used, and unto edification (Verse 26b), concluding, "Let all things be done decently and in order." (Verse 40). The "more excellent way" of chapter 12, verse 31, is amplified in chapter 13. These gifts minus love are empty. (Verses 1-3). As necessary as the spiritual gifts were, they would not last. "Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away." (1 Corinthians 13:8-10).

When would the part, the gifts of the Spirit, cease? “When that which is perfect shall come.” (1 Corinthians 13:10). Ephesians 4 enables all to see the purpose of the gifts, along with their duration. When Jesus ascended up on high, He “gave gifts unto men” to fill all things....(Verses 8-10), namely, some were apostles; some were prophets; some were evangelists; some were pastors and teachers;.... (Verse 11). The purpose of these gifts was “For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:....” (Verse 11). The Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20, 21) then shows the time frame for this, using an adverb of time, saying, “Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:....” (Verse 12). Verse 14 shows the great importance of these temporary gifts, “That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;....” “But” (Verse 15), tells us when the “till” has come, saying, “speaking the truth in love, may grow up in him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.” We have the sanctifying truth, the word of God (John 17:17), “the gospel” (Romans 1:16), “the perfect law of liberty.” (James 1:25). The scaffolding, gifts of the Spirit, used to build the church is no longer needed. The church, the kingdom of God, has been built, exists in strength.

The miraculous served its purpose. Those honest and sincere Jews living under the Law of Moses, and all other honest and sincere persons, who wondered why the new law and the changes it brought occurred, have had the signs and wonders to convince them. “The faith...was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3), “the doctrine of Christ” (2 John 9, 10), “the perfect law of liberty” (James 1:25), “the gospel of Christ” has been once for all time given. There is still a need for evangelists, teachers, and elders, but not the rest. The gospel is complete, and, borrowing Abraham’s words, those who will not receive it, “neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.” Cf. Luke 16:31.

QUESTIONS

- 1) Show why we are not still living under the Law of Moses.
- 2) What did Jesus promise to build, and did He build it?
- 3) Show how the church and the kingdom of God are the same.
- 4) According to Matthew 16:16-18 and Ephesians 2:20, upon what was the church of the first century built?
- 5) T F (Circle one) Apostles, Prophets, and gifts of the Spirit were in the first century church.
- 6) How do we know that tongues were languages, rather than non-sensible utterances?
- 7) Name the nine (9) gifts of the Spirit listed in 1 Corinthians 12.
- 8) What was the purpose of the spiritual gifts?
- 9) How did Alan Highers break down 1 Corinthians 12, 13, and 14?
- 10) What did Jesus give to men when He ascended up on high?
- 11) From Ephesians 4:11, show why the gifts of the Spirit were given.
- 12) From Ephesians 4:12, show that the gifts of the Spirit were to cease.
- 13) What does Ephesians 4:14 say about the gifts of the Spirit?
- 14) Show why the gifts of the Spirit have ceased.
- 15) Has confirming evidence of God, Jesus, the church, and all else been given?

THE BIBLE

LESSON ELEVEN

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF TODAY

Lesson ten pictured the church of the first century with apostles, prophets and spiritual gifts. It was seen that the abolishment of the Law of Moses, and the issuing in of the New or Second Covenant needed apostles, prophets, and spiritual gifts to confirm the new word being spoken. How else could they know the difference between what was being taught by the Christians and anyone else? However, since the imparting of spiritual gifts came by the laying on of the apostles hands (Acts 8:14-19; Romans 1:11; Acts 6:6), when the last person on whom one of the apostles had laid his hands died, so did spiritual gifts. When the New Testament was completed, and “all things that pertain unto life and godliness” had been given (2 Peter 1:3), there was no more need for the scaffolding, the apostles, prophets, and spiritual gifts. Circle and lightly color in the following words in Ephesians 4, gifts (8), For (12), Till (13), That (14), and But (15). This will help you to see and remember that gifts were given, why, for how long, to keep the saved, to avoid something, and informing one of what to do.

What then should the church be today? Paul said, “Preach the word.” (2 Timothy 4:2). Peter said, “If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God;....(1 Peter 4:11). “The saints and faithful brethren in Christ...at Colossee” were told, “And whatsoever ye do in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,....” (Colossians 1:1, 2; 3:17). No one was, or is to add to or subtract from the Lord’s word. (Deuteronomy 4:2; Proverbs 30:6; Revelation 22:18, 19). Thus, speaking as the oracles of God, notice what the New Testament church should be today.

Most churches today seem to have church manuals, disciplines, catechisms, confessions of faith, and such like. All such-like is in vain. (Matthew 15:7-9). However, the church of the New Testament uses the word of God for its authority in matters of faith and practice. (John 2:5; 1 Peter 4:11; Colossians 3:17). Whatever the Lord says the church is to be and do, is what the church of today must be and do to be saved. (Hebrews 5:8, 9). Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth. (Matthew 28:18). Many from the beginning of time suffered as a result of disobeying God. (Genesis thru Malachi). Some still under the Law of Moses, during the time of Matthew thru John were punished. Many die untimely and horrendous deaths today as a result of personal sin, and/or the sins of others. The scriptures that we call the Bible are inspired of God. (2 Timothy 3:16, 17). Writings of men, including this author, are not. Search the scriptures to determine the truth about any and all matters. (Acts 17:10-12).

There were “bishops and deacons” at Philippi. (Philippians 1:1). Bishops were also called elders (Acts 20:17), overseers (Acts 20:28), pastors (Ephesians 4:11), presbyters (1 Timothy 4:14), and shepherds. (1 Peter 5:1-4). Those serving as elders must be qualified: being married men to one wife, having children, not a novice (not newly planted or a new convert), who desires the work (not as an honor or due to being popular), and so on. (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:4-14). The deacons must also possess qualifications: Men married to one wife, ruling their families well, and such like. (1 Timothy 3:8-13; Acts 6:1-5). Preachers or evangelists (Acts 8:5, 12; Acts 21:8; 2 Timothy 4:5) were active members of the body, the church. (1 Corinthians 12:12ff; Ephesians 1:22, 23). The church was made up of members,

who were called saints and brethren. (2 Thessalonians 1:1, 3; Colossians 1:2; etc.). The brethren were either simply called by their names, for example, Paul, Peter, James, John, etc., or they were called beloved (Jude 3; 1 John 4:1), brethren (Acts 23:6; Romans 10:1), diisciples (Acts 11:26), Christians (Acts 11:28; 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16), children or children of God. (1 John 2:1; Galatians 3:26). They were not to wear titles. (Matthew 23:5-12). Many today like to wear flattering titles. Some demand it.

The worship of the New Testament church found them singing. (Matthew 26:30; Acts 16:25; Romans 15:9; 1 Corinthians 14:15; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 2:12; James 5:13). One may not correctly go to the Old Testament to justify the use of mechanical instruments of music today. Remember, it was abolished, nailed to the cross. (2 Corinthians 3:13; Colossians 2:14-16; Galatians 3:24, 25). Neither can one rightly go to what may be in heaven, else the doors are open to more than one desires. For example, Revelation 4 thru 22. Doing exactly what the first century church did except for the miraculous, without addition or subtraction will limit what we do in worship to singing.

Another act of worship the first century church enjoyed was prayer. (Acts 2:42). The song, *Take It To The Lord In Prayer*, is so true and meaningful. The church should "Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (1 Thessalonians 5:17, 18). Jesus spoke a parable, saying, "that men ought always to pray, and not to faint." (Luke 18:1). Prayer to God through Jesus is truly a blessing. Cf. Philippians 4:6, "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Remember, Paul was in prison when he wrote this. Cf. 1:7, 13, 14, 16.

Preaching is an important part of the worship of the church. (Acts 2:42). The apostles' doctrine was theirs only in the sense that they espoused and taught it. In reality, they taught the word of God. Though not an apostle, Philip is a great example of this. He "preached Christ" (Acts 8:5), "the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ" (Verse 12), and "the word of God" (Verse 14). Verse 25 says they "preached the word of the Lord...the gospel." Philip preached from Isaiah 53, and Jesus. (Acts 8:35). Philip preached belief, faith. (Acts 8:37). Though not mentioned, it is implied that Philip also preached confession and baptism. (Acts 8:36-39). How else would the eunuch have known that he needed to be baptized, to ask what hindered him from being baptized? How would he have known what to confess, that is, the Deity of Christ?

The Lord's Supper, communion, is so important. (Acts 2:42). Like the memorial of the Passover given under the Old Testament (Exodus 12:11ff), the Lord's Supper is God's memorial for Christians today. (Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:24, 25). What a joy it is to come together (1 Corinthians 11:17, 20, 33) on the first day of every week (Acts 20:7) to remember the shedding of the blood of the spotless Lamb of God for the sins of the world. (1 Peter 1:19; 2:21-25; John 1:29). This communion (1 Corinthians 10:16) never grows old, nor does it become complacent.

The fifth item of the worship of the church is giving, called fellowship in Acts 2:42. The Greek word is KOINONIA, translated "fellowship" (Acts 2:42) and "contribution" in Romans 15:26. This giving is to be done on the first day of the week. (1 Corinthians 16:1, 2). 2 Corinthians 8 and 9 regulate some of the Christian's giving, that is, cheerfully, not grudgingly, not of necessity, not sparingly, but bountifully, etc.

Galatians 6:10 directs the saved to help all, especially those of the household of faith. We should be careful not to invest more on earthly things than we do on eternal things. Cf. Matthew 6:21; James 5:3; 1 Timothy 6:17-19.

The mission of the church is to save souls. (Mark 16:15; 2 Timothy 2:2). Failure to do so will result in the loss of one's own soul. (John 15:1-6; Cf. Ezekiel 3:17-21; Romans 15:4). Are eternal heaven and hell real? (Matthew 25:46). YES! Then let every Christian act like it. May each child of God seek to save himself/herself, and others.

Children of God may fall from grace. (Hebrews 12:15). "Fail of" in the Greek is "fall from." Be careful not to become like the two plants of Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23. These plants lived, but died, never to live again. "Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own reward." (Acts 1:25). Both Ananias and Sapphira lied unto God, and they died unrepentant liars. (Acts 5:1-11; Revelation 21:8). Christians are to be steadfast (1 Corinthians 15:58), and "beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness." (2 Peter 3:17). Watch and be ready. (Matthew 24:42, 44), lest you "have...part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." (Revelation 21:8).

QUESTIONS

- 1) What did lesson ten picture, and are they still here?
- 2) Paul told Timothy to "preach _____."
- 3) What do most churches today have? Compare that to the church of the New Testament.
- 4) Underline a or b. The word of God is (a) Inspired of God; (b) From uninspired men.
- 5) What should Christians not wear?
- 6) Name the five (5) items of worship.
- 7) Why do we not use mechanical instruments of music in worship?
- 8) Why can one not accurately go to the Old Testament or heaven to approve the use of mechanical instruments of music?
- 9) Discuss: Prayer.
- 10) What should preacher's preach?
- 11) Why do Christians partake of the Lord's Supper, when, and how often?
- 12) When should one give weekly, and should giving be limited to weekly contributions?
- 13) What is the mission of the church, and is it important? If so, why?
- 14) How does one know that Christians can fall from grace, and will they always repent?
- 15) Is there a place which burns with fire and brimstone, what is it, and who will go there?

THE BIBLE

LESSON TWELVE

THE NAMES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

Some say that God's people and His church do not have a name. The reader and/or student can decide this issue by reading what the word of God says, remembering that "All scripture is given by inspiration of God" (2 Timothy 3:16), and "holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." (2 Peter 1:20, 21). The author's father often told him to always go with what God said, because God would always be right. Many have had names. For example, Adam and Eve had a name, Adam. (Genesis 5:2). Abram and Sarai were at first called by those names, but God changed them to Abraham and Sarah. (Genesis 17:5, 15). Jacob's name was changed from Jacob to Israel. (Genesis 32:28; 35:10). Though the term Israel or children of Israel at first had reference to the man Jacob and/or his offspring (Genesis 35:21; 42:5), the name began to be used as a name for the nation. (Exodus 12:3, 6, 19, 47; 16:31). Names are important.

"Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet" (Acts 28:25), saying, "And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name." (Isaiah 62:2). Followers of Jesus were initially called "disciples." (Luke 14:26, 27, 33; Acts 1:15; 6:1; 9:10, 26, 36; 16:1; etc.). The last reference to God's people as disciples is in Acts 21:16. Acts 11:26 says, "And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch." Remember, God promised His people that **HE** would call His people by a new name. If Acts 11:26 is not the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy, we have no other record of it happening. This was not a name given in derision by enemies of the Christ and His church. The fact that God used Agrippa to use the name "Christian" (Acts 26:28), and the inspired apostle, elder, and writer, Peter, to use it as he did, shows that God gave the name. (1 Peter 4:16). Christians remain disciples, that is, pupils or learners of the word (2 Peter 3:18; Hebrews 5:11-14; 2 Timothy 2:15), but we must remember that we wear the name of Christ in being called **Christians**.

The next question logically to be asked has to do with the church. What should the church be called? Following is an outline for your serious consideration. Be content to call yourself and the church after those things found in the word of God. This is a way that is right and cannot be wrong. Follow God, and you will always be right. Check reputable references, and you will find that modern day denominations, called churches, all had their beginning hundreds of years **after** Acts 2. What date did the church of which you are a member begin? If it did not begin in AD 33, how could it be the church of the first century? What name does the church of which you are a member wear? Does the name of the church of which you are a member correspond to the New Testament names, titles, designations? What about the date? And have you honestly looked at the doctrine? Since you are sincerely trying to go to heaven, borrowing ideas from the past, "make it as sure as you can"; "be right, then go ahead." Another has said, "There is a way that is right and cannot be wrong." Use the names given in the word of God, and you will know that you are right. I beseech you, do not go to the judgment hoping you are right.

DOES THE CHURCH OF THE NEW TESTAMENT HAVE A NAME?

I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. Isaiah 62:1, 2 says God's people would be called by "a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name" when "the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness."**
- B. Acts 10:1 through 11:17 gives one a picture of Cornelius, near kinsmen and friends, Gentiles, receiving the word of God (11:1), being baptized (10:47, 48), and "being granted repentance unto life." (11:18).**
- C. Immediately thereafter, "the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch." (Acts 11:26).**
- D. This new name, Christian, was a God-given name (Isaiah 62:2) according to Isaiah's prophecy, when the Gentiles saw God's righteousness, when they were saved. (Acts 11:18).**
- E. This name was not given in derision by enemies of the cross of Christ, but by "the mouth of the Lord." (Isaiah 62:2). Cf. 1 Peter 4:16; Acts 26:28—Used by saint and sinner.**
- F. The word church comes from the Greek word, EKKLESIA, and means, "a calling out", and is translated "assembly" and "church." (Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, page 192).**
- G. Please read and study carefully the following things to see what the church is also called.**

II. BODY:

- A. First, the church of the New Testament was called,**
 - 1. Church (Matthew 16:18). The called out; an assembly of people called out of the darkness of sin into the marvelous light of Jesus. (2 Corinthians 6:17; Acts 26:18; Colossians 1:13; Ephesians 5:8, 11; 1 Peter 2:9). "My church" shows possession, with those in the church wearing and honoring the name of the owner and builder.**
 - 2. Church of God (1 Corinthians 1:2), showing God was the designer, planner, owner, and executioner of it.**
 - 3. Church of the living God (1 Timothy 3:15), further informing us that God is the owner, and that He is still very much alive.**
 - 4. Churches of Christ (Romans 16:16), speaking of several assemblies of God's people making up that group of people called out of the sin of darkness into the marvelous light of God's dear Son, who bought the church with His own blood. (Acts 20:28).**
 - 5. These descriptions all point to the church as being owned by Deity (God), and not of human origin.**
- B. Second, the New Testament church was also called,**
 - 1. The Kingdom. (Matthew 4:23; 6:10), helping us to understand the nature of it; a kingdom is made up of a king, citizens of the kingdom, rule (law), and a territory. Cf. Matthew 25:34; Colossians 4:11; James 1:25; Mark 16:15; Matthew 28:19.**
 - 2. Kingdom of God (John 3:3, 5; Mark 9:1), showing ownership, maker or builder, as Daniel prophesied by the God of heaven. (Daniel 2:28, 44).**
 - 3. Kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 16:19), also called "heavenly kingdom" (1 Timothy 4:18), enlightening us as to its origin, heaven, rather than earthly.**

4. Kingdom of Christ (Ephesians 5:5), showing ownership.
 5. Kingdom of his dear Son (Colossians 1:13), inseparably tying God and Jesus to the kingdom, and showing their beloved relationship.
 6. Kingdom of Christ and of God (Ephesians 5:5), further allowing us to see joint and equal ownership of it.
 7. Jesus was speaking of the same institution when he said, "I will build my church...and I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 16:18, 19); He did not build one thing, and give Peter the keys to something else.
- C. Third, the first century church was called,
1. A House (Hebrews 3:6), offering a different look at the church; a house has a foundation, is made up of various parts, and has a top. Cf. 1 Corinthians 3:11; Ephesians 2:20; Matthew 21:42; Acts 4:11; Psalm 118:22.
 2. House of God (1 Timothy 3:15), shows possession, with God being builder and owner.
 3. House of the God of Jacob (Isaiah 2:3), shows clearly that the owner and builder is not just one called God, but the God of the Old Testament promises.
 4. Lord's house (Isaiah 2:2), again shows possession, ownership, and it distinguishes this house from any made by man.
- D. Fourth, the 2000+ year old church is described as,
1. A body (Ephesians 1:22, 23), giving us a beautiful picture of the unity of it.
 2. Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27), enables each member to realize the importance of every other member, and how all should work together in unity. Cf. 1 Corinthians 1:10; John 17:20-23; Romans 12.
- E. Fifth, the church is portrayed as,
1. A family (Ephesians 3:15), a unit made up of different members, who are to "love as brethren." (1 Peter 3:8).
 2. Those in the churches of Galatia (Galatians 1:1, 2) were called "brethren." (Galatians 6:1).
 3. Paul called "Titus my brother." (2 Corinthians 1:13). Cf. 2 Corinthians 1:1; Ephesians 6:21; 1 Corinthians 1:1; Philippians 1:25; etc.
 4. James wrote of "brother or sister." (James 2:15). Cf. Romans 16:1, 15; 2 John 13; 1 Timothy 5:2).
 5. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.
- F. Sixth, the church is called,
1. A Bride (Revelation 21:2, 9), informing us that we are married to Christ, and as such, we submit to Him. (Ephesians 5:21-33).
 2. Bride of Christ (2 Corinthians 11:2), though not called such in this verse, certainly, the description is clearly seen. Compare John 3:29.
 3. As a bride excitedly and proudly wears the name of her husband, so should the bride of Christ wear His name.
- G. Seventh, the word of God calls the church,
1. The General assembly and church of the firstborn (Hebrews 12:23), making us aware that we are the called out belonging to Jesus the firstborn. Cf. Colossians 1:18.

2. Here we also note that one does not “go to church”, but assembles as the church to worship.

III. CONCLUSION:

- A. Thus, it has been shown that the members of the church of the New Testament would wear the name Christian, and did, and that the church is depicted in a number of ways to help all understand who and what the church is.
- B. Either one of the foregoing designations could be put on a church’s sign or building as a means of designating who meets there, as a matter of identification.
- C. With these scriptures implanted in the mind, where do the various religious groups find the authority to use the names of men, doctrines, practices, and such like, as names?
 1. Where in the word of God is anyone or church called a Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, Episcopalian, Jehovah’s Witness, Mormon, Muslim, or any of the other names one sees? _____
 2. Where in the word of God is anyone called a _____ Christian? _____
- D. 1 Peter 4:11, “If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God;....”
- E. Colossians 3:17, “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”
- F. Church of Christ seeks to honor the one who promised to build His (the) (my) church (Matthew 16:13-19), and who willingly, gladly shed His blood on the cruel cross at Calvary to purchase His Church some 2000 years ago. (Acts 20:28; Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 19).
- G. Please read the word of God, and write the name of the church to which you belong, along with the scripture, in the blank following:_____.

QUESTIONS

- 1) Give examples of God giving names to people.
- 2) By what would God’s people be called, and tell whose mouth would give it?
- 3) What were Jesus’ followers initially called?
- 4) The name disciple was changed to what, and where?
- 5) What is the meaning of the Greek word EKKLESIA, translated church or assembly?
- 6) List the four (4) ways the word church is used.
- 7) List the six (6) ways the word kingdom is used.
- 8) List the four (4) ways the word house is used.
- 9) List the two (2) ways the word body is used.
- 10) List the one (1) way the word family is used.
- 11) List the two (2) ways the word bride is used.
- 12) How is the church described in Hebrews 12:23?
- 13) T F (Circle one) Only Church of Christ can be used on a church building/sign of any church.
- 14) Give the verses authorizing the use of the names of modern churches_____
- 15) Whom do the descriptions in numbers 6-12 above seek to honor?

THE BIBLE

LESSON THIRTEEN

BRINGING ONE TO SALVATION

The late Bob Bryson was near Trenton, Georgia, in the middle 1960's, teaching a class on how to bring **one ready for salvation** to obey the gospel. This lesson has been effectively used by a number of personal workers over the years. With a few changes to fit the author, the material is being presented basically as Bob delivered it. Bob usually carried his Bible and a few blank sheets of paper to a study.

After a few moments of conversation, he usually started out by saying, _____ and/or _____, you have never become Christians. Usually, they would nod in agreement. That was Bob's invitation. From that "opening", he would ask, "If you knew exactly what God wanted you to do to become a Christian, would you do that now?" He would ask each one. If they said, "yes", that was all he needed to begin his study. "That is great", he would reply. Bob would then take out a blank sheet of paper. He would ask them to imagine everyone on earth being on that sheet. He would then draw a line in the middle of the sheet from top to bottom, and he would tell them that the people thereon were divided. The next question was, "Do you know why?" Whether he or they answered, he wrote LOST at the top of the left side, and SAVED at the top of the right side. He would ask if they agreed. There was no need to go on unless each one there was in agreement.

Bob would then draw a large circle in the space under SAVED. He would then write CHURCH, KINGDOM, CHRISTIAN, AND BODY OF CHRIST, making brief comments on each one, showing that the saved would be or be in each one. He would then write in large letters, CHRIST, saying all the saved are in CHRIST. Bob would then tell the student(s) that the Lord adds the saved to the church, and that there is no vote to determine if they can become members of the body of Christ. He then showed them that the faithful will live eternally in heaven, but the lost will go to an eternal hell.

He would then ask if they knew what separates the two groups. Either they or he would put "FORGIVENESS OF SINS" on the line. Bob would then ask if they agreed before continuing. He would then ask them if finding what was necessary to cross that line was important. Again, getting a positive agreement before continuing.

The next step is to put a large B or F on the sheet about two inches from the left side, discussing faith. He would read the verses and ask if they agreed. If so, Bob would turn the sheet over. (See Drawing 1). He would tell them that some people believe salvation is by faith only. They were then reminded that the devils believe, tremble, and even confess the Deity of Christ and that faith only would mean that the devils would be in heaven. Have them read James 2:19; Matthew 8:28, 29, where they believed and confessed that Jesus is the Son of God. Yet, hell was "prepared for the devil and his angels." (Matthew 25:41). Again, ask the student if they see that, understand that, and if they believe that. If so, ask the student(s) if they have seen anything indicating that they have crossed the line. If not, ask how faith comes, and ask them to read Romans 10:17. Draw a horizontal line to the left of the B or F, and put a large H, reading Romans 10:17, again, asking if they understand, believe, and agree.

Attention is now turned to the next step. Draw a horizontal line to the right of the B or F, and put a large R. Read, or have them read Luke 13:3, 5; Acts 17:30, 31. Turn the sheet over, showing them what repentance is. (Matthew 21:28-32). (Drawing 2). Cf. Revelation 2:5. Again, asking, do you see that? Understand that? If so, ask again if they have read anything that says they have crossed the line of forgiveness. If not, to take some negative reaction to baptism away, tell them that the next thing to be seen is controversial, telling them that Confession is necessary to crossing the line. Most will not think of this as a problem. Draw a horizontal line to the right of the R and put a large C. Read, or have them read Matthew 10:32, 33 and Romans 10:9, 10. Ask if they understand? Believe? Agree? Also, ask if there has been anything read from the Bible that says the line has been crossed. If not, draw a final horizontal line to the right of the C, and put a large B.

Read, or have them read Romans 6:1-4. Turn the sheet over, and draw and discuss (Drawings 3 and 4). Ask them if they see and understand these two things, and if that is what the Bible says. If so, read Acts 2:38, NOTE: You might turn the sheet over and put **R + B=R.of S.**; 1 Peter 3:20, 21, and go to the front top of the sheet and draw an ark in water with 8 souls inside. Stress that the eight souls **were** "saved by water." (Verse 20). Remind them that verse 21 says "the like figure whereunto baptism doth also now save us." Read John 3:3-5, and stress the words "**except**" and "**cannot**." Show from verse 23, that the water was not the natural birth, but the waters of Aenon. Have them read Acts 22:16, showing that a praying man had to be baptized to have his sins washed away, that a sinner's prayer did not remove sin, though offered fervently. Ask them if there was anything that said the baptism was ceremonious, or by a sinner's prayer. Now, have them read Galatians 3:26, 27. When they have finished, say, we have found what we have been looking for all along, something that tells us what one must do to cross the line of forgiveness. Everything we have studied up to this point has said "by" (put BY under the H, and underline it, drawing an arrow pointing to the B or F), and "unto" (put the word UNTO under the letters B R and C, and underline each one). Show them that they have just read a verse that does not say unto, but INTO. Draw a line from Galatians 3:26, 27 into the large circle, and put INTO on it. Tie the large letters together, drawing lines to the appropriate letter, while labeling each one with the word BY or UNTO. Again, take your time, but ask them if they see that? Understand that? If so, ask if they agree with that. If so, tell them that they are ready to enter Christ, to be added to His church without a vote by man, to be a part of His body of Christ, His Church, the kingdom of God. They are ready to become a Christian. Their hearts, like those on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13), surely are burning within them (Luke 24:32), as they realize that they are about to make the greatest decision and do the greatest thing they will ever do, become a child of the King.

Control your heart, because you may be getting excited, anxiously hoping and waiting to see the new birth take place. However, the sale is not yet closed.

Take another plain sheet of paper, and write on it "3 Things that are more important to you than going to heaven." (See Drawing 5). Lay a sheet before each one, and tell them to fill it out. Give them a moment. They will either give it back to you, or they will tell you that there is nothing more important than going to heaven. Tell them that you knew this would be their response. Take another plain sheet of paper, (Drawing 6), and put baptism in the middle, God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, and Loved ones, Christians, and Angels in the four corners. Tell them that each of these is ready to rejoice upon (their) (his) (her)

baptism into Christ.

You have now come to the time of decision. Take another plain sheet of paper, and tear it in half. (Drawing 7). Write NOW at the bottom of one and WAIT at the bottom of the other. Lastly, put a very large G over the piece with NOW on it, and a very large D over the one with WAIT on it. If there are two (2) persons, make one for each one. Remind them that they said in the beginning of the study that they would obey God now if they knew what to do. Ask if they have any **questions or reservations** about what they have learned. If so, address them. When you are **sure** that they know what they are doing, lay the two pieces before each one, and tell them that **GOD** wants them to be saved **NOW**. The devil wants them to wait, so he can discourage them from going to heaven. Ask them to pick up the one they are going to obey. Sit quietly, with your mouth tightly closed (shut). If they pick up the sheet with the large **G** on it, hug their necks, and quickly make arrangements to take them to the church building, and baptize them into the Lamb of God, who will immediately wash their sins away. Do not allow the devil to change their minds. (Luke 8:5, 12). If you can't baptize them, have someone who can on stand-by. 2 Corinthians 6:2. Do not let today pass. (Hebrews 3:7, 13, 15; 4:7).

QUESTIONS

- 1) Imagine that all of the people of the world are on an 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of paper, with a line drawn down the middle from top to bottom, and tell how they are divided.
- 2) What does the line drawn down the middle from top to bottom represent?
- 3) How can one know faith is necessary to forgiveness of sins?
- 4) How does faith come?
- 5) How does one know that repentance is necessary to forgiveness of sins?
- 6) From Matthew 21:28-32 and Revelation 2:5, show what repentance is.
- 7) What did Jesus and the God-inspired Paul say about faith and confession?
- 8) Has water ever saved anyone? Explain your answer.
- 9) Does baptism save anyone today? Explain your answer.
- 10) Discuss the words "except" and "cannot", telling what the "water" is.
- 11) Discuss Israel being saved by a brazen serpent on a pole, Naaman's cleansing of leprosy by dipping seven (7) times in the Jordan River, baptism, and God.
- 12) In whom and what are those who are saved?
- 13) Compare: The Death, Burial, Resurrection of Jesus to one being saved today.
- 14) Discuss the words "by," "unto," and "into."
- 15) List three (3) things more important to you than going to heaven. (Note this is personal and not to be discussed in class). Discuss in general the fact that nothing should be more important to anyone.

ADDITIONAL

Read: Ezekiel 3:17-21. Read the tract: His Blood Will I Require At Thine Hand...Thy Soul, by James Pilgrim. Based upon these verses. Read: 2 Timothy 2:2. Take the time to learn how to be the best teacher you can possibly be. Do not be ashamed and/or afraid to seek help from those more efficient in this great work. Do not be afraid to get good books based upon the word of God to learn how to impart

God's word to others. Do not be ashamed or afraid to live for Jesus, and to teach Jesus to others. Rather, understanding eternity, be ashamed and afraid not to do so. Read Romans 1:16; 2 Corinthians 5:11; Matthew 25:46; and scriptures.

Because the apostles did what Jesus told them, that is, remain in Jerusalem, preach His message there first, then preach His message in all Judaea, Samaria, "and unto the uttermost part of the earth (Acts 1:4-8), the message eventually came to where you are, affording you an opportunity to obey that word, and be saved. (Hebrews 5:8, 9). Will you teach the saving gospel to others? Read and sing the instructive and challenging song, You Never Mentioned Him to Me!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Remember, that the gospel is given into our hands, and we should carry it forth with haste to a lost and dying world. Only in so doing may we save our own souls. Whom will you save, including yourself???????

Remember that practice makes perfect. You might benefit from getting with another, and practicing on one another until you become comfortable with the study.

- 1) It is best to have no more than two for a study for obvious reasons.
- 2) You will need at least four sheets of blank paper per student.
- 3) You will need to make sure the baptistery water is full and comfortable.
- 4) You will need to have a key to the building, or someone on stand-by to open the door.
- 5) Use your judgment as to whether the people would want others present for their baptism.
- 6) Be genuine at all times.
- 7) "Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (1 Thessalonians 5:17, 18; Luke 18:1).
- 8) "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. 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." (Matthew 28:19, 20; Mark 16:16).

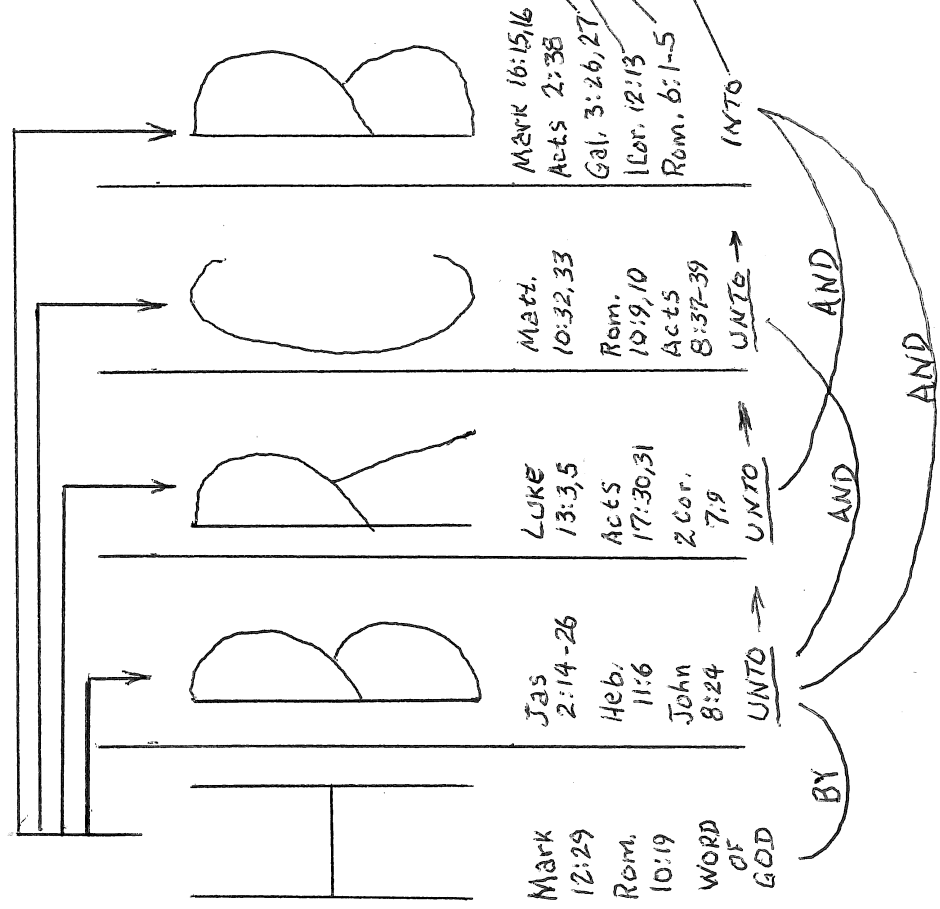
STUDY!

AND

GO!

LOST

1 PETER 3:20
"SAVED BY WATER"
8 SOULS
"THE LIKE FIGURE"
"BAPTISM DOETH ALSO NOW SAVE US"
1 PETER 3:21



Things that are tied to the same thing are tied to one another.

DISOBEDIENT

SAVED

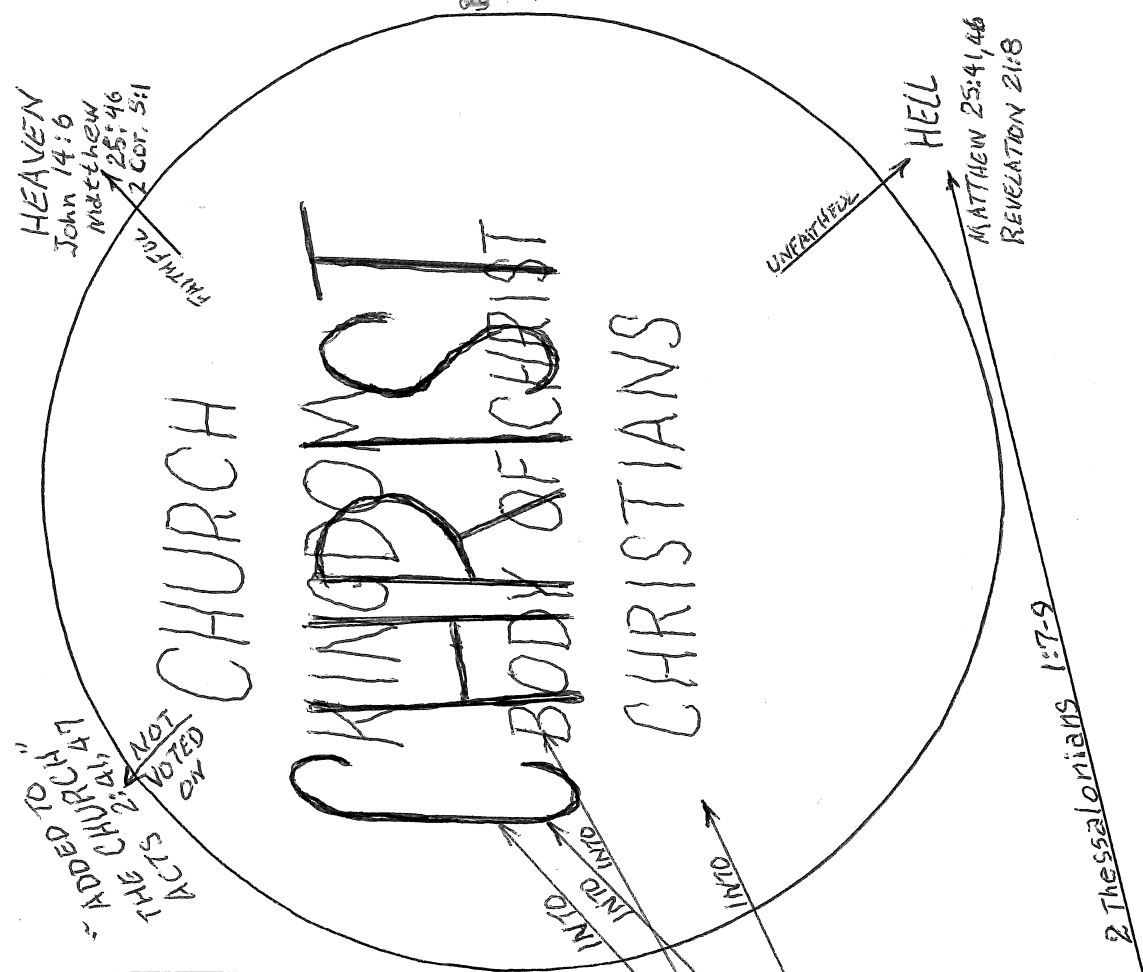


CHART BY BOB BRYSON WITH CHANGES
BY JAMES PILGRIM

DRAWING 1

FAITH ONLY
DEVILS BELIEVE
AND CONFESS

JAMES
2:19
MATTHEW
8:28, 29

FAITH ONLY =
DEVILS SAVED

DRAWING 2

MATTHEW 21:28-32

GO

WORK

TODAY

← I WILL NOT
WENT
REPENTED

CHANGE OF MIND, LEADING
ONE TO DO RIGHT

DRAWINGS 3, 4

JESUS

SINNER

D (B) R

TO WALK
NEWNESS
OF LIFE

SAVED

ROMANS 6:1-5

1 PETER 3:20, 21

B + B = S, MARK 16:16

R + B = R.O.S, ACTS 2:38

B - W.A.S, ACTS 22:16

A PRINING
MAN WAS
TOLD TO BE
BAPTIZED TO
WASH AWAY SINS

DRAWING 5

3 Things more important to you
than going to heaven —

- 1.
- 2.
- 3

8 1/2 x 11 Sheet of paper

DRAWING 6

GOD, JESUS
SPIRIT

LOVED ONES

BAPTISM

CHRISTIANS

ANGELS

8 1/2 x 11 SHEET OF PAPER

DRAWING 7

G
NOW

D
WAIT

8 1/2 x 11 SHEET TORN IN HALF

DRAWINGS 1-4 ON BACK OF SHEET 1

DRAWING 5 ON SHEET 2

DRAWING 6 ON SHEET 3

DRAWING 7 ON SHEET 4 TORN IN HALF

LIST OF TRACTS IN PRINT

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. A BABY WAS BORN | 35. ISLAM VS CHRISTIANITY ISLAM'S PLAN OF |
| 2. A ROUND TUIT FOR YOU | SALVATION VS JESUS' PLAN OF SALVATION |
| 3. A SERPENT ON A POLE, AND THE SON OF | WHICH IS RIGHT? |
| MAN ON A CROSS | 36. IT IS FINISHED |
| 4. ACTIVITIES THAT BRING CONVERSIONS | 37. JESUS IS THE ANSWER TO ASSEMBLING |
| 5. ARE YOU DOING GOD SERVICE? | 38. JESUS IS THE ANSWER TO BAPTISM |
| 6. BEAUTIFUL GOD ORDAINED/DESIGNED | 39. JESUS IS THE ANSWER TO COMMUNION |
| MARRIAGE | 40. JESUS IS THE ANSWER TO GIVING |
| 7. BOOK: THERE IS A GOD IN HEAVEN | 41. JESUS IS THE ANSWER TO MARITAL |
| (Irrefutable book on Christian Evidences for | HAPPINESS |
| all ages). | 42. JESUS IS THE ANSWER TO MARRIAGE |
| 8. CAN A CHILD OF GOD BE LOST ONCE SAVED | 43. JESUS IS THE ANSWER TO MODESTY |
| ALWAYS SAVED No. 1 | 44. JESUS IS THE ANSWER TO MORAL |
| 9. CAN A CHILD OF GOD BE LOST ONCE SAVED | PROBLEMS |
| ALWAYS SAVED No. 2 | 45. JESUS IS THE ANSWER TO PRAYER |
| 10. CHRIST IN YOU, THE HOPE OF GLORY | 46. JESUS IS THE ANSWER TO PREACHING |
| 11. CONVERSATIONS IN HADES | 47. JESUS IS THE ANSWER TO RACE RELATIONS |
| 12. DANIEL FROM YOUTH TO THE AGED | 48. JESUS IS THE ANSWER TO SALVATION |
| 13. DO ALL IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS | 49. JESUS IS THE ANSWER TO SINGING |
| 14. ENEMIES OF THE CROSS OF CHRIST | 50. JESUS IS THE ANSWER TO TERRIORISM |
| 15. EVIL COMMUNICATIONS | 51. JESUS IS THE ANSWER TO THE |
| 16. FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS THERE WILL | CHURCH/KINGDOM |
| YOUR HEART BE ALSO | 52. JESUS IS THE ANSWER TO UNITY |
| 17. GAMBLING | 53. JESUS IS THE ANSWER TO WHEN CHILDREN |
| 18. GET THEE BEHIND ME, SATAN No. 2 | COME |
| 19. GET THEE BEHIND ME, SATAN No. 3 | 54. JESUS IS THE ANSWER TO WORSHIP |
| 20. GET THEE BEHIND ME, SATAN No.1 | 55. JESUS WANTS YOU |
| 21. GOD'S ETERNAL CHURCH | 56. JESUS WEPT |
| 22. HAPPINESS IS APPLYING KNOWLEDGE | 57. JESUS, A NAME WHICH IS ABOVE EVERY |
| 23. HATE SPEECH | NAME |
| 24. HAVE A GOOD (GREAT) DAY | 58. JOHN THE BAPTIST FAITHFUL JESUS |
| 25. HIS BLOOD WILL I REQUIRE AT THY | PREPARER |
| HAND...THY SOUL | 59. LEARNING FROM THINGS WRITTEEN |
| 26. I AM A PILGRIM, AND SO ARE YOU | AFORETIME |
| 27. I BELIEVE EQUALS GOD SAID | 60. LESSONS LEARNED FROM A THREE YEAR |
| 28. I LOVE YOU | OLD |
| 29. I REMEMBER | 61. NAILED TO THE CROSS |
| 30. I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH/KINGDOM | 62. NOAH, OTHERS AND FAITH ONLY |
| 31. I'M GOING TO STOP PROCRASTINATING | 63. OPINIONS, INTERPRETATIONS AND FACTS |
| TOMORROW | 64. PLAYING CHURCH |
| 32. IF I HAD MITES | 65. PREACH THE WORD |
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Is It A Mark Of Mediocrity To Read The Bible?

In some circles of so-called higher learning it is considered a mark of inferior ability and attainments to read the Bible. Yet among the readers of the Bible, in all ages, have been some of the ablest leaders and most brilliant minds. Witness the following:

George Washington: It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible...He is worse than an infidel who does not read his Bible and acknowledge his obligation to God.

John Adams: The Bible is the best Book in the world.

Thomas Jefferson: I have always said and always will say that the studious perusal of the Sacred Volume will make better citizens, better fathers, better husbands...The Bible makes the best people in the world.

John Quincy Adams: My custom is to read four or five chapters of the Bible every morning immediately after rising...It seems to me the most suitable manner of beginning the day...It is an invaluable mine of knowledge and virtue.

Abraham Lincoln: I am profitably engaged in reading the Bible. Take all of this Book upon reason that you can, and the balance by faith, and you will live and die a better man.

Theodore Roosevelt: To every man who faces life with real desire to do his part in everything, I appeal for a study of the Bible.

Woodrow Wilson: I have a very simple thing to ask of you. I ask every man and woman in this audience that from this day on they will realize that part of the destiny of America lies in their daily perusal of this great Book.

John Wesley: O give me that Book! At any price, give me that Book of God. Here is knowledge enough for me. Let me be a man of one Book.

Sir Isaac Newton: I find more sure marks of authenticity in the Bible than in any profane history whatsoever.

William Penn: The scriptures contain a declaration of the mind and will of God....They ought also to be read, believed, and fulfilled in our day. We accept them as the words of God himself.

William Wilberforce: Let no religious book take its place. People do not read the Bible enough.

Benjamin Franklin: Cultivate an acquaintance with and a firm belief in the Holy Scriptures. This is your certain interest.

Daniel Webster: From the time that, at my mother's feet upon my father's knee, I first learned to list the verses from the sacred writings, they have been my daily study and vigilant contemplation.

William E. Gladstone: I have known ninety-five great men of the world in my time, and of these eighty-seven were all followers of the Bible.

John Wanamaker: I cannot too greatly emphasize the importance and value of Bible study – more important than ever before in these days of uncertainties, when men and women are apt to decide questions from the standpoint of expediency rather than upon the eternal principles laid down by God himself.

Douglas MacArthur: Believe me, sir, never a night goes by, be I ever so tired, but I read the word of God before I go to bed.

Marshall Keeble: The Bible is right.

-----FREE BIBLE MATERIALS-----

You may download any of these materials. The author of this short book has materials for FREE on his web page, pilgrimbiblestudy.com, to use in sermons, Bible classes, home Bible studies, and for any other use, with the stipulation that they are NOT TO BE SOLD OR EDITED.

There are currently over one-hundred (100) tracts available to read and/or download, with more planned. Introductions to many Old and New Testament books, along with questions are available for personal and class study. Sermon outlines are provided. Feel free to download any of them to read, teach, preach or to be handed out FREE.

The author is available for presentations on these thoughts. Number of days and subjects are flexible, ranging from Friday thru Sunday, or Sunday thru Wednesday, or Saturday: 9:00-9:45 A. M.; 10:00-10:45 A. M.; 11:00-11:45 A. M.; 11:45 A. M.-1:00 P. M (LUNCH, provided by host church); 1:00-1:45 P. M.; 2:00-2:45 P. M. (5 Lessons). 5 lessons on Sunday could be arranged. Various visual aids are used. Churches will be encouraged to provide a FREE book to each attendee from their congregation at a low cost.

The author is now retired, healthy, and is available for speaking engagements of various kinds, from filling in when the local preacher is away, to summer series, gospel meetings, and such like. He has many subjects for various occasions, or is happy to develop one or more lessons on important, needed, edifying, and instructive Bible subjects. References provided if desired.

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SHE GAMBLER --- AND LOST!

This Mary had a little son,
With soul as white as wool;
The mother, though, just wasn't one
To go to Sunday school.

Of Jesus, he had never heard,
Except in undertone;
His heart -- conviction was deferred,
While he was kept at home.

He grew from babe, to lad, to man,
No training interspersed;
Salvation was not in his plan,
So, lost, he waxed the worse

His mother started back to church,
And Bible study, too;
She asked the minister to search,
To see what he could do.

The preacher did his best, but lo,
"I failed" -- was his reply,
"I warned of this some years ago,
But you knew more than I."

So now, a soul is lost in sin,
A mother bent with woe;
The Bible school was there to win,
But Mary wouldn't go.

---Vana R. Raye---Pen name for L. O. Sanderson

in honor of his beloved wife, Avana (changed to Vana) Raye Woodring Sanderson. Brother Sanderson edited song books for the Gospel Advocate Company, wrote words and music to over five-hundred (500) songs, and did so much more good.

Would you like to be another Robert R. Taylor, Jr.?

Most members of the churches of Christ know who Robert R. Taylor, Jr. is. A good many have one or more of the books he has written. All who have heard him in class, the pulpit, or read from him are aware of his deep knowledge of the word of God (Acts 13:7), the holy scriptures. (2 Timothy 3:15). Those who have heard or read from brother Taylor wish for such a knowledge.

Wasteful wishing, as brother Taylor might have penned it, will not get the job done. What then is the key? Simply, a lifetime of diligent study. The Pilgrims were blessed to have Robert and Irene in their home during many gospel meetings he conducted at the West Concord Church of Christ. Early every morning, Robert would be seen reading his Bible. At other times, he would be seen reading from others and studying.

In addition to his study of the scriptures, brother Taylor developed a daily reading schedule, which he has maintained for well over fifty (50) years. It takes one through the New Testament once per month, and through the Old Testament once per year. Brother Taylor has faithfully read the word of God as follows:

- 1. Three (3) chapters per day from the Old Testament.**
- 2. Nine (9) chapters per day from the New Testament.**

In addition to increasing one's familiarity with the scriptures, one will realize that a number of scriptures explain other passages. We need more people like Robert R. Taylor, Jr. Will you become one? By the way, Irene was also a godly woman and diligent Bible student, who spoke to thousands of women.

MISCELLANEOUS

The author has collected a number of articles, ideas, and such like, over the years. Following are but a few he has selected to include herein.

BERTIE RICKETT

While visiting with a beloved sister, Bertie Rickett, a member of the Centre Church of Christ, Centre, Alabama, the author and his wife came away with tears in their eyes, and an even greater appreciation for the book we call the Bible. Sister Rickett lived in an old house. She had very little of this world's goods, and no formal education. She could not read or write. She was, however, a great example of one who was present every time the doors of the church building were open. She loved laughter. While at her house, she expressed not being able to understand why some people acted as they did. That sentiment was immediately backed up with these words, "I can't read my Bible, brother, but every night I get my Bible and hold it in my hands and look at it before I go to bed." Bertie Rickett, 6-1-1972. Think about that, beloved!!! That statement continues to bring tears to the eyes. It motivates even in 2020.

WILLIAM McPHERSON

It is said that William McPherson lost his eyes, hands, and feelings in part of his face, yet he learned through great pain to read the Bible with his tongue. He read it through four (4) times. What are we doing? How great is our desire to hear what God says? From Obion Church of Christ, Curtis Dowdy, Minister, November or December 1972. (?).

DEUTERONOMY

"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning,...." (Romans 15:4). Deuteronomy 6 contains things written aforetime for our learning. God commanded (Verse 1) that **all** of His people keep **all** of His statutes and his commandments, "thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life." (Verse 2). This neither says nor implies that they were only to teach these laws to this point, then stop. They were to teach God's law, diligently, unto their offspring, when they talked sitting in their house, walking by the way, lying down, rising up. (Verse 7-9). Personal question to each reader: Am I doing this? Have or did I? These were not suggestions; they were commandments. (Verses 1, 2). Cf. 2 Timothy 1:5; 3:15-17.

The Bible: The Book of the God in Heaven

ABOUT THE AUTHOR-----James Andrew Pilgrim, Jr., is known to his brethren in Christ and friends as James. He was born to James Andrew Pilgrim, Sr. and Cora Lee (Elliott) Pilgrim on November 8, 1942. His father was a devoted gospel preacher, who worked to support himself, and used part of his income to preach the gospel via radio. Cora Lee was a devoted gospel preacher's wife. She was affectionately called Cora, aunt Cora, or Cora Lee. She worked after her two boys were in their teens. This couple had another son, Paul Samuel Pilgrim, called Sammy.

James attended Welmyer Elementary school (Grades 1-8), Trion, Georgia, Summerville High School (9th Grade), Summerville, Georgia, and graduated from Trion High School, Trion, Georgia, in 1960. He attended Freed-Hardeman College, Henderson, Tennessee, 1960-62. Though he did not get a college degree, he has studied under some of the best Bible teachers known to man. Over the years he has spent countless hours in a study of the scriptures. He has spoken on the Freed-Hardeman College (now University) Lectureship, Bellview School of Preaching Lectureship, Memphis School of Preaching Lectureship, Florida School of Preaching Lectureship, and a number of lectureships held by churches. James taught classes at Alabama Christian College (now Faulkner University) in Birmingham, Alabama, for two years. He has been asked to write chapters on various subjects in books by the brethren, and his articles have been printed in other books and papers. He has written for the Gospel Advocate, Words of Truth, and other religious papers. His tracts number over 100, with others planned.

James was greatly blessed on May 30, 1962, when the former Sammie Joyce Tyler, of Ripley, MS, became his beloved wife. She has been a great source of joy and wisdom through the years. Their marriage took place on the last night of college, in the Henderson Church building, after the services, with the beloved J. Walker Whittle, officiating. Sammie and James have three children, James Samuel, Gary Dan, and Donna Joy McMillin. They have five grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

James retired from full time preaching in 2015, to write and publish Bible centered material for others to study and use to the glory of God. This work on The Bible is written simply, and in hopes that readers will learn and/or be edified. To GOD be the Glory in ALL we do!